

o u t t h i s w e e k

albums of the week

vivian girls : everything goes wrong

(cd / lp) the girls are back with their 2nd album almost a year after the reissue of their debut. the influences remain the same - ramones, '60s girl groups, surf & indie pop - but this album is a whole different beast. it becomes quickly apparent that they've made a great leap forward as the songs themselves are far subtler, lacking the immediacy of those on their debut & whilst the infectious pop hooks are still there, they are not as instant or obvious at first. working that little bit harder to discover them makes you appreciate them all the more & the way they have been crafted into the song is often astounding. songs such as 'can't get over you' & 'the end' are prime examples, as just when you think the song has weaved all its tuneful magic, a sudden unexpected melody or harmony appears, lifting it to a level you simply weren't expecting. the band are clearly taking this pop band business a whole lot more seriously, as is not only apparent through the general mood of the album but in the clear amount of thought that has gone into each song. an incredible album. [in the red](#)

health : get color

(cd / lp / limited edition t-shirt with album download voucher. comes with a free bonus disc & badge set, while they last) the 2nd album from health was recorded in an especially gnarly part of l.a. the resulting record is an exuberant proclamation of noise, rock & electronic splendour - a celebration of sound - pretty, harsh, soft & basked in a blanket of ethereal vocals. emerging from the infamous "smell scene", their debut was an urgent & extraordinary record which seethed with ghostly, epic pop & spurts of chaotic noise. the band's shows grew wilder; kids danced & moshed; blogs freaked out; critics raved & everyone wondered how in god's name health was going to follow it up but now, they finally return with their infectious fusion of noise & dance. it's not as abrasive as you might expect but it's by no means an easy listen either: machine-gun drumming, end-of-days guitar shredding, electronic textures, whisper-to-a-roar vocals, forceful tribal rhythms & screeching instrumental caterwauls all work together on this gloriously asymmetrical offering. "*la's premier ear-splitters: the purveyors of strangely danceable grind-core...the future of noise!*" - nme, "*seriously impressive*" - uncut. [city slang](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

the big pink : a brief history of love

(comes with a free poster while they last). milo cordell (son of 1960s pop producer denny & merok label head honcho) & robbie furze (a former guitarist with electro-punk singer Alec Empire & a founding member of the band Panic D.H.H.) signed to the legendary 4AD label - an apt move, as their otherworldly qualities provide a direct sonic connection to acts like Cocteau Twins & Dead Can Dance. however, there's a heavy pop element to their work too that gives their sonic experimentation a catchier, more commercial sound than you might expect. the Phil Spector / My Bloody Valentine / Echo & The Bunnymen / Ride-esque shoegaze-electronic-noise-rock is dripping in distortion, buried in fuzz, backed up with gritty programmed beats & topped off with ethereal vocals - an epic adventure set within a sound-world that combines melody & beautiful noise in equal measure. "*something of a modern masterpiece*" 5/5 - [telegraph](#), 8/10 - nme. [4ad](#)

tyondai braxton (battles) : central market

a rich, vibrant, orchestral work from the awesome force that is battles' tyondai braxton. imagine if battles did a reworking of Prokofiev's Peter & the Wolf (although the record has apparently been inspired by Stravinsky's 1917 symphonic piece 'Song of the Nightingale'), threw in some squeaky toys, menacing atmospherics, proggy explorations, avant jazz & scratchy noises... & you've got the idea. working alone, tyondai employed guitar, voice, looping & delay pedals & various found objects to create work that simulates the sound of a large ensemble. here, he's composed for a real orchestra (the wordless music orchestra, best known for their performance of Jonny Greenwood's solo compositions). the result is an exhilarating mix of acoustic & electronic instrumentation, where surprisingly pastoral moments give way to more clangorous passages. the 7 track set features guitars, vocals, electronics & percussion to create orchestral music re-imagined for the 21st century, while maintaining a strong hold on the polyrhythmic & technically awe-inspiring creations he's already known for. [warp](#)

David Sylvian : Manafon

in recent times, David Sylvian has been getting more obscure, more stripped back & more avant garde in his output, eschewing conventional song structures & melodies. this release follows on very much in that vein but that should by no means put you off embracing this record with open ears. despite being stark, this is by no means a harsh record - the warmth of Sylvian's voice set against the minimal instrumentation only heightens the concentration on his stunning vocals. the reedy, plinky, scratchy, hissy backing won't be to everyone's taste but repeated listens (particularly on headphones) reveal the delicate intricacies hidden within the minimalism & the careful consideration given to each & every strangled, tortured note. essentially, this sounds like Sylvian telling tales of life's losers & loners in his mesmerising tones over a release from Editions Mego or Touch. highly recommended. "*adopt a suitably furrowed brow & the album becomes mesmerising. the album's 11-minute centrepiece, 'the greatest living Englishman', is devastating*" 4/5 - [guardian](#). [samadhisound](#)

sparklehorse & fennesz : in the fishtank

(cd & lp) 'in the fishtank' is an ever ongoing project of Konkurrent, an independent music distributor in the Netherlands. for this series of releases Konkurrent invites musicians that they feel strongly related to into the studio to record. they are given 2 days studio time & freedom to do whatever they like musically - so the fishtank offers a space for expression & experimentation. laptop / guitar distortionist genius Christian Fennesz had the idea to collaborate with Mark Linkous of Sparklehorse as, after performing together, both felt that there was further mileage in their collaboration. just 2 days back in December 2007 were enough to record over 40 minutes of this sublime, epic, disorientating, swelling music. Fennesz's soundscapes merge ambience with a razor sharp tension as Linkous' fragile arrangements segue in & out of the mix, resulting in an glitchy, spacey, mesmerising record of rare beauty. highly recommended. [in the fishtank](#)

muse : the resistance

(cd & limited cd/dvd) the 1st new material since their critically acclaimed, triple platinum 'black holes'. in the decade since they announced their arrival with their Queen/Radiohead inspired debut 'showbiz', Muse have become phenomenally huge. in terms of sound & sonic vision 'the resistance' is their most ambitious long-player yet, which is clearly saying something. the influence of acts as diverse as Queen, Billy Idol & Blondie can be heard on the 1st single, 'uprising', alone but they have blown up the robo-funk/monster riff/stadium space rock sound of 'black holes' & widened their viewfinder even further to take in an even greater horizon of sound. grander, more preposterous & as overblown as you could ever hope for, with the Queen influences very much at the fore. "*the wholeheartedness with which this album hurls itself into the abyss of cod-symphonic astral pretension is to be commended*" 4/5 - [guardian](#). [warner bros](#)

stardeth & white dwarfs : the birth

a lot has been made of the connection between Stardeth & The Flaming Lips, so let's get that out of the way so we can move on. yes, they are from Oklahoma, where the waving wheat sure tastes sweet etc & yes, head dwarf, Dennis Coyne, is the nephew of head lip, Wayne Coyne. after traversing the galaxy as the road crew for said band, a strange yet melodically intoxicating band has emerged - psych/prog/experimental pop quartet Stardeth & White Dwarfs. one half stoners with nothing to do but roll joints on their King Crimson record sleeves & one half confetti launchers/bubble technicians, the band deliver their own free-floating circus. a mind-trip of emotion & mood, recalling everything from 'upper' dance freak-outs to 'downer' Floyd-esque anthems, celebrating a love of all things psychedelic. mini-me Flaming Lips, sure - but where's the harm in that eh? "*imagine band of horses if they were on 90's warp*" - [guardian](#). [warner bros](#)

okkervil river / julie doiron : split

the two contributions here do really well to highlight the strengths & differences of both of the performers. julie doiron's five solo performances recorded at her home in the mornings & evenings of december 2002 are homey & uncluttered while her jagjaguwar brethren okkervil river offer something more far turbulent instead. okkervil river here mix skeletal folk, lush chamber pop, & supple rock & roll in service of the literate, uncompromising songs of frontman will sheff & promptly steer this split out of the sun room & onto the chopping block. coming so quickly on the heels of doiron's intimate strummings, these songs (one of them a version of the american traditional "omie wise") are an alarming but weird & welcome surprise that only a split cd can fully deliver. but so it shouldn't get too heavy, the detour is only brief & the album's last track, 'blackest coat,' with it's sweet lullaby refrain quickly ushers the listener, shaken but unharmed, into a tranquil bedroom where moonlight streams through the window, brighter & brighter until everything inside is finally smothered in warmth. [acuarela](#)

collisions : villain's spirit

hailing from los angeles, ca, collisions are the newest band to emerge from the club smell scene. as teenagers, they would ditch school for band practice & when they first started out, the band's influences included a who's who of the early '00s new york indie scene - the yeah yeahs, interpol, the strokes & the walkmen. recently they've looked more towards art rock & shoegaze artists such as abe vigoda, animal collective, Aa & explosions in the sky (although the walkmen still sound like their primary influence) & it shows up in their frenetic, unstructured songs that run all around the place & back again & which only include lyrics "because it's necessary". all 4 members of collisions are in constant rotation when it comes to their instrument of choice, either at a songwriting session or at a show. the method of deciding who plays what is so haphazard & simple - whoever arrives first gets their pick - but amazingly the songs are solid, even with the ever-changing lineup. a lo-fi-ish, captivating record. [saf records](#)

peter broderick : 4 track songs

in his earliest days as a recording artist, peter broderick assembled two cds based on sketched recordings committed to tape with old, worn-in microphones. the discs were labelled "4 track songs" & got bundled off to type records. this was a first taster of the work that was just around the corner, you can hear the building blocks of both the 'float' & 'home' albums in these sketches, accounting for the full breadth of his creative endeavours - as a composer, pianist, guitarist, violinist & singer/songwriter. look beyond the functional labelling & you'll hear a beautiful soundtrack-in-miniature or a slightly more experimental, off-topic composition but perhaps the most revelatory content here comes in the song-based material. during his fingerpicked acoustic numbers there's a rawness that goes beyond the kind of multi-layered polish of his work on 'home'. as always, recommended! [type](#)

withered hand : good news

keenly awaited by followers of edinburgh's recent musical renaissance, 'good news' is the debut album from the city's premier antifolk songsmith, withered hand. the album has been recorded with cult american producer kramer (galaxie 500 / low / daniel johnston). markedly more lush & polished than those early recordings, 'good news' sees willson augmenting his regular live band - neil pennycook (meursault), alun thomas (the leg) & hannah shepherd - with the voices of local celebrity bart owl (eagleowl) & lone pigeon/alien's collaborator jo foster. the album is titled 'good news' in reference to willson's evangelical christian childhood & accordingly, a theme of spiritual conflict & yearning runs through many of these songs. imagine neil young crossed with daniel johnston or a scottish phosphorescent & you'll have an idea of where this is coming from. a wonderful record, recommended for fans of the aforementioned, conor oberst/bright eyes or bon iver. "gorgeous, & a must for modern folk fans" - [the skinny](#). [sl](#)

