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Q REVIEW **NEW ALBUMS**

CANTINERO
CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING

RYKODISC

★★★

*Heartfelt Brit indie rock with
a New York twist.*

Chris Hicken, the voice and soul of Cantinero, concocts a winning fusion of strummed acoustics and brawny ballads on this debut. While disingenuously earnest opener *So Low* is merely charming, most of the album has a muscular, almost grungy vibe (the result of British-born Hicken's long sojourn in New York, maybe?) and when Cantinero hit their stride, the results, from the minimalist spoken-word verses of *Tuesday* to the quirky samples of *Astronaut* and *Make Me An Offer*'s deliciously poignant lyrics ("I know my type/They're distant and strong"), are genuinely compelling. *Cila Warncke*