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MUSIC WE LIKE[®]

SPRING/SUMMER 2012



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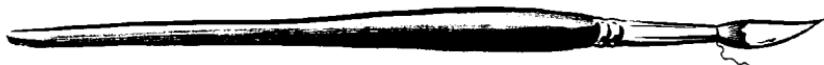
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All Amoebites were asked to list their top five favorite releases from the past six months and beyond! We then had a team of experts decipher their cryptic handwriting, analyze the results and compile the lists into this little book!

*WE HOPE YOU FIND THE RESULTS
INTERESTING AND USEFUL!*



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
WAYNE SHELLABARGER

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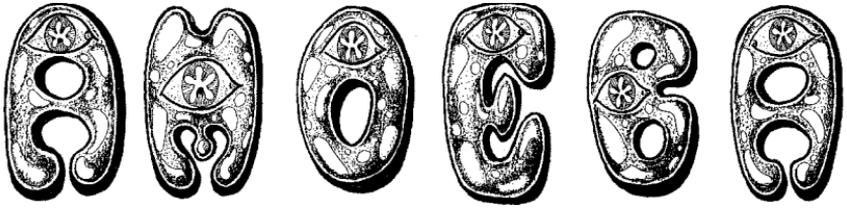


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<i>LADYTRON</i>	<i>ZIGGY MARLEY</i>	<i>TERENCE BLANCHARD</i>
<i>DOOMTREE</i>	<i>NADA SURF</i>	<i>GLEN CAMPBELL</i>
<i>GIRLS</i>	<i>THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS</i>	<i>XIMENA SARIÑANA</i>
<i>CURSIVE</i>	<i>JESSE SYKES & THE SWEET HEREAFTER</i>	<i>THE GROWLERS</i>
<i>LANA DEL REY</i>		

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A SAMPLING OF OUR FAVORITES BY GENRE



CDs & LPs

ROCK

Andrew Bird – *Break It Yourself* (MOM + POP MUSIC)

Field Music – *Plumb* (MEMPHIS INDUSTRIES)

First Aid Kit – *The Lion's Roar* (WICHITA)

Frankie Rose – *Interstellar* (SLUMBERLAND)

Girls – *Father, Son, Holy Ghost* (TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)

Grimes – *Visions* (4AD)

Hospitality – *Hospitality* (MERGE)

Howler – *America Give Up* (ROUGH TRADE)

Hunx – *Hairdresser Blues* (HARDLY ART)

Real Estate – *Days* (DOMINO)

Sharon Van Etten – *Tramp* (JAGJAGUWAR)

Tanlines – *Mixed Emotions* (TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)

The Black Keys – *El Camino* (NONESUCH)

The Magnetic Fields – *Love At the Bottom Of the Sea* (MERGE)

The Shins – *Port Of Morrow* (COLUMBIA)

Black Country Communion – *Live Over Europe* (J&R ADVENTURES)

The War On Drugs – *Slave Ambient* (SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Thee Oh Sees – *Carrión Crawler/The Dream* (IN THE RED)

Tom Waits – *Bad As Me* (ANTI-)

Veronica Falls – *Veronica Falls* (SLUMBERLAND)

Wilco – *The Whole Love* (ANTI-)

Wooden Shjips – *West* (THRILL JOCKEY)

Zola Jesus – *Conatus* (SACRED BONES)

HIP-HOP

Black Milk & Danny Brown – *Black & Brown* (FAT BEATS)

Danny Brown – *XXX* (FOOL'S GOLD)

Dom Kennedy – *From The Westside With Love Vol. 2* (OPM COMPANY)

Jay Rock – *Follow Me Home* (STRANGE MUSIC)

Jet Life – *Jet World Order* (JETS INTERNATIONAL)

Mobb Deep – *Black Cocaine* (INFAMOUS)

Pusha T – *Fear of God II: Let Us Pray* (DECON)

Random Axe – *Random Axe* (DUCKDOWN)

Statik Selektah & Action Bronson – *Well-Done* (DCIDE)

The Jacka – *The Verdict* (SICCNESS)

Torae – *For The Record* (INTERNAL AFFAIRS ENT.)

Turf Talk – *The Turf Sinatra Mixtape* (SICCNESS)

Union – *Analogtronics* (FAT BEATS)

Will Sessions – *Elmatic Instrumentals* (FAT BEATS)

SOUL

Anthony Hamilton –
Back To Love (RCA)

Betty Wright – Betty Wright:
The Movie (S-CURVE)

George Jackson – Don't Count
Me Out: The Fame Recordings
— *Vol. 1* (KENT)

Goapele – Break of Dawn
(DECON)

Mary J. Blige – My Life II: The
Journey Continues (Act I) (Geffen)

Me'Shell NdegeOcello –
Weather (NAÏVE)

Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings
— *Soul Time!* (DAPTONE)

The Brides of Funkenstein –
Never Buy Texas From A Cow-
boy (WOUNDED BIRD)

The Fame Studios Story 1961-
1973 – Various Artists (KENT)

Masterpieces of Modern Soul
Vol. 3 – Various Artists (KENT)

ELECTRONIC

Andy Stott – Passed Me By /
We Stay Together (MODERN LOVE)

Author – Author (TECTONIC)

Canyons – Keep Your Dreams
(MODULAR)

Lindstrøm – Six Cups Of Rebel
(SMALLTOWN SUPERSOUND)

M83 – Hurry Up, Were
Dreaming (MUTE)

Onra – Chinoiserie Pt. 2
(ALL CITY)

Sepalcure – Sepalcure (HOT FLUSH)

The Field – Looping State of
Mind (KOMPAKT)

Thundercat – Golden Age of
Apocalypse (BRAINFEEDER)

Zomby – Dedication (4AD)



JAZZ

Bill Frisell – All We Are
Saying ... (SAVOY JAZZ)

Charlie Haden/Hank Jones –
Come Sunday (EMARCY)

**Chick Corea/Eddie Gomez/
Paul Motian – Further**
Explorations (CONCORD JAZZ)

Corey Wilkes – Kind of Miles:
Live at the Velvet Lounge
(KATALYST)

Gigi Gryce – Doin' The Gigi
(UPTOWN JAZZ)

Miles Davis – LIVE in Europe
1967: The Bootleg Series Vol. 1
(SONY LEGACY)

Raoul Björkenheim/Bill
Laswell/Morgan Ågren – Blixt
(CUNEIFORM)

Steven Bernstein's Millennial
Territory Orchestra –
MTO Plays Sly (ROYAL POTATO FAMILY)

The Jeff Gauthier Goatette –
Open Source (CRYPTOGRAMOPHONE)

The Thirteenth Assembly –
Station Direct (IMPORTANT)

Trio M – The Guest House
(ENJA)

COUNTRY AND BLUEGRASS

Glen Campbell – Ghost On
The Canvas (SURFDOG)

Justin Townes Earle –
Nothing's Gonna Change the
Way You Feel About Me Now
(BLOODSHOT)

Kathleen Edwards – Voyageur
(ROUNDER)

Lydia Loveless – Indestructible Machine (BLOODSHOT)

Lyle Lovett – Release Me
(LOST HIGHWAY)

The Devil Makes Three – Stomp & Smash (& Slash & Crash & Bash & Bust & Burn – Live at the Mystic Theatre)
(MILAN)

The Lost Notebooks of Hank Williams – Various Artists
(COLUMBIA)

FOLK

Carolina Chocolate Drops – Leaving Eden (NONESUCH)

John Prine – The Singing Mailman Delivers (OH BOY)

June Tabor & Oysterband – Ragged Kingdom (TOPIC)

Karen Dalton – 1966 (DELMORE)

Leonard Cohen – Old Ideas
(COLUMBIA)

Michael Chapman – Rainmaker
(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Sandy Denny – 19 Rupert Street (WITCHWOOD)

Slaid Cleaves – Sorrow & Smoke: Live at the Horseshoe Lounge (MUSIC ROAD)

Stan Rogers – Fogarty's Cove
(BOREALIS)

The Unthanks – The Songs of Robert Wyatt and Antony & the Johnsons, Live From Union Chapel, London (Diversions, Vol. 1)
(ROUGH TRADE)

BLUES AND NEW ORLEANS

Irma Thomas – Soul Queen of New Orleans (CHARLY/SNAPPER)

The Cash Box Kings – Holler & Stomp (BLIND PIG)

Trombone Shorty – For True
(VERVE)

Little Joe Ayers – Backatchya
(DEVIL DOWN)

Aaron Neville – Hercules: The Minit & Sansu Sessions 1960 - 1977 (CHARLY/SNAPPER)

Bonnie McCoy – A Child Of The Blues (ARCOLA)

Gary Clark Jr. – Bright Lights EP (WARNER BROS.)

WORLD

3BallIMTY – Inténtalo (FONOVisA)

Adanowsky – Amador
(EVERLOVING)

Ana Tijoux – La Bala (NACIONAL)

Atomic Forest – Obsession
(NOW AGAIN)

Buika – En Mi Piel
(WARNER MUSIC LATINA)

Endah Laras & Dedek Gamelan Orchestra – Endah Laras & Dedek Gamelan Orchestra (FELMAY)

Group Inerane – Guitars From Agadez Vol. 3 (Music of Niger)
(SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Kayhan Kalhor/Ali Bahrami Fard – I Will Not Stand Alone
(WORLD VILLAGE)

Lila Downs – Pecados Y Milagros (SONY MUSIC LATIN)

Mauricio Maestro – Upside Down (FAR OUT)

Mighty Sparrow – Sparrowmania! (STRUT)



The Klezmatics – Live At Town Hall (SOUNDBRUSH)

The Lijadu Sisters – Mother Africa (KNITTING FACTORY)

Tinariwen – Tassili (ANTI-)

Bossa Jazz: The Birth of Hard Bossa, Samba Jazz & the Evolution of Brazilian Fusion 1962-73 – Various Artists (SOUL JAZZ)

Opika Pende: Africa at 78 RPM – Various Artists (DUST TO DIGITAL)

Subway Salsa: The Montuno Records Story – Various Artists (VAMPI SOUL)

Istanbul 70: Psych, Disco, Folk Classics – Various Artists (NUBLU)

Rangarang: Pre-revolutionary Iranian Pop – Various Artists (VAMPI SOUL)

The Original Sound of Cumbia: The History of Colombian Cumbia & Porro as Told by the Phonograph 1948-79 (Part 1 – Original Colombian 78s) – Various Artists (SOUNDWAY)

Rodrigo y Gabriela – Area 52 (ATO RECORDS / RED)

Choral Works – L. Janáček (Daniel Reuss / Cappella Amsterdam / Radio Blazers Ensemble) (HARMONIA MUNDI)

Music of Vladimir Martynov (The Kronos Quartet) (NONESUCH)

Lichtes Spiel / Time Machines – W. Rihm / S. Currier / K. Penderecki (Anne-Sophie Mutter / Alan Gilbert / Michael Francis / New York Philharmonic) (DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Don Carlo – G. Verdi (Corelli / Rysanek / Dalis / Herlea / Kurt Adler / Metropolitan Opera) (SONY CLASSICAL)

Farnace – A. Vivaldi (Cencic / Donose / Nesi / Hallenberg / Gauvin / Diego Fasolis / I Barocchisti) (VIRGIN CLASSICS)

La Sublime Porte: Voix d'Istanbul 1430-1750 (Jordi Savall / Hesperion XXI) (ALIA VOX)

Glenn Gould On Television: The Complete CBC Broadcasts 1954-1977 DVD (Glenn Gould) (SONY CLASSICAL)

CLASSICAL

Orchestra – M. Feldman (Martha Cluver / Brad Lubman / Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin) (MODE)

Ezio – C.W. Gluck (Prina / Cencic / Hallenberg / Lehtipuu / Alan Curtis / Il Complesso Barocco) (VIRGIN CLASSICS)

Streams of Pleasure – G.F. Handel (Karina Gauvin / Marie-Nicole Lemieux / Alan Curtis / Il Complesso Barocco) (NAÏVE)

EXPERIMENTAL

Tim Hecker – Ravedeath, 1972 (KRANKY)

Cut Hands – Afro Noise I (VERY FRIENDLY/SUSAN LAWLY)

Fennesz – Seven Stars (TOUCH)

The Caretaker – Patience (After Sebald) (HISTORY ALWAYS FAVORS THE WINNERS)

Throbbing Gristle – The Second Annual Report of Throbbing Gristle (INDUSTRIAL)

METAL

Alcest – Les Voyages De L'ame

(PROPHECY PRODUCTIONS)

**Blut Aus Nord –
777: The Desanctification**

(DEBEMUR MORTI)

Craft – Void (SOUTHERN LORD)

**Cultes Des Ghoules –
Spectres Over Transylvania**

(HELL'S HEADBANGERS)

**Leviathan – True Traitor,
True Whore** (PROFOUND LORE)

Napalm Death – Utilitarian

(CENTURY MEDIA)

Nightwish –Imaginaerum

(ROADRUNNER)

**Wolves In The Throneroom –
Celestial Lineage**

(SOUTHERN LORD)

OLDIES

**The Critters – Awake in a
Dream: Project 3 Recordings**

(NOW SOUNDS)

Fever Tree – Fever Tree

(SUNDAZED)

**Kippington Lodge – Shy Boy:
The Complete Recordings
1967-1969** (RPM)

**Lesley Gore – Magic Colors:
The Lost Album with Bonus
Tracks 1967-1969** (ACE)

**Oscar & the Majestics –
No Chance Baby!** (SUNDAZED)

The Rationals – The Rationals

(BIG BEAT)

COMEDY

Doug Benson – Potty Mouth

(COMEDY CENTRAL)

Lewis Black – The Prophet

(COMEDY CENTRAL)

John Mulaney – New In Town

(COMEDY CENTRAL)

**Norm MacDonald – Me Doing
Stand-Up** (COMEDY CENTRAL)

Patton Oswalt – Finest Hour

(COMEDY CENTRAL)

Wyatt Cenac – Comedy Person

(COMEDY CENTRAL)

REGGAE

J. Boog – Back Yard Boogie

(WASH HOUSE)

Jimmy Cliff –Sacred Fire EP

(COLLECTIVE SOUNDS)

**Lee 'Scratch' Perry –
The Return of Pipecock
Jackxon** (HONEST JON'S)

Little Roy – Battle for Seattle

(ARK RECORDINGS)

Tappa Zukie – In Dub

(JAMAICAN RECORDINGS)

**Dial M For Murder:
In Dub Style – Various Artists**

(PRESSURE SOUNDS)

**Vybz Kartel – Pon Di Gaza
Mi Sey** (TAD'S)

SOUNDTRACKS

Downton Abbey (DECCA)

Drive (LAKESHORE)

Hanna (RELATIVITY)

Hugo (HOWE RECORDS)

Shame (MASTERWORKS)

The Artist (MASTERWORKS)

The Descendants (MASTERWORKS)

**The Girl With the Dragon
Tattoo** (NULL)

The Muppets (DISNEY)

The Skin I Live In (LAKESHORE)

The Solitude of Prime Numbers

(IPECAC)

We Bought a Zoo (COLUMBIA)



DVDs & BLU-RAY

MUSIC DVDS

Adele – Live At The Royal Albert Hall (COLUMBIA)

Dinosaur Jr. – Bug Live at 9:30 Club: In The Hands of the Fans (MVD)

Lee “Scratch” Perry – The Upsetter: The Life and Music of Lee “Scratch” Perry (THE UPSETTER FILMS)

PJ Harvey – Let England Shake: 12 Short Films By Seamus Murphy (VAGRANT)

Pearl Jam – Pearl Jam Twenty (COLUMBIA)

Rolling Stones – Some Girls: Live In Texas '78 (EAGLE ROCK)

Sonic Youth – 1991: The Year Punk Broke (GEFFEN)

Talking Heads – Chronology (EAGLE ROCK)

The Doors – Mr. Mojo Risin': The Story of L.A. Woman (EAGLE ROCK)

Tribe Called Quest – Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels Of A Tribe Called Quest (SONY HOME PICTURES)

X –Unheard Music (ANGEL CITY MEDIA)

TV / ADULT ANIMATION

Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Season 5

Archer: Season 2

Boardwalk Empire: Season 1

Downton Abbey: Season 2

Family Guy: Vol. 9

Futurama: Vol. 6

It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia: Season 6

Justified: The Complete Second Season

Portlandia: Season 1

Game Of Thrones: Season 1

Dark Shadows: The Best of Barnabas

Dark Shadows: Fan Favorites

DOCUMENTARY

Buck

Cave Of Forgotten Dreams

Magic Trip: Ken Kesey's Search For A Kool Place

Project Nim

Special When Lit - A Pinball Documentary

Tabloid

DRAMA / COMEDY

Bridesmaids

Meek's Cutoff

Midnight In Paris

Mildred Pierce

Moneyball

Beginners

The Trip

Notes:

ACTION / MYSTERY / SCI-FI

Attack The Block
Bellflower
Drive
Hanna
Rise Of the Planet Of the Apes
Warrior
War of the Arrows
Contraband

BLU-RAY

Annie Hall
Belle De Jour
Blue Velvet
Godzilla
Manhattan
Meet Me In St. Louis
Notorious
Three Colors: Blue White Red
The Tree Of Life
Wings
Let the Bullets Fly

CLASSICS

12 Angry Men (Criterion)
Design For Living (Criterion)
Kiss Me Deadly (Criterion)
(1955)
The Island of Lost Souls
(Criterion)
The Killing (Criterion)

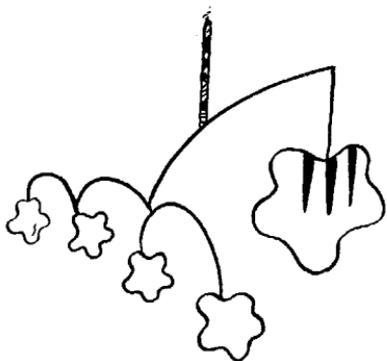
ANIMATION/KIDS

Jem & The Holograms:
The Truly Outrageous
Complete Series
Lady & The Tramp
The Lion King
Looney Tunes
Puss In Boots

Film, Music, Art, Beer.

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E. LIT

2012, Ain't a Damn Thing Changed

Qwazaar & Batsauce – Bat Meets Blaine (GALAPAGOS4)

From the second Qwazaar starts lacing Batsauce's warm intro beat with his signature voice and flow, you know that these two have got some stellar Hip-Hop chemistry going on. Qwazaar has paid his dues with over a decade of rapping in groups like Typical Cats and Outerlimitz, yet somehow he never quite manages to get the attention he deserves. His thick voice and excellent flow lend themselves well to Batsauce's production, which effortlessly taps into all of the best elements of traditional Hip-Hop beats without sounding the least bit derivative. Tracks like "Chop'em Down" and "If It Seems Wrong" find Qwazaar on a stylistic warpath, while smoother numbers like "A Feeling" really showcase the strength of his voice and confident delivery. The versatile boom bap production really does justice to Qwa's style and allows him to flex his talents as a rapper to the fullest. Simply some of the finest traditional hip hop music released in 2011, sure to appeal to purists and forward thinkers alike. I'm already fiending for another healthy dose of Qwavid Blaine... New Typical Cats album in 2012 please?

Open Mike Eagle – *Rappers Will Die of Natural Causes* (HELLFYRE CLUB)

In a landscape full of rappers going for broke with their aggressive flows, it's refreshing to hear Open Mike Eagle relax and use his clever lyrics and smooth voice to win you over. *Rappers Will Die of Natural Causes* is without a doubt some of

the most melodic and original Hip-Hop of 2011, and represents one of the strongest releases of LA's newer generation of Project Blowed MCs. Aside from having a terrific delivery and style, Open Mike Eagle drops some really clever and entertaining concepts over the course of the album, with humorous and insightful lyrics that reference pop culture without sounding forced or contrived. He sounds equally comfortable tackling the depiction of black people in the media on "NH2" or relaying a funny story about some nerdy clubhouse beef on "Exiled From the Getalong Gang," and he does it all with an effortless soft-spoken style. In short, Open Mike Eagle is pretty much a natural when it comes to this underground rap stuff. Perfect for progressive Hip-Hop heads who want an album that they can grow old and die happy with. Check out Open Mike Eagle's group Thirsty Fish with Dumbfoundead and Psychosis as well. Their *Watergate* album will probably make you style fiends wet yourselves.

Astronautalis – *This is Our Science* (FAKE FOUR INC.)

Astronautalis is reaching for something universal and epic on his fourth full-length album, which stretches the common conventions of Hip-Hop until they snap. The remaining fragments of what might be called rap music are patched together over a tapestry of heady indie rock and folk music, and the resulting body of work is an unpredictable listen that takes a lot of exciting risks with some major pay-offs. When Astronautalis raps, he does so with a hunger and urgency that pushes his gravely voice to the limits, with his verses covering broad topics in a mature and world-weary manner. On one song he'll be screaming and wailing like a crazed preacher about being alive, and the next he'll be cooing softly about the prospect of eternally making out with people behind vending machines. This is music on a grand scale, with larger than life productions provided by Lazerbeak, Alias and Radical Face, amongst others. And with the most progressive label in indie Hip-Hop backing his artistic vision and tireless touring ethic, the stars really are the limit for Astronautalis. The sky was abandoned a few albums ago.

Gel Roc – *Beautiful Tragedy* (ABOLANO)

Arguably the strongest stylistic West Coast underground rap album of 2011, and hands down the most slept-on. Gel Roc has been holding it

down for many years as a solo artist in the LA circuit and as part of the sophisticated Whittier, Calif. Hip-Hop crew Endangered Elements (EX2). *Beautiful Tragedy* marks the finest showcase of his MCing to date, bringing his steady and rhythmic style to the forefront over some very dark and challenging beats provided by Xczircles of the Escape Artists. The brooding production is brilliant and really allows Gel Roc to show off the strength of his voice and slam poet-like style, with his precise flows and timing doing justice to experimental beats that most rappers would fall flat over. DJ Drez handles the scratching exceptionally well, and the album boasts an impressive list of LA guest rappers including Abstract Rude and Awol One. It also features the song "Tragic Poetry," an epic, 10-minute slow-burner of a posse cut featuring rhymes from no less than 14 talented West Coast MCs, with absolutely killer verses from Zagu Brown, Neila, Lord Zen and Kail, amongst others. The beautiful packaging and artwork by Lazerus Pit further seals the deal. Overlooking this one would be a tragedy.

Moka Only & Chief – *Crickets*

(FEELIN' MUSIC/TRAFFIC ENTERTAINMENT GROUP)

One of the sleeper hits of late 2011. I can't even begin to keep up with Moka Only's output, given the number of albums he drops per year, but *Crickets* is easily the best project I've heard from him to date. This is largely thanks to the talents of Switzerland's Chief, who crafts some incredible psychedelic jazz beats for Moka to rock over and really compliments his laid-back style well. The album has a free-flowing improvisational vibe to it that finds Chief adding numerous details to his layered production, while Moka Only's stream-of-conscious flow moves off in interesting directions. Nice melodic hooks and some of the best uses of jazz piano samples I've heard in a minute, plus lots of jams that'll get you hitting the rewind button. This album is only available as a Swiss import and is a little more pricey than your average single-disc Amoeba purchase, but the perfect mellow vibes that this project delivers are well worth the extra dollars spent. Connoisseurs of jazzy Hip-Hop who doubt the talents of these two will likely be silenced by just how beautiful *Crickets* can sound.

One Be Lo – *L.A.B.O.R.*

(SUBTERRANEANS)

Whether he's killing it as one half of the highly respected Hip-Hop duo Binary Star or tearing it up on stage with his live band, Double Lo 7, One Be Lo remains one of the stronger and more consistent MCs in the indie-rap game. The fluidity of his writing is only rivaled by his

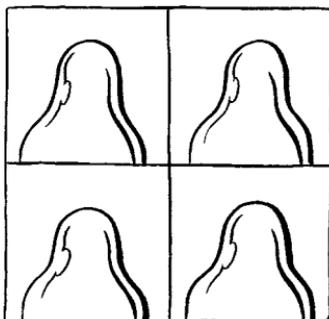
soulful voice and rock-steady flow, which are paired with some creative concepts and clever lyrics for a very complete package of MCing. *L.A.B.O.R.* (*Language Arts Based On Reality*) is the most solid One Be Lo solo offering to date, with 21 songs clocking at over 74 minutes in length and a minimal amount of filler. The simple boom bap production, crafted by folks such as DWills, 14KT and Vitamin D, really allows One Be Lo to highlight his voice and flow, and the album is conceptually bound together through a clever animal motif. Highlight songs include the police brutality inspired "PIGS," the examination of US hamburger consumption "BEEF" and the smooth West coast vibe of "Doggy-Style-Biscuits." Great offering from Lo, unfairly slept-on due to lack of distribution and promotion. If language is an artform, you should consider adding *L.A.B.O.R.* to your personal collection.

Six Additional Recommendations in Six Words:

- 1) Doomtree – *No Kings*: Minneapolis bred future punk gang music!
- 2) Candy's .22– *A Girl and Her Gun*: Crazy drugged out country Western stylings!
- 3) Señor Kaos – *The Kaos Effect*: The Most Interesting MC out Atlanta!
- 4) Sole & the Skyriider Band – *Hello Cruel World*: An Anticon alum's return to form!
- 5) Knives & Gasoline – *Love Songs for Crime Scenes*: Dark chamber pop music gone punk!
- 6) Co\$\$ – *Before I Awoke*: West Coast smoothness with some bangers!

Tip:

Blog Recommendation (aka Shameless Self-Promotional Plug): www.mybackpackisbiggerthanyours.blogspot.com



GAIL TODD

Buyer

Betty Wright and The Roots –

Betty Wright: The Movie (S-CURVE)
Betty Wright and the Roots. Music for us middle-agers.

Mary J. Blige – My Life II: The Journey Continues, Act I

(Geffen)
If you're wondering... don't. Mary J. delivers again.

George Jackson – Don't Count Me Out: The Fame recordings Vol. 1

(KENT)
Great sixties southern songwriting and singing from super-prolific George Jackson. Excellent!

New York Dolls: Lookin' Fine on Television (2011) – Directed by Nadya & Bob Gruen

Black & white footage from several live shows nicely edited. Complete songs, interviews and backstage footage with the Dolls and NO talking heads. One of the best rock 'n' roll bands ever featuring the unsurpassed guitarist Johnny Thunders at his best.

Neila – Better Late Than Never

(SELF-RELEASED)
I was about three years late getting to this CD, but hey, better late than... Female MC from LA caught my ear immediately when I heard it playing in the store. Who is that? Neila.

BEAN

Buyer, pile maker, enthusiast.
Always will have been.

Louvin Brothers – Satan Is Real

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)
Best Way To Give God His Due If You're Not A Religious Type: Whether you're Christian or not, you'd have to be a fool to dismiss the heartfelt beauty of this album. Though the Louvin Brothers, Charlie and Ira, had a long and storied career in secular country music, this "gospel" album stands as their most memorable (OK, it might also be because of the amazing album cover featuring a burning plywood effigy of a bucktoothed and cross-eyed Satan, but still!). The musicianship is raw at times, befitting the Louvin's rural roots,

but the clear vocal harmonies that it seems only siblings can achieve shine throughout. And even though one of the brothers was more hell raiser than bible thumper, both brothers apply themselves to these sacred songs with true devotion. Whether you believe in God or not, if you're a true music lover, there's hardly anything fitter to do on a Sunday morning than to conduct your own service by dropping the needle on this church-approved platter.

Wild Flag – Wild Flag

(MERGE)
Best Band (Aside From Cream) To Prove That Not All "Supergroups" Blow: OK, as far as "supergroups" go, it's not quite on the level of Them Crooked Chickenfoot Paycheck Cashers, but getting Carrie Brownstein from Sleater-Kinney into a band with '90s alt-rock guitar queen (and possible wood elf) Mary Timony of Helium definitely sounds pretty super. Collectively, the band fires on all cylinders, but it is Brownstein and Timony's playful and accomplished guitar interplay that really stands out. Aside from that, it's also pretty awesome to hear four women, all closely orbiting 40, unabashedly rocking out.

John Henry West – Door Bolted Shut

(EBULLITION)
Best Record I Actually Listened To In The '90s: What fucking year is this? 2012? And this is coming out NOW? Did John Henry West ever even go on tour? [ed. yes, they did, in fact.] WHO CARES? John Henry West was the last great hardcore band. B(efore)JHW, was power chords, baggy T-shirts, and X's on the back of your hand. A(fter)JHW, was octaves, highwaters and Robotripping. Seriously it might've taken longer to get to your state, but JHW's brand of hardcore was as progressive as it could be before spinning off into some other genre. The tempos were blazingly fast, but they stopped and started in fits. For every chugga-chugga that rolled over you like a tank, there were chiming harmonics and clear octave chords that lifted you like doves before once again dropping you onto the jagged rocks of what-the-fuck. Christ, between these guys and Born Against, it's no wonder so many of us '90s hardcore kids turned into such snarky pricks. WE HAD IT SO MUCH BETTER THEN! Good luck catching up.

Shin Joong Hyun – Beautiful Rivers And Mountains: The Psychedelic Rock Sound Of South Korea's Shin Joong Hyun 1958-74

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)
Best International Album For The Non-NPR Listener In Your Life: I'll be honest with you,

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Korean music tends toward the melodramatic. Shin Joong Hyun is no exception. Nevertheless, he's considered the Godfather of Korean rock. Active mostly in the '60s and '70s, Shin's music is a blend of folk Korean melodies and ballads with whatever Western rock (and soul and jazz) that got played on Armed Forces radio. The common thread running through it all is Shin's unique and accomplished guitar playing. So yeah, it's "world" music in its own way, but it's also a fascinating game of telephone played with rock 'n' roll instead of words. Even if every song on this collection isn't a heavy hitter, when Shin and his musicians really click, the results can be fairly astounding.

Prime Suspect: The Complete Collection (1991-2006) – Directed by Lynda La Plante, Allan Cubitt and others

Best Way to Vicariously Engage In Long Term Self-Destructive Behaviour While Maintaining A Stiff Upper Lip: "Prime Suspect" could have been just another British police procedural with some almost soap opera tendencies, were it not for the fact the series's main character, Jane Tennison, just happened to be portrayed by Helen Mirren. Mirren attacks with gusto her role as a female police inspector trying to be taken seriously in the old boys network that is Scotland Yard. Sure, there is a case to be solved each "season," but the show's imminent watchability has as much to do with Mirren's portrayal of a highly ambitious and deeply flawed protagonist as it does with the suspense of the central whodunnit that moves the plot along. It's not always pretty, but "Prime Suspect" is definitely some highly addictive viewing.

Tip:

I better have seen Pulp by the time this goes to press.

JIM V

Ry Cooder – Pull Up Some Dust and Sit Down (NONESUCH/PERRO VERDE)

Influenced by recent events as well as his usual tasteful mix of roots-oriented music, Ry Cooder's latest is as much about the spirit of Woody Guthrie and Dave Macon as John Lee Hooker or Blind Willie Johnson. Aided by long time musical cohorts Flaco Jimenez, Terry Evans and Willie Green as well as his son Joachim, the songs on *Pull Up Some Dust* are world-weary and at times downright despondent, but as a whole the album has a sense of optimism running through it.

Despite being recorded early last year, many of the songs here touch on the same subjects that ignited the occupy protests of last fall. Also released last year was *Los Angeles Stories*, Cooder's first effort as a writer. Set in the 1940s LA area, the book's entertaining eight short stories are populated by a cast of characters from society's edges and set in some of the more marginal parts of Southern California. Cooder's writing has a definite noir quality to it, and despite the fact that such musicians as Billy Tipton and Merle Travis might show up in some of the stories, Cooder never lets the facts get in the way of a good yarn.

The Jayhawks – Mockingbird

Time (ROUNDER/PGD)

The newly reunited five-piece line-up on their latest release is as classic as the music produced on their first album in eight years. Gary Louris and Mark Olson return to their roles as guitarists, songwriters and, most of all, vocalists who know a thing or two about harmony singing. Add in a solid rhythm section, some piano and the occasional steel guitar and the Jayhawks sound like a Buffalo Springfield for the 21st century. A deluxe version includes two extra tracks as well as a DVD with rehearsal footage from the new album and a soundcheck from 1985.

Morgan Agren/Henry Kaiser/ Trey Gunn – Invisible Rays (7D

MEDIA)

Recorded mostly during a two-hour session, which was the first time this ad-hoc trio played together, *Invisible Rays*' 11 tracks offer up a diverse set of instrumentals. Leaning toward kinetic rhythms and dense textures, drummer Agren, guitarist Kaiser and touch guitar/bassist Trey Gunn show off both their instrumental and compositional skills. Fans of later-day King Crimson albums and/or Kaiser's eclectic, electric guitar playing should enjoy this set a lot.

Van Dyke Parks – Arrange-

ments Volume 1 (BANANASTAN)

Probably best known as a sometimes lyricist for Beach Boy Brian Wilson, including the just released *Smile* album, Van Dyke Parks has done nearly everything from session player to producer and song writer to label A&R person in his 50-plus years in the music business. As indicated by the title, this release focuses on Parks' work as an arranger, and the sampling of tracks here are no less diverse than his resume. Given the Parks "touch," which can be complex, eccentric and whimsical but always distinctive, on this volume are Sal Valentino, Arlo Guthrie, The Mojo

Men, Ry Cooder and Little Feat, among others, as well as six tracks of his own recordings. For a more contemporary listen to Parks' musical efforts, check out anyone of his recent six releases on 7" vinyl.

🎸 The Rolling Stones: Some Girls – Live in Texas '78 (2011) –

Directed by Lynn Lenau Calmes

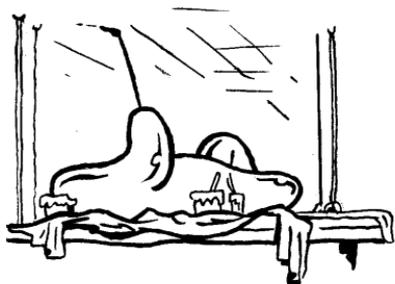
Shot on one of the last tours the Rolling Stones undertook before they started employing massive sets, back-up singers and a musical director, *Some Girls – Live in Texas* is both a raw and sometimes ramshackle document recorded near the end of their 1978 tour of the United States. Though the upfront trio of Jagger, Richards and Wood sometimes sound a bit too loose for their own good, they're well anchored by the solid rhythm section of Watts and Wyman. Add in "Sixth Stone" Ian Stewart on piano and former Faces keyboardist Ian McLagan, and the group turns a set heavy on the just-released *Some Girls* album, along with another ten classics. Bonus material includes the band's hit-and-miss appearance from 1978 on *Saturday Night Live*, where Jagger, Richards and Wood all lost their voices by airtime and an interview with an incredibly young-looking Geraldo Rivera. Shaddobbe!

🎸 Won't Get Fooled Again – by Richie Unterberger

Chronicling the band's period between 1970 and 1974, *Won't Get Fooled Again* follows The Who and, more specifically, Pete Townshend, as they attempt to follow-up the the success of Tommy with another rock opera even more ambitious than their first. Unterberger details the band's failures — including the unreleased *Lifehouse* — as well as their successes — *Quadrophenia* — as Townshend struggles to fully realize his creative visions, bringing his sometimes-reluctant band with him.

🎹 and on piano...NICKY HOPKINS – by Julian Dawson

Long overdue biography about one of the most heard, but least known musicians of the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Hopkins played piano with everyone from the Beatles — both the group and individual members, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Who, Jeff Beck, Jefferson Airplane and Jerry Garcia, to name but a few. Besides following Hopkins' life as he plays on some of the most famous recordings of all time, as well as his rare stints of touring, the book includes a detailed discography of his extension session work. Great read for fans of the era.



KAISER

Berkeley Boomerang, ne'er-do-well, etc.

HTRK – Work (Work, Work)

(GHOSTLY INTERNATIONAL)

Either the second or the third LP by this Aussie expat group, now a duo after the suicide of bassist Sean. A rough road to this one, kids. Rowland S. Howard produced and guested on their previous (awesome) release and died of liver cancer shortly thereafter. A move to Berlin does little to up the mood and then the bassist calls it the end of a short day. This is stripped down, melancholic music in the vein of Suicide (no pun intended), fronted by a searching and forlorn deep female vocal. Utter heartbreak, loss, drug spirals, and the will to overcome abject despair. Essential.

Jim Haynes – The Decline

Effect (HELEN SCARSDALE AGENCY)

The SF Bay area's finest manipulator or short-wave radio and corroded materials/signals has a new double LP in a swank gatefold package, even including a digital download for all you lazy little gits. Jim Haynes here combines field recordings, live performances, installations and sounds of the shortwave bandwidth into four side-long tracks of beautiful drone and tension. This is a limited run pressing, and I understand the Scarsdale Agency is already into the last few handfuls, so if you see this on the shelf anywhere, don't hesitate if you enjoy things along the lines of John Duncan, mid-period Hafler Trio, Thomas Koner and the like. And of course understand that Jim's live aktions are not to be missed, with video projections making for a truly immersive experience.

Joe Colley – Disasters of Self

(CRIPPLED INTELLECT PRODUCTIONS)

Triple album box set of new material by California's own Joe Colley, formerly know as "Crawl Unit" and propagator of Povertech Industries label. This set is beautifully put together, with attention to every minute sonic detail. Six sides of some of the best minimalist experimental

drone music in recent memory. Multiple locked grooves give this release the potential for an infinite listen, if you're so inclined. Another limited edition from the noisy side of the SF Bay area, and another mind-bending agent! Act fast, as this one won't be around for much longer.