fresh & onlys : grey eyed girls

the woodsist label is on one hell of a roll - 1st woods, then ganglians & now this lot. fresh & onlys are songwriting duo tim cohen & shayde sartin & are fleshed out with guitarist wymond miles, drummer kyle gibson, & backup singer heidi alexander. it all started the old-fashioned way - with sartin & cohen simply hanging out, playing their favourite punk (buzzcocks, the mekons) & classic rock (country joe & the fish, slabs of psych) records alongside a growing collection of empty beer cans. they are one of the ever growing number of groups with the 'record 1st, think later' ethos best summed up by sartin himself: "if we take a song into the studio or a live setting & it doesn't have wings, then we just ditch it & keep the charming demo version." if you imagined beat happening covering the classic psych of country joe, the odd bit of shadowy post punk & a fair dollop of freak-out then this may well be the wondrous result. recommended. "harvests the best guitar melodies, whether it's groovin' or twee, punky or swampy, hippied out or just straight rock 'n roll" - [dusted magazine](#). [woodsist](#)

team brick : alogon

(limited cd/dvd) team brick is vocalist / multi instrumentalist matt williams who has over the past couple of years been quietly making a name for himself in the bristol music scene, not least his involvement last year on portishead's '3rd' album. it's an indulgent hopscotch that skips from loosely constructed frames of reference to more randomised, improvised constructs. the tracks seem to blur into one, a filmic escapade, as if it's a score for some autistic ballet. in places, brass elements give the album a distinct english tint, at one point the horns sound like a trumpet cheer of plump policemen bobbing in unison...in others, fleeting glimpses of penguin café style strings can be found working their nostalgic magic from beneath. for fans of john zorn, secret chiefs 3, steve reich or dalek. "there are plenty of would-be mavericks currently operating on the fringes of the uk music underground, most of whom are labouring under delusions of adequacy, never mind grandeur. matt williams is the genuine article" - [the wire](#). the bonus dvd is of team brick supporting julian cope. [invada](#)

porcupine tree : the incident

porcupine tree are unquestionably one of the most difficult-to-categorise & innovative bands working today. the band are fronted by steven wilson, who also is well-known for his work producing other artists, from swedish progressive metal group opeth to norwegian chanteuse anja garbarek. he also has several other projects, including no-man, bass communion & blackfield. founded as a self-indulgent creative outlet for wilson, in late 1993, the solo project became a band, as colin edwin (bass), chris maitland (drums) & richard barbieri (keyboards) were recruited to enable porcupine tree to perform live. 'the incident' is their 10th studio album & it is in turns haunting, desolate, hypnotic & euphoric - a stunning 55-minute musical statement that breaks down into 14 separate & often diverse (though interlinked) vignettes. 'the incident' is completed by 4 standalone compositions all housed on a separate cd to stress their independence from the record's main 14-part suite. [roadrunner](#)

juliette lewis : terra incognita

the international megastar unveils her new album, produced by the mars volta's omar rodriguez-lopez. the 2 started collaborating after a meeting at japan's fugi rock festival. lewis visited rodriguez-lopez at his brooklyn studio, bringing along cassettes of songs she'd roughly recorded on a piano at home. rodriguez-lopez was instantly struck by what he calls the music's "pure honesty". he began adding instruments & orchestration to the tracks. the result is an album that shifts from punky grooves ('all is for god') to chiming guitar rock ('fantasy bar') & even a flashy pop song ('uh huh', which lewis describes as her 'make-out jam'), all creatively offset by omar's unique arrangements. for fans of florence & the machine or spinette. "she's discovered a more varied tone, ranging from the woozily psychedelic ('romeo') to the feverishly gothic ('noche sin fin') & melodies to match her raspingly alluring vocals" - [guardian](#). [roadrunner](#)

thomas dybdahl : thomas dybdahl

multi-award winning thomas dybdahl is one of the most talented singer songwriters from the norwegian music scene who is now unleashing his serene & intimate sound on the uk. hailed as norway's answer to nick drake, in 2002, thomas dybdahl won a norwegian grammy for best pop artist & now he releases his self-titled uk debut, a collation of his first 4 albums. "his delicate but lush music recalls that of tim buckley, nick drake & other forward-thinking songwriters" - [npr](#), "thomas dybdahl writes songs that move in for extreme close-ups: his acoustic guitar, his breathy voice, his vows of love...the tempos are glacial & the instruments few & pristine, so that every gesture is exposed. anything less than total grace would turn precious & cloying, but mr. dybdahl maintains his poise: each song has the delicate suspense of a drawn breath" - [the new york times](#). [last suppa](#)

the very best : warm heart of africa

back in 2007, a chance meeting at a 2nd-hand furniture store led the malawian singer esau mwamwaya to team up with underground european dj/producer duo radioclit to form the very best & last year they released a much talked about mixtape. fortunately, that mixtape did not mark the end of this collaboration & now they deliver a leffield surprise that joyously smashes borders. the trio's official debut further expands their musical palette to include triumphant synth rock ('chalo') & woozy g-funk ('julia'). featuring guest appearances from m.i.a. & vampire weekend frontman ezra koenig, this is a life-affirming triumph. "warm heart of africa' is a charm, entertaining from start to finish" – *dusted*. [moshi moshi](#)

v/a : disposable music - library subscription discs sampler

the reliably on the fringes finders keepers label has seen fit to release a series of limited vinyl only compilations of the weird & wonderful world of library music – music recorded especially for the film, television & radio industries. thankfully they have seen fit to compile this sampler of those releases on cd & throw in the odd track here & there that is exclusive to this release. taking cues from legendary library houses such as l'illustration musicale, kpm, de wolfe & mp2000, 'disposable music' is a custom made series drawing together far-out sounds from yesteryear & forward thinking contemporary luminaries. check out the weird & wonderful (& sometimes downright bizarre) sounds of the likes of pakistan's tafo brothers, bruno spoerri, the predicate production guild, the crime sound orchestra & sam mcloughlin. good stuff as usual! [finders keepers](#)

bats : red in tooth & claw

they are part of the ever expanding richter collective family who include an array of ground breaking acts including adebisi shank, marvins revolt, herv & many more. musically their blend of visceral but catchy post-punk/hardcore/metal/math-rock & scientific musings has attracted a wide spectrum of fans & support slots for likeminded acts these arms are snakes, the locust, liars, & chrome hoof, amongst others. 'red in tooth & claw', is the eagerly awaited follow up to their debut ep, 'cruel sea scientist' & was produced & recorded by kurt ballou (converge, beecher, genghis tron) in godcity studios, salem, massachusetts. for fans of big black, future of the left & these arms are snakes. "a bulky yet malleable sound that can turn on a hatpin from blistering punk rock to smooth, jazzy post-rock & from taut, melodic dance rock to british mosh metal" – *sputnikmusic.com*. [richter collective](#)

patrick cleandenim : orange moonbeam floorshow

just under 2 years since the release of 'baby comes home', a sweeping orchestral pop classic that received critical acclaim on both sides of the atlantic, cleandenim releases his follow up. it's an almost totally complete departure from his debut - a cinematic exploration into the language of early 80s commercial pop & dance music. stylistically, he attempts to invoke the mechanical electronic production-value utilized by kraftwerk & madonna (specifically her 1982 self titled debut) although simultaneously, he manages to retain a keen sense of lush orchestration & dynamic arrangements, which are brought to life by israelson. throughout his production, israelson scales the highest points of 80s, 90s & contemporary pop & hip-hop production, laying the groundwork for cleandenim's structure of lyrical & melodic cross-referencing. "a cracking, timeless record. the collision of expansive arrangements, smart songwriting & slightly amateurish sound quality makes for something truly original" 4/5 – *the times*. [broken horse](#)

the clean : mister pop

the 1st new studio album in 8 years from new zealand's influential first-wave punk band. what can be said about the clean? in 1978, they were the seeds of new zealand punk. they carved out a big sandbox for everyone to play in & their influence resonated not only in new zealand but around the world. 'mister pop' sees the clean continue the great pop pastiche. circus ragas ('moonjumper'), gorgeously hazy sunset anthems ('in the dreamlife you need a rubber soul') & the sometimes-loose dada approach to wordsmithery, continue right alongside "proper" lyrical forays & a few autobahn-referential instrumental moments to boot ('tensile'). bob's love of pastoral uk folk has brought some added weight into the overall clean equation, as does david's eastern & african guitar tones. "rather like american counterparts the feelies & yo la tengo, the clean often manage to make the most of limited resources...while hundreds of groups have plucked ideas from their toolbox, no-one quite does what the clean do" – *dusted*. [morr music](#)

grand union : through the green fuse

grand union's debut is a perfect slice of laid back warm folk, just right for the late summer days. signing to acid jazz on the back of one track, 'morning brings the light' which featured on the label's 'new testament of folk' album, they have now delivered an album of delights. with influences ranging from a crossover of folk to hippy jazz, to funk through to gospel, grand union have been favourably compared to pentangle, the 5th dimension & free design. from the driving acoustic pace of the flute-led, almost tull inspired, 'jane jane', to the beautiful superb harmony arrangements of 'wonderful world', or the pastoral tones of 'sally free & easy' to the frenetic build of album closer 'i remember my life like a story', grand union's debut is a work of beauty. [acid jazz](#)

eric copeland : alien in a garbage dump

eric copeland is a founding member of new york's black dice. 'alien in a garbage dump' represents almost 2 years of basement jamming & collecting, at the same time as he was immersed in two black dice albums. consequently, there are obvious parallels in the results - an uncompromised sonic landscape. however, alone, copeland has found places one can only find alone : small inner dialogues & isolated mind caves. the first 7 songs of this release appeared as a vinyl ep by the same name put out by paw tracks & the last 6 songs appear as a vinyl ep 'al anon', on catsup plate. copeland has the ability to beautify extreme & grating sounds. this record is steeped in modern media overload - dense, often fragmented blasts of ideas & sounds, representative of a half hour of prime-time tv ; overloaded, over-processed, overdosed music rooted in public sounds – sounding not unlike a rawer panda bear or a stripped down black dice. [paw tracks](#)

david gray : draw the line

(cd/ deluxe 2cd) with a title as bold as 'draw the line' it seems obvious that david gray, after a lengthy & successful career of coffee table pop, has something to prove on his 8th album. with a new backing band behind him (including neill maccoll, son of euan) performing the first new material from gray since 2005's 'life in slow motion', this record sees him at his most earnest. notably, it includes 2 duets - one with jollie holland ('kathleen') & one with the legendary annie lennox ('full steam ahead'). this is the warm sound of david gray's unmistakable voice & intelligent song writing under a new, revitalised light. the deluxe edition features a bonus cd with 8 of his hits performed live at london's roundhouse. [polydor](#)

