

Weekend Music

OLD
MASTER:
REM's
Michael
Stipe



ALBUM REVIEWS

REM: RECKONING

(Polydor) ★ ★ ★ ★

LIKE REM's extraordinary debut *Murmur*, 1984's *Reckoning* also contained an alarming number of tunes you'd sworn you'd heard before but hadn't. The songs were catchy, dreamlike weavings of folk, garage, Sixties pop and country that felt timeless but strangely disconnected from rock's past. The only way was up for such immense talent but REM lost virtually all of their quirky charm when they became big stars around 1987's *Document*.

Included in this remastered 25th anniversary deluxe version of the album is a previously unreleased Chicago concert recording from that time and it's a thriller.

ROBERT SPELLMAN