

JACQUES TO STARS

Setanta ★ ★ ★ ★

Second solo opus from maudlin Jack frontman

Wearied by "the usual critical acclaim and modest sales", the Welsh answer to Charles Bukowski, Anthony Reynolds, has taken time out from Jack to record another side project highlighting his most melancholic moodswings. *To Stars* is a profoundly downbeat paean to loves lost amid fatalistic, snatched moments of hedonism.

Sparsely arranged, crooned in hushed tones, it recalls a

less historic Lou Reed's *Berlin*. "I

remember how we fucked to the sound of

neighbours fighting," begins "The

Orchestra I Love", but an innate

romanticism flavours the *ennui*. There's

almost a nod to light relief in a cover of

Abba's last single, "The Day Before You

Came", but even this is sorrowful at heart.

Tim Hardin's "It'll Never Happen Again"

is beautifully sung, while "London Loves

You" swings low and gentle, sentimental.

Scott Walker should be eulogising this munky, magnificent meltdown.

Chris Roberts



Blue mood

◀◀ SERGE GAINSBORG, JACQUES BREL

▶▶ TINDERSTICKS, COUSTEAU