



REGINA SPEKTOR

Soviet Kitsch

Sire Records

84%

Regina Spektor has all the right friends. The Russian-born and Bronx-bred It-Girl-With-A-Piano recently sang on a tune with the Strokes, toured Europe with the Kings of Leon, and recorded *Soviet Kitsch* with Gordon Raphael (the man behind *Is This It*). However, her major label debut doesn't take its influences from any of the aforementioned artists or their own roots. Instead, this mistress of the 88 keys looks to classical composers like Chopin and Bach for inspiration. Complemented at points by a string section ("Us"), a full-on band ("Sailor Song"), or merely her own right hand tapping on a chair with a drumstick ("Poor Little Rich Boy"), her offbeat compositions contrast sharply with those by soulless ebony 'n' ivory hacks like Fiona Apple and Vanessa Carlton. And with tongue-in-cheek lyrics that deftly skewer their subjects with a wry wit, Spektor makes a convincing argument that she very well may be the best thing Russia has given the world since vodka.

NEVIN MARTELL