Skullflower – Carved Into Roses/Infinityland/Singles (VHF)

Triple-CD reissue of some absolutely lovely middle-period works by the mighty Skullflower. Two full albums and then the kicker, the singles-compilation disc! Whoa, nelly!! You say you thought you'd never get to hear the Choady Foster 7" or "White Fang #2"? Look no further than this little bombshell of a reissue. While I gotta admit to being more of a fan of Skullflower's earlier material that worships the riff into the grave (will someone PLEASE REISSUE XAMAN FERFUKSSAKE!!), this mid-period stuff finds more expansive takes on the riff, burying the drums a bit more and coating the whole proceedings with a bleary haze of guitar hum/drone/feedback squalor. It's a glorious din of aggression, one that every "heavy guitar band" fan needs to know and love before they even think of buying the next piddling Sunn O))) or Earth or whoever the f'n flavor of the month's release may be. They all owe a huge debt to Matthew Bower and his snarling beast, Skullflower.

Taj Mahal Travellers –

August 1974 (PHOENIX)

Double vinyl reissue of what should be considered a landmark release in the world of drone music and spontaneous composition, done right and finally brought to the people at a very reasonable price by the fine people at Phoenix, also responsible for many other reissues of '70s era Japanese psyche music. But this...this is the ur-drone/psyche release of not just the era, but of the band themselves. Other documents stray a bit from the optimal combination of homemade electronics, violin, horns, percussion, loud-speaker crackle, tape delays, but this recording has it all, and has it right. Think LaMonte Young's New York based drone ensemble, but out on the seacoast, in a distant field, under a temple, and also Japanese. Then think of nothing and let the sound envelope you. Just submit, the drone is bigger than you will ever be.

Three Colors (Blue, White, Red) Criterion Collection (2011) – Directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski

Polish filmmaker, love affair with France as a concept, and with cinema itself. Juliette Binoche

as a newly widowed woman determined to wipe the slate clean and form her own new identity = introspective and astounding. Zbigniew Zamachowski as the immigrant hair stylist left at divorce court and outside the law by Julie Delpy in France, to return to his homeland, become wealthy in the underworld and eventually take his slow revenge = oddly humorous and riveting. Irene Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant struggling to cope with deception and removed distance to grasp what it means to truly relate with another human being = touching and genuinely uplifting. This was in the arthouse theater when I was in my formative years, and I am beyond please to finally see this trilogy get the Criterion treatment.

Tip:

You don't like the music? Make your own, or change the channel. Duh.

JNAST

*Explorer, Inventor, Cartographer,
Cosmologist, Physicist, Podiatrist,
Philanthropist, Ornithologist.*

Helado Negro – *Canta Lechuza*

(ASMATHIC KITTY)

Dreamy soundscape/electronic/Latin American influenced music from Roberto Carlos Lange aka Helado Negro. Please, listen.

Africa Hitech – *93 Million Miles* (WARP)

Africa Hitech features members Steve Spacek (Spacek, Black Pocket) and Mark Pritchard (Global Communication, Troubleman, Harmonic 33). Dancehall/ragga/electronic/soul influenced music. Please, listen.

The Stepkids – *The Stepkids*

(STONESTHROW)

Session musicians for stars such as Lauryn Hill and Alicia Keys, these fellas came together on the Stones Throw label and made a psychedelic soul album well outside the realm/sensibility of their pop R&B day jobs. For fans of the heavies: Dr. John, Funkadelic, Sly Stone etc. Please, listen.

Toro Y Moi – *Freaking Out EP*

(CARPARK)

Chaz Bundick of Toro Y Moi has put together a small series of '80s electronic/dancefloor-influenced music for your enjoyment. Please, listen.

Ocote Soul Sounds – *Taurus*

(EIGHTEENTH STREET LOUNGE MUSIC)

Founded by Antibalas member Martin Perna, Ocotee Soul Sounds is a heavy soul/Latin/African-influenced affair. Please, listen.

Hollie Cook – *Hollie Cook*

(MR. BONGO)

Hollie Cook is the daughter of Sex Pistol Paul Cook and is also a member of re-congealed '80s group The Slits. On her solo debut, she performs a retro reggae sound with UK soul vocals. Featuring reggae heavyweights such as Dennis Bovell, Style Scott and Horseman. Don't let the corny cover art fool you. Please, listen.

Cool Kids – *When Fish Ride*

Bicycles (C.A.K.E./GREEN LABEL SOUND)

More great throwback hip hop from the Cool Kids. Please, listen.

Carlos (2010) – Directed by Olivier Assayas

Carlos is a five hour mini-television series first aired on Canal+ (French Television). The story is about famed international freedom fighter/terrorist Ilich Ramírez Sánchez aka Carlos the Jackal. The film takes you on a journey through his seventies and eighties varying left-wing violent political action. A stylish film and fascinating portrayal, well worth your viewing.

Tip:

To dream ... the impossible dream ...

To fight ... the unbeatable foe ...

To bear ... with unbearable sorrow ...

To run ... where the brave dare not go ...

To right ... the unrightable wrong ...

To love ... pure and chaste from afar ...

To try ... when your arms are too weary ...

To reach ... the unreachable star ...

JORDAN

*Garage dweller stuck somewhere on
the lower end of fidelity...*

Bad Sports – *Kings of the Weekend* (DIRTNAP)

Everything is bigger in Texas, and this Denton, Texas trio's resume is beyond prolific, boasting solid past and present bands such as Mind Spiders, The Wax Museums, High Tension Wires, OBN IIIs, WICCANS, and VIDEO. Bad Sports' sophomore album shies away from the frantic, fuzzed-out power chords of their previous sin-

gles, leaning toward Ramones-reminiscent first-wave punk. Garage rock devotees will enjoy all of *Kings of the Weekend*, but there are tracks on the album that might even win over the uninitiated. *Kings of the Weekend* may not be the kind of record that rewrites the rule book, and Bad Sports may not be doing anything all that fresh, but like the late and lamented Exploding Hearts proved on *Guitar Romantic*, if you rework a classic sound with enough dynamism and fire (and great songs) you become pioneers instead of copycats!

The Underground Railroad to Candyland – Knows Your Sins

(RECES)

This hook-laden, impeccably catchy, stripped-down and oh so low-fi album was recorded in a garage using nothing but two mics, well-earning its respective “DIY” and “garage” titles. The Underground Railroad to Candyland’s sound explodes with driving drum and bass rhythms, surf-influenced guitar ripe with powerpop chords, and echoing gang vocals that fill out each composition. URTC’s sophomore album easily tops my list for best of 2011, not simply based on my affinity for Todd Congliere’s other projects like FYP, Toys That Kill, and Stoned at Heart. I love this album because it is the kind of record you have to sing along to, however ridiculous the lyrics, and it is because this album is fun as hell!

Mind Spiders – Mind Spiders

(DIRTNAP)

There is a reason that Texas bands are all over my radar at the present and it’s not just that I used to fondly call it home. There is no other state in the union putting out the quality and quantity of Texas Bands, most coming from Austin & Denton. Mind Spiders hail from Fort Worth, are fronted by noted producer and Marked Men lead Mark Ryan and their members make up other Texas champs such as Bad Sports and High Tension Wires. This self-titled LP is low on the fidelity, complimented with well-placed patches of homespun noise and ripe with fuzzy psych garage, contrasted with first wave punk influences. This release is all energy, fast and catchy, with most songs barely breaching the two-minute mark. In February they’ll follow up with a new LP, *Meltdown*, which is also being released on Dirtnap.

The Heat Tape – Raccoon Valley Recordings

(RED SCARE)

The Heat Tape formed in Makanda, Ill., and their debut record, *Raccoon Valley Recordings*, proudly pulled its furry moniker from the trailer park

in Southern Illinois where the band met, reside and record. Before you write this off as another bluegrass bum jug revival bands, note the head of this caravan dwelling lo-fi punk outfit, Brett Hunter plays in some damn good punk bands as well such as The Copyrights & Dear Landlord. *Raccoon Valley Recordings* sets a hook in you after the first listen. Catchy and addictive from the start, you won’t be sorry you visited Raccoon Valley.

Flashlights – I’m Not Alone

(PROTAGONIST MUSIC/NK TAPES)

The Titusville, Fla. quartet Flashlights is foreign tongue to most, but this recently labeled-up, Florida-based foursome will not remain obscure for much longer. The songwriting on this album is incredibly mature, crafting a fine dichotomy to the respective of the ages of the band members. It seems Flashlights have taken your favorite ’90s bands and cut out the bullshit they were too young to remember. The band’s audible influences range from early Thermals recordings, Japandroids and especially Superchunk. *I’m Not Alone*, the band’s first full-length, is flush with delectably lo-fi powerpop carved out with a catchy-as-hell punk ethos. From the first track, the album is tremendously energetic and elevating, yet in keeping with the contradictions of Flashlights, it remains reverent and sincere while hinting at underlying tragedy.

Honorable Mentions:

OBN Ills, Potential Johns, Wugazi, Black Lips, Mean Jeans, Black Keys ...



RPG

RPG, aka the "Red Fox," is a conceptual analyst, percussionist and a leading figure in the Teachers for the Total Destruction of the Intellectual Architects of the 1%.

■ **Margin Call (2011) – Directed by J.C. Chandor**

Occupy this picture! See what the early stages of the 2008 financial crisis looked like from the perspective of the 1%. Marx couldn't have written this dramatization any better.

■ **The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975 (2011) – Directed by Göran Olsson**

Follow the rise and demise of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s and '70s with Swedish Director Göran Hugo Olsson, along with excellent commentary from Prof. Robin Kelley to Erykah Badu, among others.

■ **United Red Army (2011) – Directed by Kôji Wakamatsu**

Ever wondered what it was like during the political unrest of the 1960s in Japan, a time in which much of the student uprisings coincided with the emergence of the ultra-left United Red Army? Well I had, but that's just because I have an interest in people who hijack planes with Samurai swords. You gotta love those criticism/self-criticism "sessions" as they are portrayed in this picture.

■ **If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front (2011) – Directed by Marshall Curry and Sam Cullman**

One of the best documentaries about the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), *If a Tree Falls* discusses and analyzes the discourses and practices of the ELF through the eyes of one of its members, Daniel McGowan. McGowan is subsequently arrested and serves time in a federal prison when the Feds go on a nationwide sweep of radical environmentalists in 2005.

■ **The Last Mountain (2011) – Directed by Bill Haney**

Set in the heart of Appalachian West Virginia, this documentary captures the struggle of a small community as it battles a giant coal company. The documentary raises many more

questions than it answers, mainly, how does one "develop" one's economy while accounting for the people and bioregional diversity that it is embedded in?

■ **Bananas!* (2009) – Directed by Fredrik Gertten**

It has been said that this is the documentary that Dole Co. doesn't want you to see. To blame Dole alone, however, would be too easy and leave other factors aside, mainly, a discussion that engages with the global politics of food: Who really feeds whom, and how? Speaking of food, if you haven't seen *Forks Over Knives* (Dir. Lee Fulkerson, 2011), do check it out, you won't be disappointed!

■ **Page One: Inside the New York Times (2011) – Directed by Andrew Rossi**

I've been reading *The Times* for over 15 years, and this documentary really reminded me of why — despite some of the important critiques that folks like Noam Chomsky have made — this paper will continue to be one of the most important papers in the U.S., if not the world. My favorite part of this doc is the story of NY *Times* columnist David Carr, a former crack addict who turned himself around thanks to a secret fellowship.

■ **These Amazing Shadows: The Movies That Make America (2011) – Directed by Paul Mariano and Kurt Norton**

Every year, the National Film Preservation Board selects 25 films for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" and adds them to the prestigious National Film Registry. See the debates and discussion that go into the creation of this film "canon" (and, one might add, the exclusion of other pictures by women and people of color filmmakers).

■ **Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian (2009) – Directed by Neil Diamond**

This insightful and provocative examination of Hollywood's representation of Native Americans is long overdue. This excellent documentary also engages with the ways in which Native filmmakers have fought back against the stereotypes with their own films. The documentary is perfect for classroom use.



■ **Wheedle's Groove: Seattle's Forgotten Soul of the 1960s and '70s (2011) – Directed by Jennifer Maas**

If history is memory, then the question we should ask ourselves is: Whose memory gets recorded? In the late '60s and early '70s, Seattle had a vibrant and happening soul scene. This documentary had me writing down the names of almost all of the bands featured in it. This shit is funky. Dig it. And while you are at it, check out *Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of A Tribe Called Quest* (Dir. Michael Rapaport, 2011).

KAI KEYA

Frank Wess – Flute Juice
(PROGRESSIVE)

Tip:
Pancakes

MARC WEINSTEIN

8-track buyer at Record Theatre in the mid-'70s, moved on to cassettes, then New York, and, finally, California. Love playing drums more than (almost) anything...

My very short list focuses on two 2011 instrumental releases. They each feature two of the same players, and they've really helped me get excited about the possibility that, finally, a group of amazing young(ish) players have found a way to distill what was great about late '60s electric "jazz-rock" to show us the soul and personality of a new generation truly "blasting off...". These sounds have heavy free jazz, metal, and punk-like energies coursing through them. The players, though virtuosic, have the ability to bring a totally raw and experimental quality that can easily remind one of Coltrane, Hendrix and Miles in their intensity and inspiration. Not since

Tales of Captain Black, Last Exit and Sonny Sharrock's Ask the Ages have releases such as these brought hope that the possibilities are STILL endless, even in "fusion" music... personally, I don't appreciate 95% of the "fusion" produced by all these studio players — they suck.

The guitar player on both of these releases is Raoul Björkenheim, born to Finnish parents in L.A., who grew up there until age 15, then returned to Finland to become one of the most versatile, multidimensional electric guitarists out there... not unlike Nels Cline, this fellow can go a million different unexpected, but beautiful directions with exquisite grace and soulfulness... drummer Morgan Ågren, a Swedish monster who has played every style from "roots" rock to Tony Williams and beyond crushes on both sessions---

OK, in order of my slight preference, these two amazing records are:

#1)
Bill Laswell/Morgan Ågren/Raoul Björkenheim – BLIXT
(CUNEIFORM)

A trio of Björkenheim, Ågren, and bassist Bill Laswell... (one of his best records ever, for sure...) an ultimate "power trio" record that burns hot and slow at times---> these guys listen hard and play with every cell in their bodies...

#2)
BOX – Studio One
(RUNE GRAMMOFON)

A quartet with Trevor Dunn on bass (Zorn's Masada, Fantomas, Mr. Bungle, etc...) and Norwegian keyboard/electronics artist Ståle Storløkken (of Supersilent fame) joining Björkenheim and Ågren for slightly thicker improv-based compositions that are so very alive every listen evokes a sense of possibility---> amazing...

I'm sure hoping both these groupings produce more music soon — but, for now, I'm deeply inspired by these amazing products of theirs ... if I could only travel across the Atlantic to catch one of their rare shows ...

MICHAEL

Stag Hare – Spirit Canoes (INNER ISLANDS)

Awesome new LP from this mystical traveler... exotic textures and loping loops slowly build,

with each long track unfolding to reveal an organic soundworld ripe with subtle details. A blissful and meditative sonic journey, and one which rewards repeat listens.

Decimus – 3 & 8 (KELIPPAH)

Two LPs from a series of 12 LPs dedicated to the Zodiac of Decimus Magnus Ausonius. Decimus is Pat Murano of New York's seminal No Neck Blues Band. This solo project finds him in fine form, creating fascinating robotic soundscapes that allow the listener to travel into a futuristic world where sounds take on dark hues, abstract shapes and distinct personalities. There is a lot of craft to these explorations, and each side unfolds to reveal a number of mysteries that begin anew with each play. Highly recommended!

Charlatan – Triangles (DIGITALIS)

Mellow, downtempo electronic space music of the highest order. Cyclical drum machine rhythms and euphoric washes of colorful synthesizer are blended to maximum effect, bringing a sense of pure bliss via two sides of bright yellow wax.

Roll the Dice – In Dust (LEAF)

A wonderful album of synth-centric, cinematic electronica from this duo. Masters of their craft who use primarily older, analog gear, they craft a series of dynamic pieces that are at once epic and restrained, each one bursting with detail and rich in nuance.

Danny Paul Grody – In Search of Light (STUDENTS OF DECAY)

Lovely sophomore album from this talented local musician who is also a member of two great local ensembles: Tarentel and The Drift. Here, he uses just the right amount of technique and restraint to couch his intricate guitar interplay within a coat of warm, immersive ambience. I find this album to have a deeply emotional quality to it, one which expresses the passion with which it was made, and also makes it such a joy to listen to.

Chuck Johnson – A Struggle Not a Thought (STRANGE ATTRACTORS)

I first became aware of Chuck's work through Idyll Swords, his duo with Polvo's Dave Brylawski. More than 10 years later, I discovered that he was living here in Oakland and still making great music in a number of configurations. This album is his first solo guitar opus, and it features 11 fantastic and innovative fingerstyle guitar compositions played with soul and loving-



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ly recorded. It deftly avoids the stylistic pitfalls of so many other "post-Fahey" guitar albums while still acknowledging and embracing the spirit of those great sides of yore. Definitely my favorite "acoustic" release of 2011, and one I am sure I will return to many times in future years.

Myrmyr – Fire Star

(UNDER THE SPIRE)

Deep, dark and mysterious sonic excursions from multi-instrumentalists Marielle Jakobsons and Agnes Szilag. This talented duo creates truly immersive cinematic pieces from an array of sound sources and modified instruments, taking cues from many styles of music and yet ultimately creating their own unique hybrid of avant-garde classical, ambient, drone and various other experimental musical energies.

Mirror to Mirror – Here You Leave Today (CYLINDRICAL HABITAT MODULES)

After a string of great tapes on many labels including his own Jugular Forest label, this is the debut LP release from LA-based underground ambient synth artist Alex Twomey. He's created a fine release here, blending several layers of synth to create a warm ambient glow over the course of these six tracks. His most recent tape on Autumn Records is perhaps even better, with several slightly more busy arpeggiated pieces that show another side to his mostly tranquil work thus far.

The Original Sound of Cumbia – Various Artists (SOUNDWAY)

Fantastic archival collection of Colombian Cumbia music compiled by Will Holland (aka Quantic). Over two lengthy CDs or six luxurious LPs, he traces the history of Cumbia in the country of its origin, compiling an eclectic array of great tracks showing the stylistic evolution of the genre during the period spanning from the late 1940s through the late 1970s. A fascinating look at a regional treasure, this collection is a definitive statement due to its size and scope, and it deserves to be heard by anyone who is even remotely curious about this infectious latin american rhythm, and will reward diehard Cumbia fans as well.

Jürgen Müller – Science of the Sea (DIGITALIS)

Beautiful shimmering vignettes of sub-aquatic beauty, this LP is a true gem of warm, ambient synthesizer music. Much has been made of the fabricated backstory for the album, but the truth of it is that regardless of who made it (I know

but I'm not saying), it is a fantastic voyage into an underwater realm of joyous melodies and bubbling rhythms. Probably my most played release of 2011, it is the perfect soundtrack for nearly any activity, is capable of bringing a smile to otherwise dreary days and always makes me wish it were just a little bit longer.

Tip:

Again, much of my favorite music from 2011 was made by friends of mine and performed at houses and warehouses in Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco. I am thankful for the continued inspiration I find through the many folks I meet and interact with on my musical journey, both inside and outside this wonderful record store. I am happy to have released a tape of my music on the fine Digitalis Limited label in October of 2011 and look forward to releasing more music in 2012. You can hear some of my sounds here: selaroda.bandcamp.com

Please continue to support Amoeba and other local and independent businesses. We won't be here much longer if people keep downloading everything for free and ordering stuff online instead of coming in to a real store with real people who are passionate and knowledgeable about what we sell. Buying music online is the record store equivalent of sending US jobs overseas. Sure it's cheaper initially, but what about the long-term implications on our economy and the hole it leaves culturally in a community when a record store closes. Some of my greatest musical discoveries have occurred in physical record stores, and it would be a shame if the possibility of that ever happening for us and future generations ended someday.

Also, please stand up to corporations who seek to control the corrupt economic systems in this country and beyond, and the spineless politicians who continue to pander to them rather than look out for the good of the majority of society. Get involved, fight the injustices you see in the world and strive to have a positive impact on the world each and every day. Live your dreams, share your gifts, and treat everyone with love and kindness.



RAMO

I be pricing Hip-Hop and stuff ...

Jonti – *Twirligig* (STONES THROW)

The phenomenally talented multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Jonti, who hails from Australia by way of South Africa, delivers up his debut album with gentle hands but fierce eyes. An extremely colorful and textual jaunt through the mind of a genius, *Twirligig* is a nothing short of a mind-cartoon. One song I'm drifting through space without a care in the world ("Nightshift In Blue"), the next I'm swaying back and forth lost in a trance ("Firework Spraying Moon"), the next I'm strutting along the local Bay Area streets feeling myself ("Cyclic Love f/ Otayo Dubb"), and the next I'm racing through a jungle with a fluorescent tiger, complete with loin cloth ("Twirligig"). A truly cinematic endeavor, Jonti's artistic dream will melt your worries and inflate your confidence to the point of bursting! Also comes in full-length LP version with download code. Highly Recommended! Tracks "Firework Spraying Moon" and "Begone Slumber" were released as a 7" that is also highly recommended.

Doomtree – *No Kings*

(DOOMTREE)

In my humble opinion, a top contender for the best album of the year, *No Kings* is everything a current Hip-Hop album should be — banging boom baps coupled with relevant, soulful and sometimes wounding lyrics. The cleverness is there, but even more, the energy that yanks you from your corporeal form is overwhelming, raising you to the skies in willing sacrifice. Lazerbeak's "lava bangers" (though Cecil Otter, P.O.S. and Paper Tiger lend a beat-hand) frame the skillful spit of Dessa, Sims, Mike Miclan, Cecil Otter & P.O.S., and the result are some of the best hooks and one-liners in a long while. The album is waaay more than that for sure, but my gushing would take pages. If you could admit me a little metaphor — if Doomtree were a robot, Dessa would be the head, Sims and P.O.S. the left and right hands, Mike Miclan and Cecil Otter the left and right feet, with Lazerbeak and Paper Tiger sharing chambers in the heart (with room for others to help "beat"). This construction may change per fan, but this is my dream, so go with it. My one criticism: More Paper Tiger, please, and more vinyl from all of you! *No Kings* also comes in double-vinyl version with download code. P.S. — Be on the look out for Lazerbeak's solo beat shit — *Lava Bangers*, which will be out by the time this is out. Highest recommendation!

Thirsty Fish – *Watergate* (MUSH)

The new wave of Project Blowdians, Open Mike Eagle, Dumbfoundead and Psychosiz offer up an aggressively strong addition to the underground Left Coast history of style phenomena. With a bevy of heavyweight producers such as Busdriver, Loden, Alpha MC, Exile and TokiMONSTA, they finger every beat like a professional banger. The imbibed-deficit trio are joined on a couple tracks by fellow Blowdians, Busdriver (with an intoxicated flow) and battle crew Swim Team, respectively. The result is nothing short of a lesson in style and difference — because you will not find anything similar anywhere else. Get with the new. Get with the fresh. Get some Thirsty Fish. Recommended!

Señor Kaos – *The Kaos Effect*

(HIGH WATER MUSIC)

Atlanta-based MC, Señor Kaos and fellow ATLien producer Ilastrate deliver a decade-in-the-life-of album that bathes the listener in Golden Years Hip-Hop. As an older Hip-Hop head, I can't help but let this soak into and moisturize the dry and cracked crevices that the mainstream has created — though he is not mainstream by any stretch of the imagination. When listening to this album I can close my eyes and feel like I'm back in circa 1995, without the corny agedness. His music videos make me beg for a 21st Century Yo! *MTV Raps*... 'nuff said. I'm holding my breath for a vinyl version. Highly recommended!

Count Bass D & Insight –

The Risktakers (ASCETIC/MODULAR)

If I were teaching a Hip-Hop history class for 2012, I would include in my curriculum *The Risktakers* album. With both MCs being producers as well, it's an experiment forged in the 22nd Century and brought back in time to the present. No hyperbole, these songs would define at least a decade of the early 21st Century. Definitely one of my top five albums of 2011, it seems to have been criminally slept on. Let me help you rectify that. This would be a great album to put out on vinyl. Get to it guys! Highly recommended!

Qwazaar & Batsauce –

Bat Meets Blaine (GALAPAGOS4)

Chicago MC meets Berlin beat-maker. Sounds interesting, doesn't it? Well, the result is more than interesting — it's downright mind-blowing! Funky and jazzy breaks provide the backdrop for Qwazaar's (of Typical Cats) soulful and off-kilter raps, leaving you feeling like you want to take the baton and run to the end of the world. Again, this is another album that feels like it's reaching back to the early '90s and bringing something



forward to the future that the rest of us seem to have forgotten. I am drooling at the prospect of vinyl for this album. Highest recommendation! The tracks "I Know" and "Til Its Done" were released on a 7" that is also highly recommended.

Eligh & Amp Live – Therapy at 3

(LEGENDARY MUSIC/LIVE UP)

If you thought Grey Crow was a glimpse into the heart of one of the underground's most cherished minds, then *Therapy at 3* will continue that journey — with Zion I's production wizard, Amp Live at the helm. Imagine yourself, strapped down, blind-folded, floating in the ether of mankind, with nothing but the future to hold you down — and Amp Live as your guide. That is but a suggestion of what this album has to offer. Amp Live's signature boom bap with an electronica twist massages Eligh's fast thought process to the point of insanity. Along with the rest of Eligh's discography, I would strangle a bunny for some vinyl. C'mon, Eligh, don't make me be that guy... please. The bunnies are counting on you. Highly recommended!

Subtitle – Black Jack Parsons

(HELLFYRE CLUB)

With 11 songs, and most just shy of two minutes, *Black Jack Parsons* punches you in the face with absurdity. A veteran of Project Blowed, Subtitle has always ridden the margins of acceptability, and this slice-of-life is no different. Completely produced and MC'd by the man himself, this electronica-heavy and sporadic offering adds to the self-proclaimed "Black Weirdo" movement with gusto. The packaging is very clever, a CD slipped into a "floppy disk" covering — worth the price alone. Also, be on the look out for Subtitle's full length, *My So Crev Life*, "Crev" referring to a new genre of music in this style. Recommended!

Onra – Chinoiseries Pt. 2

(ALL CITY DUBLIN)

The French beat-maker follows up the *Chinoiseries* with an impressive array of heavy Asian samples, wrapped in Hip-Hop-head-nod. Every track sings its own tune, but together belts to the world, "I am one!" Every song feels like a lost

Bruce Lee soundtrack, or what a modern day Wu Tang Clan album should sound like. If only... As an import, neither the CD nor vinyl version comes cheap, but it's money well spent. If you see it, nab it. Chances are you won't see it again. *Chinoiseries Pt. 1* is hard to find. The vinyl comes with a download code, so that's the way to go. Highest Recommendation! P.S. — Also nab the Onra & Quetzal album *Onra & Quetzal Present Tribute* available only on vinyl if you see it. Thank Dilla's Donuts with an Asian/French/Latin twist.

Tip:

Share the music you love with the people you love. Buy vinyl and suggest to your favorite artists to release vinyl any chance you get. With the advent of social networking, it is all the more easy to do so. Also, be good to each other, cuz no one else will. If you download, support the artists and record store industry by purchasing a physical copy. Booyah, you're making the world go 'round.

ROBVERTIGO

*Rock Floor Headmaster/
Interweb Disaster.*

Black Humor – Love God, Love One Another (SUPERIOR VIADUCT)

Imagine if FLIPPER was really, really GREAT. Or if Bobby Soxx's STICKMEN got into some industrial strength metal whapping and found a good use for gothic synths. Plodding and minimal and full of t-t-t-tension. These folks are so fed up and angry, even their pet parrot is pissed. Early MINI-MAN comes close to this sound ... mostly due to that throbbing bass pulse. Vocals that reek of Arto Lindsay if you could've understood his mush-mouth during the DNA years. When it's not laying into you with heavy bumper vibes, it's busy handing over tape collages, sloppy chants and odd art-farts. Stuff that'd fill a bill nicely with other Ralph-ians, Subterraneans and Club Footers of the era. THE FUGS diving head first into some mean spirited chaos? What if they had worked with THROBBING GRISTLE on some ZAPPA-esque jingles? It coulda'/shoulda' happened ... so it could rule like this. A good thing this band stayed behind studio walls for most of its short-lived life. The venue riots/van burnings probably woulda' brought certain death to the early SF new wave scene. Possibly the most nihilistic sludge-punk record ever made. You'd be at least hard-pressed to find a better one.

Condominium – Warm Home

(CONDOMINIUM)

This here is first long player for the MN kings of modern hardcore, noise rock and uniformly

sharp looking singles. Clocking in at a sparse 20 minutes, *Warm Home* feels a lot like a buddy-up companion piece to last year's *Cruising* (by SLICES). I'm not saying that the CONDOS and SLICES are exact replicas of one another, no sir. It's more like they're out battling for the same team. Punishing riff monsters that blend that AmRep sound, FLAG-like punk and 'core into a heady brew of thug-chug. There even seems to be a strand of black metal threading the rhythm section together that'll give those wimps over at Youth Attack something to cling to. Barked, gruff and blown out (yet coherent) vocals that sound in step with most '80s East Coast street punk and hXc tuffys, but less cocksure and gasping for breath through a nervous Midwest tweak. After a few violent assaults the weirdness starts to set in... and not a "Weeding Out" weirdness (tho' that happens too)... but a REAL weirdness. Like 20th Century avant-classical weird. Harry Partch would be so proud. A thinking man's mess.

Sex Church – *Growing Over*

(LOAD RECORDS)

If you've been on board with the Church and their EPs up until now, then brace yerself. Load Records has dropped a fully realized, straight-up epic downer ROCK record. Possibly the best one they've ever pressed. Wait, Load Records? Crazy, I know. There ain't one stuffed animal sewn onto the britches of any of these lads. No one's even wearing pantyhose masks. Let's not forget that Load has released a handful of stone cold moderne classics over the years (BRAINBOMBS, CLOCKLENER, that FUNGUS BRAINS re-issue, etc). This here is grand in scale and heavy in hooks. Skull music for grumpy adults who probably hate everything else offered up in today's music marketplace. Not an angry hate, just really frustrated. Life is shit and this world flushing itself down the toilet. This is the soundtrack to the collapse ... and it's a toe tapper. Imagine the CHEATER SLICKS gloom without the garage. Or a JapRock-damaged psych that has actual well written parts instead of just scuzz-blown freakouts. A stellar Kraut combo loosing consciousness and fraying apart at the seams. The SPACEMEN 3 on a come down, remembering to add a twist or a turn to their tracks so to actually keep stuff interesting. GUN CLUB was just as death rock as JOY DIVISION, let's face the facts. *Growing Over* lay waste to a hundred-million n'one loft-pop/goth puds, all without trying to be goth or loft-pop. Rattle those fiberboard walls. Thee band to see for you nug-headed degenerates and/or actual MUSIC fans out there. Go to their show. It's well worth it to put yer head against the monitors, and crumble to the floor, blissfully fried.

■ The Exterminator (1980) –

Directed by James Glickenhaus

One of the better *DEATH WISH* knock offs that flooded the fleapits in the '80s. Robert Ginty stars as a Nam-vet dealing with the brutal beating of his best friend in the only way he knows how ... shooting, grinding up and blow-torching every thug and lowlife in New York City. Amazingly foul subplots dealing with such things as pimps turning out tweens for tricks and the like push this puppy to all new levels of filth. Well-acted, tightly shot and due time for the clean up treatment. There's a nasty beheading in this sucker that begged to be seen uncut. Great double feature idea: Team it up with Bill Lustig's *VIGILANTE!*

Jack Ruby – *Hit & Run 7"*

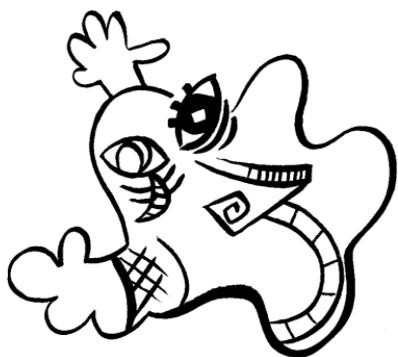
(SATURDAY)

Just when I thought the well of all things proto-punk had finally gone bone-dry, this sloppy bomb dropped upon my noggin. Two lost recordings from mid-'70s New Yawk. If you dig SIMPLY SAUCER, DEBRIS, ELECTRIC EELS and the likes, there's no reason AT ALL for you not to hunt this platter down. Junkified STOOGEOID rhythms and distorted glam-slammers that sound as much No Wave as they they do drug fueled space rock. Dunderheaded thumpers that totally loose themselves in a mechanized death march of CHROME-like fried scree. Knob twisting and Kraut loving as well. Features at least one future member of THE CONTORTIONS. Damaged stuff, kids. Lydia Lunch digs 'em. You should too. If yer too late to grab one of these cakes ... DON'T PANIC. An LP's worth of even more tracks forthcoming. Hot-diggity!

□ *Portlandia: Season 1 (2010)*

I'm sure this is in this book a hundred times over. But who cares. I lived in Portland, and all they know there is bikes, birds, beer and strip clubs. So many strip clubs. Yeah. I LOVED IT. Poking fun at everything the Northwest has to offer and offending most of the population along the Willamette as the do so. If you don't laugh at the dumpster-diving couple or the feminist bookstore skits, yer probably DEAD. And definitely not my friend. Stuff hit me so hard on first viewing, I've even toyed with buying the Sleater-Kinney back catalog. WHOA.





The Candy Snatchers (1973) – Directed by Guerdon Trueblood

Great (and darkly funny) exploitative shocker from the 42nd street heyday returns to disc! Three twenty-nothings think up a kidnapping plan involving a teenage girl named Candy, some diamonds and a shallow grave. It all goes badly berserk from there. They hope for a big payoff on her return but end up dealing with dad who honestly couldn't care less. The only witness to the crime is a little autistic boy from an abusive family. This is the polar opposite of SAVANNA SMILES, folks. Groovy trash that gives you plenty of honest-to-god twists and turns ...and a whole bunch of despicably gross characters. Nothing goes well for anyone involved. Glad to see this back in print. Now, will some one get on a disc of PETS already?! Jeesh...

RYAN STARK

*Posters/Shirts/Sure I can do that!
Camera/Can Tape a Record faster
and better than you/etc...*

*wants to put "recommended" stickers
on things outside of Amoeba*

Hello all, it's with a heavy heart that this is my last Music We Like Entry! Amoeba is an extended family that though I still feel a part of, will miss seeing day to day! Much love!

The Original Sound of Cumbia Vols. 1 and 2 – Various Artists (SOUNDWAY)

These two volumes are great and moving collections that focus on Cumbia in Colombia and are a treasure trove of music. The years that this collection spans is 1948-1979 and runs the

gamut from fun to awe inspiring. The vinyl versions are around 30 bucks each and though that seems like a lot, know that each volume contains three records and it's hard to pick a favorite because they all totally bring it. I find that the later stuff is a bit easier to dance to and the earlier stuff has a "whoa, I can't believe they were doing that then" feeling to it. To imagine what else was popular musically at the time just seems so tame compared to this collection.

Leonard Cohen – Old Ideas

(COLUMBIA)

It's a new Leonard Cohen album. It sounds the way he sounds and at the time of this writing is already out of print on vinyl, so don't sleep on it! I know many people who don't care for Cohen's voice, which I understand. It's monotone and low and I'm sure it just sounds like Noam Chomsky singing the hits of Dean Martin to them. I listen to Leonard Cohen because of the words. A Cohen lyric sheet is worth its weight in gold to me. The man has a way with them that have a funny way of showing you things about yourself that your friends would be too afraid to tell you. They're insightful and not immediately ready to grasp. It's worth the wait if you let them find themselves in you.

Total Abuse – Prison Sweat

(POSTPRESENTMEDIUM)

Are you tired of the music that's getting thrown your way on the radio? Do you feel like it all sounds like the same song and are waiting for... I dunno... something more? Are you bored with the lackadaisical vocals from a male who sounds like he's no good in bed? WELL YOU'RE IN LUCK FRIEND! Total Abuse is here to blow the roof off of the boring, tame and beautiful. The fury of an undisciplined Black Flag and molded in basements, *Prison Sweat* is what you need to break free! This band makes me want to break stuff. If that sounds good to you, it's in the Amoeba punk section.

The Soft Moon – Total Decay

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

The Soft Moon just released an EP follow up to their masterfully dark full-length, and it's beautiful in all of its dark synth-y glory. You know how some bands cite Joy Division as a reference? And sure... you can sort of hear what they're talking about... but you'd really rather just go home and listen to Joy Division? Soft Moon delivers that dark and rhythmic focus that leave so many other imitators seeming blurry and slow. Soft Moon is made of beautiful dark rhythms and exquisitely intelligent textures. Check it out!

Onra – *Chinoiseries Vol. 2*

(ALL CITY DUBLIN)

Onra's follow up to *Chinoiseries* is taking a step further than the first volume. *Chinoiseries Vol. 2* is a Hip-Hop record based solely on the samples of records Onra got while shopping for vinyl in China. The beats and grooves shown here are unlike any other Hip-Hop record. I don't know many DJs who go digging through the traditional Chinese folk records. Onra has carved out his own little world with his music, and I'm excited to hear more of it. This is sexy and intelligent Hip-Hop.

