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By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Cutrufello: Her fierce guitar playing and tough voice are supported by some of the best backup musicians in rock on 'When the Night Is Through.'

Mary Cutrufello rocks in old-fashioned role

By Brian Mansfield
Special for USA TODAY

Review

In these days of crossover pop divas and postmodern singer/songwriters, it's refreshing to find someone who sets her sights on nothing short of old-fashioned rock stardom. That's clearly Mary Cutrufello's ambition.

And *When the Night Is Through* (★★ out of four), the 27-year-old Yale graduate's major-label debut, gets a long way on sheer bravado. Cutrufello is a fierce guitarist with a blistered-throat voice, and she doesn't so much sing songs as tear them off, chunk by chunk.

She's backed by some of the finest musicians a populist rocker could desire, among them former John Mellencamp drummer Kenny Aronoff and John Fogerty bassist Bob Glaub.

Along with Cutrufello's ragged-but-right solos, they give songs such as *She Can't Let Go* and *Rollin' & Tumblin'* a sound that falls somewhere between early Bob Seger and *Exile on Main Street*-era Rolling Stones.