



ON SONG
Will acclaimed singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright (left) and hitmaker Guy Chambers be a pop pairing made in heaven?

PICK OF THE DAY

Secrets of the Pop Song 9.45pm BBC2

DOCUMENTARY OF THE WEEK *New series* A three-part series spilling tricks of the music biz opens with a fascinating and funny dissection of the ballad. Pop heavyweights chip in with what makes a hit, and song structure is explained simply, but the meat in the sandwich is the songwriting process itself, from scribbled lyric to public performance.

Guy Chambers knows a thing or two about music that connects with people: he and Robbie Williams have shifted 40 million albums, after all. But how will he fare when paired with the theatrical and so-far mainstream-dodging Canadian Rufus Wainwright?

The collaboration begins cagily, and there's faint panic

in Guy's eyes when Rufus plays him a few out-there ideas recorded on his mobile. "I think it would be dangerous for him to rap," Guy later confides to camera. But their jam session is mesmerising, and leads to a fruitful, even confessional partnership. Not to mention a big, anthemic song complete with cheeky lyrics and Tchaikovsky sample.

Among the scattered insights, Pet Shop Boy Neil Tennant reveals he likes to mix hard with soft – à la Lennon and McCartney – as he did when he sang, "I love you, you pay my rent." And Sting admits the tune for *Every Breath You Take* isn't the least bit original, with "lyrics you could get from a rhyming dictionary". **Mark Braxton**

Cycling: Tour de France

10.30am **British Eurosport, HD**, 12 noon, 7pm (highlights) **ITV4, HD**

SPORT Enthusiasts can pull on their favourite *jumper jaune* and put their feet up with a cup of tea for the next three weeks as the grande dame of the cycling world wheels into view.

The French countryside provides a stunning backdrop to the gruelling road race. Today's tradition-breaking first stage – a 191.5km stretch in the Vendée – starts on a tidal causeway to the Isle of Noirmoutier. British hearts will be pushing Bradley Wiggins to win his first Tour, but there's stiff opposition.

If that's not enough, highlights of the British Cycling National Road Race championships are on ITV4 at 4.30pm. **David Crawford**

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Casualty

9.00pm **BBC1**

DRAMA Having pretended he was about to amputate a diabetic's foot to scare the youngster into checking his blood sugar levels more regularly, Adam argues, "I'm breaking every rule in the book but it's the only way I know how." And then, as if that excused his actions for ever more, he decides to "help" a sex offender who confesses to the ED doctor he wishes he were dead. Even Lenny, who's not renowned for playing by the rules either, is horrified. Meanwhile, Mads is shocked to discover she knows the husband of her new friend, and Linda screws up – again.

Jane Rackham

Wallander

9.00pm **BBC4**

DRAMA When Kurt heads off to a champagne do with elegant boss Katarina, you just know their rare moment of respite will be shattered. A jogger is shot dead in woodland and bombs are detonated in the centre of Ystad – arranged to keep the police busy while a raid is carried out on a security van elsewhere.

Armed thugs make off with 15 million kronor, but not without attracting the attention of Isabelle and Pontus. Defying orders, they set off in pursuit and end up in hospital. "Bloody kids!" growls Kurt, failing to conceal how fond he's becoming of his impetuous trainees.

Seasoned sidekicks Svartman and Martinsson also get a decent share of the action, in another bleak but absorbing story, which delivers twists and turns before it's played out.

Patrick Mulhern