Evens – *2 Songs 7"* (DISCHORD)

The Evens are back with an interesting 7" follow up to two full-lengths. *2 Songs* has Amy Farina (drums), singing on one side and Ian MacKaye (Baritone Guitar) singing on the other. The arrangements are getting bigger and more complex. It's only two songs but they really make me excited for a new record.

Little Ed & The Soundmasters – *Little Ed & The Soundmasters*

(NUMERO GROUP)

This reasonably priced 7" box set contains three 7"s of some Cadet Records style toe tappin' soul. The drummer is like eight years old and keeps it down well. It's nothing that's going to change your life, but if you put on one of these records, it'll get the party started.

The Fall – *Ersatz* (CHERRY RED)

The Fall are back again. Like they usually are every six months or so since the late '70s. The new songs are fancy, interesting and fun and sound like The Fall always sounds... which is hard to say no to. Check it!

The Jerk Boom! Bam! Vol. 1-4 – *Various Artists*

(THE JERK BOOM! BAM!)

The Jerk Boom! Bam! is one of the greatest collections of greasy soul and R&B that I've ever heard. Many of the cuts off these totally fly albums are extremely rare and hard to find which is almost criminal for how good they are. Each volume is its own party starter and a very rewarding listen. If you're finding yourself in a Motown rut, then this collection is an exciting place to jump to!

The Best of Disco Demands Vols. 1 and 2 – *Various Artists* (K7)

Disco Demands breaks a golden rule I've always had in buying records. The rule is that I never

buy any records that focus on a naked lady on the cover. The reason for this is that you don't have to lure people in with porn for a good record. If it's a good record, then why throw the scantily clad woman on the cover? The answer is to move units, and I always felt it was creepy and manipulative. The *Disco Demands* comps though are legit, awesome, disco-funk compilations. The covers are '70s looking photos of a notably busty woman or taken by someone with Instagram. I don't delve into disco too much because the songs always feel like they go on forever and I wind up getting bored. This comp is interesting and worth the 25 they'll want for it. And even if you don't like it, at least you have the cover.

Rank/Xerox

This SF trio balances a wild flailing wreck and intelligent control in a deep way. They sound like a moodier Wire. For fans of punk and energy.

Total Control – *Henge Beat*

(IRON LUNG)

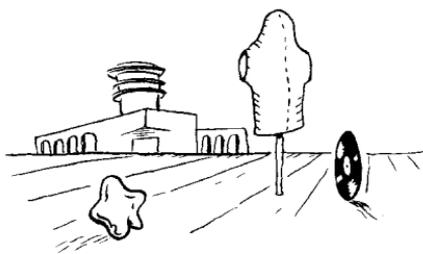
Total Control is members of Eddie Current Suppression Ring and UV Race coming together to do something that is far different than their other bands. Total Control has elements that remind me very much of Suicide, Devo and Gary Numan, but not in a derogatory rip off way. If you can find their 7"s, grab them up, as they're hard to come by but well worth the money.

Eddy Current Suppression

Ring – *So Many Things* (GONER)

ECSR's *So Many Things* shows a timeline of growth of ECSR from their first recordings to their most recent, *Rush To Relax*. It's interesting to hear this band discover itself in this set of songs. We are talking good Australian Rock & Roll. Every song has a swing to it that is peppered with menace. I've always felt a sort of tongue-in-cheek kind of vibe from their music, but that's just me. I think they're great, and this is a cool record to pick up once you already own *Rush to Relax*.





SAM LEFEBVRE

Diet Cokeheads/Neon Blud – Compact Heat (Split) 7”

(WEST PALM BEATCH)

Both of these bands utilize the same dystopian psychedelic approach to slightly art-damaged noise punk. I'm always seeking hook-laden pop tunes with gritty, punk swagger, but this year the maladjusted, bleak and esoteric dirge of bands like these inspired me the most. It's as if these musicians found their platonic ideal of beauty during an acid trip, then brutalized it with a club and recorded the process. Few things are certain but, in 2011, Diet Cokeheads and Neon Blud made music that sounds like killing what you love.

Sex Church – Growing Over

(LOAD)

What appeals to me about this record is similar to what appeals to me about Diet Cokeheads and Neon Blud, not that I would necessarily describe them as being musically similar, but parallels can be drawn between their gloomy aesthetic. This record has tension, it's dissonant, but shreds of catchiness permeate the murkiness and, heard in context, those are the most unnerving moments of the whole record. Also, this record demonstrates how to use effects like a fucking innovative musician. Hundreds of garage bands: Take notice.

Jeremy Gluck & Friends – I Knew Buffalo Bill (MUNSTER)

Recorded in 1987, this record was a peculiar conglomeration of under-acclaimed musicians. Nikki Sudden brings dense reverb and guitar jangle, Epic Soundtracks creates eerie texture, Jeffrey Lee Pierce contributes slide guitar, and Rowland S. Howard provides the signature piercing, single note squeals he honed as lead guitarist for The Birthday Party. With primary

vocals courtesy of Jeremy Gluck, former front man for The Barracudas, the formation of this line-up is inexplicable, but the results are mesmerizing. Each player delivers deftly executed understatement and the sheer impact of each song transcends its own simplicity.

Iceage – New Brigade

(WHAT'S YOUR RUPTURE?)

This record is an exquisitely balanced slice of modern post-punk with the proper amount of dissonance and accessibility. When it's straight-ahead, it breaks barriers, and when it becomes turgid and murky, it drowns listeners in a shallow pool of pond scum, issuing a temporary respite from the asphyxiation once it's thoroughly made its point.

Royal Headache –

Royal Headache (GONER)

With a vocal delivery similar to the soulful style of Paul Weller, and relatively clean guitars, a dreamy tempo and syrupy hooks, this is a modern power pop record that isn't trying to be, and that's what makes it better than most self-declared power poppers. Power pop music has been present in every decade of rock 'n' roll; only the usage of the term fluctuates, and along with its increased usage comes contrived bands adopting the style. Many of which are great, but few make entire records as cohesive and natural as Royal Headache, who shirk the genre tag.

SPENSAUR COOPER

Back to the rekkid store.

Third time's a charm.

Walls – The Future Is Wide Open (IRON LUNG)

**Street Eaters – Rusty Eyes &
Hydrocarbons (PLAN-IT X/BAKERY
OUTLET)**

**Sourpatch – Stagger & Fade
(HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME RECORDS)**

**Zounds – Singles & EPs: 1980-
1984 (BROKEN REKIDS)**

**Acid Fast – Weird Date 7” (PRO-
TAGONIST MUSIC)**

Classics of Love – Classics of

Love (ASIAN MAN RECORDS)

This is the only album that matters this year.
All the rest are close seconds.

Arctic Flowers – Reveries

(INIMICAL RECORDS)

Parentz – Big (CHILL MEGA CHILL)

Bam!Bam! – Let It Go 7”

(SELF-RELEASED)

Wild Flag – Wild Flag

(MERGE)

Hysterics – Hysterics 7”

(M'LADY'S RECORDS)

Permanent Ruin – 2011 Demo

(SELF-RELEASED)

permanentruin.tumblr.com

TOM O

Blind Willie Johnson – Dark Was the Night Cold Was The Ground (MISSISSIPPI)

Total Control – Henge Beat 12” (IRON LUNG)

Magnetix – Drogue Electrique (SLOVENLY)

Dead Language – Dead Language (IRON LUNG)

Born Petrified – Born Petrified 7” (PB&J)

Pig Heart Transplant – Weapon/Gut Pleasures 7” (IRON LUNG)

Kim Phuc – Copsucker (IRON LUNG)

Walls – The Future is Wide Open (IRON LUNG)



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MAY 18 – SEPT 2

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7:30 pm–Midnight, \$12 advance, \$15 at the door

This exhibition was organized by the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco in collaboration with the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo. The exhibition is curated by Mami Kataoka, chief curator of the Mori Art Museum, in collaboration with Allison Harding, assistant curator of contemporary art, Asian Art Museum, with assistance from other museum curators. Presentation at the Asian Art Museum is made possible by support from The Bernard Osher Foundation, the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, Koret Foundation, Columbia Foundation, The Henri and Tomoyo Takahashi Charitable Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Credit Suisse, United, Union Bank, Christie's, and an anonymous foundation, with additional support from The Dedalus Foundation, Inc. Image: Poklong Anading, *Anonymity*, 2006-2011 (ongoing project), series of nine light-boxes, black and white Duratrans print.

V Asian

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www.asianart.org
415.581.3500

SAN FRANCISCO



COSMO

send for help,
amoeba is holding me hostage

Phaedra – *The Sea*

(RUNE GRAMMOFON)

Watch out, this girl casts a dark spell; She got me earlier in 2011, an old-school siren calling from black northern seas. <-She gets me to write stuff like that. Most of my jams this year felt right at home in the Mission's trashy/gen-trified streets. This is ancient by comparison, a Norwegian songstress with mostly classical arrangements and a timeless voice. And what kind of jerk doesn't like timelessness? She sings about Death coming and the black dog that's following her, so you probably won't bump it at your next dance party, but there's a time and a place where you'll need this. Like when it's raining and you just want someone to see you staring longingly out the window.

Kendrick Lamar – *Section.80*

(TOP DAWG ENTERTAINMENT)

This dude is 24 and talks a big game, but more about The State Of Things than bitches and guns. Some obscure website called Pitchfork says, Dr. Dre took him under his wing, but Lamar sounds nothing like Dre. The music and beats are clean and sophisticated (so definitely no street cred), also pretty downbeat. The Roots got downbeat in '11 too. This is better, even though Lamar isn't anyone's house band on late-night TV. My favorite tracks here include "A.D.H.D.," "Ronald Reagan Era," "Rigamortus," and "HiiiiPower," so if I've done a terrible job of selling you on this album at least Spotify those tracks and then decide if you want to add him to your Amoeba shopping list. That list was too short anyway. Also his bro Schoolboy Q made a mixtape in 2011 called *Setbacks* and it's AMAZING!

■ *Poetry* (2011) – Directed by Lee Chang-dong

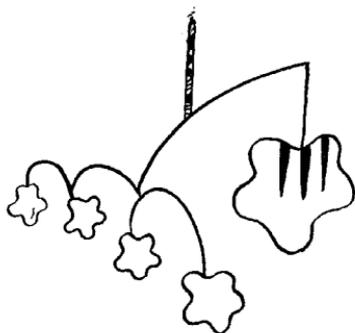
It's called *Poetry*, so I know you're already sold. Well just so you know, it's about more than an old Korean lady with Alzheimer's who takes up poetry in order to slow her decline. But thrillingly, it's about that too! The film opens with a shot of a corpse floating down a river, which becomes central to the whole narrative. I don't want to say too much, but it's the most beautiful, repulsive film of the year (sorry *Chipwrecked* and *Atlas Shrugged: Part 1*). And after all the awful things that come to light during the film, it closes with the most satisfying ending of any film in the last six months. If you disagree I'll write you your own individualized poem about satisfying endings.

■ *Margin Call* (2011) – Directed by J.C. Chandor

This got slept on during awards season when everyone was stepping over each other to praise a pathetically lightweight version of *Singin' In The Rain* and Woody Allen's clunky update of his own *Purple Rose of Cairo*. *Margin Call* is a tense, thrilling story about investment-banking assholes on the night in 2008 they discovered a financial catastrophe was imminent. It's a really fantastic new entry in one of my all time favorite genres, "movies that take place in a 24-hour period". All the actors are brilliantly cast (Kevin Spacey, Jeremy Irons, Demi Moore), and the story construction is aces as it teases out each new layer of drama. Pair it with Charles Ferguson's righteous *Inside Job*, get pissed, then turn off the TV and go Occupy something.

■ *Vanya on 42nd Street* (1994) – Directed by Louis Malle

This is my requisite nerd-approved Criterion Collection pick. Louis Malle's classic final film has been out-of-print for awhile, and Criterion steps up with a new transfer and interviews. But you expected that. The film is a singular version of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* that Andre Gregory (star of Malle's *My Dinner With Andre*) staged at a decrepit, crumbling Midtown theater in 1994. This is about the pinnacle of filmed-plays because of the actors (Julianne Moore, Wallace Shawn), the clearly untenable building on the verge of collapse, and the sensitive (in a good way!), observant direction. Also, if you got a connection at Criterion, will you ask them to release Malle's *May Fools* for me? Thank you, love that one.



KINDLE

DVDs, Laserdiscs, rad times, whiskey inspector. Some of these titles are a bit older than six months but should be checked out.

Mastodon – The Hunter (REPRISE)
Losing the prog jams due to band members getting tired at shows. Pretty awesome.

Sir Lord Baltimore – Kingdom Come (TAPESTRY)
One of my all time favorite bands. Getting the reissue treatment on both albums (on 180 gram vinyl). F'YEAH!

Truth and Janey – No Rest For The Wicked (ROCKADROME/VINTAGE)
Midwest jammers. Also get the vinyl reissue out on Rockadrome/Vintage.

Jerusalem – Jerusalem (ROCKADROME/VINTAGE)
Rockadrome/Vintage made my day by reissuing another one of my favorite bands on vinyl. Thanks Dudes!

Black Dahlia Murder – Ritual (METAL BLADE)
Shreds. The End.

Doomriders – Darkness Come Alive (DEATHWISH)
Overlooked band from Boston. I Hearts, Hails, Horns, Doomriders. RIDE OR DIE!

Tip:
I love S.F., but this place is turning into Weekend at Bernie's meets Revenge of the Nerds.

AARON

Kiss Me Deadly (1955) – Directed by Robert Aldrich
Some consider it a campy, darkly humored send-up, while others consider it the most hard-boiled of film noirs. Either way it's one of the most potent documents of Cold War paranoia put to film. Plus the new cover's deadlier than an atom bomb!

Girls – Father, Son, Holy Ghost (TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)
Girls don't rush anything on their latest release, giving most of the songs the time and space they need. While a lot of the instrumental breaks are brought to the forefront, it's the no-frills frankness of the lyrics that give the music a sense of intent and purpose.

The Black Angels – Phosphene Dream (BLUE HORIZON VENTURES)
If it were up to me I would have named the album "Jefferson Sabbath get lost in the desert but eventually find their way to the bar."

The Ghost of a Saber Tooth Tiger – La Carotte Bleue (CHIMERA MUSIC)
Sean Lennon and Charlotte Kemp Muhl deliver an eerily delicate mix of rock, '60s French pop and Hip-Hop without being too frail or cute about it.

Tame Impala – Innerspeaker (MOD RECORDS)
Heavy and thick yet light and nimble, Tame Impala are a psychedelic band that manages to contain the far-outness of their sound and focus it into catchy, forward-moving songs.

ALLEN

*Long-hair Al, not East Bay Al.
Ask for us by name.*

Vince Mendoza – Nights On Earth (HORIZONTAL)
Mendoza's past records have been busy and complex, to the point of distraction. Here, he seems to relax, simplify and let the music breathe more, and with the help of a stellar cast, he digs his grooves and moods deeper. A real sleeper.

Miles Davis Quintet – Live in Europe 1967: The Bootleg Series Vol. 1 [CD+DVD] (SONY LEGACY)

This one's a no-brainer; everything this band recorded was important and remains influential to this day. Still, it's hard not to be bowled over by the sheer invention — not to mention brass balls — of their texture shifts and leaps into space, not knowing where they'll land.

WTC 9/11

Composer: Steve Reich
Featuring: Kronos Quartet

The method that Reich and Kronos use to tell their story is a familiar one, a la *Different Trains* from 1989 — two recorded quartets, one live one, speech tapes harmonized to spooky sound effects backing tracks — but it still has the power to startle and move us with unusual force. The DVD of the So Percussion ensemble playing the Mallet Quartet is a great bonus.

Tip:

Create some music somehow, somewhere, every day, whether someone hears it or not. It's good for your brain.

AUDRA WOLFMANN

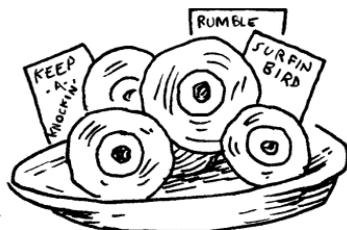
A.k.a. Odessa Lil: available for weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, séances, and home foreclosures.

□ *Bored to Death: The Complete Second Season (2010)* – Created by Jonathan Ames

“I've been living like a demented God!”

□ *Portlandia (2011)* – Created by Carrie Brownstein & Fred Armisen

“Where young people go to retire.”



■ *Cave of Forgotten Dreams (2011)* – Directed by Werner Herzog

“Will we ever be able to understand the vision of the artists across the abyss of time?”

■ *Bridesmaids (2011)* – Directed by Paul Feig

“It's happening! It happened.”

□ *It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia: Season 6 (2011)*

“What is your spaghetti policy?”

■ *Ken Burns: Prohibition (2011)* – Directed by Ken Burns

The Black Belles – *The Black Belles* (THIRD MAN RECORDS)

Shonen Knife – *Osaka*
Ramones: *Tribute to the Ramones* (GOOD CHARMEL)

■ *Midnight in Paris (2011)* – Directed by Woody Allen

“That's what the present is. It's a little unsatisfying because life is unsatisfying.”

Tip:

Check out my short film, Souls of Splendor.

BRENDAN LEONARD

I came from Boston to Oakland. Then Brooklyn — now back again — you can find me on both sides of the Bay now.

Born Petrified – *Born Petrified 7"* (PB&J)

Four-song EP — masterful artwork by the one and only Wayne Shellabarger. It's only \$5. This is shameless self-promotion!

Vernon Wray – *Wasted* (SEBASTIAN SPEAKS)

Link Wray's brother ran Wray's three-trak shak. He helped Link with a lot of his classic stuff and

in the '70s relocated to Arizona and made this amazing set of recordings himself. Link lends his guitar licks to a few tracks on here. This is the kind of '70s swampy rock I can wade shoulder deep into.

Michael Hurley – Fatboy Spring

(SECRET SEVEN/MISSISSIPPI)

Some lost Hurley gems from '72-'73. Early versions of songs that made it to other albums in a lil more raw form here. The Fatboys are a bunch of guys from Vermont that back the Snock like pros. Put out by local Secret Seven with the help of Mississippi Records. This is fantastic!

Blaze Foley – Clay Pigeons

(SECRET SEVEN)

Blaze Foley has a big hat, big beard and big guitar on the cover. I liked it already. Then when I realized it was the guy who was friends with Townes Van Zandt and co. in the '70s and played songs just like those guys with his own personal touch, I was even more excited. This is a beautiful record with some delicate, some fun and some downright sad songs. If you like Townes, John Prine, Guy Clark, Jerry Jeff Walker or anyone like that, then this record is for you!

Blind Willie Johnson – Dark Was the Night Cold Was the Ground

(MISSISSIPPI)

Almost every song the guy recorded on a double LP. The gatefold gives way to some amazing artwork inside. The songs are incredible. This is a classic. Don't miss it.

Tip:

bornpetrified.bandcamp.com

BRIAN DAVIS

I speak Spanish to God, French to women, English to men, and Japanese to my horse ... www.briandavisvoice.com

Laura Marling – A Creature I Don't Know

(RIBBON/DOMINO)

Real Estate – Days

(DOMINO)

Dark Captain – Dead Legs & Alibis

(LOAF)

Lydia Loveless – Indestructible

Machine (BLOODSHOT)

Album of the year hands down, sez me.

Gillian Welch – The Harrow & the Harvest

(ACONY)

Razika – Program 91

(SMALLTOWN SUPERSOUND)

Veronica Falls – Veronica Falls

(SLUMBERLAND)

CONNELL

Pink Reason – Shit in the Garden

(SILTBREEZE)

Dead Reptile Shrine – The Sun of Circles and Wood

(WEIRD FOREST)

Disco Inferno – The 5 EPs

(ONE LITTLE INDIAN)

Nobody cared about Disco Inferno when they were around but now you can.

Talk Talk – Laughing Stock

(BA DA BING!)

Reissue

DANIMAL

KWJAZ – KWJAZ

(NOT NOT FUN)

Dead Reptile Shrine – The Sun of Circles and Wood

(WEIRD FOREST)

Village Of Spaces – Alchemy & Trust

(TURNED WORD)

Fourth World Magazine – Presents The Festival of Light Abductions

(PACIFIC CITY SOUND VISIONS)

Jakob Olausson – Morning & Sunrise

(DE STIJL)

Eliane Radigue – Transmorem - Transmortem

(IMPORTANT)

**Graham Lambkin – Amateur
Doubles** (KYE)

Sun Araw – Ancient Romans
(SUN ARK)

**Circle Of Ouroboros – Eleven
Fingers** (HANDMADE BIRDS)

**Dolphins Into The Future –
Two Romantic Landscapes**
(BENNIFER EDITIONS)

The Bachs – Out Of The Bachs
(TIME-LAG)

**Albert Ayler – Stockholm,
Berlin 1966** (HATOLOGY)

Craig Leon – Nommos (NO LABEL)

These Trails – These Trails
(DRAG CITY)

**Supreme Dicks – Breathing and
Not Breathing** (JAGJAGUWAR)

**Takeshi Terauchi – Nippon
Guitars** (ACE)

**Pekka Airaksinen – One Point
Music** (DE STIJL)

**Steve Roden – ... I Listen to
the Wind That Obliterates My
Traces: Music in Vernacular
Photographs 1880-1955**
(DUST-TO-DIGITAL)

**Angus MacLise & Hetty
MacLise – Dreamweapon II**
(BOO-HOORAY)

Disco Inferno – The 5 EP's
(ONE LITTLE INDIAN)

**Phurpa – Trowo Phurnag
Ceremony** (IDEOLOGIC ORGAN)

**JD Emmanuel – Trance-
Formations I: Ancient Minimal
Meditations** (AGUIRRE)



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Mastery – *Barbaric Usurpation of the Hypereonic Black Metal Throne* (TUMULT)

Von Himmel – *Space Communion* (HUMITO)

Vladislav Delay – *Vantaa* (RASTER-NOTON)

Tip:
CLASSIC 4AD music — Cocteau Twins & Dead Can Dance discographies rulin'.

AQUA BUDDAH

Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Season 5

Mildred Pierce

The Beach Boys – *The Smile Sessions* (CAPITOL)

The Who – *Quadrophenia: The Director's Cut* (Geffen)

Pink Floyd – *Wish You Were Here: Immersion Edition* (CAPITOL)

Justified: Season 2

Todd Rundgren – *Runt: The Ballad of Todd Rundgren*
(101 DISTRIBUTION)

Yes – *Fly From Here*
(FRONTIERS RECORDS)

William Shatner – *Seeking Major Tom* (CLEOPATRA)

Paradise Lost 3: *Purgatory*

DERECK

Tim Hecker – *Rave Death 1972/Dropped Pianos* (KRANKY)

Fourth World Magazine – *Spectacle of Light*

Stare Case – *Lose Today* (DE STIJL)

Bee Mask – *Elegy for Beach Friday* (SPECTRUM SPOOLS)

Sand – *Golem* (DELTA-ACUSTIC)

DIEGOG

Why yes, I am curious about anthroposophy.

Mastery – *Barbaric Usurpation of the Hypereonic Black Metal Throne* (TUMULT)

A one-man black metal project from San Francisco, helping to ensure that black metal does not grow stale. The benchmarks of black metal are there: raw recordings, buzzing guitars and twisted vocals. But Mastery's amazing technical prowess and insane compositions, informed by everything from electronica to Kate Bush to Frank Zappa, make his metal stand out from the hordes. Simply put, this is a unique take on black metal that is completely refreshing.

Omar Souleyman – *Haflat Gharbia: The Western Concerts*
(SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our friends at Sublime Frequencies, Syrian dabke singer Omar Souleyman finally made it to the West Coast last year to display his amazing vocal skills for appreciative audiences in San Francisco and other

cities. His increasingly frequent appearances in the West are the subject of this new live collection. What sets this apart from other Souleyman albums is the dramatically improved production as compared to his rather rugged previous releases culled from cassettes that we have been hearing up to now. A great place to start if you have not heard this amazing singer who has charmed even Björk.

Ernst Reijseger – Cave of Forgotten Dreams

[Soundtrack] (WINTER & WINTER)

Werner Herzog has great taste in music. The soundtracks to his '70s movies by Popol Vuh complement his movies perfectly as well as being stunning on their own. Lately, he has been employing the music of Dutch jazz misfit Ernst Reijseger. Reijseger's soundtrack to *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* is one of the most beautiful albums I have heard. He leads a small chamber ensemble with a small choral group, interweaving his delicate and beautiful cello parts throughout, for a genre-defying musical excursion that sounds both profoundly traditional as well as shockingly modern at the same time.

Ascension – Consolamentum

Featuring members of kvlt favorites Katharsis, Ascension follows some of the same threads of occultism and extreme musical experimentation that made Katharsis so great. Thus it is impossible for me to write about Ascension without comparing their previous efforts. The production is much cleaner, and at first this makes Ascension seem less musically adventurous, and certainly it is not as intense and overwhelming as, say, "World Without End." But in the end, it makes for a heavier, more precise album. The riffs are powerful, interesting and change direction without warning, and the clean production makes you feel each shift more, kind of like Dissection or later Immortal, though far more progressive. Plus it has one of the best covers I've seen on a black metal album in years.

Heresy of the Free Spirit – A Prayer for Light (INCUNABULUM)

Jozeff van Wissem has carved out an extraordinary career playing his own compositions on an unlikely instrument of modern music: the renaissance lute. Combining ideas from baroque and early music, repetitive minimalism, John Fahey and other sources, his music is at once shockingly modern and disturbingly ancient. Heresy of the Free Spirit is a trio led by van Wissem that synthesizes these ideas perfectly into an

alchemical sonic brew of heavenly proportions. This music captures at once the unsettlingly profound feeling of early music and the forlorn sensibility of very new musics like black metal or ambient drone, rendered on instruments rarely heard outside of the classical repertoire, making for a haunting and beautiful album.

Tip:

Essential reissues: Pink Floyd - Ummagumma, King Crimson - Discipline, Smashing Pumpkins - Gish, Jordi Savall - El Cant de la Sibila.

DUNCAN

Rob Crow – He Thinks He's People (TEMPORARY RESIDENCE)

while we cross our fingers that this uncharacteristically amazing solo release doesn't mean the new pinback album we were expecting in early 2011 isn't ever coming, we may snap our fingers to how uncharacteristically amazing this solo release is.

Crooked Fingers – Breaks In The Armor (MERGE)

revisiting his roots touring with archers of loaf seems to be nourishing eric bachman better than the hoagie stand he'd been running previously, and the man's gone and made about his best crooked fingers album yet.

Beach Fossils – What A Pleasure (CAPTURED TRACKS)

Mayer Hawthorne – How Do You Do (REPUBLIC)

Redline (2009) – Directed by Kazuo Koike

state of the art, hand-drawn 2-D anime from the animation director of "world record" (from "animatrix") and the spectacular opening titles of "party 7," and the writer of "taste of tea" and "funky forest"! like the obstinately earth-bound racers in the planet-hopping universe of its story, this movie is the last of a dying breed, and with its unique look (and new ideas every split second) this is that rare anime which pretty much every action/comedy fan should enjoy — unless you don't want to "GET FUNKYBOY!" [just turn it off before the godawful end credits theme ruins it.]

■ **Attack The Block (2011)** –

Directed by Joe Cornish

if john carpenter were born about 40 years ago in the u.k., then, probably, THIS — complete with a badass escape from new york-synth-fed-through-Hip-Hop soundtrack.

□ **Justified: Season 2 (2011)** –

Directed by John Dahl, John

Avnet, Adam Arkin, & others

ditching the (probably impossible to keep up) “quirky villain of the week” format for more of a standard-for-the-day (in cable shows) full-season story arch, the rootin’ tootin’-est show on the teevee comes back stronger than ever (and emmy-winning, even).

■ **Detective Dee & The Mystery Of The Phantom Flame (2010)** –

Directed by Tsui Hark

just close your eyes and imagine the “shaw bros.” logo before this movie starts because just about everything else you could want in a modern day shaw ‘fu-’n’-fantasy flick is here (and everything you’ve probably been wanting in a tsui hark picture since the early ‘90s, for that matter — other than knock off; knock off is brilliant).

■ **Three Outlaw Samurai (1964)**

– **Directed by Hideo Gosha**

HELL YES!!! finally, a domestic release for hideo gosha’s incredibly accomplished directorial debut (one of my favorite samurai flicks). a leaner and meaner seven samurai.

■ **Batman: Year One (2011)** –

Directed by Sam Liu, Lauren Montgomery

the most impressive — and impressive looking — of the DC straight-to-DVD features, thus far (fingers crossed for their upcoming *dark knight returns*); this very faithful adaptation makes one wonder if not only christopher nolan and his crew, but david fincher and the gang behind seven may also have been inspired by frank miller and david mazzucchelli’s comic book opus.

■ **Submarine (2010)** – **Directed by Richard Ayoade**

don’t let wes (admittedly brilliant) anderson corner the market on bittersweet, aloof, coming-of-age (at all ages) comedy! give a bittersweet, aloof, comedic brit a shot (didn’t they invent this sort of thing?!). richard ayoade’s (“the i.t. crowd,” “the mighty boosh,” “garth merenghi’s

darkplace”) feature writing/directing debut conjures an “air of anderson” without that nagging “been there, done that” afterwhiff.

■ **Blood & Concrete: A Love Story (1991)** – **Directed by**

Jeffrey Reiner

in the year punk broke, this rusty diamond of early ‘90s semi-surreal, indie comedy (see *road-side prophets*, *johnny suede*, *highway 61* & if you can find it, *rubin & ed*) was too busy coasting for its life to shine. that just means it’s stayed out here in the rough for you to find and polish up for your appreciative pals. DARREN MCGAVIN (*the night stalker*, *a christmas story*), james legros (*point break*, *mildred pierce*), billy zane (*dead calm*, *the phantom*), jennifer beals (*flashdance*, *the bride*), mark pellegrino (*prayer of the rollerboys*, “lost”), harry shearer (*this is spinal tap*, “the simpsons”) and company will thank you.

Tip:

the “knock off” revolution starts here!

EDGARDO

“Just because you put a cat in the oven doesn’t make it a biscuit.”

Senna (2010) – **Directed by**

Asif Kapadia

This is a superb bio-documentary about Ayrton Senna, one of the greatest figures in motorsports history, who tragically died in a race in 1994 and was a hero to many (including me). Director Asif Kapadia and writer Manish Pandey crafted a unique way for Senna to tell his story by using extensive archival footage and careful narration, resulting in a very effective and compelling tribute that reveals the wonderful complexity of Senna — a purely talented, fiercely competitive, deeply philosophical & spiritual humanitarian. Even non-racing fans will appreciate this film. The on-board, in-car race footage is spectacular and alone worth watching. Simply brilliant! (In mostly English with multilanguage subtitles; available on DVD and Blu-ray Disc.)

■ **Mozart’s Sister (2011)** –

Directed by René Féret

This historical biopic is a fascinating drama about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s sister, Nannerl, and her struggles of being female in 18th century Europe and wanting to be a composer, overshadowed by her younger genius brother, while simultaneously coming of age. Based on the 2005

novel by Alison Bauld, the film's story, though partly speculative, is convincing and works quite well. The overall production is first-rate in this gorgeous, intimate film. (In French with English subtitles; available on DVD and Blu-ray Disc.)

Bach Sinfonia

Composer: J.S. Bach

**Featuring: Ottavio Dantone /
Academia Bizantina**

This unusual collection highlights the sublime instrumental (non-vocal) parts of Bach's Cantatas. A sampling from his early to late compositions are included and are sensitively interpreted and well-played by this fine Italian ensemble. The clean balanced recording adds to the pleasure of listening to this excellent release. (Decca)

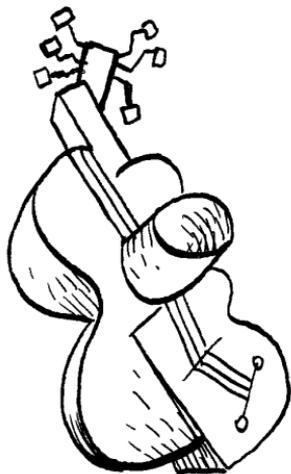
Thin Lizzy – At The BBC

(MERCURY)

This double-disc issue collects highlights from the bigger limited-edition seven-disc box set featuring archived live and session BBC recordings from 1971-1983. Rarities and different non-album versions make this an interesting collection, but ultimately what makes this really enjoyable is the great Lizzy sound and jam-groove, proving their excellence, especially when performing live.

The Roots – Undun (DEF JAM)

This latest offering from these non-conforming pioneers is a creative set focused on a fictional character, Redford Stephens, that inspires the storytelling tracks. Guests include Big K.R.I.T., Bilal and even Sufjan Stevens, among others. Innovative, dark and lyrical, with exceptional instrumentation and affecting vocals, this album is dope!



TRIXY GRACE

<(-_-)>

Caretaker – An Empty Bliss

Beyond This World (HISTORY ALWAYS
FAVOURS THE WINNERS)

My favorite album of 2011. Sounds like a billowing, slowmotion dance hall circa 1925 with a blown-out orchestra and reverb to make your spine tingle. Extra warm on vinyl!

Hans-Joachim Roedelius –

Gift Of The Moment (BUREAU B)

Quite a treat of a reissue by Roedelius (Cluster). Sentimental and super sweet, every song is a favorite of mine. Piano-heavy, as all of my cherished albums seem to be. The only letdown regarding this reissue is the rumor that floated around work that he was to do an in-store and it never happened. Sad face.

■ Cave of Forgotten Dreams (2011) – Directed by Werner Herzog

This masterful documentary by Herzog (ah ... that voice!) shows us an example of Ice Age life, as it has been preserved within the confines of a cave that was closed off from the earth's disturbances for so long that the vibrancy of the cave paintings is that of the time they were created by the artists. The misconception that cave-dwellers were blundering, grunting fools is proven wrong! The depictions of prehistoric horses are so beautiful and so realistic. I had a weak moment or two this entire film, as it shows the work of self-taught artists before our era.

ERIN

The Weeknd – Echoes of

Silence (SELF-RELEASED)

Ultra-dark R&B from Montreal. This guy's only 21, but it sounds like he's done a lot of living.

Leonard Cohen – Death of a

Ladies Man (4 MEN WITH BEARDS)

Phil Spector & Leonard Cohen get together to make an album that sounds like the saddest, most decadent, debauched New Year's Eve party ever.

Veronica Falls – Veronica Falls

(SLUMBERLAND)

Easily my most listened-to album of the past year. Scottish indie-pop with hard-hitting drums, boy-girl harmonies and catchy melodies. Singer Roxanne Clifford has a lovely voice, whether she employs it sweetly or with a sneer.

Nick Nicely – Elegant Daze

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Finally! Music that's both awesome and impossible to find gets the deluxe treatment. Morose early '80s psychedelic synth sounds from mystery man nick nicely. This is the kind of thing you come to record stores hoping to find.

Girls – Father, Son, Holy Ghost

(TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)

Christopher Owens wears his heart on his sleeve like no one else, and that is why I like this band and probably always will.

Tip:

Jimmy Buffett album covers.

GABI

Jesus with a bun

Lana del Rey – Born to Die

(INTERSCOPE)

Despite the not-so-pretty SNL performance, her sensational voice is likely to give you goosebumps! Her long-awaited LP provides a beautifully-produced musical backdrop to make her angelic voice soar!

Gotye – Making Mirrors

(ELEVEN/UNIVERSAL)

M83 – Hurry Up, We're

Dreaming (MUTE/EMI)

Alex Gonzalez is awesome! This double-album is a surge of dancy fun and chill beats; perfect for the headphones while riding MUNI!

St. Vincent – Strange Mercy

(4AD)

I'll be honest, I was a little late on the St. Vincent train... but I'm for sure hooked after hearing this one! Annie Clark finds a unique way of creating order from abstraction by blending synthy melodies with her soothing voice and groovy rhythms. You'll find yourself singing along in no time!

☐ American Horror Story:

Season 1 (2011)

This insanely enthralling horror/drama series takes place in an enormous house where those who die inside never leave the house. A family moves into the house and discovers the secret history behind the house and those whose souls have become trapped for eternity! It's a sure thrill from start to finish!

JAMES DILLON

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Lee Perry – The Return Of Pipecock Jackson (HONEST JON'S)

Even though I have an original pressing of this, I have been eagerly awaiting the reissue of this album, another long lost gem in the Lee Perry universe. It was made primarily after he moved to Sweden from Jamaica, using some of his hardest Black Ark rhythms. Some of my favorite songs are on here. "Who Killed the Chicken"? A nine-minute version of "Bed Jammin"? The stuff he says in between songs? You have not heard anything like it. Thank you, Mr. Perry.

Die Antwoord – TEN\$ION

(ZEF RECORDS)

Die Antwoord is a next level zef crew from South Africa. DJ Hi-Tek owns a PC computer and makes next level beats, Ninja has some serious gangster skill on the mic and Yolandi is all up in the place. The free live show they did at Amoeba in San Francisco was packed to the raf-





ters and with good reason. They tore the roof off the sucker! This is their eagerly awaited second album, performance art at its finest. Contains nothing but explicit language.

Omar Souleyman – *Leh Jani*

(SHAM PALACE)

Omar Souleyman is a Syrian musical legend. He has issued more than 500 studio and live recorded cassette albums in his native Syria. This is one such cassette, reissued on vinyl in America. Now you can finally hear the thirty minute version of *Leh Jani*. This is a real floor filler. Also seek out his releases on the Sublime Frequencies label. You will be glad you did.

