

20 Music Albums from Shawn Colvin, 123 Andrés, & More | ClefNotes

by [Veronica De Fazio](#)

Oct 22, 2018 | Filed in [Reviews+](#)

Back to School. Performed by Michael & Jello. CD. Approx. 52 min. Monkey Business Creative Services. 2018. \$10.

PreS-Gr 3—This sixth studio album from the Canadian performers is billed as highly contemporary family pop music. Performed by early childhood educator and singer/songwriter Michael Anderson and a band of extremely talented musicians, many of the songs in this almost hour-long collection often have a mature jazz/R&B feel to them. Throughout the album, complex vocals convey original lyrics about spring and going back to school while new variations of traditional songs such as “Chocolaté,” “A Peanut Sat on a Railway Track,” and “Bird Scarf Dance” are performed. Also covered are Joni Mitchell’s “Circle Game,” Bob Schneider’s “Listen to the Water” and the Ghanaian chant “Obwisana.” All songs are backed by instrumentals that highlight various brass, flute, and percussion solos. **VERDICT** While some sophisticated juvenile listeners will enjoy this collection, it will have more appeal for adults.—*Veronica De Fazio, Plainfield Public Library District, IL*

Camp Andyland. Performed by Andy Z. CD. Approx. 34 min. A2Z Productions. 2018. \$14.98.

K-Gr 5—Andreas Zamenes (aka Andy Z) presents 12 original and four traditional songs for his seventh album. The musicians perform in a variety of musical styles, including rock, classic rock, folk, pop, and bluegrass; and include silly character voices and sound effects, such as chirping birds. An enthusiastic children’s chorus joins in on some of the songs. Original selections include “Welcome to Andyland,” “I Went to a Party with Dinosaurs,” “Drink More Water,” “Camping Song,” “Galaxy Song,” “Spring Has Sprung,” and “I Love You Because You’re You.” The traditional entries include “Pirate Song” (with movements), “Sticky Bubble Gum,” and “Row Your Boat.” Como C. Llama sings “La araña pequeñita” (“The Itsy Bitsy Spider”) in Spanish and English. “Farewell to Andyland” is a reprise of the welcome song. **VERDICT** These fun and lively songs will have young listeners wishing they were at Camp Andyland.—*Beverly Wrigglesworth, San Antonio Public Library, TX*

★ **High Five! Performed by Laura Doherty. CD. 27 min. Laura Doherty Music. 2018. \$15.**

PreS-Gr 3—Chicago-based indie musician Doherty’s fifth album for children is filled with her signature upbeat folk-pop style. Each of the 10 original songs in this collection tells its own story, drawing listeners in with topics like making a new friend, going back to school after summer vacation, and playing hide and seek. Doherty’s choices for background instruments allow her lovely vocals, as well as those of guests like Justin Roberts, to shine. Songs like “Lucky Charm” are slower and conducive to easy listening, while those like the title tune, “High Five,” encourages children to count to five while trying out a variety of dances. Listeners will also be challenged to get moving with “Pasta Noodles,” which gets kids clapping and dancing to varying tempos, and “Muddy Puddles,” which invites little ones to jump around. **VERDICT** Featuring relatable subjects and a short run time, this is a perfect addition to family listening and storytimes.—*Veronica De Fazio, Plainfield Public Library District, IL*

