


 Compact Discs

## Disc of the week



**Nilia Berkin**

***Whirlwind* (independent)**

With T.J. Plenty of Asexuals fame handling production, guitar and bass, Montreal's Nilia Berkin introduces her style of thoughtful piano pop with subtle jazz, cabaret and, on "Strange Days" for instance, roots inflections. Her lyric sheet gives the listener a lot to chew on, served up in a voice that, like the music that carries it, is resistant to emotive excess, playing in the grey areas. If anything, Berkin's too cautious with her vocals,

but her tunes are in tip-top shape, elegant and understated in their careful ornamentation—"Life's Wondrous Mystery" has a nice bump to it, as does the playful "Dusty White Moon." **7/10 (Rupert Bottenberg) CD launch at Jello Bar, Fri., May 23, 5 p.m., free**