Godzilla (1954) – Directed by Ishiro Honda

Of course I have nostalgia for this film from my childhood. I first watched it on Creature Features, hosted by Bob Wilkins on KTVU Channel 2. But it suffered from bad dubbing and inserted Raymond Burr scenes. The original Japanese version of the 1954 film is a very moving and powerful story. But it suffered from a very loud and sarcastic Castro Theater audience upon its American re-release. Criterion has just re-released both versions on a special two-disc set, with all of the bells and whistles you would expect from them. It is also out on Blu-ray. The greatest monster movie of all time. Another fine Toho picture with music by the great Akira Ifukube.

Looney Tunes: Golden Collection (1928-1968)

Contains over 350 uncut and unedited Warner Brothers Looney Tunes cartoons from 1928 to 1968, featuring documentaries of creators Chuck Jones, Friz Freleng, Bob Clampett, Tex Avery, Carl Stalling, and Mel Blanc. My favorites are

the wartime shorts and the Bosco cartoons, but they are all great. Let the cartoon begin!

Augustus Pablo – *This Is Augustus Pablo* (VP RECORDS)

The first and arguably finest record by the late great Augustus Pablo who took what was considered to be a children's toy and created a vast body of work that has been unequaled before or since. Originally released in 1974 and produced by Clive Chin, who is responsible for some of my favorite music. Look for the Impact label for that crazy kind of feeling in your soul. Featuring the top Jamaican musicians of the time including Aston Barrett, Lloyd Parks and Ansel Collins. I play this one all of the time.

Throbbing Gristle – *All*

The Second Annual Report, D.O.A., Heathen Earth, 20 Jazz Funk Greats and their "Greatest Hits" Have been remastered by Chris Carter. This is the worst music I have ever heard. Industrial music for Industrial people.

Lee Perry & The Upsetters – *High Plains Drifter*

(PRESSURE SOUNDS)

Pressure Sounds has done it again. Incredibly unique and extremely rare sounds from the great Upsetter from 1968 to 1973, before he founded the Black Ark. Featuring top talent from Jamaica. The Bleachers, The Mellotones, The Silvertones, The Inspirations, The Versatiles, The Ethiopians, Dave Barker, and Junior Byles. This one is all killer, no filler!

Tip:

Be the life of the party with these high quality novelty celluloid buttons. These beauties provide subjects for pleasant jokes and amusing conversation, and thus smooths the way to a more familiar acquaintance and cordial friendship. Just wear one and watch the effect. www.potatopotato.etsy.com Get yours today.

JEFF

Qwazaar & Batsauce – *Bat Meets Blaine* (GALAPAGOS4)

Young Offenders – *Sister Series Vol. 3 7"* (RAZORCAKE RECORDS)

Ghoul – *Transmission Zero* (TANK CRIMES)

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Bad Coyotes – Bad Coyotes 7”
 (ELI'S MILE HIGH RECORDS)

Sydney Ducks – Esprit De Corps 7” (PIRATES PRESS RECORDS)

Zounds – Singles & Eps 1980 - 84 7” (BROKEN REKIDS)

Trailer Park Boys: The Complete Collection (2011) – Directed by Mike Clattenburg
 Cheese Burger Locker!

Punishment Park (1971) – Directed by Peter Watkins

Nick Di Paolo - Raw Nerve (2011)

Rodrigo y Gabriela – Live in France (ATO)

J-NIZZLE

Hug - It's like an emotional Heimlich. Someone puts their arms around you and they give you a squeeze and all your fear and anxiety come shooting out of your mouth in a big wet wad and you can breathe again.
 (Chuck - Pushing Daisies)

Kool Karlo & Folklore Legend – The Ken Spiffey Jr. EP (NONE)





**Alice Coltrane –
Huntington Ashram Monastery
/ World Galaxy** (IMPULSE)
impulse 2-on-1 re-ish

KWJAZ – KWJAZ (NOT NOT FUN)
story pastiche; “once in babylon / frighteous wane”

Rangers – Pan Am Stories
(NOT NOT FUN)
basslines that ride jetstreams, guitar work and sound that reminds me of the durutti column, and as a coworker said, “mining similar territories as early ariel pink.”

**If A Tree Falls (2011) –
Directed by Marshal Curry**
a story of the Earth Liberation Front

**We Live In Public (2010) –
Directed by Ondi Timoner**
a story about a severely fucked up man involved with early internet webcam reality voyeurism. imagine the stanford prison experiment but under the guise of creating a community of artists living in a warehouse.

**Enter The Void (2009) –
Directed by Gaspar Noe**
a movie about DMT and “family dynamics” and the tibetan book of the dead and a soul’s flight through tokyo; camera is positioned inside dude’s head.

**Leaves Of Grass (2010) –
Directed by Tim Blake Nelson**
edward norton plays twin brothers, one’s a stoned weed-growing entrepreneur in little dixie OK and the other’s a harvard philosophy professor. there is a scheme. there’s weed smoking. there’s humor. it has the potential to make you “think.” it’s good.

Tip:
Wild Side West, the bar on Courtland, has the best garden for drinkin’ & smokin’.

KAITLIN

*“I do many things. I span the genres.
They call me the genre spanner.”*

**Drive (2011) – Directed by
Nicolas Winding Refn**
Best movie of 2011, hands down. It’s like *True Romance* meets *Blade Runner* wrapped in *Bullitt* and blessed by John Hughes. The acting, the music, the silence, the violence and the few, brief smiles. Pure magic.

The Beach Boys – SMILE
(CAPITOL)
Holy crap, one of the highlights of eight years of working at Amoeba was meeting Brian Wilson this year!! And it’s a fantastic record, too.

**Talihina Sky (2011) – Directed
by Stephen C. Mitchell**
The story of the Kings of Leon as told through footage shot throughout their career. It’s interesting to see where/who they came from and how far they’ve come, and reminds that you’ve gotta keep in all in perspective and appreciate those around you who have helped you succeed.

Tip:
“Never take it seriously. If you never take it seriously, you never get hurt. If you never get hurt you always have fun. And if you ever get lonely, just go to the record store and visit your friends.”

KELLS

“In the midst of sassafras...”

Game of Thrones (2011)
Certainly books will always triumph over filmed adaptations, but this show just. effing. rules! Maybe it’s because the books completely dominate the genre. Or maybe I’m just starved for

a bomb-ass fantasy drama that lives up to the generated hype. Whatever the case, don't be put off by the aesthetic, this is a proper epic series wherein political and sexual intrigue is deliciously pervasive. "Downton Abbey" flippin' rules too. (I miss "Mad Men.")

Music From Saharan Cellphones – Various Artists (SAHEL SOUNDS)

I can safely say this is the first LP I've ever bought that came with a tracklisting that includes bitrate info. Culled from memory cards of cellphones in West Africa where trading songs via wireless transfer was common before the word "smartphone" became an everyday term stateside, all of the songs here are the spoils of an armchair musicologist who stumbled upon a popular unofficial mp3/cellphone network (from Abidjan to Bamako to Algiers) and got it together to track down the artists who created them to collaborate on a commercial release (60% of the proceeds go directly to the artists). The variance in musical style is curiously wild, with traditional instruments mixing it up with Autotune, synthesizers and Fruity Loops, with influences reminiscent of everything from Jil Jilala to Tupac Shakur. A must if you, like Sunshine Anderson, feel like you've heard it all before.

Blaze Foley – Clay Pigeons (SECRET SEVEN)

Obscure "outlaw country" treasures! I love every one of the songs on this record so much, I don't even know how to best express my esteem for them. Maybe Merle Haggard said it best when he described Foley's "If I Could Only Fly" as "the best country song I've heard in 15 years." Snatch this up as the pressing is very limited.

Sun Araw – Ancient Romans (SUNARK)

Like skirting a data stream on a stroll through a virtual Casio forest — don't miss this guru-level, Bongmaster General approved double long-player.

The Borrower Arrietty (2010) – Directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi

Studio Ghibli cranks out another stunner. Imagine what that Saturday morning cartoon *The Littles* would be like if Hayao Miyazaki had a hand in making it i.e. it is roughly 200% more amazing by comparison. However, that syrupy "celtic fantasy" score does effectively dull the overall shine of the picture.

Norwegian Wood (2010) – Directed by Anh Hung Tran Haruki Murakami comes alive!

Veronica Falls – Veronica Falls (SLUMBERLAND)

Where was this when I was in 10th grade? Dark and gorgeous throwback indie pop soundtrack for your next graveyard picnic.

These Trails – These Trails (DRAG CITY)

Non-stop, sun-soaked and haunted Hawaiian psych/folk ecstasy circa 1973. So Good!

Takeshi Terauchi – Nippon Guitars: Instrumental Surf, Eleki & Tsugaru Rock 1966-1974 (ACE)

Guru-level eleki shred-mastery! The only drawback to the LP is that it contains roughly half of the material crammed onto the CD version of this rockin' comp. featuring both The Bunnys and The Blue Jeans. Still some of the most unique twang, surf, beat and funky space-rock instrumentals ever plucked out of nothing.

West Indies Funk Vols. 2 & 3 – Various Artists (TRANS AIR)

I gotta have more steelpan! Best compilation series if 2011; a guaranteed sweaty boogie party.

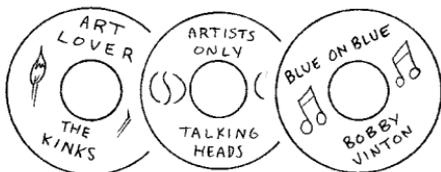
Chicago Soul – Electric Blues, Funk & Soul: The New Sound of Chicago in the 1960s – Various Artists (SOUL JAZZ)

Soul Jazz's got the art of compiling mixes on lockdown. They're the ones to beat, people.

Kuroneko (Criterion) (1968) – Directed by Kaneto Shindo

Finally, a Heian era set mother/daughter-in-law vengeful-ghost fantasy flick, flaunting kabuki a go-go savoir-faire chock full of throat-rippingly slick black she-cat damage! Onibaba who?

Tip:
R.Kelly can yodel



LUCIANO

Chairlift – Something

(COLUMBIA/YOUNG TURKS)

Unusual, drifty and effervescent pop tunes to keep you dancing all nite long.

Raleigh Moncrief – Watered Lawn

(ANTICON)

A very unique first solo album by a really talented producer. Fresh, exploratory, haunting folk meets dubstepish beats, beautiful falsettos and inviting synths. Perfect to listen to when being abducted by aliens. It'll keep you calm.

Maria Minerva – Cabaret

Cixous (NOT NOT FUN)

Estonian synthwave + hypnotic and fresh it makes me wanna own a trendy store and play this album on the loop... it'll be the coolest store, though I'm not quite sure what I'll be selling.

Youth Lagoon – The Year of Hibernation

(FAT POSSUM)

Ghostly keyboards + tender vocals + subtle beats = a very simple, sweet, almost fragile way of making pop ballads.

Gotye – Making Mirrors

(ELEVEN RECORDS)

Felicia Atkinson – O-RE-GON

(HOME/NORMAL)

A very interesting musical experiment. Improvisations from the mind and soul.

Sandro Perri – Impossible

Spaces (CONSTELLATION)

Wake up early, make coffee, listen to this.

Religious to Damn – Glass

Prayer (M'LADY)

"...Sensuous."



MATT B

Back from the dead

Alex Chilton – Free Again: The

1970 Sessions (OMNIVORE RECORDINGS)

There But For Fortune (2010) – Directed by Kenneth Bowser

The Chosen Few – The Joke's On Us

(GOING UNDERGROUND)

Another example of why Aussie punk is the best kind

The Spits – The Spits (Fifth Record)

(IN THE RED)

New LP is my favorite

POW! – POW! 7"

(AFTERLIFE)

Tip:

shower daily

MICHELLE

Danny Brown – XXX

(FOOL'S GOLD)

The Sandwiches – The Pearl

7" (HARDLY ART)

<3

Kent

anything on KENT soul label; worth checking out

NATALIE

Singin' in the Sunshine,

Laughin' in the Rain

City and Colour – Little Hell

(VAGRANT RECORDS)

Little Dragon – Ritual Reunion

(PEACEFROG)

One of my favorite albums in 2011! Swedish electronic band that will have you dancing from beginning to end.

Snoop Dogg & Wiz Khalifa – Mac & Devin Go to High School

(ATLANTIC)

Fun album to kick back to. :)

Justice – Audio Video Disco
(ELEKTRA/WEA)

Lana Del Rey – “Video Games” (INTERSCOPE)

☐ **Shameless: Season 1 (2011)**

☐ **It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia: Season 6 (2011)**

ROBERTO

Shin Joong Hyun – Beautiful Rivers and Mountains: The Psychedelic Rock Sound Of South Korea’s Shin Joong Hyun 1958-74
(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Rashad & Confidence – The Element Of Surprise
(ILL ADRENALINE)

J-Live – S.P.T.A. (Said Person Of That Ability) (TRIPLE THREAT PRODUCTIONS)

🎬 **Thunder Soul (2011) – Directed by Mark Landsman**

Blu & Exile – Below The Heavens (SOUND IN COLOR)

RYAN

shifter

Takeshi Terauchi – Nippon Guitars: Instrumental Surf, Eleki & Tsugaru Rock 1966-1974 (ACE)

Nâ Hawa Doumbia – La Grande Cantatrice Malienne Vol. 3 (AWESOMETAPES FROM AFRICA)



Cartagena! Curro Fuentes & The Big Band Cumbia and Descarga Sound of Colombia 1962 - 1972 – Various Artists
(SOUNDWAY RECORDS)

Allen Foley – Vermont Wit Wisdom & Humor (GREEN MOUNTAIN RECORDS)

you know how some \$1 records are worth it for the great cover. for fun i gave this a listen and love it. so you won't find this on cd and it's 40 years old, but just a reminder that the \$1 records rule. check 'em out.

Tip:
if you like Documentaries check out tubegenosis.com

SEAN MURPHY

Irish drinker, jewish thinker.

Norm Macdonald – Me Doing Standup (COMEDY CENTRAL)

Back in the saddle and reminding us all why he's a legend. Norm is older, darker, and grumpier than ever, and he has managed to have one of the best comedy albums of 2011. It takes a real

pro to turn stories about your father dying and women being abducted by serial killers into hilarity... and Norm does it with ease.

Tig Notaro – Good One

(SECRETLY CANADIAN)

If you don't already know her from her hilarious appearances as Officer Tig on the Sarah Silverman Program, then you're missing out. Tig is one of the funniest comics working today, and this album proves it. Worth it for her Taylor Dane story alone, he/she looking robots have never been funnier.

Marc Maron – This Has to Be Funny (COMEDY CENTRAL)

After 25 years in the business, Maron is finally getting some love. Mostly due to his extremely successful podcast WTF with Marc Maron, but also due to the fact that he's extremely fucking funny. By unabashedly confronting all of his fears, neuroses, anxieties and inner foibles with intense honesty, Marc holds a dark mirror up to the rest of us, sometimes uncomfortably so... but never without laughs. Somebody give this guy his own talk show already!

Game of Thrones: The Complete First Season [Blu-ray] (2012) – Directed by Tim Van Patten, Brian Kirk, Daniel Minahan, Alan Taylor

Attention, D&D nerds or anyone playing Skyrim: See this show! The budget for horse blood alone must be costing HBO a fortune, so hopefully it doesn't go the way of *Deadwood* (RIP). Also, be sure to check out the awesome Game of Thrones podcast Boars, Gore, and Swords, available for free on iTunes and featuring lots of great San Francisco comedians. PS: Peter Dinklage's performance as Tyrian Lannister is one of the greatest things ever.

Tom Waits – Bad As Me (ANTI)

So many artists that I used to love and respect have, as they've gotten older, sullied their legacy to the point that it makes me want to weep tears of blood. (Yeah, Lou Reed and Metalica, I'm looking at you.) But not this guy. Well into his

sixties, Tom Waits continues to make some of the most vital and relevant music available. And if he hasn't started to suck yet, chances are that he never will.

STACEY

Classical Buyer & Power Pop Fanatic

Matthew Sweet – Pre-Modernist: Demos From the Archives (MISSING PIECE GROUP)

Limited edition promotional CD included only with deluxe edition of *Modern Art*.

Dum Dum Girls – Only In Dreams (SUB POP)

Phil Seymour – Archive Series 2 (FUEL)

Featuring 10 dynamite bonus tracks.

Army Navy – The Last Place

(THE FEVER ZONE)

This is the kind of record that makes my year. Army Navy's sophomore release is an explosion of sugary jangle-pop melodies, sunny harmonies and wistfully wry lyrics. Most highly recommended!

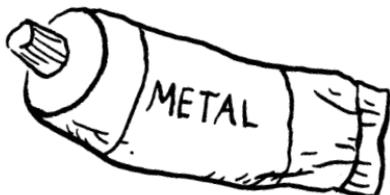
Tommy Keene – Behind The Parade (SECOND MOTION)

Tommy Keene has been a power-pop icon for nearly 30 years, and one could understand if his music were to become stagnant over time. Happily this is not the case. *Behind The Parade* is as vital and emotionally engaging as anything Keene recorded in the '80s. I can't stop playing this album!

Rockpile – Live At Montreux 1980 (EAGLE)

The Bye Bye Blackbirds – Fixed Hearts (RAINBOW QUARTZ)

One of the Bay Area's best bands!



Carter Tanton – *Free Clouds*

(WESTERN VINYL)

Jamie & Steve – *The Next Big Thing* (LOADED GOAT)

Jamie Hoover and Steve Stoeckel of The Spongetones.

Lifeguards – *Waving At The Astronauts* (ERNEST JENNING RECORD CO. / SERIOUS BUSINESS)

Doug Gillard and Robert Pollard of Guided By Voices.

The Posies – *Blood/Candy*

(THISTIME)

Japanese deluxe edition with seven bonus tracks.

STERLING

Sopors – *Sopors 7"* (MARGIN MOUTH RECORDS)

Blaze Foley – *Clay Pigeons*

(SECRET SEVEN)

Wonderful collection of Foley's most intimate recordings. A truly unsung Texas songwriting ace.

Jakob Olausson – *Morning And Sunrise* (DE STIJL)

An immersive, intimate and far-out record. Fans of Skip Spence and the like, take note.

Water Borders – *Harbored Mantras* (TRI-ANGLE)

Colorful and rhythmic goth sounds and a truly remarkable debut to boot.

Snuff Box (2006) – Michael Cumming

Twisted, dark, blunt and psychedelic comedy series from "Mighty Boosh" alum Matt Berry and Rich Fulcher.

TARIN

Pretty Awesome!

William Shatner – *Seeking Major Tom* (CLEOPATRA)

Captain Kirk is proud of being back in space again singing Rock 'n' Roll.

Modern Family: Season 2 (2011)

What do you get when you have two gay guys, an Asian baby, one old man, a sassy Colombian, four goofy kids, a competitive blond, and a quirky dad??? Everyone's dream family!

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 (2011) – Directed by David Yates

Awesome way to end the saga!

Crazy Stupid Love (2011) – Directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa

This entire movie is magic like unicorns, and stuff... but if I can give you only one reason to sit back with a bowl of sriracha spiced popcorn, a large beer, and watch this movie, it's to enjoy Ryan Gosling shirtless doing the "Dirty Dancing" lift... Yeah, I went there.

Big Love Season 5 (2011)

Three years ago...

Mom: Your Dad and I have been watching a new show.

Me: What is it?

Mom: *Big Love!*

Me: What the hell is *Big Love*?

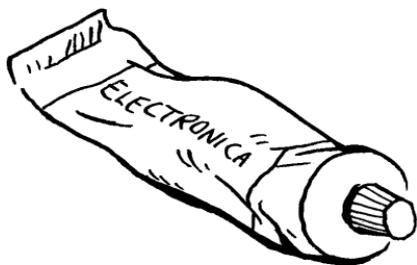
Mom: It's on HBO, it's about a polygamist family, and Bill Paxton plays the Father.

Me: Why are you guys watching a show about polygamist?!

Mom: No really, it's awesome! You should watch the first season.

Me: OK... I'll check it out, but I still don't know how you could like watching a show about polygamists...





TONY

Mine's a negroni.

Girls – *Father, Son, Holy Ghost*

(TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)

Good with the cans on.

Stefon Harris, David Sanchez, Christian Scott – *Ninety Miles*

(CONCORD PICANTE)

Cinematic & rhythmic Yank/Cuba experience — gorgeous.

Gene Clark – *Roadmaster*

(SUNDAZED)

Gorillaz – *The Singles Collection: 2001-2011*

[CD+DVD] (VIRGIN)

No phat here.



Three years later, and four seasons down, I now understand. Season five added a whole new twist to the show and ended the series with a shocker.

Bon Iver – *Bon Iver* (JAGJAGUWAR)

Beautiful follow-up album to *For Emma, Forever Ago*... Sounds like heavy fog on a cold morning, hot coffee and oatmeal cookies, sleeping kittens, synthesizer lullabies, and honey... Whatever that means...

The Dave Brubeck Quartet – *Their Last Time Out* (SONY)

As a life long Brubeck fan, I'm excited to add this final live show to my collection... I've caught the Jazz!

Miles Davis Quintet – *Live in Europe 1967: The Bootleg Series Vol. 1* [CD+DVD]

(SONY LEGACY)

There was "No Blue" when I was "Walkin Round Midnight" "On Green Dolphin Street." I watched the "Footprints" on the pavement, and "Riot" at "The Theme of the Gingerbread Man." "Agitation" from the thought "I Fall In Love Too Easily." "Masqualero"!!!

Tip:

Life is short; watch more movies, listen to more music, make more love, eat more burritos, drink more wine, take more vacations... and so on and so forth...

☑ *The Trip (2011) – Directed by Michael Winterbottom*

Steve Coogan is funny!

☐ *Bored To Death: The Complete First Season (2011)*

Really low-octane but surreally funny TV series in which co-stars Ted Danson, Zach Galifianakis & Jason Schwartzman take turns out-hipster-schmucking each other.

☐ *Rescue Me: The Complete Sixth Season and The Final Season*

Denis Leary rules and the dialogue is insanely good. Watch the whole series, only season one is not genius.



NOTES:

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HOLLYWOOD



AARON A.

Hoosier blood, LA heart.

Real Estate – Days (DOMINO)

A perfect marriage of Felt and early R.E.M. The first great americana dream pop record.

Inga Copeland – Inga Copeland 12” (SELF-RELEASED)

Somehow the gal from Hype Williams made my most listened to record of the past year. It reminds me equally of Royal Trux's epochal *Twin Infinitives* and a killer underground dance jam by Kylie or Annie. Warped and infectious, my two favorite music-related adjectives.

Atlas Sound – Parallax (4AD)

Bradford Cox could release an album of himself reciting the lyrics to *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* and I would still love it. That said, this is another modern psychedelic pop masterpiece.

Portishead – Chase The Tear 12” (XL RECORDINGS)

It's only one song (and a remix of that song), but it might be the best song ever made.

No UFO's – Soft Coast

(SPECTRUM SPOOLS)

Super dope bedroom faux-Kraut.

Void – Sessions 1981-83

(DISCHORD)

One of the few classic HC bands that still sounds good to me... definitely the best of the DC bunch... finally an entire LP devoted to them!

Tip:

Drive to the west side, go to the beach and then have dinner at Sunny Spot ... maybe the best burger I've had in this burger-obsessed town.

AARON DETROIT

www.theloverswill.com

Simon Scott – Bunny (MISMAH)

Yannick Franck – Memorabilia (SILKEN TOFU)

The Caretaker – Patience (After Sebald) (HISTORY ALWAYS FAVOURS THE WINNERS)

Ruby Throat – O' Doubt O' Stars (THE LOVERS' WILL RECORDS & PRESS)

Perfume Genius – Put Your Back N2 It (MATADOR)

The Haxan Cloak – The Haxan Cloak (AURORA BOREALIS)

Melancholia (2011) – Directed by Lars Von Trier

ANDREW

*I was made for two things in this world:
1. Circle-Pitting &
2. Dancing to Janet Jackson*

Bleached – Carter 7”

(ART FAG RECORDINGS)

UPSTART ROCK N ROLL at its finest, Bleached have and will continue to pave their way into your heart. In the past few months, Bleached have released *Carter* and my favorite, *Searching Through the Past*, both seven-inches containing serious anthems that more than likely relate to your life. I highly advise you to check them out. Bleached brings rock 'n' roll back to what it should be. For the fans of: Johnny Thunders, Gun Club, Fleetwood Mac and Misfits. Get into it!

Stresscase – Cut Me Off 7”

(EFFUSION)

In the past few months, my love for (local) hardcore punk has been restored, with full support from acts such as Stresscase. Hailing from SGV,

Stresscase are making a very great name for themselves. Female-fronted fastcore that will keep you in the pit all night long. If you love PUNCH, you will love Stresscase. One of the best things you could do this year is keep an eye out on this band.

La Bella – La Bella

La Bella, along with Stresscase, are one of the acts that, as I have mentioned, are restoring my love for hardcore punk. La Bella is Latin/jazz influenced punk in the veins of Orchid and the Refused, with maybe the political edge of Crass. La Bella is fronted by one of the most proactive punks I have ever met. If you care about music with actual heart in it, La Bella is just the band for you.

Zola Jesus – Conatus

(SACRED BONES)

I don't know if I could possibly stress to you enough how much I love this album. *Conatus*, I believe, is the album that will define Zola Jesus in sound. Each song a beautiful masterpiece after the other. I have spent the past few months with this album on heavy rotation, and it could be said that this may be my favorite release from this past year. For the fans of: The Creatures/Siouxie and PJ Harvey.

VUM – Night Sun (SECRET LODGE)

Honestly, just such a solid album from start to finish. Put this album on at around 6 p.m., right when dusk has hit, and you will for sure be entranced in VUM's sound. Absolute beautiful psychedelic rock to cater to your needs.

Xeno & Oaklander –

Sets & Lights (VIE RECORDS)

Xeno & Oaklander's *Sets & Lights* is a solid album from start to finish of beautiful minimal-wave romanticism. Dual XX and XY vocals over tons of atmospheric layers of pulsing synths. A must have.

Retox – Ugly Animals

(IPECAC RECORDINGS)

Retox's *Ugly Animals* could very well have been my call to hardcore punk this past year. Comprising members from The Locust, Festival of Dead Deer, Some Girls, and Head Wound City, Retox takes a little bit of love from their past and turns it into a whole new fit of rage. A band that takes influence from more than music, but this perverse world we live in. I highly advise you to check this out if you are fans of Dropdead and Tragedy.

Low Places – Honor The Cult

Low Places are a blackened hardcore punk band from L.A. Limited to only 30 copies, *Honor The Cult* is a must-have for any lover of grim hardcore. Fast, noisy punk to make your face melt. If you are a fan of Cursed, you should totally give Low Places a listen.

Animal Bodies – Kiss Of The Fang (SWEATING TAPES)

This past year, out of all the shows I have been to, one of the most fortunate bands I was able to see was Animal Bodies. Hailing from Vancouver, Animal Bodies are a female-fronted darkwave band. A band that oozes tension in sound. Think Katrina Ford (Jaks, Love Life, Celebration) on minimal synth. For the fans of Kas Product.

Void – Sessions 81-83 (DISCHORD)

Oh my freaking god, I was so excited when I heard about this release!! Thirty-four tracks from one of my favorite and best bands in hardcore punk! Need something to get the living room mosh on to? Look no further. I seriously can't get enough of this!

Desire – II (ITALIANS DO IT BETTER)

Italo Disco, baby.

Tip:

LISTEN TO: burn idols, bleached, stresscase, badblood, retox, la bella. Three One G. Keep it D I Y.

ANDREW S.

"I only buy music by dead people"

Ben Spiers – No More 7"

(ROOT DONE LONIE FOR CASH)

One improvised guitar piece spread over two sides of polycarbonate plastic (this is a lathe cut, not a vinyl 7"). One note follows the other; plenty of space, no hurry. Each note like a tiny bell suspended in space. The label describes it aptly: "...like a still pond, the wind brushes the water & makes tiny little waves..."

Christina Carter – Trickster

Who Is Like God (MANY BREATHS PRESS)

In the words of the artist: "It is a sixty plus minute song, and it is definitely a song, not a piece. It is like taking a six-minute song and stretching it out for an hour with compositional coherence intact. In other words, it isn't like a six-minute song with a 54-minute jam stuck on the end." The low E string thrums for the whole 60

minutes like a heartbeat. It's like dipping into someone else's memory for an hour. It's a whole other world. One of America's greatest living artists. Hey America, remember art?

Richard Francis – Acid Songs

(DUNGEON TAXIS)

Richard Francis attempts to reconstruct sounds from his past memories via live improvisations on a small modular synthesizer. Sheets of hiss and white noise laid over one another in subtle lattices of the barely intentional.

Surface Of The Earth –

Surface Of The Earth (UTECH)

Much needed reissue of what is arguably the ultimate guitar drone album (the only real competition being their second album *Interference*). Tube amps are left to cycle by themselves in cavernous wooden halls, eventually building walls of faceless harmonic grandeur. As vast, inhuman and beautiful as a desert or an ocean. Makes Sunn0))) look like a joke — you need costumes and dry ice to be heavy? Forget the grade school theatrics — this is the real thing: pure amplified electricity, the soundtrack to tectonic plates slowly shifting. Nothing is heavier than physics.

Tip:

Science + pantheism = love.

Irony is over.

www.emeraldcoocoon.com

ANDY B

Gillian Welch – The Harrow & The Harvest (ACONY RECORDS)

Thee Oh Sees – Carrion Crawler the Dream (IN THE RED)

Deertick – Divine Providence (PARTISAN RECORDS)

Mark Lanegan Band – Blues Funeral (4AD)

Color Me Obsessed, A Film About The Replacements (2012) – Directed by Gorman Bechard

ANEL

Katy B – On a Mission (COLUMBIA)

Desire – II (ITALIANS DO IT BETTER)

Lady Gaga – Born This Way: The Remix (INTERSCOPE)

Austra – Sparkle 12” (DOMINO)

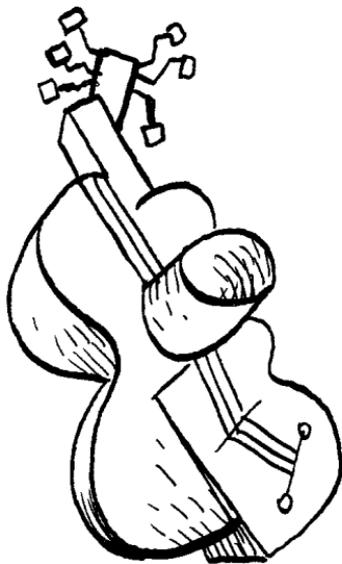
Little Dragon – Ritual Union (PEACEFROG)

Amy Winehouse – Lioness: Hidden Treasures (UNIVERSAL)

Lady Gaga: The Monster Ball Tour At Madison Square Garden (DVD) (2011)

Metropolis: The Moroder Version (DVD) (2011) – Directed by Giorgio Moroder

Walking Dead: Season 1 (DVD) (2011) – Directed by Frank Darabont



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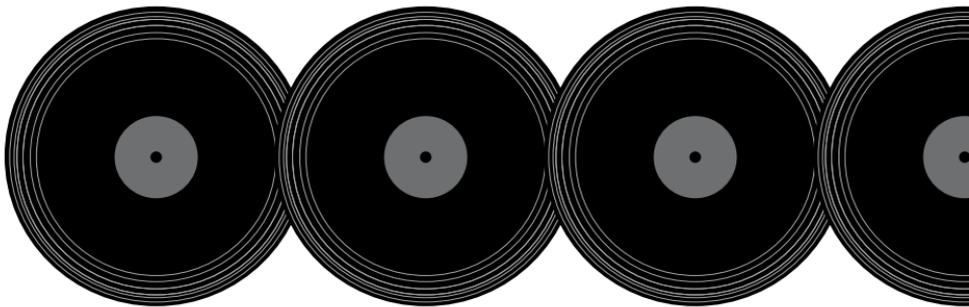
CDs

VINYL

DVDs

BLU-RAY

VIDEO GAMES

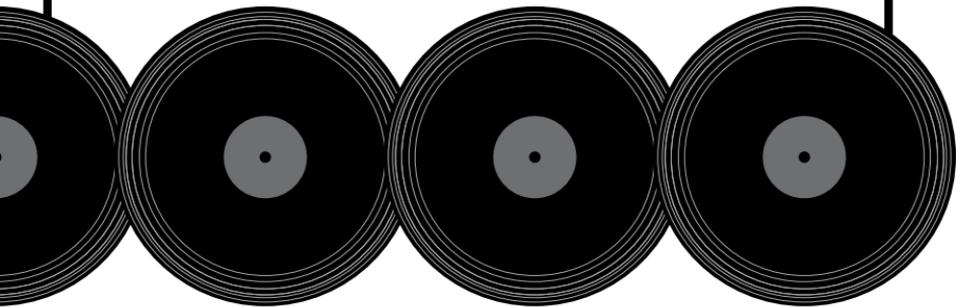


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Best Coast – Crazy For You

(MEXICAN SUMMER)

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BENNETT

DRC Music – Kinshasa One Two

(WARP)

Produced by Blur/Gorillaz frontman Damon Albarn and features the work of musicians from the Democratic Republic of Congo in collaboration with a collective of electronic & Hip-Hop music producers including Dan the Automator, Actress, Jneiro Jarel, Kwes and many more. Standout tracks for me are the pop-driven "Hallo," the highlife-influenced "K Town," and the tropical funky house sound of "Lingala." Check out the making of the album, which was done in five days, on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/DRCMusicKinshasa. *Kinshasa One Two* is a great listen throughout, and proceeds from the album benefit Oxfam International (www.oxfam.org), who are doing important work throughout Haiti and Africa to fight poverty and hunger.

Anthony Hamilton – Back To Love

(RCA/SONY)

Sorry kids, but this one is for the grown-ups. Great work from North Carolina native Anthony Hamilton. In my opinion this album is his best work since his 2003 debut *Comin' From Where I'm From*. With a great team of producers and songwriters behind him, including Babyface,

Kelvin Wooten, Salaam Remi & the Avila Brothers, Anthony Hamilton blends elements of blues, gospel & Hip-Hop to make sophisticated soul music. My favorite tunes are the thumpin' bluesy beat of "Mad," the gentle "Best Of Me" and the title track "Back To Love." The album does have its weaknesses, like the mismatched duet with Keri Hilson, but it's still among the best soul/R&B albums of the past year. If you like R&B artists like Musiq Soulchild, Raheem DeVaughn, the early work of Raphael Saadiq or classic soul singers like Al Green & Marvin Gaye, then you ought to find a song to please your ears. In case you missed it, check out his duet with Jill Scott titled "So In Love" from her last album, *The Light Of The Sun*.

Trombone Shorty – For True

(VERVE FORECAST)

Stefon Harris, David Sanchez & Christian Scott – Ninety Miles

(CONCORD PICANTE)

Bossa Jazz – Various Artists

(SOUL JAZZ RECORDS)

The Birth Of Hard Bossa, Samba Jazz And The Evolution Of Brazilian Fusion 1962-1973

Legendary Studio One Records: Recordings 1963-80 – Various Artists

(SOUL JAZZ RECORDS/STUDIO ONE)

Tip:

My Soundcloud: <http://soundcloud.com/djbenett-amoeba>
Follow me on Twitter: @turtlemack

BILLY GIL

Reviewer and blogger
www.amoeba.com/IPST, a blog on
L.A. music. Freelance writer/reviewer.
Guitarist/singer for western
shoegaze band Doña Nicha.

Neverever – Shake-A-Baby

(SLUMBERLAND)

Bratty lo-fi girl group tunes that break out of their confines with formidable songwriting and unlimited sass from singer Jihae Meek.

Frankie Rose – Interstellar

(SLUMBERLAND)

Ex-Vivian Girl goes solo and makes delectable, danceable shoegaze pop made transcendent with space-bound harmonies.

Devon Williams – Euphoria

(SLUMBERLAND)

Swirling, milky guitar pop that layers gorgeous guitar over its straightforward and yearning vocals. Bits of Felt, New Order, C86 and Elephant 6 bands hit you in all the right places but don't feel overly reverential. Heavenly stuff.

Soft Metals – Soft Metals

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

The first song on this album is called "Psychic Driving," and its title and tone set the mood for an album's worth of dreamy nighttime shooting star synthesizers and weary afterparty vocals over freestyle drum machines.

Zola Jesus – Conatus

(SACRED BONES)

Even when she's heading for the dancefloor, Zola Jesus' voice has a gravity to it that makes her inscrutable lyrics hit hard. Normal people can have Lady Gaga; Zola is our diva of choice.

Tip:

Come see me and Abe Vidoda's Juan Velasquez spin goth, new wave and obscure trash pop every Monday night at Cha Cha!

BRAD

Big Deal – Lights Out (MUTE)

Holiday Crowd – Over The Bluffs (SHELFLIFE)

The Twilight Sad – No One Can Ever Know (FAT CAT)

Trust – Trst (ARTS & CRAFTS)

Grimes – Visions (4AD)

Tip:

read my blog www.amoeba.com/brad

BRIAN G.

R.E.M. – Part Lies, Part Heart, Part Truth, Part Garbage 1982-2011 (WARNER BROS.)