boxer rebellion : union

(includes 2 extra tracks, not available on the download - 'broken glass' & 'murder ballad'). having survived the curse of being signed to alan mcgee's ill-fated poptones label, the boxer rebellion come back fighting with an epic, anthemic record that suggests they have been surviving on a staple diet of radiohead's 'the bends', editors, the national & u2. however, this doesn't come across as a calculated effort to feel stadiums – it feels real, warm & relatively understated. soaring guitars & widescreen rock for fans of white lies. the opendisc technology grants access to an exclusive online fan area with exclusive interviews, videos, photos & more. "a true monolith of self-belief & talent - flawless" - *the fly*, "full of shimmering grace" 4/5 - *q*, "union' is that rare beast – an indie record with huge commercial potential, crammed with arena-filling melodies, that also wriggles with complexities & revels in brooding atmospheres" - *bbc*. [boxer rebellion](#)

joe pernice : it feels so good when i stop

joe pernice was previously a member of alt-country band 'scud mountain boys'. 'it feels so good when i stop' is a companion piece to pernice's debut novel. rather than do a reading-only tour for the book & a music-only tour for the album, pernice decided to mash the 2 together & combine reading sections of the book with performing songs from the book/album. his debut is a coming-of-age tale for the modern-day slacker - an unlikely love story with a masculine perspective but with a mordant humour & unexpected warmth. set to a carefully curated soundtrack of nick drake, the pogues & peter dinklage, this is the story of a deeply flawed but irrepressibly likeable hero stumbling towards adulthood. a must for any pernice brothers & scud mountain boys fan. [one little indian](#)

talons : songs for babes

talons is the solo moniker of mike tolan (also one of trouble books' main players & guitarist for the six parts seven), playing guitar & writing songs at his kitchen table. this is a great collection of lo-fi singer songwriter recordings but these charming songs have been elevated out of the ordinary with lots of little warm touches - background noise, tape recording hiss, clicks & blips & some very subtle, beautiful instrumentation to accompany the acoustic guitar strums. it's an understated work that's comparable to m.ward or eliott smith in terms of the ambience but also recalls the quieter moments of yo la tengo. a little gem for rainy days & sleepless nights. [own records](#)

tim easton : porcupine

americana singer/songwriter tim easton has been driven westward both geographically & musically since his college days in ohio. on his 5th album, the joshua tree, californian resident lets a myriad of guitar riffs rooted in blues, country, rockabilly & campfire folk, set the colour for observational lyrics capturing life from the desert to the sea. the new album finds tim's storytelling skills as sharp as quills, possibly inspired by his friend & pal lucinda williams. one of 'porcupine's shining moments is the wistful 2 minute pop-folk jangle '7th wheel' (conjured by the same spirits that entered the room while browne & frey wrote 'take it easy'). [new west](#)

mark knopfler : get lucky

knopfler's new solo album, recorded at his award-winning british grove studios in west london & co-produced with long-time cohorts chuck ainlay & guy fletcher, is a beautifully crafted exploration of a lifetime of musical roots. fluently combining folk & blues with his original song writing, the whole containing personalised british ingredients & vivid observational & autobiographical lyricism. [mercury](#)

marc almond with alexei fedorov : orpheus in exile - the songs of vadim kozin

marc almond - a latter day curator of popular song - has rediscovered the songbook of vadim kozin. kozin was the soviet era's much-loved, exiled then forgotten, singer of gypsy folk & russian torch song romances. almond has joined creative forces with russian producer & musical arranger alexei fedorov who shares both marc's love of kozin & his aim to help bring his repertoire to a new audience. the songs have been specially translated for marc as they have never been sung in english before. 'orpheus in exile' was recorded & mixed in moscow & features russia's most famous folk ensemble, orchestra rossiya, conducted & arranged by the renowned anatoly sobolev. the flamboyance & despair of kozin is juxtaposed by the ever-present optimism of a lost genre of song. "it works wonderfully; a respectful tribute & joyous celebration" - the quietus. [sfe](#)

jakko m jakszyk : the bruised romantic glee club

(2cd) the bruised romantic glee club is the 5th solo album by composer jakko m. jakszyk. comprising one cd of his own compositions & a 2nd disc of eclectic cover versions of songs from the 60s & 70s including material by henry cow, king crimson & soft machine. the album combines the best in modern prog, with a set of personalised versions of some of the genre's classic material. as might be expected from someone who featured as guitarist & singer in ex-king crimson alumni project, the 21st century schizoid band, the musicianship on the album is of a consistently high calibre & jakko is joined by a formidable array of guest contributors that includes danny thompson (pentangle, john martyn), robert fripp & other various ex-king crimson members. with its evocative use of unusual time signatures & a-list musicianship, the bruised romantic glee club is destined to become a modern prog classic. [panegyric](#)

erik de vahl : secrets adrift

brought to you by the label responsible for whitest boy alive, jens lekman & the tough alliance, 'secrets adrift' is the new album from erik de vahl. erik has prepared a shimmering musical mini-universe for us to peep into that seems like it's built from the broken pieces, noises & leftovers of conventional songwriting. drawing influence from the abandoned industrial town kramfors, located in the middle of the majestic scenery of the north part of sweden, this hazy, mystical work of anti-structured pop fragments is likely to appeal to fans of the morr music label, especially b. fleischmann. [service](#)

trashcan sinatras : in the music

after more than 2 decades in the business, the guys behind the 1990's go! discs albums 'cake', 'i've seen everything', 'a happy pocket' & 2004's 'weightlifting' have decided to throw caution to the wind & get happy. these new love songs - full of relaxed harmonies, typical trashcans - were set to arrangements in a back room in the south side of glasgow over the summer of 2007 & recorded in new york & marthas vineyard over a crisp, cold winter in 2008. someone must have been smiling on the music - as an added & somewhat unexpected sparkle, the iconic singer - songwriter legend carly simon heard the music & asked to sing on 'should i pray'. 'oranges & apples' is a 7 minute long tribute to syd barrett. [lo-five](#)

richard lloyd : the jamie neverts story

ex-television & rocket from the tombs guitarist & frequent matthew sweet collaborator richard lloyd releases his long-awaited collection of jimi hendrix covers, recorded with his band the sufimonkeys. as much a homage to jimi as it is to lloyd's & hendrix's mutual friend velvert turner, the involved story behind this release touches on punches thrown, tears shed & three men whose legendary guitar alchemy has shaped & continues to shape rock music ever since. the tale outlined in the liner notes is integral to understanding the album, although lloyd's guitar wizardry certainly stands alone! for recording richard was joined by bassist keith hartel & longtime lloyd session drummer chris purdy, with a special guest appearance by television drummer billy ficca. no effects pedals, no fuzz box, no octavia, no wahwah pedal, no feedback, nothing backwards. just stratocaster guitars into supro & magnetone amplifiers. [parasol records](#)

new model army : today is a good day

formed by justin sullivan in bradford in 1980, the band's beginnings were inspired by punk rock, northern soul & the incendiary atmosphere of the times. they have been massively influential in 'post-punk', 'folk-rock', 'politico-rock', 'goth', 'metal' & all kinds of musical sub-cultures but have successfully resisted belonging to any of these categories or genres. after nearly 30 years, they have never lost the ability to change, to thrill or to challenge. this is their 11th studio album, mostly written in the wake of the wall street collapse (an event celebrated in the opening track). the recording was postponed by the unexpected death at christmas of tommy tee, the band's long-time friend & manager. however, with another long-time friend chris kimsey (notable for his work with the rolling stones, jimmy cliff, killing joke & countless others) at the controls, the album is now finished - once again filled with unclassifiable music & challenging lyrical ideas. [attack attack](#)

magic christian : evolver

something of a rock'n'roll supergroup comprised of cyril jordan (flamin' groovies) on guitar, clem burke (blondie) on drums, eddie muñoz (the plimsouls) on bass & paul kopf on vocals - 4 musicians who share an enthusiastic & energetic new approach to classic sounds of the past, bringing them very much up to date. magic christian combine the best parts of 60s garage, rockin' blues, beate beats, power pop & psyched-out grooves, setting out an iconoclastic yet defining standard of rock'n'roll for the 21st century, with incredible songs that rock & yet at the same time have enough of a pop sensibility to match the best of their previous, famous, bands. this is an album packed with surprises. there are hooks aplenty, layers of feedback & fuzz, mixed in with some soul harmonies, dirty blues guitar, a lot of jangle, a little twang & a strong presence all around - exactly what you would expect with the combined talents of magic christian. [dirty water records](#)

pere ubu : long live pere ubu

pere ubu never do things by halves, setting themselves the task of stylistically reinventing themselves with each subsequent album release. next to ubu, over the years, david "chameleon of rock" bowie has looked as staid as status quo. the band's latest album gets off to a savage start with 'ubu overture', with juddering guitars & marching drums & frontman david thomas chanting "ubu" over & over. the album is directly inspired by the play that gave pere ubu their name, 'bring me the head of ubu roi', with thomas playing the "role" of pere ubu & sarah jane morris playing 'mere ubu'. although each track has its own individual merits, this is an album that really has to be taken as a whole. the music mixes glitchy, ambient electronics, spidery post rock guitar, dissonant jazzy passages, semi-birthday party tongue in cheek horror, contemporary opera & at one point, a chorus of belches. [cooking vinyl](#)

little claw : human taste

little claw was born in detroit, michigan during the great eastern seaboard blackout of 2003...having nothing to do, nowhere to go, heath heemsbergen & klynn lunsford began playing their acoustic guitars & singing into the darkness. hendrik deherder joined up on the drums & their move from the urban nightmare of detroit to the more subtle cloudy terrors of portland, oregon prompted some more augmentations to the line-up: adam svenson (of seattle improv band du hexen hase) took over the caveman beat on the drums, freeing up henrik to bang the synth & add additional percussion. the vocals are mostly unleashed atonally & wonkily while muddy pop structures spring out at you, popping through the grimy melee, screaming for help before being dragged back into the chaos & there are some monotone, scratchy guitars coming out of the darkness too. a sleazy no-fi art garage racket with a post-punk/no wave heart, throbbing with creativity & cheeky menace. "fuckin' awesome" - [thurston moore](#). [ecstatic peace](#)

nick hudson : territories of dissent

hudson's self-produced/released record was conceived & recorded after a painful split from his partner but that only informs half of the record, which chronicles the rise & fall of a tumultuous relationship in post-apocalyptic krakow through a series of impressionistic song-compositions. spanning the beautiful klezmer-esque opener, scored for 8 cellos & piano, through the parliament-finged cubist groove of 'coming up', to the traumatic atonality of the closer with its erupting saxes, whispered voice relating the dream that unlocks the whole record & kitchen-sink denouement. in between there are stunning ballads, rich with oceanic cello, flutes, harp, piano & nick's luxurious tenor voice. "ambitious, curious & beautiful" - [jamie stewart](#), [xiu xiu](#). [self-released](#)