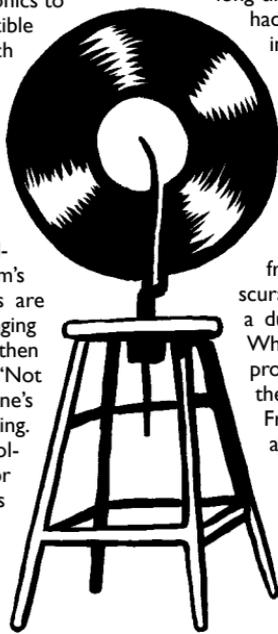
There's really not enough I can say as some kind of elegy to R.E.M., a band who has meant the world to me since the day I started getting into music. R.E.M. was the first band that I be-

came an obsessive collector for; the band who I would always listen to incessantly, study the artwork, emulate the style; and for all its corniness and as clichéd as it may seem, they got me through. I could see the world in a different way, that perhaps I wouldn't have been able to had it not been for their guidance. So it came as a blow when they announced out of the blue on September 21, 2011, that they were disbanding after 31 years of musicianship. But what I admire about their decision, in true R.E.M.-do-it-their-way fashion, that they were taking a bow before they got stale and irrelevant (despite what some might say, they never faltered, regardless of their sinking popularity in the States). And better yet, they had released one of their best albums, *Collapse Into Now*, in March 2011, so that they were going out on a high note was extra important. Following the split, November 2011 brought the 40-song, double-CD compilation *Part Lies, Part Heart, Part Truth, Part Garbage 1982-2011*, R.E.M.'s first career-spanning collection that covers both their independent I.R.S. years and their mainstream Warner Bros. years. The highlights come fast and furious — I could name all 40 tracks and still name 40 more, and 40 more, and 40 more ... the band's best stuff is all here. I could argue the minor grievances at some selections over others, but I cannot argue with the amazing quality of a perfect body of work. The three new songs on the compilation — the blink-and-you'll-miss-it "A Month Of Saturdays," the Bacharach sad-pop of "We All Go Back To Where We Belong," and the doom-laden "Hallelujah" — only further enhance the aural experience. So I say farewell to my favorite band of all time, and I will always enjoy, relish, treasure and appreciate what I got from R.E.M.

The Twilight Sad – No One Can Ever Know (FAT CAT)

Scottish trio The Twilight Sad return with their third studio album, *No One Can Ever Know*, and with it comes another sonic shift. This time around, the band has stripped back its wall-of-sound shoegazing assault and delved deep into their darkest influences, inspired by industrial music and krautrock pioneers such as Cabaret Voltaire, Can, Public Image Ltd, Magazine, Fad Gadget and Autechre, to name a few. What results is a nine-song masterpiece that's driving, cathartic and desolate — it recalls and updates the best moments of Depeche Mode circa *Some Great Reward* through to *Violator* (sans the pomp and pop but double the darkness and heartache). Singer/lyricist James Graham, guitarist Andy MacFarlane and drummer/programmer Mark Devine have really hit on something incredible here. Opener "Alphabet" broods with an ebbing synthesizer line that plays like the wheez-

ing accordion found on the band's 2007 debut album that added another level of noise to their sonic approach, only this time it's much bleaker; lyrically, the song has Graham announcing in his thick accent, "So sick to death of the sight of you now/Safe to say never wanted you more," setting the album's thematic standard — in The Sad's world, Graham's cryptic lyrics revolve around childhood recollections, buried secrets and undisclosed desires. Following is "Dead City," six-and-a-half minutes of driving, sinister krautrock propelled by Devine's pulsing drums and some of Graham's best vocals (he's always had an incredible voice, but this album showcases how it's improved exponentially and displays a new sense of urgency); thereafter, melodic first single "Sick" spins a dark tale around downtrodden guitar and cold, eerie electronics to make a claustrophobic but irresistible impression. After the 1-2-3-punch of the opening third comes the album's most hypnotic moment in "Don't Move," where the hookiest synth line makes room for some of MacFarlane's fuzz-tinged guitar work. Mournful centerpiece "Nil" builds in intensity with paranoid, haunted-house sound effects and Graham's haunted wails; hot on its heels are the shimmering keys and longing vocals of "Don't Look At Me," then the tense death march drama of "Not Sleeping" that resolves in Devine's heaviest, hardest-hitting drumming. Second single "Another Bed" follows, and it's a clear choice for a single — certainly the album's danciest number. "Another Bed" rides a chill wave of Depeche Mode/glam-rock synths over Graham's typically-cryptic imposing/reassuring refrain of "I'll find you, don't worry." But the preceding eight songs couldn't prepare you enough for the album's closing track, "Kill It In The Morning": the darkest, bleakest, heaviest song in The Sad's catalog. "Kill It In The Morning" was posted as a free download when the band announced the release of the album back in September 2011, and it couldn't have been a more suitable example to illustrate the stylistic change the band were referring to — grinding electronics mesh with hardcore pulses and unrelenting synths into a blinding industrial rock assault, a new frontier for The Twilight Sad. This isn't an album you put on to feel good about yourself or to brighten your day, but it never wallows in complete despair and never appears as unwelcoming. *No One Can Ever Know* benefits from



repeat listens, unfolding new details and nuances at every spin. It's an album that's immediate, exciting, resonating and moving as it is heartaching, miserable and punishing. Where *The Twilight Sad* goes from here is anyone's guess, but I can guarantee it's going to be amazing.

Frightened Rabbit – A Frightened Rabbit 10" EP

(ATLANTIC)

Frightened Rabbit bid farewell to the indie label (Fat Cat Records) that was their launching point and home for the past 6-or-so years and make a bid for the major leagues with their signing to Atlantic Records, a trajectory that recalls Death Cab For Cutie (DCFC members have been long-time supporters of FR; no doubt they had a hand in getting the little Scottish indie band signed). Their self-titled inaugural EP release (available on 10" vinyl or as a digital download only) features three new songs of FR's typically scrappy emo-folk, like the jangly "Scottish Winds," the slower-paced and horn-drenched "Fuck This Place" (featuring guest vocals from Tracyanne Campbell from Scottish like-minds Camera Obscura) and the über-folky "The Work," a duet with folk legend Archie Fisher. Whether the leap to a major label proves to be a blessing or a curse in the long run, this brief taste of new Frightened Rabbit sounds as dependable and enjoyable as ever.

Manic Street Preachers – National Treasures - The Complete Singles

(SONY MUSIC)

Manic Street Preachers have always shined as a singles band, whether it's a knack or a fluke, that their best and most memorable moments have always been featured on a format other than an album. The angry Welsh band have triumphantly outlived their contemporaries, from their early likeness to American hair metal, glam punk and hard rock bands like Guns N' Roses and New York Dolls, to their most-anthem Britpop curtailment, and their recent placement as European rock royalty. Enter *National Treasures - The Complete Singles*, their first thorough collection that spans their entire Columbia Records/Sony Music recording career (replacing 2002's *Forever Delayed: The Greatest Hits*, which cherrypicked only 20 songs — several being edited versions — and only covered

up to that point). *National Treasures* features 38 songs culled from their 20+ years of major-label recording and 10 studio albums: 1992's *Generation Terrorists* (their *Appetite For Destruction*), the 1993 scattershot sophomore *Gold Against The Soul*, 1994's *The Holy Bible* (their ultimate masterpiece, an album that's as lacerating and vicious politically as it is personally), 1996's *Everything Must Go* (the Britrock recharge that broke the band into new pop territory; also their first after the mysterious 1995 disappearance of founding guitarist Richey Edwards), 1998's somber *This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours*, 2001's uneven misstep *Know Your Enemy*, 2004's flirtation with electronica *Lifeflood*, 2007's *Send Away The Tigers*, 2009's *Journal For Plague Lovers* (the album composed of lyrics, poems and words in a journal that Richey Edwards left behind, and following the official announcement that Edwards is now "presumed dead" after more than 13 years of being missing), 2010's *Postcards From A Young Man*, and a new, contractually-obligated-for-a-greatest-hits-compilation song: a cover of The The's "This Is The Day." Across two CDs you'll find the best of the best, all in their original unedited form, including early highlights "Motorcycle Emptiness," "You Love Us," the Traci Lords duet "Little Baby Nothing," "Suicide Is Painless (Theme From M*A*S*H)," and "From Despair To Where"; mid-period superhits "A Design For Life," "Faster," "If You Tolerate This Your Children Will Be Next," "The Masses Against The Classes," and "The Everlasting"; and latter day success with "There By The Grace Of God," "The Love Of Richard Nixon," "Your Love Alone Is Not Enough," and "(It's Not War) Just The End Of Love." When isolated from the album which they were spawned, the storming rocker "Found That Soul" and the pleading and epileptic "Ocean Spray" sound incredibly fresh and epic. In its special edition, the compilation comes inside a book with tons of photos and a bonus DVD collecting all of the band's music videos. In a super deluxe box set edition, you get all the singles on 7" vinyl and the videos DVD (as well as lipstick and a vanity mirror, ha). So, celebrate the 25 years of Manics existence with an amazing collection that reminds, and reassures, that they really are European rock royalty.

🎬 **Mark Kozelek – On Tour:**

A Documentary (CALDOVERDE)

On Tour: A Documentary is a rare glimpse into the touring life of singer-songwriter Mark Kozelek, frontman and musical genius for Sun Kil Moon and Red House Painters, as he travels across Europe and North America promoting the latest Sun Kil Moon album *Admiral Fell Promises* (which was a solo album in all but name). Shot in black-and-white, the film follows Kozelek as he visits

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several beautiful cities, and includes his down-time activities (like sitting idly in hotel rooms, making coffee, driving, rehearsing). Everything you really need to know about Kozelek, you can find in his songs: he's a relatively sullen man who's haunted by his muses and memories, and the film does little to dispell that notion (aside from his retelling of a funny story or a joke, he's stone-faced and sad-eyed as ever throughout). But his transcending, intimate live performances are captured perfectly herein, and the film includes several unique versions and brand new incidental pieces. This documentary is a tour film as much as it is a travelogue, and is highly recommended for any Kozelek fan.

BAR

The Flaming Lips – 12" Vinyl Number 9: The Flaming Lips with Yoko Ono/ Plastic Ono Band 12"

(LOVELY SORTS OF DEATH RECORDS)

As long as the world doesn't end this December, as long as zombies don't attack and as long as a giant meteor, volcano or super collider doesn't kill us, you need to look for this record. "Yokohlahoma City Day."

Mickey Newbury – An American Trilogy (DRAG CITY)

Originally released by Elektra Records as three separate LPs specifically conceived as a trilogy and sequenced to create and sustain Newbury's examination of his own romantic past as well as the country's contentious history. Grievous loss and precarious composure. And now some 40 years later, they sound just as imaginative, evocative and emotional as ever. Also included is an additional disc of demos and unreleased tracks.

Zwischenwelt – Paranormale Aktivitat (REPHLEX)

Their name translates as "world in between" and relates to the theme of parapsychology. Chillingly ritualistic, darkly cinematic tones.

Dirty Beaches – Practical ESP (SELF-RELEASED)

I keep going back to this again and again. A soundtrack created for a movie called *Practical ESP: Sensory Perception and the Horse Sanctuary*, which you can watch here vimeo.com/22813727.

Emma Ruth Rundle – Electric Guitar I (PIRATES PRESS)

Emma Ruth Rundle apparently recorded this solo electric guitar album in her van while on tour in Europe October and November of 2010. Music transitions from quietly melodic to crunchy metallic without hesitation.

BURGESS

Producer for "Byrdsol" email byrdsolmusic@gmail.com for a free download of the instrumental version of my new album *Surya Systems*. Try it if you like Aphex Twin, Joy Division, Boards of Canada, Blackmoth Super Rainbow, M83, M.D.B, or Healamonster and Tarsier.

Machine Drum – Rooms (PLANET MU)

Balam Acab – Wander/Wonder (TRIANGLE)

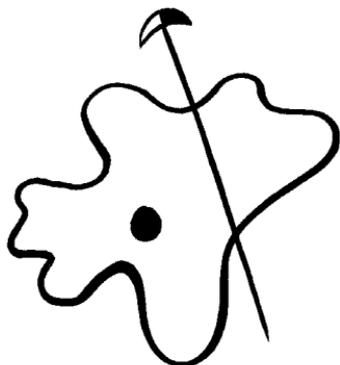
IOTDXI – Various Artists (R&S)

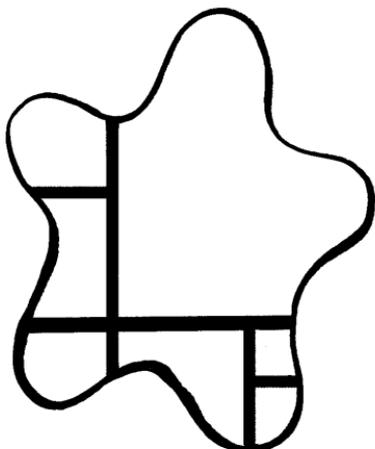
Kryptic Minds – Can't Sleep (BLACK BOX)

Michigan Dog Boy – Hunt the Moon/You're Food for Thought 7"

Abe Vigoda – Crush (POST PRESENT MEDIUM)

Loxy & Resound – Burning Shadows (EXIT)





CANDACE VILLATE

Alexandre Desplat – Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) (WATERTOWER MUSIC)

I remain extremely speechless and incredibly inspired! This score in particular is one of many reasons why I admire Alexandre Desplat. His musical response to film is unlike most would approach, and his presence is certainly there and always very stimulating.

Alberto Iglesias – The Skin I Live In (Soundtrack from the Motion Picture)

(LAKESHORE RECORDS)

An absolutely brilliant soundtrack. Alberto Iglesias immediately became one of my favorite composers with this score. It's classically written with cues that will haunt you! Also includes tracks from Chris Garneau, Concha Buika and Trentemøller. Five stars!

Crysis 2 (Original Videogame Soundtrack) – Various Artists

(LA-LA LAND RECORDS)

Music composed by Borislav Slavov, Tilman Silleescu, featuring themes by Hans Zimmer and Lorne Balfé. This score contains two CDs of remarkably action packed cues, along with heavy sophisticated themes. All four composers did very well!

CATRINA

Dave Brubeck Quartet – Their Last Time Out (COLUMBIA)

Björk – Biophilia (ONE LITTLE INDIAN)

Mastodon – The Hunter (REPRISE RECORDS)

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Animal Bodies – Kiss Of The Fang 12” (SWEATING TAPES)

I had the pleasure of playing Katatonik in Oakland with this duo. Live they present an icy, tightly wound brand of electronic post-punk with thoughtful, minimal production & strong vocals. On record these attributes are enhanced & expounded upon and Animal Bodies' strong arrangements becomes quite evident. Head and shoulders above the average “minimal synth”/ whatever you wanna call it & well worth your hard-earned money.

Takeshi Terauchi – Nippon Guitars: Instrumental Surf, Eleki & Tsuguru Rock 1966-1974

(BIG BEAT / ACE RECORDS)

This collection brings together some of Mr. Terauchi's best instrumentals — a unique, stinging brew of surf, traditional Japanese scales, twisted electronic organs and top notch production. Taking into account the man's colorful background as a hard-drinking, hard-gigging wild man, mix in his obvious ability to shred and it's not hard to see why Takeshi's rise to fame led the Ashikaga City Board Of Education to a short term ban on electric guitars. Why would anyone want their kids growing up to be this cool?? This LP is a great primer for the uninitiated as well as a great party platter.

Miles Davis – *Quartet 10*

(PRESTIGE)

I must admit that very few record store day releases have carried much appeal for me. However, this piece was a great buy & has gotten a few spins since purchase. Classic early-period Miles with his all-star quartet (John Lewis, Horace Silver, Percy Heath, Max Roach & Art Blakey) issued on 10" blue vinyl with original artwork @ a fraction of an original's cost. This title was an especially kind release as, although the tracks have appeared on other releases, I don't believe it has ever been properly re-issued with its original artwork or in its 10" form.

Frank Alpine – *Frank Alpine*

(WIERD RECORDS)

On this first full-length release, Frank Alpine captures the feel of their manic live sets. Layers of twisted digital nightmares mixed with paranoid yet emotive vocalizing make for an unsettling but alluring album. I also recommend check out the earlier CDR & 7" recordings.

Phil Blankenship – *Plays Criminally Insane*

(TRONICS/SAXON GREGORY PRODUCTIONS)

It's been a while since I've heard anything from the Saxon Gregory camp — the *Burial Ground* LP from a couple of years back still gets a listen now and then as does the *Spasmo/Seven Bloodstained Orchids 7"*. This release differs from either of those, as score and sound effects dominate both the aforementioned records while this CD contains the soundtrack to a film which is mostly dialog and discomfiting noises, the effect being that many of the depressing details from this no budget horror flick pop out at you in ways different that a regular viewing can provide. Of course, I think that an actual viewing of the film is a prerequisite, but this CD provides a very powerful mental tool for conjuring up all the bad lighting, cheap acting, heavy mid-70s malaise & political incorrectness that is *Criminally Insane*. It also reminds me of pre-VCR times, sitting in front of the TV with a tape recorder capturing my favorite cartoons.

Tip:

Although the entirety of *Amoeba* has plenty to offer, our boom box, VHS & jazz 45 sections are especially fertile grounds for digging.



CHRIS CARMENA

TOP AMBIENT AND ELECTRONIC PICKS:

Scissors and Sellotape – *For The Tired and Ill At Ease*

(FACTURE)

Leyland Kirby – *Eager To Tear Apart The Stars*

(HISTORY ALWAYS FAVOURS THE WINNERS)

Steve Hauschildt – *Tragedy and Geometry*

(TRAGEDY AND GEOMETRY)

Jürgen Müller – *Science of The Sea*

(DIGITALIS RECORDINGS)

Andy Stott – *We Stay Together*

(MODERN LOVE)

Deepchord – *Hash Bar Loops*

(SOMA QUALITY RECORDINGS)

Araabmuzik – *Electronic Dream*

(DUKE PRODUCTIONS)

Kuedo – *Severant*

(PLANET MU)

Beaumont – *Blush Response*

(KINNEGO RECORDS)

TOP ROCK PICKS:

HTRK – *Work (Work, Work)*

(GHOSTLY INTERNATIONAL)

The Drums – *Portamento*

(FRENCH KISS)

Vum – *Night Sun*

(SECRET LODGE RECORDINGS)

Blouse – *Blouse*

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Real Estate – *Days*

(DOMINO)



GINGER BREAD MAN

*Gluten-free and as sweet as can be.
Smooth as silk and tryin to stay
out of that milk.*

Dick Jones – Let It Be Me
(MIRACLE)

Wild Nothing – Gemini
(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Void – Sessions 1981-83
(DISCHORD)

Can – Tago Mago
[40th Anniversary] (MUTE)

**The Daybeds – The Mod
Adventures of Ponce Deleon**
(TARGET)

**Dr. Jeebfabro –
Take the First Step**

Without question the most sincere, inspired and original music I have heard in years. Hey you, yeah you. You fancy yourself a record nerd? You tell other people about the genius of Tim Buckley? You thought you were really cool when you listened to the whole 24 -hour Flaming Lips song? You're the contrarian who tells people Lulu actually is Lou Reed's best work? You think Roky Erickson's really cool, don't you? Well, time to trade in your Odd Future records and put your money where your mouth is. 10 bucks to open your mind and rebirth yourself in your new mind of positive re birth ingness. Let Fela Kuti backed by The Shaggs and produced by Arthur Baker be the soundtrack to your permanent permanence of positive positivity permantly.

Tip:

Amoebite Scott Hurst is a great hugger. Next time you need a pick me up, grab a big squeeze from Hurst, he loves to hug. This goes for customers too.

CHRISTIAN

soundcloud.com/christian-torres

Lawrence – Timeless (COCOON)
Mix CD...

Stereociti – Kawasaki (MOUUBA)

Dave Monolith – Welcome
(REPHLEX)
Album of the year.

BOOF – Shhh Dandelions
At Play (RUNNING BACK)

**Motor City Drum Ensemble –
DJ Kicks** (K7)

CLIFF

**Ike & Tina Turner – Come
Together/Workin' Together**
(BEAT GOES ON)

Rolling Stones – Some Girls
[Deluxe Edition] (INTERSCOPE)

**Ike & Tina Turner – Delilah's
Power/Airwaves** (BEAT GOES ON)

**Gregory Isaacs –
Love Is Overdue** (SNAPPER)

**James Brown – The Singles
Volume 10: 1975-1979**
(HIP-O SELECT)

CODY

**How to Wreck a Nice Beach –
by Dave Tompkins**
(STOP SMILING BOOKS)

OK SO, what's more maddening: reading thousands of pages of semi-redacted WWII-era government documents detailing technical specs of long-obsolete devices, OR listening through countless hours of Rammellzee rambling on



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NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

about cosmic nonsense? That was a rhetorical question! Both are straight-up bonkers activities. Soooo it's pretty impressive that this dude Dave Tompkins has done plenty of both and still managed to write at all, let alone nearly 400 hugely entertaining and surprisingly coherent pages detailing the COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE VOCODER. Does that sound boring? It is not! Because instead of writing some snooze-fest chronology, Mr. Tompkins (with plenty of help from his friends, whom I collectively refer to as "Everyone Famous From '80s Hip-Hop") has constructed a pretty thrilling narrative from seemingly disparate anecdotes about JFK, Detroit Techno, Russian gulags, Afrika Bambaataa's paranoid fears, New Kids on the Block, Vietnam, Sun Ra's glowing honeycomb, Roald Dahl and like a hundred other subjects that you have not yet realized you find TOTALLY INTERESTING. Holger Czukay rides around Cologne on roller-skates while Winston Churchill complains about intelligibility while Ray Bradbury makes a long-distance call, and many other excellent stories! As a bonus, the author has a website with further musings AND a pretty kickin' free mixtape featuring a ton of excellent vocoder-assisted tracks, ranging from educational records of the '50s to day-glo club hits (haha ok, pretty much JUST those two things, but it's still a solid mixtape). Visit the Amoeba Hollywood books section THIS VERY INSTANT.

*If, when reading this review, you asked yourself, "Who's Rammellzee?" "What's a Vocoder?" or "Wait, I have to read this?" FEAR NOT, the book explains all, and has lots of snazzy photographs!

The Spits – V (IN THE RED)

I'm not sure I would call myself an "experienced" drummer (maybe "terrible"), but I have played long enough to know that it gets a lot harder if your mind is focusing on something else. I bet that's especially true if the something else in question is urinating. Imagine that you're in Oakland, and you're on stage in front of 400 people, and you're mid-song behind your kit, and nature calls. Somehow you manage to wiggle out of your shorts, and you're still playing, and this song is really fast, but you go ahead and pee because you're not going to interrupt the show to go wait in line for the bathroom, and it's cool because everyone is so drunk maybe only one kid in the audience even noticed you making a mess back there. Also, YOUR CYMBALS ARE ON FIRE. So if you like punk things (and the "you" in this sentence is you, the reader, not you, the hypothetical drummer), and even if you don't believe this story to be true (full disclosure: I'm the "one kid in the audience" referenced, and my powers of recollection are UNRELIABLE AT



BEST) you should buy an album from the Spits, who are punk as fuck and make short, blunt, catchy songs. Recommended if you like literally anything on *In The Red*, because let's be honest, everything on that label sounds the same (and it's AWESOME!).

Hawkwind – *Space Ritual*

(ABSTRACT SOUNDS)

I think we can all acknowledge that the apocalypse is, if not imminent, forthcoming. Like unless you're really old or horrendously unlucky, it'll happen in your lifetime. I'm not saying the Mayans were right, because they're not, but it'll be soon, and there are hella portents all over the place if you're tuned in enough to recognize them. It's coming, trust me. And so the only truly relevant question to ask is this: What type of weapon do you plan to wield when the big event goes down? Long after our mortal bodies have cooled, the only souls enjoying the endless bounty of the Kingdom of Valhalla will be those who have died gloriously (i.e. in battle). And despite their omnipotence, the Old Gods are a millennia behind in weapons manufacturing, so your firearm or switchblade or bazooka just won't cut it. Personally, the moment I see the Monstrous Wolf Fenrir devour the sky (or Quetzalcoatl or whatever), I'm gonna close my eyes and start swinging a broadsword. Might I also suggest a pair of daggers, or a club, or an atlatl? Also, might I suggest that during the apocalypse you listen to *Space Ritual* by Hawkwind?

DANIEL TURES

*floor manager
part man, part peanut*

Alex Chilton – *Free Again:*

The 1970 Sessions (OMNIVORE)

A fabulous document of the lost year of one of rock's all-time great frontmen, the sadly departed Memphis power pop legend Alex Chilton! This finds him working a country soul groove that's somewhere between the Box Tops and his boozy post-Big Star sound. Wonderful MOR

gems with breezy melodies and a touch of cynicism, with a BBQ'd *Jumpin' Jack Flash*. Fans of modern southern rock (Black Keys et al.) take note!

Christophe Lemaire Presents *Where Are You From? – Various Artists*

(NOW AGAIN RECORDS)

From the ever delightful Now Again label, 16 tracks of global psychedelic rock, funk and folk grooves from 1968 til present (e.g. the amazing Saharan soul pastiche of Karl Hector & the Malcons). Wondrously strange, exotic jams with seriously sampleable drums. Wherever you are from, you'll dig what's going on here!

Wooden Shjips – *West*

(THRILL JOCKEY)

Do you love classic psych-space-kraut-boogie of the golden era, like Hawkwind, Suicide, Space-men 3? Then you will love the finest modern purveyors of the sound, S.F.'s own WOODEN SHJIPS!!! Pulsing motorik rhythms wrapped in fabulously fuzzy guitar riffs, with ghost vox and eerie organ. Minimal anthems for now people!

Ladytron – *Gravity the Seducer*

(NETTWERK)

Fifth album from this trailblazing Liverpool technopop crew is a commanding, ethereal, revelatory set that showcases their excellent songwriting. They've toned down the disco drum machines and focus more on the lush harmonies of Mira & Helen, especially on soaring, Stereolab-esque anthems like the opening track. *Seducteev!*

Girls – *Father, Son, Holy Ghost*

(TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)

Oh my golly! Raw, majestic, emotional garage-pop at its finest from this acclaimed SF combo. Christopher Owen & co. channel classic sounds & energy from Elvis Costello to T. Rex (I hear the Dead Boys in there, for some reason), but they always make it their own. This stuff is gonna age well. Opening cut "Honey Bunny" is a gem!

Headnodic – *Red Line Radio*

(TRAFFIC ENTERTAINMENT GROUP)

Excellent solo opus from Crown City producer and bassist Headnodic. Having provided seriously slammin' tracks for MCs from MF Doom to People Under the Stairs to Del, he grabs the spotlight here with a heaping helping of B-Boy funk, sizzling hot samples and live instrumentation. A who's who of past collaborators get fresh on the mic, but this one lets the DJ have some. See I can talk Hip-Hop too, and that proves it.

Thee Oh Sees – Carrion

Crawler/The Dream (IN THE RED)

Give this a listen and you'll agree — San Francisco truly has our L.A. asses kicked when it comes to great new rock & roll. To say nothing of the Wooden Shjips, Girls, Sonny & the Sunsets, who the heck else is from up there ... anyway, these scuzz-garage warlords have made, for my money, their best record yet and one of the hottest-rockin' slices of garage/trash/boogie since the Time Flies. John Dwyer & co. light a molotov cocktail of screamin' freakout that ignites an endless mustache boogie that grabs your old lady, puts her on the back of its hog and vrooms off into the acid sunset. Thee Oh Sees take a dirty page from the book of Blue Oyster Cult and read it aloud with great clarity and unmistakable intent. See you get three metaphors for the price of four. The kids do wanna rock!

Iceage – New Brigade

(WHAT'S YOUR RUPTURE?)

One of last year's best releases comes from some Danish kids who magnificently capture the sound, spirit and creativity of classic mid-'80s hardcore! These songs come barreling at you like rabid wolves, full of epic, icy despair and electrifying power. It's the real thing — truly inspiring.

Jonny – Jonny (MERGE)

One Scot + one Welshman = mystical goodtime power pop fun! Teenage Fanclub mastermind Norman Blake and ex-Gorky's Zygotic Mynci's Euros Childs spin joyously silly tunes from glam-rock stomp to vintage country jangle to dreamtime pop, with all the seams showing. Kind of like "Flight of the Conchords" meets Barclay James Harvest.

Neon Indian – Era Extraña

(MOM & POP MUSIC)

Texan chillwave kingpin Alan Palomo rocks more of his trademark day-glo synthpop mall-rock on this fabulously entertaining new disc. Recorded in Helsinki, it evokes chilly loneliness but presents it in a grand, danceable, super-melodic framework that's ready for the big time. Fans of early Depeche Mode and OMD will hear what they love: sincere emotion wailed out over blippy keyboards and sequencers. Intricate, accomplished, heartfelt and wonderful!

Atlas Sound – Parallax (4AD)

Amazing new record from Deerhunter's Bradford Cox! Haunting, hypnotic, wounded elegies from one of the most distinctive voices in indie rock. Explores inverted romance, dream states, body, soul & beyond. Tout sweet!

Howler – America Give Up

(ROUGH TRADE)

High-energy teenage kicks from some young Minneapolites that echo the explosive fuzzpop of their '80s townsmen Hüsker Dü and the Replacements. A bit like Surfer Blood with more handclaps as Logan sez.

Guided By Voices – Let's Go

Eat The Factory (GBV INC.)

Bob is back with an earlier GBV lineup, notably including the ever-tuneful Tobin Sprout! A great blast of sliced-up psych-pop from the men who do it best. The legends return!

Fac Dance-Factory Records:

12" Mixes & Rarities –

Various Artists (STRUT)

Two discs covering the amazing history of dance classics from this groundbreaking label, from disco-punk to the Durutti Column to early rave. Plenty you know and plenty you don't, all of it will getcha movin'. Dark, creative, funky stuff.

Frank Alpine – Frank Alpine

(WEIRD)

Intense, claustrophobic minimal wave freakout from some local lads who know how it's done. Vintage synths get vivisected while disembodied voices croon. Enjoy it with a friend!

The Rationals –

Think Rational! (WINDSONG INT'L)

Fabulous collection of tough, shakin' soul-rock from this great Ann Arbor combo who paved the way for the Stooges and the MC5. It's a shame these guys never broke out — this is absolutely packed with garagey, British-invasion gems, powered by the wild, commanding vocals of Scott Morgan. It ain't nothin' but a party!

BOOF – Shhh Dandelions At

Play (RUNNING BACK)

Every couple years Maurice Fulton blesses us with a retro-sounding slice of disco house, with funky bass, propulsive percussion and floral melodies, and every couple years it's awesome. Boof ya!

Motor City Drum Ensemble –

DJ Kicks (K7)

Cologne's young house maestro Danilo Plessow rocked us with the dirty vintage Detroit disco sound of the tracks on *Raw Cuts Vol. 1*. His DJ Kicks is a gloriously diverse adventure through jazz, soul, afro-beat and of course, plenty of

deep-space disco. Kicking off with a little Sun Ra groove, MCDE quickly blasts off into a vast orbit and never looks back. This guy has a wonderful ear for a track!

Dim Lights, Thick Smoke & Hillbilly Music: Country & Western Hit Parade – Various Artists (BEAR FAMILY)

The guys at the German country reissue label Bear Family somehow do a way better job of cataloging, remastering and presenting vintage American country music than anyone here in the USA. I just got into this series, each volume of which focuses on a year from the mid-'40s to the mid-'60s, with 30 unbelievably tough, swingin' tunes, incredible sound fidelity (it's like you're hearing the original 78s) and a lovingly written booklet full of fabulous photos. Talk about putting the music first! Anyone who thinks young country is where it's at needs to put a bullet in their Clear Channel radio and start rediscovering real hillbilly bop and honky-tonk with this series. These discs are worth their weight in gold!

DAVE CUNNINGHAM

www.catorce.net

Morning Teleportation – Expanding Anyway (GLACIAL PACE)

This one caught me by surprise. The immediate impression is that it's quickly indie-rock that's bouncy and unpredictable like Modest Mouse yet melodic and sweet like Vampire Weekend. But what I like best about this record is that it feels like it's going to fall apart at any moment. It's kinda bursting at the seams with an energy that's a little too high for the music containing it, and I like that tension.

The Envy Corps – It Culls You (TEMPO CLUB)

I have a thing for moody British pop. Yep, I like all those bands like Travis and Snow Patrol and Doves and The Verve and South and Radiohead, so it would figure that... wait... The Envy Corps are from Ames, Iowa? OK. They sound like they've been listening to The Bends way too much, but they're great songwriters and musicians and actually remind me more of the great, underrated UK band South. *It Culls You* is a few albums in for them, and the textures here are rich & dynamic. A mature and impressive album.

Grooms – Prom (KANINE RECORDS)
Lo-fi indie psychedelia is such a hip thing now. Some of it is pretty good. Like this record by Grooms.

DAVID W.

Pakistan: Folk & Pop Instrumentals 1966 - 1976 – Various Artists (SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Het – Ik Heb Geen Zin Om Op Te Staan (F MINOR)

Wynn Stewart – Come On: Gonna Shake This Shack Tonight (BEAR FAMILY)

Hank Williams – The Complete Mother's Best Recordings (TIME LIFE MUSIC)

Johnny Richards Orchestra – Kiss Her Goodbye (UPTOWN)

Muziek Express The Singles 1965-1967 – Various Artists (PSEUDONYM)

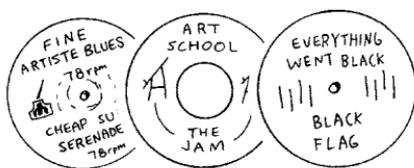
Traffic Sound – Virgin (VINILISSIMO)

Kaleidoscope – Faintly Blowing (SUNBEAM)

Kaleidoscope – Tangerine Dream (SUNBEAM)

Blind Willie Johnson – Dark Was the Night Cold Was the Ground (MISSISSIPPI)

Dragnet 1970: Season 4 (2011) – Created by Jack Webb



FELIX A.K.A. MYKLEHAR

M83 – *Hurry Up, We're Dreaming* (MUTE)

Coki – *Don't Get It Twisted 12"*
(DMZ)

Binary Field – *LP I* (CYCLIX)

Iannis Xenakis – *Complete Cello Works* (AEON)

Violet Tremors – *Time Is The Traitor* (VIOLET TREMORS)

Skinny Puppy – *handOver*
(SYNTHETIC SYMPHONY)

Ohgr – *Undeveloped* (METROPOLIS)

Coldplay – *Mylo Xyloto* (CAPITOL)

**Deep Medi Releases Vol. 3 –
Various Artists** (DEEP MEDI)

Plaid – *Scintilli* (WARP)

Emika – *Emika* (NINJA TUNE)

Kim Free – *Angel Shadow*
(LA'S FINE)

Tip:
binaryfield.bandcamp.com/
soundcloud.com/myklehar

FURN.

XXX

No Tolerance – *No Remorse, No Tolerance* (YOUNGBLOOD RECORDS)
Last Rights meets Straight Ahead with a solid dose of DJ's other band, Mind Eraser.

Les Demoniques – *Teenage*

Lust 7" (TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)
Side project of Dum Dum Girls singer Dee Dee Penny and Tamaryn Brown of Tamaryn covering The Jesus & Mary Chain.

Soul Search – *Bury the Blame 7"* (TRIPLE B)

"It was only a test but I swam to far against the tide... I deserve everything I get."

OmeGas – *Blasts Of Lunacy*
(PARTS UNKNOWN)

Dirty but raw early-'80s punk rock similar to Natural Law meets The Boston Strangler.

Lust For Youth – *Solar Flare*
(AVANT!)

Swedish minimal/lo-fi synthpop not unlike Vatican Shadow.

Leather – *Sterile 7"* (JADETREE)

If Cult Ritual played songs in the style of Pissed Jeans or Slices.

**CREEM – "Good Riddance"
b/w "I Hate You" 7"**
(KATORGA WORKS)

"Creem is better than No Tolerance" – Rudy Brigade

Mogwai – *Earth Division EP*
(SUB POP)

The influx of post-rock bands of the past 10 years has been hit-or-miss. In my opinion, no band plays Kevin Shields induced fuzz/noise instrumental music better than Mogwai.

The Drums – *Portamento*
(FRENCH KISS RECORDS)

I would like this... typical me, typical me, typical me.

Miles Kane – *Colour Of The Trap* (PID)

I was hoping for another Last Shadow Puppets album. Instead I got British Indie rock drenched in jingle-jangle pop a la Scott Walker.

Alela Diane – *Alela Diane & Wild Divine* (ROUGH TRADE)

Psych-folk with vocals akin to Kristin Hersh (Throwing Muses).

Inservibles – *Inservibles*

(EBULLITION)

Garage punk from Mexico, kinda like School Jerks meets Total Abuse.

Ladybug Transistor – *Clutching Stems* (MERGE)

Weekend – *Red EP* (SLUMBERLAND)

Their previous release was enjoyable, but this EP is by far my favorite release of theirs. Lo-fi indie with a solid nod to Ride's *Nowhere*.

sebastiAn – *Total* (BIG BEAT RECORDS)

New Brigade – *Demo Tape* (SELF-RELEASED)

Living Eyes – *Starve For Agony* (DEATHWISH INC.)

Void – *Sessions 1981-83* (DISCHORD)

Soul Swallow – *Devoured* (PAINKILLER)

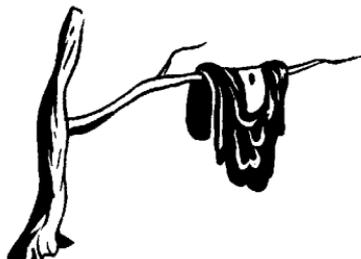
Young Prisms – *Friends For Now* (KANINE)

Big Troubles – *Romantic Comedy* (SLUMBERLAND)

Give – *I Am Love 7"* (TRIPLE B)

Tip:

I 2XU / Disapproval / Martin Atchet / Soul Search / Build-A-Nation / New Brigade Explorers Club / SOS Booking / Thick Skin / World Won't Listen / MLLWHRSHR / Xibalba / Wartime Collective / Nails / Rob Moran / Daniel Sant / Chris Bratton / Rotting Out / Dogteeth / Tim Btcher / Banshee / My Insatiable One ... Fall on Proverb ... By The Sea... Mute Witness... Icons of Summer... So Much of You... Only in Dreams...