andrew w.k. : 55 cadillac

andrew w.k. has completed his first ever instrumental new age solo piano recording. for those who know andrew wk purely as the party-rock good time boy of 2001 debut album 'i get wet', '55 cadillac' will come as something of a shock. an album of "spontaneous solo piano improvisations", it was composed & recorded in just 2 hours. the album showcases his spontaneous piano improvisations & the title refers to the jet black 1955 cadillac fleetwood, which also appears on the cover & was andrew's muse for this album. he has stated that he wants the listener to feel like they are in the car with him & that he's playing piano just for them. [skyscraper music maker](#)

wave pictures / darren hayman : bruce springsteen tribute

(7"+cd album) very limited edition 7" single with free wave pictures album. bruce springsteen is the boss & darren hayman & wave pictures are clearly in the know. hayman tackles 'girls in their summer clothes', from 2007's 'magic' album, while the wave pictures offer an antifolk reading of 1992's 'if i should fall behind'. the wave pictures had so much fun recording their side of the 7" they just carried on through the night & by the morning had finished the exclusive free album of 10 more springsteen tracks, included with the 7" single on a cd. they tackle bruce greats including 'i'm on fire' & 'my hometown'. [where it's at is where you are](#)

debbie leggo : debbs leggs

i kind of half expected this to be something to do with lydia lunch from the title but debbie leggo are in fact chrystabel riley (drums), oliver martin (guitar) & sam mac (bass) & feature vocals by scottish street poet gerry mitchell. kraut rock grooves, space rock freakouts & drones are pinned down by the slurred words of mitchell that shimmy, berate, rant, eulogize & rumble like he may have tuvan ancestry alongside his hibernian heritage. it's like the fall, guru guru, arab strap & loop have converged on the same spot & proceeded on a medicated trajectory arcing above the streets of north london in a spiritual/narcotic haze a la jason spaceman. [fire records](#)

the low miffs & malcolm ross : malcolm ross & the low miffs

the much anticipated one-off collaboration between malcolm ross, elder statesman of postcard pop (josef k/orange juice/aztec camera) & the low miffs, glasgow's young pretenders to the post-punk/pure pop throne. bristling with the kind of effervescent guitar-play you'd expect from a postcard veteran, the music flits effortlessly from its television-esque intro & explodes into the self-same virtuoso territory once occupied by both sparks & the associates, with an appreciative vocal nod in the direction of both bowie & scott walker. ambitious? yes, but in possessing an almost indecent array of collective musical dexterity, they carry it off with great aplomb! "featuring some quite brilliantly controlled playing weaving lovely patterns around singing that is part associates, part sparks, this is sonic sunshine to light up the darkest room" - [scotsman](#). [re-action](#)

samara lubelski : future slip

after utilizing her violin skills for his 'trees outside the academy' album, thurston moore offered lubelski a release on his label if he could produce - & here are the results. samara cuts the basic tracks in her 2nd home in germany & then tracks back to nyc to collaborate with the likes of pg six, steve shelley, nicolas vernhes & her other cronies. this, her 5th record, serves up a gorgeous & friendly collection of bittersweet melodies, sinister basslines, gestural polaroid lyrics & spot-on drumming garnished with sprigs of fuzz. although she hasn't entirely abandoned the baroque folk stylings of her previous records, the steady beat of shelley ushers in the ghost of krautrock -envision france gall performing the songs of sterling morrison & mo tucker with ralph molina on drums & you're getting there. for fans of matteah baim, sian alice group, stereolab & most of the rest of the great ecstatic peace! roster. [ecstatic peace!](#)

hurrah! : tell god i'm here (expanded edition)

originally known as the green-eyed children, hurrah! consisted of paul handyside-guitar/vocals, david taffy hughes-guitar/vocals, david porthouse-bass & mark sim-drums. switching to the moniker of hurrah!, the quartet signed to the new kitchenware records label in 1982. mark sim soon departed to be replaced by damien mahoney, whereupon a series of acclaimed singles such as 'the sun shines here' & 'hip hip' earned the band great respect. based upon the pivotal force of the singing/guitar-playing/songwriting partnership of paul handyside & david hughes, hurrah! mastered a jittery, urgent style rich in melodic content. by 1986, however, the band had pushed their sound towards a rockier terrain, replacing the initial charm with power & passion. damien mahoney left to join the police force that year, allowing steve price to fill the vacant drum stool. this, their debut, saw the light of day in 1987, swiftly followed by a support date with u2 at wembley stadium but commercial success remained elusive. [cherry red records](#)

peter broderick : home (special edition)

(2cd - comes with a bonus disc of alternate versions of songs & previously unreleased material) following his gorgeous mini-album, 'docile' (kning disc) comprised of solo piano music & his astonishing full length 'float' (type), of piano & string compositions this is peter's bella union debut. he builds on the soundscapes & vignettes of 'float' to create fully-fledged songs, somewhere between the worlds of traditional singer/songwriting & magical found sounds. from the moment the multi-tracked vocals on 'games' invite you into this most alluring of records, you know you're in the presence of something special & unique, as peter weaves truly captivating of harmonies. '& it's alright' draws you further in, gentle guitar arpeggios underpinning a gorgeous, graceful melody as peter's vocals caress his evocative words. a record of quietly breathtaking beauty, a gentle & subtle record which reveals its magic gradually over the course of many listens. highly recommended for fans of bon iver, iron & wine, m.ward et al. [bella union](#)

the durutti column : four factory records

(6cd boxset) durutti column's 1st 4 factory records albums ('the return of the durutti column', 'lc', 'another setting' & 'without mercy') have been carefully re-mastered from the original master tapes, previously thought to have been lost. guitarist vini reilly's unique sound, a rich fusion of classical, folk & jazz, whilst strangely out of place in 1978, has proven to be one of the most enduring sounds of the factory stable. limited to 1175 copies, this boxset also includes 2 bonus cds, the first containing previously unreleased demos, versions & outtakes from the period & the second previously unreleased live recordings from london, glasgow, & brighton from 82/84. the package also includes extensive liner notes & interviews with the key protagonists vini reilly, bruce mitchell, john metcalfe & tim kellett & interviews with those who worked on the albums. [kooky discs](#)

the feelies : crazy rhythms

(cd/lp) not quite as famous as those noted hoboken musicians, frank sinatra or the more musically aligned yo la tengo, hyperactive 'altrockers' the feelies can still claim to be highly influential on later bands including r.e.m & weezer (just check out the album sleeve for proof of that). their debut 'crazy rhythms' is a masterwork of minimalist rock that turns their obvious velvet underground influences into something all their own, a true sonic tour de force that rolling stone deemed one of the "100 best albums of the 1980s". features deluxe packaging with liner notes by jim derogatis. as the band considers each album to be a discrete aesthetic artifact, the copious bonus material is included as a digital download. [domino](#)

the feelies : the good earth

(cd/lp) 6 years & various line up changes after their debut & with co-production from uber-fan peter buck of r.e.m. the feelies returned with a very different sounding follow up. this album introduced the line-up that continues to this day. this time, although the velvets influenced grooves remain, there's much more of an acoustic, country edge not unlike the feel of r.e.m.'s 'reckoning'. another underrated gem, ripe for rediscovery. features deluxe packaging with liner notes by jim sullivan. as the band considers each album to be a discrete aesthetic artifact, the copious bonus material is included as a digital download. [domino](#)

julian cope : peggy suicide (deluxe edition)

1991's sprawling double album 'peggy suicide' is probably the best & most important of cope's career as cope left behind the compromises involved in trying to please his label's demand for pop crossover material & started to branch out in any direction he chose whilst still achieving a coherent whole. it also had one of his poppiest songs ever in the yes, beautiful & lovely, 'beautiful love'. a meditation on humanity's relationship to mother earth from the state of the planet to the state of poll tax era britain to safe sex, the album takes in a multitude of styles from folk to krautrock to 60s garage right up to then current madchester grooves. this deluxe edition includes a second disc containing various b sides, mixes & tour only singles to expand the sound further. a truly essential album. [island](#)

deaf school : english boys - working girls

3rd & final album from liverpool's art school formed deaf school ("the most important band from liverpool apart from the beatles" - paul du noyer), continues to develop their pub rock/ punk/glam rock/art rock hybrid. at the time, deaf school seemed like an irrelevance left behind by the scores of other liverpool bands they inspired. these days, their mix of elvis costello & the boomtown rats coupled with a large dose of 60s girl groups & an even larger dose of roxy music sounds much stronger. after this, vocalist steve allen formed the similarly inclined but more focused original mirrors with future lightning seed, ian broudie, while main writer clive langer went on to massive success as producer for the likes of costello, teardrop explodes, dexys & madness. [lemon](#)

drive by truckers : the fine print (a collection of oddities & rarities 2003-2008)

drive-by truckers (dbt) have been making music together for 13 years resulting in 7 critically acclaimed studio albums which could not contain all of the songs written by the band. they have recently dug into the new west records vaults & put finishing touches to a selection of songs that were never quite completed. the result is this 12-track album of previously unreleased & rare songs. 'the fine print' features songs written by band members past & present, including patterson hood, mike cooley & jason isbell. 7 of the 12 songs come from 'the dirty south' era, a highly creative time for dbt. the record also contains 4 covers. [new west](#)

the damned : damned, damned, damned (deluxe edition)

(3cd) released in february 1977, one of the first uk punk albums, the raw power of 'damned, damned, damned' still sounds as fresh & vital now as it did then. from the opening classic single 'neat, neat neat' to the closing sprawling cover of the stooges' 'i feel alright', there's not a weak moment. arguments & line up changes meant they were never as good as this again. this deluxe edition captures everything else that the band officially recorded in 1977 including early demos, all the b-sides, both john peel sessions, their scorching bbc in concert & the rare 'stretcher case baby' / 'sick of being sick' 7" single as well as their 100 club set from july 76. [universal](#)

big star : #1 record

at the time it was released, former boxtop alex chilton & chris bell's beatles (particularly harrison) influenced debut was largely ignored or just viewed as an out of time anachronism. like the first velvet underground lp, it's one of those albums that has had a far greater influence than its lack of sales would suggest. without this there would probably be no tom petty, r.e.m., replacements, wilco or any number of other bands whose success has outstripped their original template. these days it doesn't matter when it was recorded, it sounds like what it actually was, not out of time but a truly timeless classic. unlike the vu, though, this is one record that still hasn't really started to sell in the quantities its reputation deserves. if you don't already have it, do yourself a favour & buy it now. [concord](#)

big star : radio city

following chris bell's departure, leaving alex chilton to write most of the album on his own (chris bell's contribution to some of these songs has never been credited), the second big star album doesn't quite reach the heights of the debut but that was never likely. this is still a record heavily indebted to the beatles but this time it's all late period infighting, breaking up to start again. even though this is the sound of a band starting to fall apart, any album containing songs of the quality of 'september gurls' & 'o my soul' will always remain a classic by anyone else's standards. [concord](#)

the 39 clocks : pain it dark

reissue of the 1st album by hanover duo christian henjes (alias c.h. 39) & jürgen gleue (alias j.g. 39) described by german pop scholar diedrich diederichsen as "the best german band of the eighties". the sleeve notes give you all kinds of authentic early 80s style artschool rhetoric & theory about the band turning their back on punk & inventing "psycho beat" but what does it actually sound like? most often compared to suicide because of their deadpan lyrics, hypnotic rhythms & primitive drum machine, what you actually get is more like suicide's main influence, the velvet underground, with the guitar echoing lou reed's slowed down take on 60s garage. highly recommended for fans of both the above as well as the likes of neu, can & post punk in general. [bureau b](#)

you me at six : take off your colours (special edition)

(2cd) you me at six's emergence is a diy punk dream come true : one unsigned suburban rock outfit - zapped through with sinewy guitar riffs & can't-get-you-out-of-my-head harmonies - are suddenly rocket launched from surrey's suburban toilet circuit into the festival big time & onto radio one's playlist with only a myspace fan page to light the fuel. the 5-piece's effervescent spirit is showing no signs of fizzling out just yet. this deluxe edition of their debut album features the original acclaimed record alongside a 2nd disc comprising 5 new songs (including 'kiss & tell' & 'finders keepers'), as well as the accompanying videos for both singles. [virgin](#)

imelda may : love tattoo (special edition)

(2cd - disc 2 features 8 live tracks) the dublin-born rockabilly diva's debut has won her both critical praise & ardent followers. may has the rare kind of raw talent & timeless glamour that truly illuminates the stage - you don't just watch imelda perform, you experience it & as such, she is fast emerging as one of the finest vocalists from the uk roots music scene today. fortunately, her live presence is captured perfectly on this album which mixes straight-up rock 'n' roll with full on raw blues & smokey jazz to stunning effect. from the frank & explicit nature of 'johnny got a boom boom' to the tender intimations of 'falling in love with you again', she asserts herself as a versatile performer. "a timelessly truthful collection of intoxicating blend of jazz-a-billy - nothing short of captivating" - word. [decca](#)

joe volk (crippled black phoenix) : derwent waters saint

joe volk is the vocalist / lyricist for crippled black phoenix who earlier this year released their critically acclaimed 2nd album '200 tons of bad luck'. before joining crippled black phoenix, volk was a member of stoner rock band gonga. this solo release produced by portishead's adrian utley, was originally released in 2006 & is now reissued at mid-price. it represented a new direction for volk, drawing comparisons to classic british singer-songwriters such as nick drake. "a beautiful, melodic masterpiece" - [contact music](#). [invada](#)

dance/electronica

the orb : baghdad batteries - obsessions vol 3

there's always been 2 quite contrasting sides to the orb's centrifugal epicentre dr alex paterson. one is the purveyor of hook-ridden songs laden with vocal toppings or memorable samples which alex describes as "pop". the other is more serious, focusing primarily on the sound itself, noticeably rearing in the mid-90s. these startling electronic odysseys are often hatched with long-time collaborator thomas fehlmann, the orb's berlin connection who's been there from the start. such is the case with 'baghdad batteries' where the pair have injected some of these breathtaking outings with a subterranean house pulse beamed up from the earth's core, resulting in a new form of space disco brushed with minimal techno shadows. the album is actually the 3rd volume in the ongoing 'obsessions' series but whereas the previous 2 were compiled from nuggets trawled from the vaults, these are new tracks, which also provide the soundtrack for werner boote's film 'plastic planet'. there's a very special atmosphere to this album. [malicious damage](#)

lcd soundsystem : 45:33 remixes

for the uninitiated, '45:33' was an original workout mix by lcd soundsystem. commissioned by nike, the piece was purportedly based on "an arc designed for running", featuring music by the band, pieced together like a dj mix in a fashion that supposedly helped people everywhere forget they're hating life on the jogging trail. the mix was highly acclaimed & was integral to the shaping of 'sound of silver'. Here, segments & parts of the record have been lovingly & respectively re-interpreted by some of dance music's most innovative players including prins thomas, theo parrish, padded cell, pilooski, runaway & more. [parolophone](#)

v/a : mary anne hobbs presents wild angels

(cd, 2lp) mary anne hobbs has become an unlikely champion for dubstep, grime & proper dirty bass music & these days, is probably the only good reason to tune the wireless to radio 1. this is her 3rd compilation for the planet mu label & as ever, is a superb showcase for emerging new artists that hybridise existing genres like hip hop, dubstep, grime & soul into exotic exciting new forms. artists here include mark pritchard, hudson mohawke, architeq, starkey, hyetal, legion of two & more, all switching their computers firmly into wonky mode. the mixture of underground classics & exclusive new tracks makes this an essential purchase for the curious & the converted. "as a document of the here-&-now of leftside dancefloor goods in 2009 you'd struggle to find a better collection" – boomkat. [planet mu](#)

v/a : tru thoughts covers

the tru thoughts roster have been littering their catalogue with great & unusual cover versions for the last 10 years or so. now they have seen fit to collect a bunch of the finest in one place & have thrown in the odd exclusive here & there. quite a few of them have proved hits with the public including nostalgia 77 & alice russell's soulful take on the white stripes' '7 nation army', hot 8 brass band's jazzy & joyous reworking of marvin gayes' 'sexual healing' & quantic soul orchestra's funky reassembling of 4hero's 'hold it down.' of course there is more to this comp than just those three : the strokes, kings of leon, eminem, frank sinatra & portishead all get given a tru thoughts workover too. does exactly what it says on the tin! [tru thoughts](#)

lemonade : lemonade

emigrating from west coast to east, rob da bank's latest singings are the cowbell-clacking nexus between cisco's free-mindedness & a williamsburg party that shakes rump to the sound of twitchy dfa electro, pil & their dubby punk-funk peers & the balearic renaissance – especially so on the arms aloft 'bliss out'. with their muscular, aggressive approach to dance music, this is an epic journey through acid house, arabian melodies, punk, dub & grime. think party-starting outfits like !!! & professor murder with the abrasiveness of acts like aa & liars & you can't go too wrong. "hedonism on a scale not seen since !!! hit their punk-house stride" 8/10 – nme, "rife with rhythmic density & intensity, but smartly sequenced into 2 halves that each follow the peak/valley/peak arc that rock listeners demand of proper albums" 8.3 – [pitchfork](#). [sunday best](#)

black devil disco club presents... bernard fever : the strange world of bernard fever

bernard fevre may not be a household name, yet this pioneering french musician became known as black devil in the late 70s when he released 'disco club', a now legendary & extremely rare slice of electronic-fuelled disco which gathered a cult status over the years. however, before his black devil work he was developing a futuristic sound utilizing the electronics & synthesizers of the day. in fact fevre's approach was close to that of the radiophonic workshop, tainted with elegant library music styling, a genre that has become more than a passing trend in modern electronica. while a handful of the 14 original tracks are present on this new version, they have all been redeveloped & expanded & the rest have never previously been released, although it is not known whether they were recorded at the time or have been engineered recently. either way, this collection is absolutely flawless & sounds surprisingly fresh & vibrant. [lo recordings](#)

v/a : geometry

latest label round-up from the long dormant touchin' bass imprint. their electro alarm clock must have been synchronised to the wrong time because these guys have been quiet for a little while now but they're back with more of the purist electro sound for '09. wireblock & underscan artist bogger starts the comp with the metallic tweaks of 'mineral', ben milstein offers a fluttering slice of electro-acoustic trickery & wee dj's 'no resolution' proves that he's still dark as hell. most notable are the final 2 tracks to be released by the bitstream brothers. probably one of the uk's most cherished electro outfits of the last 10 years, the duo sign off with 2 typically radioactive & melancholy compositions riddled with robot emotions & super crisp production techniques. [touchin' bass](#)

gus gus : 24/7

(cd & lp) gus gus return with a new record & a new home, as they now join forces with the ever excellent kompakt label. apparently originally intended for an early summer release, the fact that this record has only appeared now is no bad thing as this is dance music definitely suited to the longer, colder months ahead. the reykjavik natives' 7th studio album is moody & minimal, with slow-building beats, like on 'on the job', in which daniel agúst intermittently tells us it's 24/7 over a plodding groove. 'take me baby' pushes the record's velocity level with a harder techno sound, while 'thin ice' is a smouldering depeche mode synth pop tribute that agúst pulls off honourably. dark, brooding techno done properly! [kompakt](#)

architeq : green & gold

architeq finally follows his acclaimed 12" releases for tirk with this excellent debut album. the album lands at a point in the end of a decade when disco, dub, r'n'b & electronics are engaged in a full blown love-in, inviting any style interesting enough to join in for a rhythmic climax. it would appear that architeq is either the voyeur, taking it all in, or entwined at the centre of the seething pile, inserted with rhythms, styles & methods that he absorbs like a sauna towel. some of his best work is on slo-mo rhythms like opener 'twilight', sounding like danielle baldelli directing sly & robbie, while his knack for working with choice vocals shines through on the late-night spatialised r'n'b of 'nothing' featuring junior williams, while elsewhere 'birds of prey' still delivers the sure-shock upon 1st listen. proper retroid-future funk that fans of kelpie, joker or diskjokke will love. [tirk](#)

v/a : death before distemper 4: mixed & re-edited by kelpie

close on the heels of 'death before distemper 3', which saw the idjut boys mix up the more discofied elements of the dc catalogue, comes part 4 in the series - a crunched up counterpart to the idjuts mix that has been assembled by dc's own aquatic beat-monger kelpie. given the run of the label's catalogue but with the emphasis this time on the earlier & more experimental side, kelpie splices & dices material by dc protagonists old & new to create strange & unlikely hybrids. moving rapidly through material the results are a beguiling mix that present the sounds of dc recordings in some startling new ways; the frenzied beats of depth charge's formative work rubs shoulders with the psychotic fury of booze, the smooth glassy funk of tom tyler combines majestically with the atmospheric beats of big two hundred & octagon man's proto-techno is fused with the cosmic pop of higamos hogamos. awesome mix, awesome label! [dc recordings](#)

shir khan : exploited

(2cd) following the critically acclaimed 'maximize!' release, shir khan presents 'exploited', the 2nd compilation showcasing his label's finest moments alongside a handful of new tracks. including artists such as bonde do role, siriusmo, milanese, sis, riva starr, modeselektor, oliver\$, soho, zombie disco squad, solo, cobblestone jazz, matt john, the glimmers, le le & zomby, this is a whirlwind trip that veers through electro, disco, grubby acid house, propulsive rave, baile-funk, ragga & finally deposits us back in the dubstep domain where we began. all in all, an excellent genre-bending mix well that's well worthy of your time. "shir khan's mix bottles the zeitgeist's giddy thrills with plenty of style & substance" 4.5/5 - dj mag. [exploited](#)