FRANKIE!

"The effect of you is the cause of me."

■ *The Life of Reilly (2011)* – Directed by Barry Poltermann & Frank Anderson

Charles Nelson Reilly was one of THEE great pop culture icons of the 1970s. His long-standing appearances on *The Match Game* — a party game in which contestants attempted matching their answers with those of celebrity panelists — are now legend, CNR's quick-witted quips and barbed riffing a daily addiction for housewives all over the country. Yet, Charles Nelson Reilly was also a Tony winning actor and teacher, whose talent was singular — a raving, lunatic, comedic master, finely tuned for maximum bang. CNR's persona - the oversized glasses, the toupee, the press faced mugging, the voice that went from low tone build, to high pitch pay off. Not before or since have we seen an individual such as Charles Nelson Reilly. And this is his one man stage show, filmed in 2004, his last performed, detailing the life and times and background of a man who would do everything from Shakespeare to Saturday Morning Kiddie shows. In *The Life Of Reilly*, truth plainly is stranger than fiction, as we meet his racist mother, depressed, alcoholic father, lobotomized aunt, funeral-obsessed uncle — all living under one roof, with strange little Chuck in the middle of it all, begging to be heard, starving for a life through the haze of insanity. When he captures that life — that magical place in the theater, the roar of showbiz - he begins the process of not only knowing himself, understanding his world, and his family, but gives the public something wholly unique and satisfying, reminding us all that great entertainers help us not only transcend ourselves, but live out the example of full human potential, if applied correctly, joyfully, and totally. Charles Nelson Reilly did enough of this for everyone.

■ *The Rolling Stones: Some Girls Live In Texas '78 (2011)*

Ah, The Rolling Stones. One of my favorite bands — a bane to many, a salve to millions more — display here their prowess as "the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band." The band still had some heat, some drive, some purpose bleeding from its pores. Mick is in good voice, even if the phrasing at times tapers off or cuts short, displaying a soul and interest not seen a mere three years later in the lackluster, short of breath, gyrating 1982 concert film *Let's Spend The Night Together*. *Live In Texas '78* shows the band playing as if all bets were ON, as if they had to prove to the world — once again — their stud power. And



they do. Ronnie Wood hits brilliantly here — a bit tentative, watching Mick & Keef at every move — making certain he follows through, and keeps this goddamn gig. Keef is as cool as Keef, a man unto himself, the middle class pirate playing for keeps, totally involved. And Bill Wyman. Bill “motherfucking” Wyman! As he plays those bass lines, a long face written with boredom, it seems as though he is in another zone altogether, if not for the mere fact that he picks those licks to a perfection not seen in many a rock n roll band. Wyman proves his utter importance as a musician and member of The Rolling Stones Inc. No matter who they shove in his place, this footage proves that Wyman is, indeed, THE MAN. And Charlie Watts. Always with the tough, steady, nasty back beat. From Keef’s recent heroin bust to Mick’s want that The Stones be a secure entity in years to come, the band were playing for survival at this point - mo’ money, mo’ problems. This DVD a window to a rock n roll world where The Ramones were the latest thing, The Stones the greatest thing, and the line of demarcation set for what a truly hot rock n roll band at least feel like. The rest is for you to decide.

Bill Burr: *Let It Go* (2010) – Directed by Shannon Hartman

Bill Burr has a natural style, unflinching and true. His comedy is that which is born from the muck of everyday drudgery — the minor indignities of life, the major annoyances of human interaction, the deflated expectations of a better self. No topic is off limits for Burr — he riffs it all out — racial, sexual, cultural, ethical, ideological, his comedy not observational so much as

it is conversational. Burr’s ease with his subject matter, and his audience underlines the quiet confidence of a man whose material shovels real, direct, honest, emotional observation into the coal pit of America’s pop culture wasteland, burning up with a laughter born of a deep seated truth that is as universal as it is specific, spotlighting the slow burn demons we all suffer from time to time.

Alicia Keys – *The Element Of Freedom* (J RECORDS)

The Element Of Freedom, Alicia Keys’ fourth record, remains possibly her finest achievement thus far. Her third record, *As I Am*, was a personal favorite, thrilled she finally dumped out the Hip-Hop collaborations and multiproducer afflictions of her first two releases, that have dominated the dying music industry this past decade. I have felt, quite consistently, that Alicia Keys may be one of the best R&B artists of the 21st century. Certainly this is a subjective matter in this splintered modern culture, harder to find common ground when there is far too much to cover. Her voice, phrasing, delivery, melodies and production have convinced me of her overall dominance in the pop music world. The sense of drama and pathos in a song like “Wait Til’ You See Me Smile” gets you from spine touching chill to heart beating ache within 64 seconds, the woman knowing full well how best to elevate sentiment - privately, as well as universally. There is a keen, clever structure to the melodies. Breaking down the already overplayed “Empire State Of Mind,” she captures a full mood, a ringing chorus and cool as ice verse accenting the foggy morning to brisk evening elegance of Manhattan in Autumn — New York as still the place to make it all happen.

Tip:

*Please go and BUY a copy of the rant zine “TRASH” — found in the magazine section. And find us on Facebook, under TRASH zine. And go to the Five Star Bar.

GABBY

Worked at the Haight store for five years, then transferred to Hollywood. I work in Hip-Hop/Soul/Rock Vinyl.

Omar S – *It Can Be Done But Only I Can Do It* (FXHE RECORDS)

Listen to track three, then you will understand why only Omar S can do it.

In Trance 95 – Cities of Steel and Neon (MINIMAL WAVE)

This Greek duo put out a small amount of music during their short time playing, but the material is so good and so ahead of its time that it left me wishing they had more stuff out or if there are any artists that can match them. Awesome dark wave/minimal synth; in my opinion this is among the top three albums that the Minimal Wave label has put out.

Tevo Howard – Pandora's Box (HOUR HOUSE IS YOUR RUSH)

Makes me think of the great TRAX Chicago Acid House era!

Blu & Exile – Below The Heavens (FAT BEATS DISTRIBUTION)

It took five years for this classic Hip-Hop album to get the vinyl treatment, but here it is! Limited of course and comes in blue vinyl with a 7" inch! By the time you read this, the only way you could get your hands on this record is to just settle with the black and white w/blue marble swirl versions.

Fac Dance-Factory Records: 12" Mixes & Rarities 1980-1987 – Various Artists (STRUT)

An amazing comp. of the best artists from the legendary label Factory Records. The classic 10-minute extended mix of Section 25's "Looking from a Hilltop" is enough reason to get this, but the hard-to-find NY club classic 52nd street "Cool as Ice" (Jellybean Benitez) mix is on here too! Also a cut by the grossly underrated A Certain Ratio amongst other unique and crazy musicians that made Factory Records the legendary and influential label it is known as today.

Omar S Presents Colonel Abrams – Who Wrote The Rules of Love 12" (FXHE RECORDS)

Bernard Badie – Bones 12" (RUSH HOUR)

Mellow Grave – Smoke Filled the Room We Slept In (LIVING TAPES)

Another great release from L.A.'s Living Tapes label. A mix of dreamlike vocals and dancey, mid-tempo beats glazed over with dark ambient moods would be the best way to describe this new album! Highly recommended!!

Tip:

Stick to Vinyl — ALWAYS!





GREGG POPE

1 part Hoosier State.
1 part Steeler Country.

Cults – Cults (COLUMBIA)

I listen to this all the time and still haven't tired of it. An album of catchy pop songs, yet it evokes a dark essence. The vocals are haunting in a style reminiscent of Lesley Gore.

Dum Dum Girls – Only In Dreams (SUB POP)

As a big fan of lo-fi pop, I have had my finger on the pulse of the Dum Dum Girls' music for some time. *Only In Dreams* is their best work to date. The songs on this record are much more varied and musically mature, which makes for a most satisfying listen.

Zola Jesus – Conatus (SACRED BONES)

I first heard Zola Jesus at an in-store performance here at Amoeba. At the time I thought, "This is intense, but I probably wouldn't listen to it at home." That night I couldn't get that dark, moody and soul felt sound and imagery out of my mind. I was being haunted! The next morning I bought the *Conatus* LP and have since collected every Zola Jesus record I could get my hands on.

Best Coast – Our Deal (video) (MEXICAN SUMMER)

Directed by Drew Barrymore and starring a slew of young pop icons, this video looks like it was shot for the big screen. "Our Deal" is a good song, and the story depicted in the video is equally well done and moving.

It Chooses You - by Miranda July (MCSWEENEY'S)

I have been a fan of Miranda July ever since her "Video Chain Letters" of the mid-'90s. She has

always been one to come up with unique and original ideas. This work is no exception. Along with photographer Brigitte Sire, July has compiled a collection of portraits of "PennySaver" classified ad sellers across L.A. It is an insightful, humorous and compelling combination of narrative, interviews and photographs.

HILAND.

Darondo – Listen to My Song: The Music City Sessions (OMNIVORE RECORDINGS)

Pressed on limited edition light brown vinyl. This recommendation came to me via Mayer Hawthorne's "What's In My Bag?" video.

Tabloid (2011) – Directed by Errol Morris

Phil Blankenship – Sex Magik (TRONIKS) Edition of 100

Die Antwoord – TEN\$ION (ZEF)

Mildred Pierce (2011) – Directed by Todd Haynes

ILENE

Barry Adamson – I Will Set You Free (CENTRAL CONTROL INT'L)

El Rego – El Rego (DAPTONE RECORDS)

Howlin' Wolf – Smokestack Lightning (HIP-O SELECT)

Prinzhorn Dance School – Clay Class (DFA)

Etta James – The Dreamer (VERVE)

Quantic – The Best of Quantic (TRU THOUGHTS RECORDS)

Tycho – Dive
(GHOSTLY INTERNATIONAL)

Gary Clark Jr. – Bright Lights
EP (WARNER BROTHERS)

JAMIE S.

The Krampus lil' helper!

Childish Gambino – Camp
(GLASSNOTE)

Stunning official debut from Childish Gambino, aka Donald Glover! Brilliant rhyming skills and compelling subject matter put Mr. Glover at the top of his field. His main themes are “subtle racism,” a quote from his song “Hold You Down,” and constantly having to battle being pigeon-holed as “not black enough” because his family was able to move out of the ghetto and send him to predominantly white schools. In “Hold You Down,” he states, “White kids get to wear whatever hat they want, when it comes to black kids, one size fits all.” At the beginning of the last track, “That Power,” he says, “400 blows to these true-faux n*ggas... that’s the line of the century; they missed it, too busy lying about penitentiaries.” His lyrics are full of smart puns and at times his flow is very fast. He is quite a thought-provoking rapper! But he knows how to strike a balance by using humor and catchy choruses, while keeping the underlying high ideal of equality and respect for everyone at the core. There is a lot of bragging, rude sexual remarks and puns, and some soul searching about the dark attraction/compulsion side of romance, a lot of “did he REALLY just say that?” moments, but it’s a fun record! And he deftly keeps each song related somehow to the title theme of summer camp. Even more props because he and Ludwig Goransson co-produced the music themselves, which ranges from dubsteppish, to lovely soulful melodies, to epic choir choruses.

Prince Rama – Trust Now
(PAW TRACKS)

These ladies sound as if they came charging down on Arabian stallions, sweeping swords in hand. Lots of drama, Middle Eastern melodies, crescendos and Indian chants make this record an exhilarating, psychedelic experience. These two sisters grew up in a Hare Krishna commune in Florida, to explain their use of chanting and Eastern scales. Synthesizers, guitar and drums are the instruments. Drummer Nimai Larson continues the feat of sounding like an ensemble of percussionists rather than just one, and Tara-

ka Larson turns her strong soprano into a vocal force of nature. The recording quality of this record is much better than their first; everything sounds louder and clearer!

Four Tet – Fabriclive 59
(FABRIC WORLDWIDE)

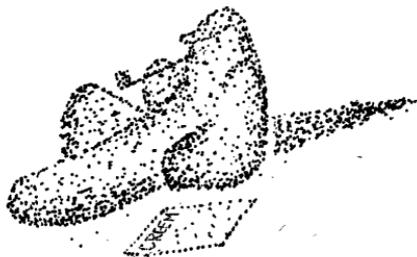
This may sound like an “easy way out” review, but sometimes, though hardly ever, you should just buy everything an artist releases, without question or hesitation. Four Tet is one of these rare artists. His set at Fabric is imaginative, refined and continues his trademark of cheerfully welcoming randomness into his work. He mixes in crowd noises and conversations between some of the songs. It’s a nice touch, sharing the club people watching vibe. So, sit back and let a master take you through a mostly mellow set of electronica, house, UK garage and techno. Don’t be afraid of the squid on his face; his music is always full of good vibes.

Omar S – It Can Be Done But Only I Can Do It (FXHE RECORDS)

Omar S! Continuing to perfect Detroit techno! If you like minimal stuff, you have to hear this. Some songs have such a warmth and soul to them, perfect for after hours winding down, others are tense and confrontational with a steady energy. Nothing too adrenaline charged or agro, just well-crafted music artfully shifting into different soundscapes.

Hertta Lussu Assa – Hertta Lussu Assa (DE STIJL)

Sparsely, remote, gently haunting and very potent, this album sounds like an actual field recording of beautiful fairies having a tea party out in the forest! Especially track two, with piano, quiet laughter, crackles of wind or something moving outdoors, whistling and a vocal chorus of “ooohhs.” The next track starts with buzzing bees and adds a solemn, minor-key, jazzy piano riff, occasionally interrupted by a short, electronic sounding yowl. There is almost no percussion, only the pauses and repetition caused by the many sound loops.





As it turns out, the album is the work of three women from Finland: Lau Nau, Kuupuu and Islaja, all of whom have previous releases. Well with names like that, maybe they are fairies. If you like releases on the Fonal label, then you have to hear this!

Spank Rock – *Everything Is Boring & Everyone Is A F--ing Liar* (BAD BLOOD)

A bit of the harmonic convergence happening here, what with Spank Rock teaming up with Boys Noize as his producers. They work so well together at creating this electro-Hip-Hop party album. Certain songs like the full of attitude “Cool Shit” remind me of early early Hip-Hop, along the lines of Newcleus, but not literally retro sounding. There are also punky, call-to-arms anthems of encouragement for anyone pursuing artistic endeavors: “A man is not a man til he reaches for the stars”; “Live for something, move for something, fight for something, stand for something!” Santigold makes a guest appearance on “Car Song” and provides the only real singalong chorus on the album, “Who’s got the keys to my car? I don’t know.” Some songs have a sparse electro jitteryness, such as “DTF-DADT,” which also has an alienating glamor gone wrong video on YouTube that you MUST see. Who knew charades could get so violent? Well, I guess so if you’re from B-more!

Frank Ocean – *Nostalgia, Ultra* (SELF-RELEASED)

I’m absolutely blown away by this album! An Odd Future affiliate covering Coldplay’s “Strawberry Swing?” YES, turns out it’s a good choice for a soul singer too, but Mr. Ocean adds in apocalyptic visions, “spaceships lifting off of a dying world.” He also turns MGMT’s “Electric Feel” into “Nature Feels,” an idyllic erotic day-

dream. A beautiful singer, his voice has a youthful vulnerability and often a resigned sadness at living through human trials. In the song “We All Try,” he reminds us, “You MUST believe in something.”

This album has its share of open, tenderhearted moments and also a subtle, intelligent subversiveness. He turns The Eagles’ “Hotel California” into “American Wedding” and adds the line “her fancy, fancy cursive, she turned her term paper in, a thesis on Islam.” True genius how he mirrors the original lyrics but takes the song as far away from bloated ’70s radio rock as he can. Hmm, but maybe he chose it for its underlying paranoid feel. If you don’t have this album, BUY it, it’s essential!!! And I haven’t even mentioned the hits “Novacane” and my album favorite, “Swim Good.”

P.S. Can’t wait to hear Syd Tha Kyd’s new project, The Internet. More soul from Odd Future.

Erkin Koray – *Mechul: Singles & Rarities* (SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Blessed with a clear, emotive voice and plenty of guitar talent, pioneer Turkish rocker Erkin Koray made amazing records during the 1970s. Of course there is fuzz and wah wah guitar, they were sounds of the times. This collection has some blazing rockers and some melodic ballads. His albums, especially on vinyl, are pretty hard to find here in the U.S., so I treated myself to this record as soon as I saw it in the store.

L.A.M. – *Balance Of Terror (Reissue) 12* (HARDWAX/CLONE)

L.A.M., or Life After Mutation, is James Stinson and Gerald Donald of Drexciya. Originally released in 1992, it is full of John Carpenterian dark humor about the condition of modern society and fear for us and the planet if many self-(ish) destructive practices aren’t given up or overthrown. Song titles: “Hostile Bacteria,” “Radius Of Infliction,” “Death Toll” and “Nuclear Facelift.” Don’t say L.A.M. didn’t warn you! The music sounds like Drexciya, but more militant, some songs like superhero techno themes and others like the robots have taken over. Drexciya fans pick this up while you can!

Tip:

In the spirit of conservation and efficiency, I have tried to keep my reviews to a more reasonable length. I highly suggest that if any of these titles sound appealing to you, use our friend the Internet to look them up, and you’ll instantly be able to hear them! So simple.



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much as I do. Two discs, one with the actual field recordings and the other with the same recording slowed down 10 times.

Melodic squelching squeaking sounds. Meditative. Your friends might think you are crazy for listening to this, but you know what, fuck them. They think they are so cool listening to the Baby Grandmothers or whatever. You are cool for listening to whatever YOU WANT.

Taco Leg – Printed Gold 7”

(RICHIE RECORDS)

Aussie garage rock. Taco Leg wins best band name every in my book. Sounds good, tastes good!

Kryptic Minds – Can’t Sleep

(BLACK BOX)

Low-slung, dark and delicious dubstep. Also check out their first album, *One of Us*. It’s a future dubstep classic.

Tip:

**Change the structuring structures of your mind.*

**Every dollar is a political decision! Buy local and independent! Support your favorite small restaurant and eat out often! Always tip your waiter.*

**By the way, Verizon and AT&T are the largest donors to the Tea Party. So go ahead and get on your iPhone and Facebook that.*

**Did you know there are independent grocery stores? Atwater Village Farm is indie all the way. Local, fresh, organic and community-minded. [Atwatervillagefarm.com](http://atwatervillagefarm.com)*

**LA rockers Allah Las full-length coming soon. I love these guys!*

INFINITE JESS

“We tell ourselves stories in order to live.” — Joan Didion. My story is that if I had a time machine, I’d probably use it to stalk Cary Grant, hang out with the Bronte sisters and invest in Nintendo.

Manhattan (BLU) (2011) – Directed by Woody Allen

WINNER: Best Meryl Streep’s Hair — WINNER: Best Opening Montage of NYC Set to Gershwin — WINNER: Best Inappropriate But Still Heart-breaking Honesty Relationship — WINNER: Best Job Making Me Feel All of the Feelings.

Portlandia: Season One (DVD) (2011)

I think this show is near-universally adored enough that I don’t need to talk it up, so I’ll just use this space to humbly request that someone please give me Carrie Brownstein’s wardrobe from this show... and her career/life/comedy chops.

Wild Flag – Wild Flag (MERGE)

Carrie! I love you! How did you get to be so great? I’m embarrassing myself now, I’ll stop. But seriously, we should be best friends. I promise I’ll only gaze at you adoringly every third Wednesday of the month. Let’s hold hands.

Zola Jesus – Conatus

(SACRED BONES)

I want to keep this tiny woman in a black room with black gauzy curtains, 50 candles and moonlight gently streaming in the window. I’m afraid that if I don’t, she might turn into dust and stop waiting about darkness, and we can’t have that.

Desire – II (ITALIANS DO IT BETTER)

I am probably the only person in America who still hasn’t seen *Drive*, despite believing that Ryan Gosling just driving around in a scorpion jacket and nothing else whatsoever happening would’ve been a great movie. That’s beside the point, which is how glad I am that the soundtrack led to me being introduced to *Desire*, because my love for the synthesizer is serious business.

Kate Bush –

50 Words For Snow (ANTI-)

- Honorable Mention - I can’t in good faith say I loved this album (despite my respect for a lady





who enthusiastically writes a song about having sex with a snowman), but my devotion to Kate Bush runs so deep that I have to use this album as an excuse to tell you to listen to everything else she's ever done. If you like Joanna Newsom, Tori Amos, Florence + the Machine, Zola Jesus, Björk or Janelle Monae, then you can start thanking Kate for laying the groundwork for weird, awesome ladies and just generally dancing around in meadows like a weird, dark fairy.

Tip:

Check this out! → harkavagrant.com, 826la.org, [Iliad bookstore](http://Iliadbookstore.com) in N. Hollywood

JIMETTA ROSETTA

*Singer/songwriter/people lover/
light bearer/seeker of peace.
Catch me groovin at register 4.*

Thundercat – Golden Age of Apocalypse (BRAINFEEDER)

Truly a classic release!! The introspective lyrics and haunting melodies take us on a journey into the life and mind of a true young legend in the making. Added production from Flying Lotus is the icing on the cake.

Midnight in Paris (2011) – Directed by Woody Allen

I love this movie. Brilliantly twinkling like the city of Paris on a summer's night, this dialogue-driven film is exquisite. Like take a joy ride on a time machine!!

Little Dragon – Ritual Union

(PEACEFROG)

Yukimi Nagano's voice!! Nuff said!!

Betty Wright and The Roots – Betty Wright:

The Movie (S-CURVE/MS. B)

We played this in the store & I was pleasantly surprised. Betty is sitting on her throne claiming her queendom with this, proving she's still got it!!

Robert Glasper Experiment – Black Radio (BLUE NOTE/EMI)

With amazing collaborators from Erykah Badu to Anthony Hamilton, Chrisette Michele and new breakout artist KING, this album is sure to satisfy!!

Zero 7 – Simple Things

(PALM PICTURES)

My favorite on this album is "Likufanele," but a close runner-up is "This World." Amazing music with just the right vibe for all occasions.

JON

Doc Singe/Lil Sci – What's the Sciencz (MODULOR)

Rashad & Confidence – Element of Surprise

(ILL ADRENALINE)

Rustie – Ultra Thizz (WARP)

Will Sessions – Elmatic Instrumentals (FAT BEATS)

Void – Sessions 81-83 (DISCHORD)

Faith – Subject to Change (DIS- CHORD)

Blu & Exile – Below the Heavens (SOUND IN COLOR)

Robert Glasper Experiment – Black Radio (BLUE NOTE)

JORDAN H

**SOME OF MY FAVORITES
RELEASED THIS YEAR FOR HOME
LISTENING & CLUB PLAY:**

Soft Metals – Soft Metals

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Roman Flügel – Fatty Folders

(DIAL)

Storm Queen – It Goes On 12”

(ENVIRON)

**Bobby Browser – Just Browsing
EP 12”** (100% SILK)

**40 Thieves/Conor – Wandering
12”** (PUBLIC RELEASE)

Todd Terje – Ragysh EP 12”

(RUNNING BACK)

Alexis Blair Penney – Lonely

Sea 7” (HNYTRX)

Split Secs – I Am Not Loosin’

EP 12” (JOLLY JAMS)

Magik Touch – I Can Feel The

Heat 12” (100% SILK)

GB – The Provider EP 12”

(DIMENSION UNKNOWN)

**Levon Vincent – Impression Of
A Rainstorm EP 12”** (NOVEL SOUND)

Four Tet – Fabriclive 59 (FABRIC)

Water Borders – Harbored

Mantras (TRIANGLE)

**Aphex Twin – Selected
Ambient Works 85-92**

(R&S RECORDS)

Nico Purman – Visions EP 12”

(VAKANT)

Prosumer – Panorama Bar 03

(OSTGUT TON)



JOSH TAYLOR!

**Jonny Corndawg – Down On
the Bikini Line** (NASTY MEMORIES

RECORDS)

Pure America. Pure country. Pure hardworking, roaming and rambling. Pure freedom. Pure awesome. Best album of the year! Bocephus has been reborn in this young man! Life and experience prove a point, do it right, do it wrong, but at least do it. Get off your knees and spread a smile across the world! Jonny Corndawg!

Mike Jourgensen – Sealed

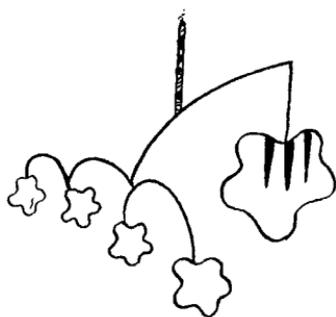
(D.U. RECORDS)

Babies are born with their skulls unsealed, and it is not until they are adults that the bony carapace is formed which completely encloses the membranes surrounding the brain and inhibits their pulsations in response to heartbeats or guitar solos. In consequence, the adult loses touch with the dream, imagination and intense perceptions of the child. To cure these problems, you should listen to this record, one of the highlights of my last few months! It's a production of a physio-psychedelic musical mania and is the best way to stay permanently "high" without trepanning a hole in your head! Nice on a level of 1 billion!

**Brian M. Clark – Songs From
the Empty Places Where People
Killed Themselves** (DISCRIMINATE

AUDIO)

Member of YOKO OH-NO and TAYLOR/CLARK/HAYDEN TRIO breaks free of his doom metal past and lays out pure beauty found in locations where suicide is the answer. Much like a nice big dog who is capable of long soulful communication and loves holding hands. The music has an uncanny human-like quality to grasp your frame, and when you thought it was time to break it off, it will lift its paw again and take you and say, "no, it's never time to cut connection." A gift of basking companionship and barking commentary drifting into a tranquil zone where the monkey-mind is silent, where only peace and stillness abides.



Sword & Sandals – Good & Plenty (EMPTY CELLAR)

John Dwyer, Randy Lee Sutherland and Shaun O'Dell create what I believe to be the genesis of the eerie "chorus of horns" that have been caught on at least 30 YouTube videos circulating around the globe. Listeners report sounds "surrounding them" without a source point of any nature. A vortex of light and frequency that allows time travel? This is a staggering revelation that is gigantic in size and a fantastic energetic transformation that is taking place around your reality and into universal understanding! Amazing!! Raw food for your ears!

Lou Reed & Metallica – Lulu (WARNER BROS.)

This is the Watts Towers of music! Is it possible that a wormhole was opened when this album was released? Since repeated plays of this record, my neighborhood has attracted multiple shootings in the streets, beheadings and sightings of what is known as the Michigan Dog Man. What power has come forth from the depths of the hidden infrasound found in the lower dBs of Lulu? Is it hostage hallucinations, visual imagery induced by isolation and life-threatening stress? A profound and in-touch record with inner "oneness" that is Nature and Divinity? Yes sir!

K.R. BLAIR- HENDERSON

*I grew up in Washington State.
I hate palm trees.*

EMA – Past Life Martyred Saints (SOUTERRAIN TRANSMISSIONS)

EMA's solo debut is an album that creeps up on you. Her extended tracks weave bittersweet violence, aching desires and lo-fi simplicity. Her songs hit me like early PJ Harvey and yet she doesn't sound much like her at all. This is a great record.

Neil Diamond – The Bang Years 1966-1968 (COLUMBIA)

I'm not a big Neil Diamond fan, but many years ago a buddy of mine had *Just for You* on vinyl, and it blew my mind how many amazing tracks Neil had packed onto his second record. I'd been looking for the record on CD without any luck when finally, this compilation came out containing both *Just For You* and *The Feel of Neil Diamond* in their entirety (though the tracks have been rearranged). These are Neil's first two full albums. He was young, hungry and awesome. This is all the Neil you'll ever need.

Meek's Cutoff (BLU) (2010) – Directed by Kelly Reichardt

This is the best Western since Jim Jarmusch's *Dead Man*. It is similar to *Dead Man* in almost no way at all save for its willingness to take the genre into fresh territory. It features a perfectly spare sound design, a 4:3 aspect ratio and the most believable portrayal of a native American that I've ever seen in the Old West. Perhaps it's time more women directors put their stamp on this genre.

Drive (BLU) (2011) – Directed by Nicholas Winding Refn

This is one of the most fully realized films of the last year. Everything from the score, to the color palette, to the perfectly executed set pieces and the rhythm of the film coalesce into something far greater than the sum of its parts. Don't get me wrong. You aren't going to walk away with a message or new insight into humanity. But you are going to get violence, car chases, gangsters, and Ryan Gosling being a badass all in what feels like an alternate reality where Michael Mann is the Director of Cultural Affairs.

The Killing (BLU) (1956) – Directed by Stanley Kubrick Thank you, Criterion.

Tokyo Drifter (BLU) (1966) – Directed by Seijun Suzuki Thank you, Criterion.

Branded to Kill (BLU) (1967) – Directed by Seijun Suzuki Thank you, Criterion.

Kiss Me Deadly (BLU) (1955) – Directed by Robert Aldrich Thank you, Criterion.

■ **Pale Flower (BLU) (1964) – Directed by Masahiro Shinoda**
Thank you, Criterion.

Department of Light & Power – Straight Grenadine (UNSIGNED)

This is an excellent, tight and polished pop-rock gem. It brings to mind The Shins and some of my favorite '90s college rock. Get it at departmentoflightandpower.com

Tip:

I count myself as exceedingly fortunate to be a producer of the "What's In My Bag?" series on amoeba.com not only because the videos are fun to make but because they have become my number one source of discovery for new music and new artists. You can't beat hearing people talk about the music they are passionate about.

LEN

Movement - The Peel Sessions 1977-1979 – Various Artists (BBC)

A wonderful two-disc set of post-punk & reggae artists, recorded for the John Peel Radio Show.

■ **This Is England '88 (2011) – Directed by Shane Meadows**
Comedy, Drama

□ **The Prisoner (Blu-Ray Collection) (1967) – Created by Patrick McGoochan**

The Fall – This Nation's Saving Grace (Omnibus Edition)
(BEGGARS BANQUET)

■ **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (Blu-Ray) (2012)**

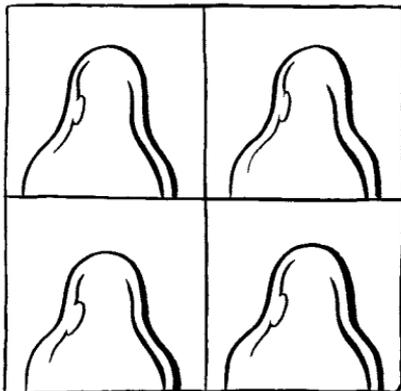
LINDSAYK.

Funny girls are not "damaged."

Hanni El Khatib – Will The Guns Come Out (INNOVATIVE LEISURE)

I hate guns (ask me about my gun story circa 1999), but I love this album.

Check out "Dead Wrong" — story tellin, doo-woping, surfy guitar, hand-clapping fun.



Wild Flag – Wild Flag

(MERGE RECORDS)

Wild Flag — Carrie, Janet, Mary, Rebecca! Gals at their best. Super catchy and inspiring. Should be listened to while reading Bust magazine, tweeting about reproductive rights, doing any type of baking or knitting a new iPhone cozy.

Bass Drum of Death – GB City

(INFLATED RECORDS)

The flesh on my skull thumps, the veins in my arms pulse, the tiny bones in my fingers twitch, blood vessels begin to burst and form tiny dots... am I starting to decompose? Or is it just the chemical process that happens when I get to listen to GB City at high levels?

□ **The Increasingly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret: Season 1 (2011) – Created by David Cross**

David Cross, Will Arnett. The chemistry, the absurdity, the hilarity.

■ **Chillerama (2011) – Various Artists**

It's a trashy anthology. It's in poor taste. It's very hard to watch. And I wouldn't even recommend that you watch it entirely. But, *I Was a Teenage Werebear* is the best/worst thing. It's hot garbage & dreamy Malibu Boys and you'll like it, but you won't admit that to anyone.

Nick 13 – Nick 13 (SUGAR HILL)

Warm country rain caramelizing on hot southern asphalt. Desert tumbleweeds crossing cactus in the late-day sun. Beautiful bucolic scenes unveil themselves in Nick 13's debut classic country vintage inspired album, and I love it.

■ **The House By the Cemetery** **(Special Edition) (2011) –** **Directed by Lucio Fulci**

Finally. Uncut, uncensored and in standard-def from the original. Lotsa good bonus stuff. My second favorite Fulci film. My description is as follows:

Strange things happen. Oh No! A bat fight! Does he have a bizarre past? squish. I don't know what's going on. The music is soooo good. Is this a ghost story? Body parts. This dubbing is crazy. The gore. Why did y'all move into a house by a cemetery? Ahh, don't go into the basement! Could this move any slower? Dr. Freudstein is the coolest name for a monster/Doctor yet. Why? Rut roh.

Tip: **Listen!**

Department of Light and Power [Matthew Sweet influenced pOpisms, completely unrelated to Andy Warhol] (departmentoflightandpower.com)

Metal Rouge [Experimental sounds featuring one Andrew Scott, who likes Jim O'Rourke & entomology] (emeraldcocon.com)

The Cigarette Burns [Saxophone punk with the vocal stylings of smartypants Steven Carrera] (facebook.com/cigaretteburns)

DogTeeth [You won't even mind getting rabies from these radical punks]

[RATFACE! RATFACE! RATFACE! RATFACE! RATface, RATface, Ratface, ratface] (thedogteeth.tumblr.com)

Eat!

Komeme Vegan - facebook.com/Komeme-Vegan

Doomies Vegan Home Cooking - facebook.com/doomie-shomecookin

LISA L.

I think that at the end of the day, I am the quintessential "average" listener. Especially here at Amoeba, where I am surrounded by people who have exhaustive/eclectic knowledge/tastes. Oh well. Here's some stuff I liked:

People Under the Stairs – **Highlighter** (PIECELOCK 70)

took me back to what I feel like is the heyday of Hip-Hop. Great rhymes and beats, creative

stories, subtle social commentary; it's all here. "Left Foot Right Foot" sums up my current philosophy perfectly.

Shabazz Palaces – Black Up

(SUB POP)

Grabbed my ear; I like the spaced out beats a lot. And in a larger sense, it's spaced out in both form and function, so there's plenty of room for you to fill in the blanks however you want.

Drive – Soundtrack

(LAKESHORE RECORDS)

The *Drive* Soundtrack was really good. I ended up finding the album my favorite song was on, *Desire II*. It has a sort of early '80s synth vibe. A few tracks are definitely songs to feel angsty without taking it too seriously. I'm always looking for tracks to add to my "I hate the world and/or you" mixtape (I still put it on once in a while) and there are some good candidates on here. But you can see the edge of the bell jar while listening which, at my age, is a good thing.

The National

Saw The National at the Hollywood Bowl on 9.11; awesome. Of course I was behind the drunk couple who was standing and singing along and fist pumping for the entire show, but it still ruled.

Arcade Fire – The Suburbs

(MERGE)

I know this is supposed to be current releases, but I just can't keep up. When I like something, I like it for a LONG time and it's all I want to listen to. So inevitably, I fall behind. I just started listening to Arcade Fire's *The Suburbs* and it's that album for me. It's all I've been listening to for the last couple of months. As someone who grew up in the suburbs, I can testify that this album captures the isolation that I felt as a kid in an uncanny way; they nailed it. The floating angsty suspicion that the placid surface of the neighborhood hid so much hypocrisy and unhappiness. I remember what it was like finding music that comforted me or made me feel seen or better yet, someone who liked the same music as I did — it bound you instantly. I've been talking to customers about the subject lately.



The Grammy's used to be completely divorced from my musical reality. *The Suburbs* won album of the year when it came out. And the other group that was obsessing me last time around when making my list, Bon Iver, also won an award. If you accept my premise that these are good records, then that means "the masses" are being exposed to great music. The Internet has kind of made the secret society of music a thing of the past. It's so much easier to find and hear things that used to take a lot of effort to be exposed to.

To quote Win, it used to be that "the music divides us into tribes." I don't think that's true anymore. My hope is that the next generation of music listeners will be more open-minded and more well-rounded as a result of having access to tons more music than I ever did. It will be interesting to watch it unfold...

J. MARK BEAVER

*"I don't care much about music.
What I like is sounds."
— Dizzy Gillespie*

Thee Oh Sees – *Carrion Crawler/Dream* (IN THE RED)

"The Dream" is my single of the year! This is my top of the pack go-to track to get my sorry, tired ass up and movin'! Saw them in Long Beach and claim for them the title of "greatest party band of the moment." Imagine you're watching one of those old Quincy or Dagnet episodes about the dangers of rock 'n' roll, and they go into a club, some band like THE SEEDS is wailing away on stage, bowl-cuts slappin' around their nodding heads as they punch the audience in the face with their dangerous garage beats and all the kids are freakin'-the-f... out! That's the show I went to... except for the bowl-cuts part.

Arnaud Rebotini – *Someone Gave Me Religion* (BLACK STROBE)

This is a little bit older, having come out way back in May, but I just stumbled onto it... so there. SGMR is a bit like an overview of electronica from Klaus Schulze to Atari Teenage Riot: a little scattered, a few tracks I have to discard, but the high points are so high! "Another Time Another Place" is my dancefloor single of the year! Check out the video on YouTube, like a modern tribute to Robert Palmer's "Addicted To Love" with foxy black girls in American Apparel gear rather than the cold, aloof white models of the '80s. An update for the better.