the gaslamp killer : hell & the lake of fire are waiting for you

the psych-heads psych-beat selector-of-choice follows up a terrific slash & grab selection for finders keepers with a more personal mix of fiery picks for his own home-brewed imprint. sadly lacking a tracklisting (somewhat frustrating given the amount of unbelievably good rarities flying out of gaslamp's box), you can expect slightly more obvious elements from dj shadow, bar 9, rustie, jefferson airplane, bullion & can lurking around in the spongy vinyl soup hidden beneath glk's shocking locks & spilled all over this mix. basically, no one stands up to this crafty character for sheer selections, mixing prowess & overall gameplan, while actually making some sort of coherent sense of this constantly mutating & feedback looping world of music that we live in right now. [glk](#)

v/a : southern friend & tested 2

norman cook's label started off as a vehicle to release his own productions as mighty dub katz, the pleased wimmin & freakpower. fast forward a decade & a half & fatboy is releasing the 2nd of his 'southern fried & tested' mix series, compiling some of the imprint's successes over the years. this time, label producer & sometime chemical brothers tour dj, nathan detroit, steps up to showcase a batch of back-catalogue classics. the premise is simple – fit as many tracks in to 70 minutes as humanly possible, while retaining a cohesive mix rather than the disjointed cut-up style usually adopted for this type of cram-it-all-in project. with tracks by staples of the brighton music scene caged baby, radio slave & norman himself in his brighton port authority guise alongside, star names including armand van helden & touche, plus remixes from newer artists likes of laidback luke, herve & tim green, there's plenty to be getting on with. [southern fried records](#)

jamie jones : don't you remember the future

debut album of deep & groovy tech house from jamie jones. after touring the finest european house imprints from poker flat to cocoon & get physical, jones lands on crosstown rebels with an album where old school prince meets cybertron. cosmic cuts such as 'mars' & 'deep in the ghetto' create a new dimension through soaring synths & idiosyncratic samples, while the sonic dancefloor weapons 'half human' & 'this is how' release the lethal disco master within master jones. norwegian oddball duo ost & kjex feature on this year's miami anthem, 'summer time', which has been a staple in the record boxes of the top jocks for over a year since its birth. universally effective grooves!

[crosstown rebels](#)

haito göpfrich : fiat lux

this is göpfrich's 1st album under his own name, though this techno boffin has been recording for a while under various guises & various accomplices. his minimal take on techno shares roots with the likes of the ricardo villalobos, modeselektor, sascha funke & martin eyerer & the kompakt crew but he injects more melody & elements from outside the techno sphere, such as the middle eastern strings on 'pusher' but above all it is intelligent sample editing, four-dimensional, fluffy synths & springy percussion sounds & rolling bass that marks him out from the crowd. [boxer](#)

polyamorous affair : bolshevik disco

l.a. based electronic duo the polyamorous affair are singer/songwriter eddie chacon (of charles & eddie 'would i lie to you' fame!) & seductive front-woman, sissy saint-marie. together they churn out 10 electro-pop gems under the concept of bolshevik disco, delivering the inspired dance beats of giorgio moroder & the raw sexuality of serge gainsbourg's collaborations with vixens jane birkin & brigitte bardot. give that a twist of marc bolan-esque hooks & goldfrapp's technological pagan naturalist ways & you get the polyamorous affair. queen blogger, perez hilton, has been all over this record & it has been used on tv's 'ugly betty'. [manimal vinyl records](#)

v/a : fabric48: radio slave

matt edwards aka radio slave, one half of quiet village, rekid & a whole other bunch of names that allow him to set up camp in the various subgenres of dance, contributes the latest instalment in fabric's lung running mix series & it's probably not too surprising that a number of releases from his own rekids label feature. he takes the opposite approach to most that have contributed to this series & instead of cramming as many tracks into its 70 or so minutes, lets the 13 tracks here breathe. latin percussion features heavily & gives it a very summery feel, the kind that would go down a treat on a hot day at secret sundaze or with fans of villalobos or luciano's hispanic influences. a tense yet fluidly effective mix that craftily draws from the huge palette of his own tracks & rekids numbers at his disposal. [fabric 591 limited](#)

v/a : electric minds vol 1

electric minds began in 2005 with the 1st party taking place in a warehouse in east london. with sound systems in tow, the electric minds partied in warehouses, disused snooker halls, churches, restaurants & basements. despite run-ins with police, local councils, unsavoury characters, dodgy venue owners & sound systems blowing up, the parties went off & 4 years on, the label launches its 1st compilation. it collects the cream of the tracks from the 1st 10 12"s released on the label & is aimed squarely at the dancefloor with disco/house selections from the likes of yam who?, chaz jankel, stevie kotey & yam who?'s reworking of arthur russell's 'wax the van.' [knowfool](#)

hip hop

q-tip : kamaal the abstract

this album has had a long & troubled gestation - it was originally meant to receive a release back in 2001 but his label got very cold feet as they considered it uncommercial & maybe they're right - this isn't the record to light up the charts but it is far from the jazz funk odyssey that it was rumoured to be. the beats are pointed & clipped as you would expect on a q-tip record but it's far more organic & loose than the latter-day tribe records & his more straight up solo offerings & he is ably assisted by, among others, gary thomas & kenny garrett (both former miles davis sidemen). the vibe of the record doesn't stray far from q-tip's stomping ground - he's still very laidback, quietly intense & intelligent - it's just he has expanded musically from the clipped loops stretching out into territory that outkast & the likes of d'angelo would explore (without their labels getting nervous). [rca](#)

jay-z : the blueprint 3

how many times has he retired? & how many times has he come out retirement to sort out the state of rap since he's retired? not to mention that he's better known as a mogul & the guy with beyonce on his arm these days than a rapper. so, it's nice to see him riding high at the top of the charts again & reminding us once in a while why he rose to such prominence - after all, he is "the only rapper to rewrite history without a pen" & let's face it, he has never shied away from highlighting his (self) importance. executively produced by kanye west, the jigga puts auto-tune to the sword (lord knows someone needs to) & generally puts the world to rights & everyone back in their place. there aren't too many marquee rappers that actually have the skills to pull this thing off over & again & well, it's just good to have him back. [3 roc nation](#)

kid cudi : a kid named cudi

scott mescudi, aka cleveland's own kid cudi, is the "next big thing" in rap (being best buddies with kanye west clearly doesn't hurt). cudi is commercially known for his popular single, 'day & night', yet heavily respected in the underground for his wit, flow & lyrical content. this 16-track mixtape blends various genres together from more conventional hip hop to influences of alternative rock to jazz & soul including sampling j dilla, outkast, paul simon, band of horses & ratatat. the ideal gap filler until his debut comes later in the year. [module](#)

trip : shortcuts

(cd+dvD) the incredibly self-assured debut album from trip, aka alex child. the eloquently lyrical musical meanderings of one young man's mind, 'shortcuts' is a genre splicing tour through the trials & tribulations that affect all of our lives, chronicling trip's experiences & flights of fancy in the salubrious surrounds of holloway boulevard. relocated from his childhood home of hammersmith to the holloway road (affectionately referred to as holloway boulevard), trip started piecing together what would become 'shortcuts'. working alongside does it offend you yeah's james rushent & esteemed producer lance thomas (ladytron, mark rae, simian), the album became a kaleidoscopic expedition through the excitement & boredom of a life lived in the city. if mike skinner had decided to make a career out of his collaboration with the futureheads, the results may have sounded a lot like this. [autonomy recordings ltd](#)

shafiq husayn : shafiq en a free-ka

shafiq husayn is one 3rd of the sa-ra collective whose excellent 'nuclear evolution - the age of love' got released just a few months back. he also moonlights as writer & producer of acts such as erykah badu, ice-t, platinum pied piers & jurrasic 5 & he has only just found the time to release this, his 1st solo album. inspired by abbey road & electric ladyland studios & composed with an armoury of outboard gear, effects, synthesizers, electric guitars, strings, horns, a lot of modulation & a lot of weird stuff, his approach is much like sa-ra & sly stone years before - soul, hip hop, jazz, psychedelic fuzz guitar, funk & pop all get thrown into the heavy mix. for fans of sa-ra, common, madlib & erykah badu. "hip-hop mastered the beat, but they didn't do nothing with the changes," says shafiq. "even someone as musical as dr. dre - they're not really taking it to the whole arrangement, even if he catches fire for a couple of hot bars. that's like meat & potatoes." [rapster](#)

soul/funk

big boss man : full english beat breakfast

the long awaited 3rd album from big boss man presents an essential selection of prime 60's inspired dancefloor tracks. the album was recorded by the band at their 8-track ramshackle studio, using an extensive collection of vintage gear. head honcho nasser (a.k.a the bongolian) plays mini-vip, farfisa & hammond organs, wurlitzer piano, moog synths & drums & percussion. driving fuzz guitar & bass beat are provided by bassman scott milson "the hawk" & guitarist trev harding. the band have once more created a superb spaced-out selection : northern soul vibes with 'black eye', garage sounds with 'the bloater', boogaloo with 'pies & pastiche' & even samba with 'full brazilian'. funky grooves for fans of the bongolian, soul, funk, latin soul, boogaloo or pop hammond grooves. [blow up](#)

v/a : disco discharge - classic disco

'disco discharge' is a brand new series from the reliable reissue label harmless. it will be covering 4 themes - classic disco, disco ladies, euro disco & gay disco & hi-nrg. The 1st instalment (as the title may give away) is classic disco. this an album of outright disco classics, underground floor fillers & a smattering of sought after gems including the likes of dr buzzard's original savannah band, rose royce, the players association, cerone, esther phillips & many, many more & all in their 12" or long album versions. so, all in all, a great starting point for anyone wanting to get themselves a taste of disco & for the aficionado alike. [harmless](#)

grey & hanks : you fooled me / prime time

zane grey & len ron hanks were songwriters & producers from chicago, writing songs for the likes of the impressions' jerry butler. like their philadelphia contemporaries mcfadden & whitehead, they stepped into the studio as recording artists in the late 70s to capitalize on their success & the popularity of the day's soul & disco sound. on these 2 albums recorded for rca, their sole output as artists, they combine their studio skills with a display of zane grey's formidable vocal prowess atop a congregation of the finest musicians in the genre (including earth wind & fire" on hits "dancin'" & "you fooled me"). includes the 'rare groove' "since i found you" & boogie classic "now i'm fine". [expansion](#)

jackie moore : i'm on your way / with your love

one of the relatively few artists who emerged in the early 70s to enjoy a run of success with a southern soul-based sound. jackie moore, like most, moved on through the philadelphia sound & eventually to disco. produced by veteran bobby eli from philadelphia (who also penned the smash hit 'love won't let me wait'), the cd opens with the 1979 no.1 disco hit 'this time baby' that was sampled by freemasons in 2005 on their club hit 'love on my mind'. the album also includes her singles 'helpless', 'how's your love life baby', a Philly rare groove 'walk away from love' & disco classic 'let's go somewhere & make love'. the Philly disco production includes a musical line up of don renaldo & his strings & many of the top players from the period on 2 lps originally issued by columbia in the late 70s. [expansion](#)

mayer hawthorne : a strange arrangement

mayer hawthorne grew up in ann arbor, michigan, just outside of detroit & the singer, producer, & multi-instrumentalist draws inspiration from the music of local heroes such as smokey robinson & the legendary songwriting & production trio of lamont dozier, brian holland & eddie holland jr. hawthorne's hanging-by-a-string falsetto & breakbeat production are simultaneously smokey & j dilla - equal parts 'the tracks of my tears' & 'fall in love'. "its soul," he explains, "but it's new." it's not just throwback music anymore - this revival is all about progression. fans of the soul pop of amy winehouse & raphael saadiq can add a new member to the retro-soul movement to keep an eye on. his light & easy tenor glides over the smooth pop soul arrangements & the beats pop with a nice nod to the sampling joys of the late j dilla & madlib. it all goes down rather nice & easy. [stones throw](#)

noel mckoy : brighter day

noel mckoy is the genuine godfather of british soul. he made his debut on the scene back in the late 1980s at the start of the acid jazz explosion, working with the james taylor quartet, omar, snowboy & dueting with mica paris & beverley knight. finally, he is stepping out on his own & for his debut. mckoy draws on a host of classic influences from marvin gaye & stevie wonder to chaka khan & the beatles. he weaves an impressive collection of soul, gospel, funk & northern soul into a cohesive retro soul record full of burning passion. production duties were undertaken by, amongst others, pop-soul legend ian levine & the brains behind incognito, bluey maunick. 'brighter day' sees mckoy take his place at the forefront of british soul with this hugely accomplished debut. [tri-sound](#)

irma thomas : the soul queen of new orleans

irma thomas, the reigning soul queen of new orleans, celebrates 50 years as a recording artist. 25 or so of those years have been spent as one of the most significant artists on the rounder records roster. this collection brings together many of the best songs from her rounder years, as well as 3 brand new tracks. here is one of america's most distinctive & classic singers, a treasure from the golden age of soul music who remains as compelling & powerful as ever. [rounder](#)

baker brothers : avid sounds

what do the blackbyrds, gil scot heron, sly & the family stone & even the steve miller band have in common? well they're all covered here as the baker brothers revisit their favourite soul & jazz funk anthems from these legendary acts & give them a contemporary twist of their own. the album opens on a highlight with vanessa freemans' faultless vocals taking the spotlight on 'family tree', we are then soon shot into orbit as the band stamp their own identity on the wonderful disco-jazz delight that is manzels' 'space funk', while elsewhere steve miller's 'fly like an eagle' is given a fully funk'd makeover. [freestyle records](#)

jazz

john coltrane : new thing at newport

the classic john coltrane quartet made one of its final appearances at the newport jazz festival in 1965 & this cd documents those performances. the tension among band members is clearly evident on the advanced versions of 'one down, one up' & 'my favorite things'. by the end of the year he would take a different direction, hiring pharoah sanders & wife alicia coltrane for the band. [impulse](#)

john coltrane : the john coltrane quartet plays

one of the turning points in the career of john coltrane came in 1965. the great saxophonist, whose playing was always very explorative & searching, crossed the line into atonality during that year, playing very free improvisations that were full of passion & fury. these would reach their logical conclusion later in the year on 'ascension' but this set, including a stirring 'chim chim cheree' (yes, the mary poppins tune), recorded with the classic quartet comprised of the leader, mccozy tyner, jimmy garrison & elvin jones, announced the journey. "a perfect introduction for listeners to coltrane's last period" - [allmusic](#). [impulse](#)

john coltrane : kulu se mama

this lp features john coltrane in two different settings. 'vigil' & the spiritual ballad 'welcome' showcase tenor saxophonist coltrane with his classic quartet in june 1965. dating from october 14, 1965, it adds tenor saxophonist pharoah sanders, donald garrett on bass clarinet & second bass, second drummer frank butler & percussionist-vocalist juno lewis' chanting & colourful percussion to the quartet & is a bit of an oddity. "a unique entry in coltrane's discography" - [allmusic](#). [impulse](#)

john coltrane : ascension

'ascension' is the single recording that placed john coltrane firmly into the avant-garde. whereas, prior to 1965, coltrane could be heard playing in an avant vein. with stretched-out solos, atonality & a seemingly free design to the beat, ascension throws most rules right out the window with complete freedom from the groove & strikingly abrasive sheets of horn interplay. recorded with pharoah sanders, archie shepp, marion brown, freddie hubbard, mccozy tyner & a bevy of others, this large group is both relentless & soulful simultaneously. a jazz record that should be sought out by either experienced jazz appreciators or other open-minded listeners. [impulse](#)

john coltrane : meditations

arguably the finest of the john coltrane-pharoah sanders collaborations, these 5 diverse but almost consistently intense movements with the 2 tenor saxophonists, pianist mccozy tyner, bassist jimmy garrison & both elvin jones & rashied ali on drums, create some powerful, dense & emotional music. unlike some of the live jams of 1966, the passionate performances never ramble on too long & the screams & screeches fit logically into the spiritual themes. it turned out to be the last recording of coltrane with tyner & jones. [impulse](#)

gary burton & chick corea : crystal silence – the ecm recordings 1972-79

(4cd) these 2 masters of modern jazz have been making music together for over 40 years now & this 4cd set brings together 3 of their finest collaborations - 'crystal silence' (1972), the grammy-winning discs 'duet' (1978) & the live double album 'in concert, zürich, 1979'. the duo was a seldom-tested format in jazz when pianist chick corea & vibraphonist gary burton, at the instigation of manfred eicher, came together for 'crystal silence' but its luminous music proved a resounding success & that first ecm recording became enormously influential, changing directions in modern jazz.. both 'duet' & the zürich recording won grammy awards & chick & gary toured to worldwide acclaim, astonishing audiences with their improvisational fluency. essential stuff. [ecm](#)

manfred schoof quintet : resonance

(2cd) this collection is the great german trumpeter's personal anthology of his favourite music from the 1970s, originally on 3 ecm/japo albums - 'scales', 'light lines' & 'horizons' - but never before released on cd. the trumpeter's quintet was a highly regarded band on the european scene in that era & the 'scales' lp won the german critics' prize as album of the year (grosser deutscher schallplattenpreis 1977). one of the founding fathers of modern jazz in germany, schoof counts as the romantic amongst the free players, a strongly lyrical improviser. he still has a strong following & 'resonance' follows many requests from fans wishing to have this material on cd. the full range is here - the romantic ballad playing, stark dramatic post-bop soloing & the squeezing-out-sparks free playing. [ecm](#)

v/a : girls! girls! girls!: best of burlesque & striptease music

this album is dedicated to the vanishing art of burlesque. in its heyday, burlesque theatres dotted the u.s. from coast to coast like minsky's in new york, the old howard theater in boston, the globe in atlantic city & jimmy's in los angeles. the stripper was an essential part of the burlesque experience. now, great american invites all you swingers to step back in time & relive the memories, the laughter & the pleasures of a visit to a burlesque club. these 20 tracks - many never before available on cd - of the best "stripper music" have been digitally remastered but sadly the names of the artists have been lost in time. thankfully you can still enjoy the fantastic performances on this superior collection of authentic studio recordings from the age of burlesque. [the great american music](#)

blues

elmore james : the definitive

(2cd) it is widely agreed that elmore james is the finest post-war slide player there was & this budget-priced compilation collects 41 of the legendary slide guitar player's biggest & most influential tracks. he was never able to take advantage of the 60's blues revival due to his early demise but his influence runs deep - so much so that his (many) interpretations of robert johnson's 'i believe i'll dust my broom' (recorded here as 'dust my broom') has become one of the staple blues guitar licks. [not now](#)

country

townes van zandt : for the sake of the song

van zandt has written some of the biggest selling country songs (& has been covered by plant & krauss, willie nelson, nanci griffith, steve earle, emmylou harris, lyle lovettt & lucinda williams, amongst others) but he should really have been a well known in his own right. with this, his debut, he announced himself onto the country folk stage & it was clear his genius was already fully formed. tracks like 'tecumseh valley' & 'waitin' around to die' display a maturity way beyond his years & signalled a songwriter destined to be covered by the great & the good. recommended. [domino](#)

townes van zandt : our mother the mountain

townes' 2nd record contains some of his finest songs including the haunting ballads 'st john the gambler' & 'kathleen' along with some of the warmest & lush arrangements of his career, underscoring his poetic & hopeless lyricism. his is a romantic kind of bleakness one that is easy to wallow in while you enjoy his stark & powerful imagery & aching melodies & this record in particular, is easily recognised as a favourite of its countless devotees such as the tindersticks. highly recommended. [domino](#)

townes van zandt : townes van zandt

on his 3rd album, van zandt re-cut 3 crucial tracks from his debut album, 'for the sake of the song,' 'waiting around to die' & 'i'll be here in the morning.' it was an indication of the obscurity in which he still languished but no indication of the quality of his work - he often re-recorded songs from his 1st album on his later albums because he disliked the earlier recordings. as usual, his closely observed lyrics touched on desperate themes, notably in the mining ballad 'lungs' but they were still highly poetic. van zandt's finger-picking was augmented by spare arrangements, usually featuring one added instrument for colour, such as a fiddle or flute. recommended. [domino](#)

townes van zandt : delta momma blues

townes' 4th record carries along in the same vein set out by his previous 3, with gradual refinements of his style that was born more or less fully formed. very little here could be picked for covering by any of the more mainstream stars that had cherry-picked songs from his previous records - many of the songs here display van zandt's entirely jaundiced view of relationships & most have a chilling darkness at their heart, delivered in his trademark flat & dry tone. of course these are all good things & simply more reasons why he is held in such high regard. recommended. [domino](#)

townes van zandt : live at the old quarter, houston, texas

his 1st (& widely regarded as best) live recording, highlights all the reasons why van zandt is held in high regard – while he may not be the finest singer, his simple, direct & lyrical words light up his straightforward songs in dazzling technicolor & though his lyrics & melodies may suggest a dour & serious individual, his between song banter shows that the opposite was true – he could hold an audience in the palm of his hand & have them laughing at his wry observations & jokes. the superb 23 track selftitled acts is almost a definitive best of & the one man & his guitar renditions of a great deal of his best songs, make this the perfect introduction to the rich catalogue of townes van zandt songs. highly recommended. [domino](#)