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Rebolledo – Super Vato (CQMM)

Mexico's Mauricio Rebolledo makes dance-floor music that's sometimes super-minimal, sometimes raw disco-overload, sometimes, like on "Steady Gear Rod Maschine," a build-up of primitive (donkey jaw?) percussion that's slowly engulfed by electronic rhythms gathered along the Autobahn... The handling of the diverse influences is really well-done. It's a weird, unsettling, under-polished album that will make you scratch yer head while you shake the booty.

Bonnie "Prince" Billy – Wolfroy Goes To Town (DRAG CITY)

Probably BBP's quietest release since *I See A Darkness*. Few songwriters take the chances he does with lyrics: "Why wait for someday/Why make a plan/Fuck birds in the bushes/Let's take them in hand" ("Quail & Dumplings"), and, "As boys we fucked each other/As men we lie and smile" ("New Tibet"). The guy knows what he's doing with his stories and his chords and I suspect he's made it just quiet enough to make you bend in close while he slips the noose around your neck. It took quite a while for this one to seep under my skin, but now it's there and I'm just gonna have to live with it.

Total Control – Henge Beat (TOTAL CONTROL RECORDS)

Saw these guys open for Thee Oh Sees, and they were awesome. Imagine Joy Division as a garage punk band with killer electro keyboards... Oh wait! Joy Division already had killer electro keyboards.

MARYANN

VUM – Night Sun (SECRET LODGE)

Great band. Great album. Great label. If you only buy one album this year, make it this one.

Forks Over Knives (2011) – Directed by Lee Fulkerson

This is the best documentary on this subject. Anyone interested in living a healthy lifestyle should watch this film.

Downton Abbey (2010-2012)

Not since "The Wire" have I been so obsessed with a television show. Well, minus that whole "Brothers & Sisters" phase where I wanted to move to Ojai, grow vegetables and change my name to Walker. Anyway, I highly recommend this one.



Our Idiot Brother (2011) – Directed by Jesse Peretz

I think this movie was overlooked by many. It reminds me of someone I hold dear, who is not an idiot, or my brother. It's both fun and heart-warming.

Adele Live At The Royal Albert Hall (2011) – Directed by Paul Dugdale

Watching Adele is just as mesmerizing as listening to Adele. This is a must-have.

MATT MESSBARGER

THE 10 BEST THINGS I BOUGHT AT AMOEBIA RECENTLY:

The Magnificent Ambersons (1942) – Directed by Orson Welles

Finally released in the U.S. on DVD.

Three Silent Classics [The Criterion Collection] (DVD) (2010) – Directed by Josef Von Sternberg

The Prowler (DVD) (2011) – Directed by Joseph Losey

The Complete Fritz Lang Mabuse Box Set (2009) – Directed by Fritz Lang

Dr. Mabuse/The Gambler/The Testament of Dr. Mabuse/The 1000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse

📺 **The Spiritualist aka
The Amazing Mr. X (1948) –
Directed by Bernard Vorhaus**

📺 **The Enchanted Cottage
(1945) – Directed by John
Cromwell**

📺 **Hangover Square (1945) –
Directed by John Brahm**
📺 **Mildred Pierce (DVD) (2012)
– Directed by Todd Haynes**

📺 **Los Angeles in the 1930s:
The WPA Guide to the City of
Angels – by Federal Writers
Project of the Works Projects
Administration and David
Kipen (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS)**

**Lee Hazlewood –
Lee Hazlewood-ism: Its Cause
and Cure (WATER)**

MICHAEL ROSAS

*I used to write these really long
reviews here. As you can tell, not so
much anymore. Nowadays, I tend to
do a lot of that over here now:
www.somethingforallofus.net
My music blog, check it out.*

*That aside, here are six albums
that I've been enjoying for the
past six months or so:*

**Cloud Nothings – Attack on
Memory (CARPARK)**

**Sharon Van Etten – Tramp
(JAGJAGUWAR)**

**The Big Pink – Future This
(4AD)**

**Of Montreal – Paralytic Stalks
(POLYVINYL)**

**Porcelain Raft – Strange
Weekend (SECRETLY CANADIAN)**

Tip:

Check these labels out on the internet for quality independent releases:

Track Number Records www.tracknumberrecords.com
Great Minds! [Formerly, Number 3 records]
www.greatmindsrecordings.com

And also, check out my very talented friends' Bandcamp pages:

Nathaniel Eras: <http://eras.bandcamp.com/>

Ray Montes: <http://sunriseowl.bandcamp.com/>

MONALISA

*Deejay, music lover,
soulfunk fanatic, Hip-Hop junkie,
world music aficionado, jazz enthusiast,
rock 'n' roll gangsta, etc.*

**Black Spade – To Serve With
Love (OM HIP HOP)**

The lyrics, production, and overall talent on this record are really amazing. St. Louis native Black Spade a.k.a. Stoney Rock is both an emcee and a vocalist, and presents both talents on this album straight from the heart and the lip. Not too hard, not too soft, just perfectly put together — with love.

**I, Ced – All In My Mind
(RECORDBREAKIN.COM)**

A mellow, eclectic, soulful effort by St. Louis native Cedric Norah, known for his work with Shafiq Husayn (Sa Ra), Hawthorne Headhunters, Coultrain & Black Spade.

**Thundercat – Golden Age Of
Apocalypse (BRAINFEEDER)**

A beautiful mixture of electronica, bass, and love, created by Stephen Bruner (best known as the bassist for Suicidal Tendencies), brother of Ronald Bruner, Jr. (drummer for Stanley Clarke, George Duke and countless others), both children of musician Ronald Bruner Sr. (don't even get me started on his catalog). The album features tributes to both Clarke & Duke, and guest vocals by Miss Erykah Badu.

**Mark De Clive-Lowe –
Renegades (TRU THOUGHTS)**

Another well-rounded and great sounding release by one of electronic music's finest producers. His ninth release features vocals by



the beautiful Miss Nia Andrews, Tawiah, Sandra Nkake, and Ovasoul, and guest appearances by Sheila E, Omar S, Pino Palladino & Miguel Atwood-Ferguson.

Marcus Miller – Tales

(DREYFUS JAZZ)

I'm a fan of Marcus Miller's entire catalog, but this album stands out for one major reason aside from the great production: the TALES. In between tracks, various guests speak about music and tell their joyful and humorous stories of their experiences in the music world. Features Q-Tip, Roberta Flack, Joe Sample, Miles Davis, and a tribute to Eric Gale. Vocal appearances by Meshell Ndegeocello & Lalah Hathaway.

Starship 27, Vol. 2: Take Off –

Various Artists ((IN)SECT RECORDS)

Compiled by J-I aka The Deer. Features stellar electronic/Hip-Hop production by Dibiase, Dam Funk, House Shoes, Pudge, Eric Lau, I-Ced, Black Spade, Coultrain, Devon Who, Kone, Computer Jay, Ras G and more.

J-I aka The Deer departed this life on December 6, 2011. He leaves behind a treasured catalog of music, and a lasting reputation for hardworking and dedication to his craft. He will be missed eternally by his family and friends in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Cleveland, and worldwide.

Maimouna Youssef –

The Blooming (SELF-RELEASED)

Erykah Badu + Jaguar Wright + Joi Gilliam + Jean Grae x Zap Mama x Ursula Rucker = oh my damn. This girl is amazing.

Crystal Johnson – A Day Before Heaven

(EGYPTIAN FUSION)

If you're a fan of Hip-Hop, you've heard this beautiful voice before on Mobb Deep's "Temperature's Rising" original and remix, Pete Rock & CL Smooth's "I'll Take You There," and Heavy D's "Got Me Waiting," among others. Crystal's album is a vast representation of her influences, featuring jazzy notes, reggae vibes, soulful house,

and deep soul, and is highly recommended for those who appreciate a sultry harmonious voice that can represent many styles of song.

J-I aka The Deer – The Yellow 7"

(RECORD BREAKIN')

A 3 song vinyl 7" EP produced by J-I, featuring vocals by Jimetta Rose, Ragen Fykes, and Coultrain, also featuring I-Ced, Devonwho and Teeko.

Tip:

Question: what's the name of that song playing on the radio right now!?!?

Answer: www.yes.com

PHIL

Sissy Spacek – Harm (TRONIKS)

Zola Jesus – Conatus

(SACRED BONES)

Project Nim (2011) – Directed by James Marsh

Drive (2011) – Directed by Nicolas Winding Refn

The Yellow Sea (2010) – Directed by Hong-jin Na

Tip:

Support local 35mm repertory cinema: New Beverly, Cinefamily, Egyptian, Aero.

RACHAEL MCGOVERN

So much music, not nearly enough time.

The Book of Drugs: A Memoir – by Mike Doughty (DA CAPO PRESS)

The former frontman for Soul Coughing published a memoir of his journey into and out of addiction alongside tales of his band's rise and breakup. It's an honest and heartbreaking book. As an ardent Soul Coughing fan back in the day, it was incredibly revealing to hear his perspective on the band and his place within it, and it made me understand why he suddenly ended the band.

The Black Keys – *El Camino*

(NONESUCH)

▶ *Pearl Jam Twenty (DVD) (2011)* – Directed by Cameron Crowe

A documentary about Pearl Jam starting from their precursor, Mother Love Bone, and continuing through their 20th anniversary as a band. The film recaptured the excitement and joy I felt in high school hearing those songs for the first time, and it made me cry with happiness. Even non-PJ fans will appreciate the film as it was lovingly shot under Cameron Crowe's stewardship. Their version of "Crown of Thorns" by Mother Love Bone (which is thankfully on the soundtrack) was on repeat in my car for weeks.

Kanye West & Jay-Z – *Watch the Throne* (DEF JAM)

Toro y Moi – *Freaking Out* (CARPARK)

The Big Pink – *Future This* (4AD)

First Aid Kit – *The Lion's Roar* (WICHITA RECORDINGS)

▶ *Beats Rhymes & Life: The Travels of A Tribe Called Quest (DVD) (2011)* – Directed by Michael Rapaport

Tip:

Check out "What's In My Bag?" on Amoeba.com for glimpses into your favorite artist's shopping bag.

RAFF

*I am he as you are he as you are me
& we are all together.*

□ *Adventure Time with Finn and Jake (2010)* – Created by Pendleton Ward

Amazingly funny and creatively weird cartoon voiced by John DiMaggio (Bender on "Futurama"). Hey Cartoon Network, release the seasons instead of whetting our appetites with random episodes.

▶ *Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory (2011)* – Directed by Joe Berlinger & Bruce Sinofsky

A happy ending to some degree, unless you like justice.

▶ *Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure (2011)* – Directed by Matthew Bate

Underground cassette trading in the late '80s and '90s saw phony phone callers, crazy musicians, celebrity outtakes and most shockingly, the drunk dysfunctional arguments of Raymond and Peter. Uncover the mystery of who they were and how these tapes were recorded in this documentary. You can learn more at the library or shutuplittleman.com. "Giggle dirty little man! You Always Giggle Falsely."

□ *Portlandia: Season One (2011)* – Created by Fred Armisen

What a sad little tote bag. I know, I'll put a bird on it!

Tip:

goo goo g'joob

RENONDO (DA DA)

Buyer, pricer, father.

*Local dubstep disc jockey &
proud member of the Clipper Nation.*

Joe Henderson – *Pursuit of Blackness* (MILESTONE)

Second phase in his long career & though my favorite. Recorded in 1970-1971.

Mungo's Hi Fi – *Forward Ever* (SCOTCH BONNET)

Top ranking digi reggae out of Glasgow, Scotland.

Silkie – *City Limits Volume 2* (DEEP MEDI MUSIK)

Funk for the future.

Soom T – *Ode To a Carrot* (SCOTCH BONNET)

A digital 8-bit masterpiece.

On-U Sound Disco Plate Pt. 1 –

Various Artists (ON U SOUND)

Sold roots, dub produced in London in the late '70s. By Adrian Sherwood.

Evidence – Cats & Dogs

(RHYMESAYERS)

Evidence drops his second solo album. From beginning to end, you won't be disappointed; every track is good.

RICK FRYSTAK

Boris Yoffe – Song of Songs (ECM)

Mr. Yoffe writes impressive volumes of music, and this recording unveils his lovely genius in the form of exquisitely floating, introspective and dissonant sounds for string quartet and four voices. Hovering harmonic heaven in an audioworld somewhere in the ether between Takemitsu and Feldman, music seemingly needing no beginning, middle or end. Integrating many short pieces assembled to form substantial movements, the works maintain an intriguing spatial ambiguity while assuredly owning their own power.

Erdem Helcacioglu – Altered

Realities (NEW ALBION)

Austere set of electric guitar chording with loops and processing accompanying. Probing washes of sentiment and technology simply laid out with the end result quite alluring and detailed. Altered reality indeed.

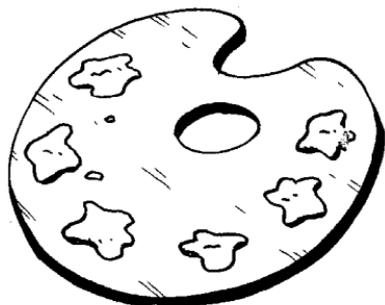
Enrico Rava Quintet – Tribe

(ECM)

Italian trumpeter Rava triumphs once again with this set of gorgeous, bubbling Euro-jazz spirit. Haunting yet accessible, nostalgic yet cutting-edge melodic storytelling with jabbing, sensuous improvisation. Pianist Giovanni Guidi astounds with his sensitive, harmonic chops. The tight rhythm section's interactive style affects equal innovation of the very memorable sort. Mr. Rava never ceases to impress as he continues to write his own legend. Five stars.

Gurdjieff Folk Instruments Ensemble – Music of Georges I. Gurdjieff (ECM)

Fascinating and sonically splendid collection of late 19th century spiritual music (usually on piano) performed here by this wonderful 15-mem-



ber group. Ethnic potpourri ascending to heights imagined by the composer, the simple melodic curves and spiritual vibe really gels with ouds, duduks, santur, tar, saz and more. The flowing continuity of all this with the simplicity of Gurdieff's composition is entrancing. I believe!

Hazard – Land (TOUCH)

Very minimal electronic loops and patterns, setting up an enticing mood and just staying there for a bit. I feel fortunate that artists like this want to do these types of pieces. Nice aural surroundings to live to, whatever you're doing. It's there, you know, because you turned it on. I like to walk and listen to this recording.

Lama Gyurme & Jean Philippe Rykiel – The Lama's Chants

(NARADA)

I love the sound of the Buddhist monk Gyurme's chanting over a nice synthesizer patch. So I like this two-CD compilation of Gyurme's timeless vocalizations, heavy with spirit and meaning, his deeply resonant voice like a huge icon to his life's reason. Rykiel supports with lush modes and harmonies on his keyboards to offset and accentuate the master's intonations. Airy, minimal and deeply felt music and sound from men transmitting some heavy vibrations.

Edgardo Canton – Musiques Electroacoustiques (CREEL DONE)

Keith F Whitman's reissue label does it again with this release, a wonderful early electronic and concrete sound CD-R lovingly put together for fans of this stuff like me. Canton wrote some of the best of this genre in 1962-70, and I really like his studio sounds and exotic compositional style. It's all about the organization of sounds on these types of records, and Canton has it together. Beauteous bloop-bleep and ecstatic echo combine for a fascinating journey not of this earth. With cool geometric graphic sleeve.

Tim Hecker – *Mirages* (ALIEN)

Tim gives forth another fine disc of minimal electronic and processed-sound pieces that vibrate deeply into the psyche, a haunting presence on hand. Inspiration comes from and fades into other dimensions and then back. These sounds always move me to reflect inward, with a sort of nostalgia built into the resonant frequencies, somehow conjuring up the past and the future at once. Psycho-acoustic.

Pat Zimmerli – *Modern Music*

(NONESUCH)

Wondrous collection of modern composition for two pianos, played by Brad Mehldau and Kevin Hayes, featuring a great piece by Zimmerli, whom I'd never heard of before. The disc features piano music by Reich, Glass and Ornette too, but the Zimmerli work is the real star here, standing shoulder to shoulder with the other more famous composers' pieces in a 20th century "minimalist" style, yet very original. Fast paced and melodic, showcasing the skill of the musicians. Quite a mover and groover, I daresay.

Jordi Savall & Hesperion XXI

– *Lachrimae Caravaggio* (ALLAVOX)

My infinite love for Jordi and his clan is again revived by this release, one I'd never seen before. A collection of superbly performed, enchanting and moving music from the 16th century with pieces written recently by Savall to complement and connect the music to make this an amazing and deep listening experience, quite unlike anything previous. Deeply sensitive virtuosity and cinematic scale.

Chris Watson – *El Tren*

Fantasma (TOUCH)

Ex-Throbbing Gristler Chris Watson makes an elegant and mesmerizing sound piece from train trip recordings in Mexico. He's made many field

recording pieces, but this one takes him into Musique Concrete territory and is every bit as good as his elders in that genre. Station sounds, track sounds, announcements and machinery are enthralling in a musical context. Groovy old train photos adorn the textured cover.

Stefano Battaglia Trio –

The River of Anyder (ECM)

Stefano delivers a modal style, like little mirages, on his piano as this "jazz" trio pushes and pulls around him to create a glorious coming-together of emotions and technique. The nuance and attention to each riff give this music a unique, spellbinding style. Top-drawer sound, too.

Roger Eno – *Flatlands* (ALL SAINTS)

The younger Eno sibling put forth this piece in '98, but I just noticed it, and it's a pleasant surprise in terms of the growth Roger has made from the '80s to the late '90s in his composing prowess. It's an ensemble piece that features piano and strings, and comes up as the best work of his that I've been exposed to. Modern composition of the melodic and contrapuntal variety, with delicious chords and sweet string sweeps dictating the direction.

Fennesz & Sakamoto –

Flumina (TOUCH)

In my view the most interesting piano/electronics collaboration that Sakamoto-san has made to date. I loved his *Comica* disc, which set the tone for this direction, and his material with Alva Noto is cool, too. The two he's made with Fennesz before this pale in comparison to this deep, lush and savory set of soundwaves. More introspective and calculated beauty and sound characterize the definitive stature of this set, and the two guys seem to be very comfortable with each other as they've been playing together with YMO and touring. Nice fold-out package with oceanic photography.

Patrick O'Hearn – *Transitions*

(PATRICK O'HEARN MUSIC)

I like all of O'Hearn's music, so anything he does gets me listening. Patrick has been doing his thing for almost 27 years, making big, deep glacially-moving synthesizer music, it's endearing simplicity being a stark feature of the composing style. This new one is made up of more very accessible modes and chords leading into other chords and modes, with thick synth pads and shimmering tones that carry the chords around on their shoulders. Post-new-age music for the enlightened.





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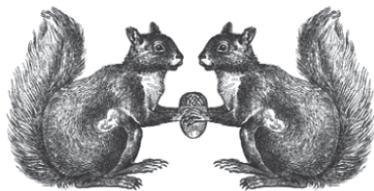
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Ricardo Villalobos/Max

Loderbauer – Re:ECM (ECM)

These fellows took existing music in the ECM label catalog, cut them up and sliced and diced them into new pieces of their own with only said ECM recordings as their sound sources. One of the best ambient electronic records I've heard recently, with the pre-existing composed bits of sound re-composed to form fascinating tracks with mega-integrity in their own right, unusual textures and phonics being the result. A new exalting impression with every listen.

Gary Husband – Dirty & Beautiful Volume I

(ABSTRACT LOGIX)

In-the-pocket shred sessions from drummer/keyboardist Husband, with inspired writing, improvising and just playing. Men like Jerry Goodman, Jan Hammer, Allan Holdsworth and John McLaughlin perform some magnificent guest soloing to deem this CD a keeper of a high order, delivering the goods as advertised. This jazz-rock music is truly alive and vital in their hands.

Herbie Hancock – Mwandishi (Japanese 24bit Mini-Lp Gold Disc) (WGM JAPAN)

The great *Mwandishi* album remastered in high-definition, plucked from Amoeba's Japanese mini-LP section, and what a great sound on this disc. I loved the record when it came out in '71 along with *Crossings*, and the new electronic jazz music he created here generated a new genre copied by scores of folks then and since. Washes of phased funky foosh and wail, Rhodes richness over muted sinew. Each listen yields new emotional response and delivers the needed jazz swing. I'm still finding these Japanese audiophile-quality reissues of some of my old favorite records right out of the bins, and they're there, just waiting to be snagged and enjoyed... again.

Beach Boys – Smile Sessions

(CAPITOL)

Monumental first official issue of this masterpiece, with fine packaging and even finer sound. Be "in" the studio with the boys listening in on lots of takes, then sit back and enjoy his "final" mixes. Dig Brian and the Boys at all? This is it. Greatness with a capital "G".

Joyce & Nelson Angelo –

Nelson Angelo e Joyce (ODEON/EMI)

Heartfeltly crafted, melodious Minas Gerais/Clube Esquina-style Brazilian pop from Angelo in 1972 sung by Joyce. Follow Milton, Beto and

Flavio down the rainbow they're probably checking out the deeply rooted, progressive compositions and arrangements of Nelson Angelo. You can't do better when it comes to the forward-thinking vibe on this record, huge talents shinning from planning to execution, achingly hip. The spring reverbs and echo chambers at EMI Brasil help tell the tale.

Tip:

Dig Amoeba's book section with aisles of interesting volumes to hold in your hands. I'm into photography books, and I've picked up some real beauts over the past few months, including The Painter's Pool by Jem Southam; The Bridge at Hoover Dam by Jamey Stillings; The Dark Lens by Cedric Delsaux; Our Intent Is All For Your Delight by John Hinde; and Reservoir by Bas Princen.

CASHIER DU CINEMA

I like to watch.

■ **The Tree of Life (2011) – Directed by Terrence Malick**

Hauntingly poetic, sweepingly fluid, emotionally permeating. Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life* sucked me into its subconscious narrative like a strong undercurrent. A nostalgic, surreal film that feels like a stroll through someone's (Malick's?) childhood... and also the history of the universe. My favorite film of 2011.

■ **Red State (2011) – Directed by Kevin Smith**

Having never seen a Kevin Smith film before, I didn't know what to expect when I popped in his latest work on that clear and cool, fateful evening. What I got was an all-out, brawling blood bath involving some extreme religious zealots in the tradition of Westboro Baptist Church. *Red State* is a raucous romp with some great moments of suspense and a chillingly wonderful performance by Michael Parks. If this is any indication of Mr. Smith's existing tome, I'm renting *Clerks* ASAP for some roll-rockin', shoot-em-up action!

■ **Midnight in Paris (2011) – Directed by Woody Allen**

One of Woody Allen's great proven abilities as a filmmaker is his adeptness at focusing on and exploring an overarching theme. In his latest film, *Midnight in Paris*, the theme is nostalgia. And with Allen's mix of humor, fantasy and drama, the film is his strongest in years. Owen Wilson, playing

Allen's familiar "writer" character, finally gets to use his comedic skills after being on autopilot for so long. Good job, Woody! Great film!

■ **Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) – Directed by Rupert Wyatt**

Although not quite as good as the original sequel (1972's *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes*), Rupert Wyatt's remake is a thrilling, special-effects spectacle that follows mainly the story of Caesar, "played?" by motion-capture virtuoso Andy Serkis, whose animated turn as a neurologically evolved chimpanzee is truly a sight to behold. Especially when they're all on the bridge and the cops are all there... I won't give it away, but... oh man, that was so great!

■ **The Last Circus (2010) – Directed by Alex de la Iglesia**

When you were in school, and you learned about the Spanish Civil War, and you sat there and you looked out the window and wondered, "What about the circuses? What happened to the clowns during the war?" Well, look no further than *The Last Circus* for your answer. Alex de la Iglesia's surrealistic, quirky fantasy moves from romantic to oddly sinister and back again on a dime. Beautiful, weird and original, with one of the best opening sequences I've ever seen, *The Last Circus* is a twisted fairy tale worth checking out. Coulrophobics beware though.

Tip:

Hi, Mr. B. How are ya?





RM

*Classical buyer for Amoeba Hollywood.
Previously senior manager for
catalog music at Warehouse
Entertainment
and Virgin Megastores.*

Symphony #10

Composed by: Mahler

Featuring: Berthold Goldschmidt

(TESTAMENT)

This important document is a three-CD set of the first complete performances of the Mahler unfinished 10th Symphony as reconstructed by English Musicologist Deryck Cooke and conducted by Berthold Goldschmidt. The three CD-set includes the incomplete first performance of 1960 and a 1964 complete performance with the missing portions of movements two and four supplied by Alma Mahler the composers widow. Included is a BBC lecture by Cooke about the symphony and its reconstruction.

WTC 9/11 / Mallet Music

Composer: Steve Reich

**Featuring: Kronos Quartet/
So Percussion**

(NONESUCH)

WTC 9/11 is Steve Reich's reaction to the events of September 11th. A terse and moving work performed by the Kronos Quartet dubbed three times plays all three string parts. Included is another new Reich work, Mallet Quartet performed by So Percussion.

Complete Symphonies

Composer: Beethoven

**Featuring: Riccardo Chailly/
Leipzig Gewandhaus**

(DECCA)

There are many recordings of the nine Beethoven Symphonies, but these performances by Riccardo Chailly and the famed Leipzig Gewandhaus take a fresh look at them. Tempos are quick as Beethoven annotated them, and textures are lean and transparent.

RUBY

American Gladiator

St. Vincent – Strange Mercy

(4AD)

Probably my favorite album of 2011.

Childish Gambino – CAMP

(GLASS NOTE)

"I do not talk, I am just a rapper."

Toro y Moi – Freaking Out

(CARPARK)

Check him out, he's talented.

Miles Davis Quintet –

Live in Europe 1967: The

Bootleg Series Vol. 1 (SONY LEGACY)

Sit back and enjoy.

Midnight in Paris (2011) –

Directed by Woody Allen

Another amazing Woody Allen film. Also, Owen Wilson is actually pretty good in this.

The Lion King (1994) –

**Directed by Roger Allers and
Rob Minkoff**

The scene with Simba and Mufasa always gets me.

LORD PHANTOM

*Sometime I go by Deuce, sometime
DJ Hellhammer, even Lord Phantom, but
usually Sam will suffice. I figured this
time you can call me Chef 'cause
I put together a list of top Metal stuff for
2011 that I cooked up and am ready to
serve to 'ya! Here's a solid 15 choices
that you should taste.*

Opeth – Heritage (ROADRUNNER)

This Opeth recording is about going back to their roots, but of course this causes some problems with the diehards. This is straight up Richie Blackmore metal mixed with folk-type motives, which brings a richness to the compositions that will upset many but please more. A little proggy, a little derivative, a lot metal — it's definitely worth checking it out.

Tombs – Path of Totality

(RELAPSE)

This Brooklyn trio has released a solid metal release that is atmospheric and heavy! The approach goes from dudes who listen to Death in June, Killing Joke and Mogwai, and then remind everyone that they still originate from the ethos of Black Metal!

Arch/Matheos – Sympathetic

Resonance (METAL BLADE)

Wow, where to begin? This is a pairing of the original singer and the architect/guitarist of Fates Warning. While I wouldn't try to convince anyone that this is a great album, I will say that it's awesome to hear new stuff from this amazing creative duo. Also, the musicianship on this is ridiculous with the additional excellent contributions of Armored Saint's/current Fate Warning's Joey Vera and the amazing Bobby Jarzombek on drums. Yes, it's not in the league of *Awaken The Guardian* (or even *The Spectre Within*), but it still is a solid effort worth checking out!

Ghost – Opus Eponymous

(METAL BLADE/RISE ABOVE)

This band has made a major impact on the metal scene. It's obvious that the image, the homage to Merciful Fate meets B.O.C., and the mystery of who these guys really are have a lot to do with this but just listen to the tunes. This album isn't too heavy, but it does come with plenty of riffing and solid playing. The singer — Papa Emeritus — is excellent. Papa is believed to be Tobias Forge of Repugnant, or so that's what Beelzebub whispered in my ear one night. Members of Watain & Entombed are said to be some of the Ghouls behind the instruments. Either way, the track "Ritual" is an instant classic!

In Solitude – The World.

The Flesh. The Devil.

(METAL BLADE)

True Metal isn't really that common. Sure, you have many black metal bands, many power metal bands, but just some dudes kicking out some metal riffs and not trying to be so over-the-top is hard to come by. Especially when it's quality. This Swedish quintet gets it. They've woodshedded, they've listened to the originals, and the result is one killer record.

Portrait – Crimen Laesae

Majestatis Divinae (METAL BLADE)

Yet again, Merciful Fate has another Swedish child on this list. Portrait play true '80s metal, but they do it with such conviction that it doesn't

come across as contrived or unauthentic. The singer does seem to strain a bit, but I still was banging my head with every note.

Wolves In The Throne Room

– Celestial Lineage (SOUTHERN LORD)

This duo from Olympia, Wash. has mentioned several different influences, but it's very apparent that the Norwegian Black Metal scene is the main influence. They combine this with their strict environmental perspective to hit you with long thematic songs. It seems that the Weaver brothers often go unnoticed, but if you take the time to listen to their stuff, you can't help but be impressed with the compassion and forcefulness of their music.

Rwake – Rest (RELAPSE)

A Little Rock, Ark. sextet that is the embodiment of extreme music as played with nothing but sincerity. This may be the best album of the year but it's not for the meek. This band has been around for something like 15 years but this record seems so fresh that it feels like it might be a culmination of all things experienced in 15 years (or more) — not some recording session to put out a product. All those who get this may understand that we may not inherit the earth, but at least we got to experience the aural rage of humanity.

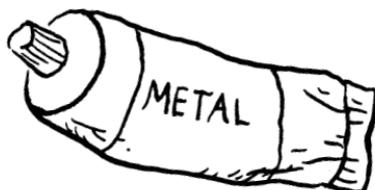
Havok – Time Is Up (CANDLELIGHT)

A Colorado thrash band that is obviously familiar with the Bay Area scene. They like Lazarus A.D. and Evile, and have heard their share of Testament, Exodus and Vio-lence. Slayer is also a major influence but damn, they are able to do this stuff in 2011 and that is what makes it so good!

Lazarus A.D. – Black Rivers

Flow (METAL BLADE)

Lazarus A.D. is a band that hails from Kenosha, Wisconsin and I have no idea where this town actually is but I do know that this band is true Thrash Metal. This band will most likely not have much of a chance 'cause the type of metal they play is just really good not fitting the current hipster niche of the moment. The thing about



'80s metal is that you could play modal scales, go into some half-time groove and then break out into some mosh moment and not worry about what sub-genre you fall into. Now, most bands are scrambling to style themselves after the current trend. Good luck with that, but I'd rather have pure metal that's true, and Lazarus A.D. is following that approach.

Riot – Immortal Soul

(STEAMHAMMER/SPV)

The mighty Riot! But wait, which version is this? Mark Reale decided to put together the Thundersteel line-up back together, and the result is solid American power metal that only he could bring. Hearing this MK III Riot back together is amazing. This isn't quite the Thundersteel album yet the band is actually more proficient and focused. Riot is one of the most underrated bands in rock or metal and the MK I's *Fire Down Under* is a classic. Mark Reale has been the constant in the history of this band and the fact that even though he just recently passed, his impact in music might be the best indicator that maybe you can be immortal.

Thin Lizzy – Black Rose

(Reissue) (MERCURY/UNIVERSAL)

Thin Lizzy. This is a band whose stature in rock has grown throughout the years. The history of the band has been talked about often, as has the charismatic leader, Phil Lynott. They are a band that is not singular but not just versatile. They are Metal. They are grandiose. They are simple. They are complicated. They don't sell records. They do influence. *Black Rose* was yet another crossroads for the band. Downey & Gorham as a team was no longer, and in comes Gary Moore to once again help out. Only this time, he didn't just help out, he took over for one brief moment. At this point, some dudes are jaded, some like to partake in junk, some like to dream, and others like to just finish a record. Gary guided them, and the result was an album filled with many classics, but of course, all you have to do is listen to "Roisin Dubh" to understand that this isn't just folklore — this album does exist, and there's now a deluxe version released in 2011. If you don't want to read about legends and you regard most stories as myths, that's cool. But you owe yourself some time to check out Messrs Moore & Lynott's collaborations. Phil died Jan. 4, 1986, and Gary, just recently in 2011, on Feb. 6. Listen to this record. And then listen again.

Anthrax – Worship Music

(NUCLEAR BLAST)

Finally, Anthrax officially release a new album. They had a lot of stop and starts with this re-

lease since one singer dropped out, another one wasn't comfortable to rejoin, and Belladonna needed a little time to get back into the groove. Man, did he find his groove! He sounds better than ever and the band seems to have found a new creative jolt in their songwriting. This band has been left for dead a few times but this time, they've come back stronger than Rasputin. Listen. See what you think. Pretty good right?

Black Country Communion –

2 (MASCOT RECORDS)

Well, supergroup is a term that has been thrown around so much for so long that Blind Faith is now a fossil you can check out at the La Brea Tar Pits. So instead of calling this a supergroup, I would just say that Black Country Communion is an amalgamation of excellent musicianship, familiar names, '70s rock aesthetics, catchy songs and a certain Glenn Hughes, who's healthier, tougher and willing to belt out any note to keep you listening.

Absu – Abzu (CANDLELIGHT RECORDS)

The fastest band on the earth. I don't mean in the Dragonforce way, I mean some marriage between black metal and thrash. This Texas trio has conjured up some melodies with the blastbeats that takes the listener into a wall of darkness. Prosciptor McGovern is not really Dan Beehler or Barry Stern but a new generation of drummer/singers like a guy who wanted to scream like Sodom or Voi-vod and then played drums to Satyricon records. Dig it!

Tip:

Save your chips and go out to Footsie's on Tuesdays to listen to all the metal gems the nice folks handling the turntables are spinning.

ANDORKAPPEN

I usually wait a year or so before I get into "contemporary" releases. I wait to let any sort of hype die down...

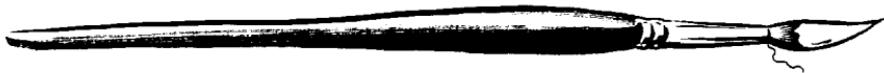
Thus, some of my picks are slightly older, but still fresh and not "dated." :)

Be a leader, not a follower. Don't believe ANY of the goddamn hype.

Wurm – Insomnies

(RIGORISM PRODUCTION)

Canadian bedroom black metal of the finest caliber with occasional ambient, folk & flamenco (!) elements. Very raw, but very pure. Most people



won't "get it" due to the lack of traditional/typical heavy metal production values (and lack of easy accessibility as an apparent Russian import — but you might never know what you might find in our 666 section — or in online metal blogs, for that matter :))

Moloch – Misanthropie Ist Der Einzige Weg Zur Reinheit

(HUSK RECORDS)

Ukrainian depressive ambient one-man black metal from a dude who goes by the name "Pr. Sergiy Fjordsson." Imagine young Burzum collaborating with Vinterriket — but even rawer and weirder. This album is like 80 minutes long and extremely varied and epic. Easily the dude's masterpiece thus far (some of his other COUNTLESS releases are perhaps a bit less accomplished — but there's plenty that I haven't heard yet...)

Black Cobra – Invernal

(SOUTHERN LORD)

I always thought that this duo was one of the most powerful and hardest playing live acts in heavy music. This is their most cohesive studio effort to date, perhaps more polished and produced than before — but it works for them mighty well. High On Fire and Melvins are obvious points of reference here, yet I rate this band above both. Might as well respect my opinion, thanx! :)

Blood – Everything!

I've been listening to a bunch of stuff from this cult & obscure German filth-grind horde. Active since the late '80s, BLOOD is one of the grossest sounding bands in metal history. Their fascination with filth, gore & morbidity is on par with the immortal works of Autopsy, Impetigo and Carcass. Not a much talked-about band even in extreme metal circles... that's got to change!

Scrapmetal – Hellbound

(MORBID REALITY)

These local locos are the great underdogs in the contemporary thrash metal game!!! Better than anyone else in town, better than mostly anyone internationally — yet nobody seems to know about the majesty of ScrapMetal. I'm here to help you fix this wrong! This is ultra-ripping no-frills thrash played with passion and conviction. Much respect!!!