townes van zandt : flyin' shoes

townes' 8th record & 1st studio album for 6 years exhibited the toll that drink & drugs had begun to take on his already quite weak voice but his songwriting had not dimmed one bit. the arrangements here settle between the bigger production of 'our mother the mountain' & the more stripped back likes of 'the late great' & 'delta momma blues' with an occasional odd flourish (hey, it was 1978!) backed comfortably by randy scruggs, spooner oldham & co. there is a certain resignation in the songs but nonetheless there is gold like son volt favourite 'rex's blues,' 'no place to fall' & the final quietly unsettling 'snake song.' it would be his last album for another 9 years. recommended. [domino](#)

townes van zandt : 'be here to love me' soundtrack

(2cd) the soundtrack to the powerful & moving documentary of townes van zandt's life compiles 2cd's worth of townes' best & most vivid songs from across his career including a live version of biggest "hit" 'pancho & lefty' alongside 'rex's blues,' 'no place to fall,' 'st. john the gambler' & many more besides. it pretty much acts as a best of & serves as a great place to start exploring this well respected & highly influential singer/songwriter. "townes van zandt is the best songwriter in the whole world & i'll stand on bob dylan's coffee table in my cowboy boots & say that". so says steve earle & we're not ones to argue. [domino](#)

tom russell : blood & candle smoke

it would be easy for tom russell to coast on reputation alone. with a career stretching back nearly 4 decades & a catalogue of more than 20 albums, the consummate storyteller has amassed a devoted following that cherishes his vivid, novelistic tales evoking the spirit of the american experience. among his most ardent fans are fellow artists : he has been covered by the likes of johnny cash, doug sahm, k.d. lang, ramblin' jack elliot, iris dement, dave alvin, joe ely, ian tyson, nanci griffith, guy clark & dave van ronk but all of that work has, in russell's own estimation, been a first act. now russell has brought a contemporary spark to his music, as on this album, the Tucson collective calexico provide the bulk of the instrumental support. meanwhile, russell weaves a number of largely autobiographical tales like the tex-mex opener 'east of woodstock, west of vietnam' about his upbringing in nigeria. it proves a gentle departure from his recent work but a welcome one & another essential release in a long line. [proper records](#)

madison violet : no fool for trying

combining the talents of accomplished songwriter/musicians brenley maceachern & lisa macisaac, the new album from madison violet (formerly madviolet) is a lovely collection of catchy, heart melting songs. 'no fool for trying' has finally captured the essence of madison violet, one that has been described as a cross between rootsy gillian welch, gritty steve earle & bluegrass alison krauss but perhaps has a little more of the charm of the trio albums made by dolly parton, emmylou harris & linda ronstandt. think americana, loaded with harmonies, lots of stringed instruments & beautiful lyrics. "evokes the simple joy that can be heard when great vocalists drop their egos, open their hearts & voices & sing from their souls" – no depression. [true north records](#)

folk

the unthanks : here's the tender coming

following their mercury prize nomination (& they're rumoured to have only narrowly missed out on the prize), geordie folk inventors rachel unthank & the winterset are back with a name tweak (the unthanks) & revised line-up. the new album adds strings, horns & most arrestingly of all, drums & percussion, for a much more developed, layered sound. 'here's the tender coming' offers the usual unthank mix of traditional songs & self-penned songs written in the folk idiom. yet this is much more than just a "folk" album - there are overtones of steve reich's 'electric counterpoint', the playful harmonies of the beach boys/fleet foxes & even the quietly shambolic & very english eccentricity of robert wyatt. this is an album of depth & joy & critics are rightly forming an orderly queue to sing its praises. "absolutely exquisite. a real work of art. i will be playing it at least forever" – paul morley, "often exquisite mixture of light & dark, instinct & artistry" 4/5 - uncut. [emi](#)

v/a : three score & ten - a voice to the people

(7cd & book set) topic records is the oldest truly independent record label in the world & to mark it's 70th year in business it will celebrate with 3 concerts on london's southbank, a 1 hour special programme to be broadcast on radio 2 & this – a beautifully packaged 7cd set accompanied by a sumptuous 108 page, colour hard back book charting 7 decades of topic records, 1939 – 2009. curated, researched, written & produced by david suff, this is a fitting testament - the 144 tracks cover all aspects of topic's recording history. the extensive text gives a complete recording & social history with profiles of the essential recordings, principle artists & key personages. the story of topic records is synonymous with the rebirth of folk & its growth as a musical & social movement in britain during the last 70 years. a staggering collection & an essential purchase for any fan of british folk. features nic jones, shirley collins, ewan maccoll & so many more. [topic](#)

reggae

u roy : i am the originator

the mighty u roy is the originator, the man who put the dj phenomenon on the map & made it an artform. u roy moved into the recording arena firstly cutting 2 discs for producer lee perry ('earth's rightful ruler' & 'ok corral'), following this with 'dynamic fashion way' & 'riot' for producer keith hudson. seeing the potential in this new found form, producer duke reid brought u roy to his treasure isle studios to voice over his back catalogue of rocksteady hits. his first 3 releases for reid ('wake the town', 'rule the nation' & 'wear you to the ball') held the top 3 positions for 12 weeks in early 70s. these are some of u roy's best loved cuts from his mid 70s, when all were still looking at him for guidance. in his own words: "i originate, so you must appreciate, while the others got to imitate" says it all really.....[kingston sounds](#)

zion train : live as one – remixed

having won the reggae grammy in 2008 for the original 'live as one' album (released in 2007) dub/dance pioneers zion train return with this remixed version. it's a globetrotting collection of remixes that come from far & wide - places as diverse as poland, brazil, mexico, croatia & italy, to mention but a few. the record came about from inviting people from the places they have visited to remix tracks from the 'live as one' album & give them a new spin, albeit one that has roots in dub. so, the likes of dubterror, rob smith dub creator & more have approached the source material & interpreted it in varying styles from dubstep & dub to drum & bass. [universal egg](#)

world

titi robin : gitans

(cd/dvd) gypsy & flamenco artist titi robin has recorded over 15 albums, over 30 years. originally recorded in 1993, this record had a major impact on the world music genre & was hailed a masterpiece, seen as one of the first true explorations of gypsy music filtered through other genres & inspirations. it features north indian singer gulabi sapera alongside a host of musicians from around the world. this special edition comes with bonus dvd & features 4 live tracks with jaw dropping singing & dancing from north indian singer gulabi sapera & other musicians from the middle east, north africa & the mediterranean. "one of the world's great musicians & visionaries" - charlie gillett. [naïve](#)

speed caravan : kalashnik love

if you've never regarded the oud - the fretless lute at the core of so much traditional arabic music - as a rock'n'roll instrument, then you've clearly never heard speed caravan or the frenetic & joyous playing of mehdi haddab. once part of parisian-based global electronica trio ekova, now speed caravan, mehdi is joined by bassist pascal teillet, former ekova electronic beat mistress hermione frank & mohamed bouamar on percussion & vocals. mehdi is well known as both a virtuoso player of the classical oud & for his pioneering musical projects, breaking into the rock world armed with an electric oud. speed caravan create music that references the cure & the chemical brothers alongside algerian rai & other arabic influences in a glorious collision of global sounds & styles. features collaborations with rachid taha, rodolphe burger, spex mc & rocky singh (asian dub foundation). [real world records](#)

vinyl

lokai : transition

(limited to 500 copies) after being occupied with solo & band projects, florian kmet & radian guitarist stefan németh met again last year to record 'transition', their 2nd album. both nemeth & kmet are major players in the avant-electronic music scene & have a cultish underground following. recorded in a home studio with a setup of rhodes piano, guitar, electronics, melodica, violin & percussive found-sounds taken from the flat's heating system, the result is an beautiful balance of organic & synthetic sounds that have been collected together & arranged into a cohesive whole that is by turns warm & then unsettling. kmet & németh are clearly reacting as well as arranging the found sounds & each other & the result is a beautiful tension & unpredictability that takes you right into the world they have created. for fans of radian, tape & avant composers such as john zorn. recommended. [thrill jockey](#)

jim o'rourke : the visitor [drag city](#)

wave pictures/darren hayman : bruce springsteen tribute (7"+cd)*see rock/indie* [where it's at is where you are](#)

fat freddy's drop : dr boondigga & the big bw [the drop](#)

peter yorn & scarlett johansson : break up [atco](#)

amanda blank : i love you [downtown](#)

sleeping states : in the gardens of the north [bella union](#)

m a g s

the wire : issue 308 oct 09 broadcast, lou reed, wire tapper 22 cd.....

word : oct 09 david bowie, nick cave, terry gilliam, free covermount cd.....

clash : issue 42 jay-z, warp records, the beatles.....

s i n g l e s

single of the week

thom yorke : all for the best limited 7". [the mezzotint label](#)

o children : dead disco dancer 7". [deadly people](#)

grizzly bear : while you wait for the others limited 7", available in selected shops only. [warp](#)

black lips : drugs limited 7". [vice](#)

exlovers : you forget so easily ep very limited 10", available in selected shops only. [chess club](#)

god help the girl : stills ep limited 10" featuring 5 songs that are not on the album. [rough trade](#)

the dodos : fables 7". [wichita recordings](#)

apse : 3/1 limited 7". [atp recordings](#)

thomas dybdahl : from grace 7". [last supper](#)

florence & the machine : drumming song cd & 7". [island](#)

gossip : love long distance limited 12". [columbia](#)

halves / subplots : split 7". [hate is the enemy](#)

the very best feat. ezra koenig : the warm heart of africa limited 7". [moshi moshi](#)

edward sharpe & the magnetic zeroes : 40 day dream very limited 7". [rough trade](#)

taken by trees : watch the waves very limited 7". [rough trade](#)

placebo : the never-ending why limited 7". [dreambrother](#)

skunk anansie : because of you 7" [one little indian](#)

chromeo : i can't tell you why (dj kicks exclusive) 7". [k7](#)

pre-orders

we are very happy to take pre-orders for any titles that you would like to have reserved when they are released. we can usually do this for you from a few weeks prior to release onwards.

this can be especially useful for limited edition albums or 7's which tend to disappear quickly or cd singles which we don't always stock in great quantity. it also means that you will be able to have any freebies that come with the album / single (posters, stickers, badges etc) reserved for you too.

ordering service

although we do try to cover as many new releases as possible, it will never be possible for us to take everything that is released, so if there is anything that we do not stock, we are more than happy to order it in for you.

also, we don't carry a huge range of albums on vinyl but again, anything available on vinyl can easily be ordered in for you at no extra cost.

gift vouchers

stuck for the perfect gift? our vouchers can be used to purchase cds, vinyl, boxsets, gig tickets & magazines, so they make a perfect present for anyone, anytime of year, for any occasion.