Of The Wand & The Moon – The Lone Descent

(HEIDRUNAR MYRKRUNAR)

I don't even own this one yet, but from what I've heard online thus far — it's one of the best dark folk releases ever. It might not be possible to surpass Sonnenheim — but there IS a hope. Make sure to buy this — I know I WILL... :)

Morbid Angel – Illud Divinum Insanus

(SEASON OF MIST)
Still sizzling hot and waiting for you out there on the CD racks!!! Now also on vinyls in Amoeba Hollywood's 666 LP section!!! And if that's NOT enough, now there is also *Illud Divinum Insanus: The Remixes* — life is just too good, isn't it??? :-0

SCOTT BUTTERWORTH EST. 1984

*A gentleman and a scholar...
and at other times, a philanthropist
and a connoisseur.*

*Keeping the bacon-wrapped hot dog
industry alive since 2002.*

📺 **Electric Daisy Carnival Experience (2011) – Directed by Kevin Kerslake**

📺 **The Chemical Brothers: Don't Think (2012) – Directed by Adam Smith**

☐ **Breaking Bad (Seasons 1-4) (2008-2012)**

📺 **I Melt With You (2011) – Directed by Mark Pellington**

📺 **Midnight In Paris (2011) – Directed by Woody Allen**

Delilah – Go EP & Love You So EP (WARNER MUSIC UK)

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds – Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds (MERCURY)

Gotye – Making Mirrors
(UNIVERSAL REPUBLIC)

Katy B – On A Mission
(RINSE / COLUMBIA)

Nero – Welcome Reality
(CHERRYTREE / INTERSCOPE)

Justice – Audio Video Disco
(ELEKTRA)

SBTRKT – SBTRKT (YOUNG TURKS)

The Weeknd – Echoes Of Silence (SELF-RELEASED)

Hard-Fi – Killer Sounds
(ATLANTIC / WARNER BROS UK)

Miles Kane – Colour Of The Trap (COLUMBIA / SONY)

The Horrors – Skying
(XL RECORDINGS)

The Big Pink – Future This (4AD)

Submarine (2011) – Directed by Richard Ayoade

Oberhofer – Time Capsules II
(GLASSNOTE)

Example – Playing In The Shadows (MINISTRY OF SOUND UK)

Above & Beyond – Group Therapy (ULTRA)

Hospital Records

I recommend anything and everything released on this label, specifically:

High Contrast - *The Agony And The Ecstasy*

Camo & Krooked - *Cross The Line*

London Elektricity - *Yikes!*

Nu:Tone - *Words And Pictures*

Danny Byrd - *Rave Digger*

Netsky - *Netsky*



Brookes Brothers – Brookes Brothers (BREAKBEAT KAOS)

Jamie Woon – Mirrorwriting
(POLYDOR)

Recherche – Various Artists
(WHO INVENTED THE MIRROR)

Mute Math – Odd Soul
(WARNER BROS)

Moby – Destroyed (MUTE)

Mustard Pimp – No Title Or Purpose (DIM MAK)

Cerebral Ballzy – Cerebral Ballzy (WILLIAMS STREET)

Kids Of 88 – Sugar pills
(DRYDEN STREET / SONY)

Shlohmo – Vacation
(FRIENDS OF FRIENDS)

SCOTT CARLSON

*Chops/Professor Chops/Professor/Pro Chol
Professor Fierce, Prochenzo, Proch...*

Lord Time – Black Hole at the End of the Tunnel (ANDORKAPPEN)

To these ears, this is bar none the black metal release of 2011. Lord Time is a one man band project of Sandor/Andorkappen, drummer for Harasor, and is equal parts blaze and miasmic intensity, featuring songs all over the map in terms of mood and tempo. Of particular note is the counter-intuitive guitar playing, which is a definite highlight. Very creative and very unique black metal.

**Gnaw Their Tongues –
Per Flagellum Sanguemque,
Tenebras Veneramus**

(CRUCIAL BLAST)

As per usual with a Gnaw Their Tongues release, *Per Flagellum* takes aspects of black metal, funeral doom, industrial, experimental, and orchestral music and with these elements creates something new, unique, ambiguous, and terrifying.

**Leviathan – True Traitor True
Whore** (PROFOUND LORE)

True Traitor True Whore, Leviathan's most recent, features a surprisingly well-nuanced sound (a rarity in most of the better black metal), courtesy of producer Sanford Parker. Layered, intricately constructed songs plus Wrest's trademark off kilter riffs and drumming make this an essential listen. In addition, this album's gateway drug sound won't scare your girlfriend away (hopefully).

Yob – Atma (20 BUCK SPIN)

Picking up where previous album, *The Great Cessation*, left off, Yob's creativity and song quality continue to remain within the upper tier of doom metal. *Atma* is filled with crushing, drawn out songs that take their time to unload their full power, and at the end one is left drained and exhausted (in a good way).

**Bossa Jazz: The Birth of Hard
Bossa, Samba Jazz and the
Evolution of Brazilian Fusion
1962-73 – Various Artists**

(SOUL JAZZ)

**Dead Moon – In the Graveyard/
Unknown Passage/Defiance**

(MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)

It's never been an easy task to find original presses of Dead Moon LPs. Mississippi Records remedies this problem (while they last) by re-issuing Dead Moon's first three essential LPs. Allow me to clarify: All of Dead Moon's LPs are essential (as are their 7"s, compilation tracks, etc.). These releases just happen to be the first three in sequential order of an indispensable catalog.

**Charles Albright – Weight
b/w I Am the Counter Culture
(Drop Out) 7"** (PERMANENT)

Sun Araw – Ancient Romans

(DRAG CITY)

**Hail!Hornet – Disperse the
Curse** (RELAPSE)

Tombs – Winter Hours

(RELAPSE)

Burning Witch – Box Set

(SOUTHERN LORD)

This 180 gram four-LP/DVD/book set is, to put it mildly, an essential purchase. What can I say about Burning Witch? They will destroy you. Heavy, mournful, slow, intense, exhausting, amazing, classic and years ahead of the curve.

Dolorvotre – Dolorvotre

(CREPUSCULO NEGRO)

Black Cobra – Invernal

(SOUTHERN LORD)

Pummeling. By far Black Cobra's best release. An unrelenting onslaught from beginning to end, with top-notch production throughout.

**Noothgrush – Live For
Nothing/Erode the Person/
Falling Early Falling Often**

(SOUTHERN LORD/EMETIC/PARASITIC)

**Behold! the Monolith –
Defender/Redeemist** (SELF-RELEASED)

Los Angeles' own Behold! the Monolith walk the tightrope of being heavy while not alienating, and write songs that feature multiple left turns, yet still make sense (and have a catchy aspect to them). Of the current crop of bands, only Thou is on par with a similar ability to write songs



with multiple changes in tempo, intensity, etc. while still maintaining a steady flow. Though they are at their best/most powerful in a live setting, Defender/Redeemist is a great representation of Behold! the Monolith's sound.

Rwake – Rest (RELAPSE)

Absu – Abzu (CANDLELIGHT)

Craft – Void (SOUTHERN LORD)

Void – Sessions 1981-83
(DISCHORD)

Batillus – Furnace (SEVENTH RULE)

Hull – Beyond the Lightless Sky
(THE END)

Tip:

Hometown heroes/band besties: Yidhra, Over-Gain Optimal Death, Mourning Ring, Behold! the Monolith, Rapewhistle, Harassor, L'aura Moire, ...Of the Horizon, Seven Sisters of Sleep, Pigeonwing, Of the Dead, Lightning Swords of Death, The Shrine, Black Sheep Wall, The Not Not Fun! 100% Silk camp, and all of the Black Twilight Circle bands.

SCOTT “SES” SPAULDING

*OG buyer, pirate... during a full moon,
they call me Wolfman.
Always remember...
“Micki Free is not a girl.”*

Beak> – DD MM YYY 12”
(INVADA UK)

Royal Baths – Litanies (WOODSIST)

Dirty Beaches – Badland
(ZOO MUSIC)

**Unknown Mortal Orchestra –
Unknown Mortal Orchestra**
(FAT POSSUM)

**Bruce Haack & Ms. Nelson –
Electronic Record For Children**
(MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)

**Bruce Haack & Ms. Nelson –
Way Out Record For Children**
(MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)

■ **Black Power Mixtape 1967-
1975 (2012) – Directed by
Goran Olsson**

□ **Six Million Dollar Man: The
Complete Season One (2012)**

S.TALADA

amoeba employee no. 036

to know, to dare, to will to keep silent...

**The Sisters Of Mercy – First
And Last And Always** (MOBILE FIDELITY SOUND LABS)

Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab Has Been Kind Enough To Re-Master This Hauntingly Visionary Goth Rock Masterpiece. Draw The Blinds, Light The Candle, Burn Some Incense, Pour Some Vino And Spark Up Your Favorite Smoke. And Let Some Kind Of Stranger Lead You Into The Darkness... Like A Vacuum... Let It Envelope You... Let It Become You ... Darkness... I Highly Recommend It.

**Bone Orchard – Stuffed To The
Gills & Other Fishy Tales** (JUNGLE RECORDS)

Jungle Records Put Their Noggins Together And Thus This Was Born! Finally Available On Cd @_@!!! This Two-Disc Set Offers Up The Best Documentation Of This British Group! A Creature Of Lust!!!! Female Led Manic, Swampy, Jazzy, Goth-a-Billy... If You Enjoy The Birthday



Party Then You Must Be Familiar With Bone Orchard! If Not... This Is Your Chance! Favorites Included Are "Princess Epilepsy" And "Shall I Carry The Budgie Woman?"!!! Second Disc (DVD) Includes Rare Videos And A Live Performance Captured During The Band's Heyday!

Access To Arasaka –

Geosynchron (TYMPANIK AUDIO)

These Next Three Releases Come From Tympanik Audio, I Think It's Only Fair To Say That If You Are Not Familiar With This Label Or Its Roster, Then You May Need To Have Your Ports, Pots, And Circuits Cleaned. Truly A Flagship Label For The Future Of Electronics... First Off... The Highly Anticipated New Release From Access To Arasaka – *Geosynchron* (Tympanik Audio)... Beyond Intelligent Dance, Light Years Ahead Of Glitch Mob Mentality... Rob Lioy Designs And Creates Shit That Hubble Won't Discover For Years And NASA Will NEVER Be Able To Reach... Electronica So Advanced And Slick That If It Was An Actual Material It Would Be Classified As Alien... And Yet All Contained Within A Contemporary Brilliance...

c.db.sn – At The End Of It All

(TYMPANIK AUDIO)

Secondly c.db.sn – *At The End Of It All* (Tympanik Audio)... A Transfixing Debut Release From This Artist Out Of Denver, Co... Solid Atmospheric Beds Of Shoegaze, The Juxtaposition Of Dubstep All Co-Existing & Thriving Well Within Post-Industrial Electronica... Insanely Precise, Cohesive And Accessible... Definitely An Artist To Keep An Eye Out For And An Ear On.

Known Rebel – Hollow

(TYMPANIK AUDIO)

Finally, The Spanish IDM Duo... Known Rebel – *Hollow* (Tympanik Audio)... Seriously Classy, Warm & Breathhtaking IDM. Expertly Conducted And Composed.

Tip:

Horror Epics @ The Bronson Bar The First Thursday Of Every Month ... Free Punk Rock/Oi/Deathrock Doom & Gloom All Night!

SPENCER

Tomorrows Tulips –

Eternally Teenage (GALAXIA RECORDS)

Watch out for new Allah Laha album in 2012!



TERRY SMITH

Father of three — Daddy to some.

❑ Breaking Bad (DVD) (2009-2012)

Start with season one. It's funny at times, it's sad at times, stupid at times, but it could be happening to someone you know right now!!!

■ Happy Feet Two (2011) – Directed by George Miller

I loved the music in this movie and I thought it was really enjoyable. A movie for the whole family.

■ The Grey (DVD) (2012) – Directed by Joe Carnahan

This movie started out and I thought it was going to be a love story or something — I was wrong. It got crazy & then crazier. It will have you jumping out of your seat!!!

■ The Woman in Black (DVD) (2012) – Directed by James Watkins

This is a scary movie. I usually don't watch scary movies because I have nightmares, but I did & it was scary & I had a nightmare. It's worth your time.

■ The Best Of Soul Train (2012)

Rest In Peace Don Cornelius. The music is great, the fashion is awesome. It is really a must-see. Where were you when?



THOMAS GERMAIN

Certified Organic

Flaming Lips with Lightning Bolt – Flaming Lips with Lightning Bolt 12” (WARNER BROS.)

You might have to resort to eBay to get your hands on the series of split singles that the Flaming Lips put out over the last year, but if you get the opportunity to grab any of them, don't hesitate. Each 12” is a unique color of marble vinyl, and the only thing cooler than the artwork is the music. Do it!

St. Vincent – Strange Mercy

(4AD)

Annie Clark's complex but tasteful productions have kept me coming back to this album again and again over the past few months. I think this is one of the best of 2011.

Unknown Mortal Orchestra – Unknown Mortal Orchestra

(FAT POSSUM)

This album technically came out in the first half of 2011, but I just found out about it. UMO is hard to describe; someone told me they sound like music written for a children's TV show that would get rejected for being too weird. Whatever you want to say about them, their psychedelia-inspired home-brew New Zealand sound will have you bobbing your head from start to finish.

Michigan Dog Boy – Flea Collar/Please Don't Tell People I'm A Wolfman 7”

(FULL MOON RECORDS)

There may or may not be a wolfman roaming through the Hollywood hills. If you see him in person, I'd shy away, but the limited edition 45s he's been putting out are definitely worth a listen.

Tom Waits – Bad As Me (ANTI-)

Tom Waits never disappoints, and his newest record is no exception. Even on his 17th studio venture Waits is still exploring new territory, but the album also works as a career retrospective of sorts. It has everything from the sweet ballads of his early years to the crazy, grating experimental sounds of his more recent material. Die-hard fans will love it, and it's not a bad jumping off point for those who are new to the party. Tom Waits is like a fine wine; he only gets better with age.

Marc Maron – This Has To Be Funny (COMEDY CENTRAL)

Marc Maron is a unique figure. His style might be a little intense for some, but if you can handle it, listening to his stuff is truly a cathartic experience. Marc says things that you have always thought but never quite managed to put into words. If you're a fan of stand-up or spoken word, do yourself a favor and pick this one up.

Tip:

Buy low, sell high.

TIMOTHY

Active Child – You Are All I See

(VAGRANT RECORDS)

Youth Lagoon – The Year Of Hibernation (FAT POSSUM)

John Maus – We Must Become the Pitiless Censors of Ourselves (DOMINO)

Miles Kane – Colour Of The Trap (PID)

Mumford & Sons – Sigh No More (GLASS NOTE)

Mayer Hawthorne – How Do You Do (UNIVERSAL RECORDS)

Kinky Coo Coos – Tons of Fun 7” (LIQUIDATOR)

Featuring Greg and Alex of Hepcat.

Roy Ellis and The Teenagers – Let Me Take You Higher 7” (LIQUIDATOR)

T-REV

Long haired waiting for the end.

What about the North American Indian!!!

🎬 **Drive (2012) – Directed by Nicolas Winding Refn**

You can go ahead and add Nicolas Winding Refn's Drive to the long list of movies the Oscars are afraid to nominate. Great L.A. love story.

☐ **Shameless: The Complete First Season (2011)**

It seems to me the only way to watch TV now is on DVD and just burn through as many episodes as you want. Doing just that for this show was a lot of fun.

☐ **Bob's Burgers: Season 1 (2011)**

I wish they would do a season two!!!

🎬 **Hesher (2011) – Directed by Spencer Susser**

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, you're the man!!!

🎬 **Win Win (2011) – Directed by Thomas McCarthy**

If Thomas McCarthy's movies were eight hours long, I'd still be watching with a smile on my heart.

☐ **Breaking Bad – Any Season – Created by Vince Gilligan**

Any season!! This is the best show that's ever been on TV. If you're OK with dark suspense, start watching this show from the start. And Vince ... end the show on a cliff and then make a movie!!

Tip:

If you have the time & like funny shit, check out Red Letter Media's Mr. Plinkett's Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull review!! It's online & some of the funniest shit ever & so true! Shoot first, Han!



TUNA TARDUGNO

three things:

1. thedogteeth.tumblr.com
2. nuts & bolts every thursday night at el chavo
3. what's the jam? 8: coming soon

Shoppers – Silver Year

(DRUGGED CONSCIENCE/FEEBLE MINDS)

this one rules. punk. feedback. reverb. heavy-hitting drums. girl vocals. not too noisy, not too predictable. its eight tracks of rule. keep your eyes on shoppers.

The Men – Leave Home

(SACRED BONES)

the men go from super dark and heavy, to teetering on the brink of too noisy, to straightforward punk, to synth-driven indie. this band seriously rules. check em out.

Discharge – Realities Of War

7" (HAVOC REISSUE)

the granddads of punk. reissued so you don't have to pay lots for those clay o.g.'s. WILL DBEAT FOR _____.

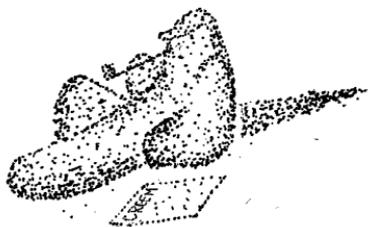
Like Wolves – Like Wolves (HEX)

like wolves. holy effin like wolves. this is one of my favorite releases on hex records. the right amount of pissed, mixed with insistent vocals over heavy-hitting drums, eerie guitar riffs, sometimes reminiscent of masshysteri, all anchored down by the ravaging bass lines. yesssssss.

Mayer Hawthorne –

How Do You Do (UNIVERSAL)

a huge fan of mayer, this one was a huge pill that took me about a dozen times to swallow. but after the initial plethora of "meh" ratings i gave it, i just couldn't get enough of it. mayer wears his influences on his sleeve: the larks, the supremes,archie bell, hall & oates, barbara mason; but pair great taste in music with a talented backing band and catchy riffs, and you've got the perfect current soul album of 2011.



VIOLA

World buyer who builds wells in Ethiopia
(www.villagepace.org)

■ **Sounds and Silence: Travels With Manfred Eicher (2011) – Directed by Norbert Wiedmer, Peter Guyer**

A travelogue built around the reclusive founder of ECM Records, Manfred Eicher. Attention: Not a biographical film nor a documentary but rather an atmospheric, dreamy essay on how the man works. Nice footage of Anouar Brahem and Eleni Karaindrou, among others. Visually related to those ECM covers one loves and SLOW!

Noise & Chill Out: Ethiopian Groove Worldwide – Various Artists (BUDA)

New Ethiopian two-CD comp on Buda (of Ethiopiques fame). All this is today's Ethiopian music from all over the world. Jazz, soul, Hip-Hop, dub ... it's all here and groovy, picking up where Mulatu stopped.

Baloji – Kinshasa Succursale (CRAMMED)

New Africa: Born in the Congo & now based in Belgium, Baloji lives in many worlds. I loved his previous CD, *Hotel Impala* (starting out in Hip-Hop). Here he goes back to his roots, together with Konono, Zaïko Langa-Langa and many more old and current stars of the Congolese scene. Great remakes of old hits as well ("Indépendance Cha-Cha").

Subway Salsa - The Montuno Records Story – Various Artists (VAMPISOUL)

Not just salsa but other Caribbean genres are found on this nostalgic compilation. Nostalgic for me, since many years ago I used to shop at the Record Mart in the Times Square subway station, a small place where one could always find new and forgotten gems, especially Haitian...

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□ **It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (2005-2011) – Created by Rob McElhenney, Glenn Howerton and Charlie Day**

Hilarious! It's raw and edgy comedy. Total genius! Must own ALL seasons!

Radiohead – The King Of Limbs (SELF-RELEASED)

I LOVE this Radiohead album. I really love how they sampled their own recordings with turntablist techniques inspired by DJing. Music=Life! Most definitely Radiohead has given me life through their music. You must own ALL Radiohead albums!

Jay-Z & Kanye West – Watch the Throne

(ROC-A-FELLA, ROC NATION, DEF JAM)

Steve Aoki – Wonderland (ULTRA)

Steve Aoki ALWAYS makes me wanna dance!

The Black Keys – El Camino

(NONESUCH)

Tips:

Check out *Ilhame Paris*, her voice is poignant, sultry, spirited and rich. She mourns of love lost, offers hope and sings with candor. Check out her world tour!

www.ILhame-Paris.com

Check out *Beauty is Pain Boutique & Records Ad nauseam*, 1443 N. Highland in Hollywood. They have one of a kind and rare merchandise, from records and band tees to sequins, dresses and art. Incredible original clothing designs by Rio Warner. In-store theme parties with the best DJs and bands. Open 12-10 p.m. every day.

Check out *Live Footage*, a Brooklyn-based band, with Topu Lyo (electric cello) and Mike Thies (drums, synth). I saw them perform at a Hip-Hop show in Brooklyn. Check out their California tour! www.livefootagebrooklyn.com

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If you're a new "DJ," please read this book ... *How To DJ Right: The Art & Science of Playing Records*, by Frank Broughton and Bill Brewster.

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ZAC BOUVION

Jazz Room/Freeway

Maurizio Bianchi – *Symphony for a Genocide* (WEIRD FOREST)

With an oeuvre dating back to 1979, and running parallel to the big guns of industrial noise in the TG/NWW/Whitehouse-axis, it's a shame Bianchi is more recognised as the confrontational innovator he was. This 1981 epic is packed with distorted synths, shuddering feedback, askew tape-splice repetition and gurgling electronics. Many of his works were far more conceptual than his peers, and seem to draw a line straight down from his Futurist/Concrete predecessors like Luigi Russolo & Luc Ferrari. The damaged sounds always seem to be arrived upon by experimentation and design, as opposed to sheer chance. There have been quite a few limited MB reissues on vinyl recently, each uniquely killer. Harsh sounds regarding harsh topics.

Alvarius B. – *Baroque Primitiva* (ABDUCTION)

Stunning solo shot from the less-prolific half of The Brothers Unconnected. Not that Brother Richard's more recent Worldbeaty/Rockist moves don't, but this one feels like a real Sun City Girls record — from the sounds coming out the grooves, to the gorgeous naked lady jacket & Abduction catalog number. Solitary steel-string rag(a)s, and wobbly folk ditties, featuring never-enough Morricone nods and a particularly Syd-que Beach Boys cover. Should remind everyone from Meat Puppets and Beck to Ariel Pink and Devendra, who's been at it the longest and truest. Super limited vinyl run is gone, but the CD features equally classy design.

Winter – *Into Darkness*

(SOUTHERN LORD)

When I was first digging bands like Goatsnake & Sunn O))), my best friend Joshy would always tell me about this band he saw with Born Against way back in the old-timey '90s, and now Southern Lord has finally resurrected this two-decade old proto-doom monster from obscurity. Plodding and spaciouly heavy like contemporaries

Earth, Neurosis and even Swans' more corporeal dirges, it's the vocals that really set this apart. Struck from the classic late '80s death/UK grind mold, but blackened and sloooow. (1990 was twenty years ago! Fuck.)

Horrific Child – *P'Etrange*

Monsieur Whinster (FINDERS KEEPERS)

Supremely deranged French cosmic prog outing from the illustrious Jean-Pierre Massiera, 1976. Much rougher than the astro-kitschy *Les Maledictus Sound* — you can tell it had been a pretty depraved intervening eight years. The three long-ish tracks contained herein share a thematic kinship with Magma (apocalyptic) or even Italo-neighbors Goblin (tension), but less atonal and sparse. Deliberately horror-themed, and utilizing the studio like a sonic Swiss Army knife, JPM packed Mr. Whinster with ominous rustling winds, breathily mumbled arcane utterances and plinky piano drops that lead right into ripping guitar squall not unlike fellow French proggers Mahjun. One cut even has some sampled Afrochanting/drums that come off like a bad-trip Soul Makossa. And as a parting kick in the balls, it's on the Nurse With Wound list. (Now I wish FK or WahWah would help plug the holes in my Futura discography...)

Demdike Stare – *Tryptych*

(MODERN LOVE)

I don't really have the depth of electronica knowledge to properly taxonomically brand this one, but it's really good. (Witch-step?) I'd read them in *The Wire* talking about Wolf Eyes side projects and splatter films, and knew of their involvement with Andy Votel's Jean Rollin film





event, so I grabbed the pricey triple vinyl package on sight — totally worth it. Sound sources certainly allude to heavily treated library detritus and field recording scratch. Three discs of chopped ethnic percussion, ringing gongs, hazy *Blade Runner* atmospherics, Fabio Frizzi Italian horror swells, doomy amp buzz and sub-bass thud — be forewarned noise people, there are indeed “beats” lurking beneath.

Sunn O))) meets Nurse With Wound – *Iron Soul of Nothing*

(IDEOLOGIC/MEGO)

Previously available as the bonus disc to the Japanese reissue of OOVoid, O'Malley's new tentacle of the Mego hydra has reissued a glorious vinyl version. Resplendent with the type of “tampering” those familiar with Mr. Stapleton's revised output are probably accustomed to. Needless to say, even if you've heard the CD, you're going to want this.

Psychedelic Pernambuco – Various Artists (MR. BONGO)

Fantastic collection from the more-frayed edges of the original Brazilian tropicalia clique. Many of these tracks have been reissued in various form (Satwa/Notaro on Time-Lag/Eclipse, others of more dubious origin), but it's great to hear the whole Recife scene all in one spot, with great liner notes. Can't wait for the resurrected Mr. Bongo's Tom Ze reissues.

Moon Pool & Dead Band – Moon Pool & Dead Band

(AGITATED)

Wolf Eyes' Nate Young swears this new project owes a debt to Detroit techno, but it sounds more Kosmiche to me. Definite traces of the Cluster/Harmonia axis. There is also an unde-

niable John Carpenter streak that is invading a lot of synth sounds recently. More translucent than the murky depths of Young's other extra-curricular, Demons.

Tip:

— *Due to technical difficulties, some of these reviews are bit older.*

— *Top time vacuums over the past 6 months: George RR Martin's Game of Thrones books & History Channel's Ancient Aliens.*

MINDE

Looky what I made!

Warrior (2011) – Directed by Gavin O'Connor

Here's the thing—Nick Nolte is buyable as the gruff, straggly, chewed-up alcoholic who made his children's memories a boozy, abusive fog because, hey, that's Nick Nolte. Nobody does 'man on the verge of ruin' better. And he was nominated for an Oscar for essentially playing himself. Throughout *Warrior* Nolte's character Paddy Conlon is trying to emerge from a humiliating emotional abyss, something his two sons want nothing to do with come time of reunion. One of them, Tommy Conlon (played by Tom Hardy) is damaged to the point that he's become positively animalistic. Like, a wild-eyed caged animal with so much pain and hurt and such a disfigured memory that the best he can do is speak in sad whisky-tinged outbursts (“Not much of a woman's touch around here,” he says walking into his father's house after years away. “No women for me anymore, Tommy,” snorts Paddy. “Yeah, must be tough to find a girl who can take a punch nowadays,” says Tommy. Ba-boom!). He's a natural fighter. The other brother, Brendan Conlon (played by Joel Edgerton) is also a repressed, wounded thing but with better adaptive skills. He's married to a smoking hot wife who isn't overly keen on this fighterly side of him, and she puts the guilt on him in skimpy things (which she looks flawless in despite having whole liters of kids). They are of course facing the kind of financial straits that have him eyeing a return to fighting, where he knows he can still be a somebody. That's where Tommy is headed too. The brothers can't reconcile with each other, either, too much damage—too much internal rage and stubbornness. They end up in an MMA tournament that's chock full of the most dangerous hand-to-hand combatants ever assembled. It's obvious what happens next—they end up on a collision course, and Nolte in the sobering middle ends up in a deranged state from a vodka binge living out a hellacious *Moby-Dick* scene in a bathrobe. Hijinks ensue.

■ **Moneyball (2011) – Directed by Bennett Miller**

Baseball has stood for more than a century on the basic premise that homerun hitters are the sultans of the game. Somewhere along the way—like, 1977, to be exact—Bill James wrote a book called *The Historical Baseball Abstract* that challenged this notion, using statistical analysis to conclude that things like on-base percentage (OBP) meant more than power. He defined sabermetrics, and pretty soon the Oakland A's, a money-strapped ballclub with a circus elephant as its icon, was forced into exploring it. They won a lot of games on the premise of manufacturing run production using prospects, castoffs and retreats. It goes something like this: MTV's former newstress Tabitha Soren is married to a guy named Michael Lewis, an author who hung around Billy Beane, a general manager with an open mind who hired a cutting edge number's nerd called Paul DePodesta, who was converted into fictionalized character named Peter Brand (played by an unyielding Jonah Hill), who was plucked by the movie version of Beane (played by Brad Pitt) to turn a bad situation into a revolution. It's not that confusing on whole. The A's dust off old bats like David Justice and go on a record-winning streak while Beane (Pitt) can't watch (too nervous). He paces, works out and stuffs Twinkies down his gullet as his wild whim begins paying off. Throughout, he looks beautiful. He doesn't say much, and doesn't have to. He's Brad Pitt. Phillip Seymour Hoffman as Art Howe is excellent. If you like baseball or its possibilities and aren't a stubborn traditionalist or a New York Yankees fan, this is your film.

□ **Downton Abbey - Created by Julian Fellowes**

When I watched Season 1 of *Downton Abbey*, I thought it was a one-off mini-series, not an on-going show, so I was rather unprepared for the cliffhanger ending, which of course, did its duty and sucked me into the second season. The delightful one-liners that Maggie Smith's Dowager Countess Violet ("I'm a woman, Mary. I can be as contrary as I choose.") sprinkled throughout the show were more than enough to make coming back each week worthwhile.

□ **Charlie and Lola - Based on the books of Lauren Child**

It's not always easy to find a children's program that is as entertaining to parents as it is to its target audience and I am happy to have discovered this little gem made by the BBC a few years back. With truly artistic animation that mimics the style of the books, and honest-to-god chil-

dren's voices, it's really just the charming tales of a "small, and very funny" little sister and a big brother who genuinely love and care for each other. I very absolutely extremely love watching this show and so does my daughter.

■ **The Rum Diary (2011) – Directed by Bruce Robinson**

Obviously Johnny Depp has big reverence for Hunter S. Thompson that goes deep—deep enough that he was on hand to fire the codger's ashes out of a cannon—and he does the esoteric nuances of Hunter's voice/mannerisms damn well. Why not make a movie of *The Rum Diary*, then, just for homage? This was Thompson's first book, and it's centered on a fidgety journalist who goes to 1950s Puerto Rico for a job and encounters a mad scene of riots, corruption and debauchery—and that's all just in his working environs at the newspaper office. What's interesting is the movie anticipates Thompson's voice more than it lives up to it. The book itself was a rather blah affair, where a young Thompson was just getting his legs. What Depp and director Bruce Robinson did was say "here's the story Hunter would have written if he had the chance to do it over." They ran it through the eccentric *Fear and Loathing* voice, and updated the story. The result: The movie is far better than the book, far more in keeping with his niche quirkiness. Depp plays the protagonist Paul Kemp, a wayward soul with not a lot of depth or what you might call integrity but plenty of appetite for rum and chaos. The dialogue is hilarious throughout, if inexplicable at times. And Giovanni Ribisi as the tramp Moberg steals the show. The best part of the film is a hallucinatory drug scene towards the end that wasn't part of the book. It's a rare feat for the movie to capture the spirit of something that an original book only scratched the surface on, but that's what's been done here.

Rebirth Brass Band – Rebirth For Life (TIPITINA'S RECORDS)

Ages ago I completed the L.A. marathon (I won't say "ran") and around mile 7 or 8 maybe a band was playing that carried me on for about three miles. I've been looking for that music ever since and though I know this isn't the exact band, per se, this record's opener "Tubaluba" makes me want to run and run and run and run some more, just like on that day. You gotta love New Orleans and you gotta love this band and this record and Tipitina's. Also fantastic for getting you in the mood for Amoeba Hollywood's annual Fat Tuesday celebration. Tuba power! Better than caffeine.



KAREN

that's me.

there were a LOT of worthwhile records this round, so i'm gonna just break it down into digestible bite-sized chunks. pick a flavor... and dive in:

NEW AND INTERESTING:

Gary Clark Jr. – Bright Lights

EP (WARNER BROS.)

gritty oozy funky bluesy rock in the vein of old southern rock and roll. reminiscent of early all-man brothers, but more... i don't know: soulful. his electric blues guitar laced throughout this ep is the focal point, but it has a psychedelic and raw flavor (as well as blues-funk). this is a great find.

Perfume Genius – Put Your

Back N 2 It (MATADOR)

quiet, sad and pretty. what more do you need? reminded me of antony and the johnsons.

Islands – A Sleep & A Forgetting

(ANTI-)

a low-key band with some real heart and soul. mostly soul. the harmonies are truly arresting. try it.

Robert Glasper Experiment –

Black Radio (BLUE NOTE)

i like this multi-genre exploration of jazz and hip-hop and pop/soul sounds. it grooves with a new twist on familiar songs and sounds. features bilal and lalah hathaway, as well as lupe fiasco and

meshell ndegeocello and erykah badu. glasper on piano and organ brings a soulful soothe to it all. blue note 2012 style.

Grimes – Visions (4AD)

vocal calisthenics. art-rock-pop-electro. sound experimentation but with a pop sensibility. good stuff.

Buxton – Nothing Here Seems Strange (NEW WEST)

this is a special find. if you like the fleet foxes and ray lamontagne and silky-sandpaper vocals with emotive lyrics — this one's for you.

Punch Brothers – Who's Feeling Young Now? (NONESUCH)

chris thile has been one of my heroes since nickel creek. he plays a mean mandolin, has an angelic-but-not-annoying voice, and he isn't afraid to have fun and let his passion show. his voice could be described as the bluegrass chris martin (you know, that band coldplay): sweet and plaintive and slightly cracking; addictive and beautiful in its sadness. his lightning picking skills are highlighted throughout the record, but this is a band effort and every musician on here is amazing.

FOR SOME SUNDAY AFTERNOON LISTENING:

Lera Lynn – Have You Met Lera Lynn? (SLOW RECORDS)

sad and low-fi country in its best form. a little mournful and slightly eerie. pedal steel and acoustic guitars blend so well with her voice. her cover of leonard cohen's "i tried to leave you" is awesome.

Gonjasufi – MU.ZZ.LE. (WARP)

thick and wrapped in a low buzz with weird and wonderful vocals — i love me some gonjasufi.

Jay Ferrar / Will Johnson, Anders Parker / Yim Yames – New Multitudes (ROUNDER)

a folk supergroup with sublime harmonies and buttery instrumentation. all lyrics by woody Guthrie

John K. Samson – Provincial

(ANTI-)

the weakerthans singer/songwriter goes out on his own. folk-tinged indie pop with smart lyrics. tasty.

PUMP UP THE JAMS:

Dr. John – Locked Down

(NONESUCH)

this new album from the professor of gris-gris, the voodoo doctor himself — was produced by the black keys dan auerbach and it bleeds thick funk all the way through.

Amy Winehouse –

Lioness: Hidden Treasures

(UNIVERSAL REPUBLIC)

COLLECTIONS AND RE-ISSUES:

Amede Ardoin – Mama, I'll Be Long Gone: The Complete Recordings Of Amede Ardoin 1929-1934

(TOMPKINS SQUARE)

this is an amazing record. from the packaging and artwork to the grand history contained in the two discs inside. the “father of cajun and zydeco music” is honored with these remastered recordings from the tompkins square label’s “long gone sound” series. these are rare afro-creole rhythms set against the winsome hi-lonesome vocal. ardoin sings in a caribbean-tinged french and though you may not be able to understand the words, you can FEEL the meaning. this amazing set is a tiny slice of an amazing american musical and social history.

Listen Whitey! Sounds Of Black Power 1967-1974 –

Various Artists (LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

light in the attic brings us some of the most RIVETING collections from the deepest of the deep crates. and this one is no exception. stellar from start to finish.

Wes Montgomery – Echoes Of Indiana Avenue

(RESONANCE)

Wendy Rene – After Laughter Comes Tears: Complete Stax & Volt Rarities 1964-1965

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

i love the unearthed gems! to think that so many musicians and singers recorded sides back in the day only to have them shelved for decades. put this record on and slide back in time.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR:

Alabama Shakes – Boys & Girls

(ATO)

don't sleep on this one. hard driving rock and roll with a young female belter up front! nice.

Eight And A Half – Eight And A Half

(ARTS & CRAFTS)

broken social scene guy and the guys from the stills. this is a great record!

Soundtrack For A Revolution

– Various Artists (ENTERTAINMENT ONE)

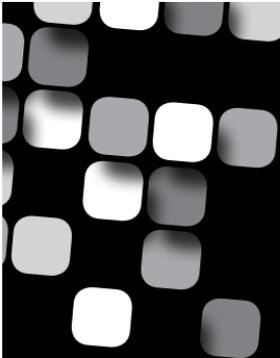
featuring the roots, john legend, mary mary, anthony hamilton, blind boys of alabama and a bunch of others singing traditional spirituals and songs from the civil rights movement.

Esperanza Spalding – Radio

Music Society (HEADS UP)



NOTES:



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VELLE



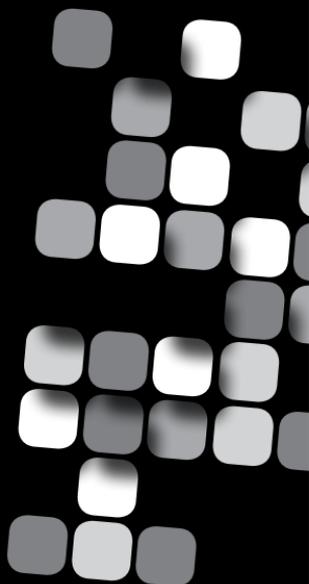
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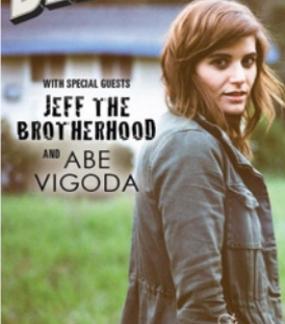


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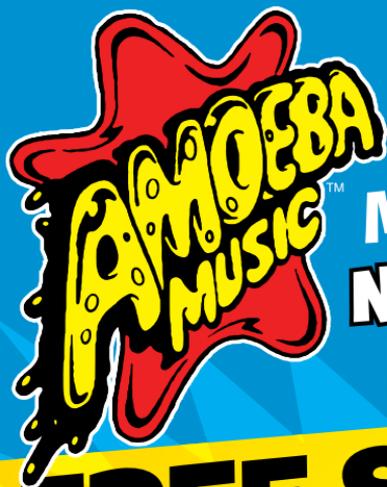
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