

o u t t h i s w e e k

albums of the week

le loup : family

back in 2007, le loup's gorgeous debut became the soundtrack to our christmas & was played almost everyday to lift our spirits. now, sam simkoff's indie-folk-rock collective are back, having left their previous memphis industries uk home. this glorious record contains more of the same banjo riffs & hypnotic loops that made their debut so special but this is an altogether more majestic & varied affair, buried in a wonderfully warm west coast haze, a la panda bear. 'beach town's spell could have been cast from here we go magic's cauldron, 'go east' could easily take up residence in a room in grizzly bear's 'yellow house' & 'celebration' takes on yeasayer's joyous & dramatic art rock, so maybe, if like their peers, le loup had resided in the hot bed of creativity that is brooklyn, they wouldn't have been so criminally overlooked. this record is worth owning for the dazzling 'neahkahnie' alone. there's no doubt that this will be touted as the "next fleet foxes" but it's a far more subtle & intricate affair that deserves to be smothered in attention & praise. a truly unmissable record. [tailtires](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

hockey : mind chaos

(cd / lp(duo in)) portland guitar heroes, hockey, deliver their highly anticipated debut, packed with radio-friendly pop tunes. mixing up the folk rock, indie pop & dancefloor-friendly shakedown, this is a record seamlessly built to a summer blueprint. sounding like a cross between the strokes, lcd soundsystem, rod stewart & talking heads, this is an effervescent pop tablet that fizzes with call-to-arms choruses, dirty guitars & club friendly disco beats. there are flashes of pop rock, dance funk, infectious soul grooves & elton john-style piano stomp. overall, it's an eclectic sketch of a band brimming with ideas. singer-songwriter in chief, benjamin grubin, is pretty pleased with it too. "i wanted to give the record some character & a personality that changed with each song," he says. "i think we've done that. we've made the album we always wanted to make. now we want people to dance to it." *"impossible to resist...everything is tackled with such boundless energy & seamless pop nous it seems churlish to not join in the fun"* 4/5 - q. [virgin](#)

ian brown : my way

(cd / lp - buy the album now & enter a draw to win an exclusive pair of adidas trainers - as modelled on the album sleeve - signed by monkey boy himself!) his 6th studio album sees ian brown reunited with long time collaborator, writer & producer dave mccracken - the pairing that worked together on 'f.e.a.r.'. 'my way' was recorded at battery studios - the same place where brown & the stone roses recorded their seminal debut album 20 years earlier & was recorded during an intense period of rumour & speculation on a potential stone roses reunion. while the lyrics of 'for the glory' include a direct reference to his former band, brown also claims that 'my way' was strongly influenced by michael jackson's 'thriller' & that it was mastered on the day that jackson died. so here he goes again : shamanic of tone, dispensing stubbly testament atop a free-willed melee of genres, dusting off a plinth built largely from minimalist funk, hypnotic verb-heavy percussion & 80s synthesized pop. due to the latter, this could actually turn out to be his most fashionable set yet. *"all thriller, no filler...brown has become the uk's most consistently entertaining & often innovative solo artist"* 8/10 - nme. [polydor](#)

maps : turning the mind

maps - aka james chapman - has declared that "if 'we can create' was the birth of maps. this 2nd album is the fully formed manifesto. it is essentially an album which explores themes related to the human mind & the way certain stimuli, particularly chemical, can affect the mind in different ways". recorded with tim holmes (death in vegas) at the contino rooms in london, maps' sophomore full-length follows his mercury prize shortlisted debut. it evokes the depths of a trippy summer's night with a continuous flow down the river of gentle electronics, warm, hushed vocals & subdued drum-machine beats. for the uninitiated, imagine m83 or ulrich schnauss mixing it up with new order & the beloved & you're in the right area. *"chapman's increasing musical dexterity ensures a heavy wash of sound with twinkling synths, euphoric loops & the uncanny ability to build & build a track to an ecstatic point of air-punching triumph. best listened to from start to finish, this is both the thinking-man's pop album of the year & the perfect soundtrack to the witching hour. bordering on genius"* 9/10 - clash. [mute](#)

girls : album

(comes with a free poster while they last) a sincere, romantic tribute to the majesty of great pop music & the healing power of rock & roll. it's a record that perfectly captures the sun-baked outlook of life in their adopted san francisco hometown, just as the velvet underground cracked with new york electricity & the smiths' songs came soaked in manchester drizzle. imagine if elvis costello lived in san francisco & recorded a set of buddy holly songs & you'll get the picture. 'album' has been described by girls as "honest, loose, ethereal, obnoxious & perfect" - not short of confidence then! *"bona-fide freaks who've made a record far removed from the predictable cycles of the music industry...some frazzled quest to make a lo-fi 'pet sounds'. the results capture the sun-baked, slacker vibe of san francisco as effortlessly as the velvets soundtracked new york or the monkeys summed up sheffield"* 9/10 - nme. [fantasy trashcan](#)

hope sandoval & the warm inventions : through the devil softly

ever since the release of mazy star's debut album 'she hangs brightly', hope sandoval has defined the sound & style of californian psychedelic dream pop. her trademark sultry vocals have made her something of a modern day musical icon. on her sophomore solo record, she heads to ireland for a hippie vibe, evoking van morrison circa 'veedon fleece' in ballads like 'wild roses', with hazy guitars from my bloody valentine's colm ó ciosóig. back to breaking hearts with exquisite abandon all over again, sandoval's ethereal vocals have lost none of their bewitching authenticity & she purrs every song in slow motion - just as you'd want. *"hearing her singing ripple gently through the aching, sunbaked landscape of 'through the devil softly' is to hear each vocal zephyr breathe life into every instrument it rolls over"* 4/5 - altmusic, *"hypnotizing vocals, along with a spine-tingling, otherworldly sound that comes on like a warm opium dream"* - spin. [netwerk](#)

j. tillman : year in the kingdom

a busy young chap is j.tillman: aside from drumming with fleet foxes, he's somehow found time to record 2 solo albums this year alone. thankfully in tillman's case the term quality over quantity doesn't apply, as this beautiful contemplative record ably shows. this album has a different musical landscape from his meditative 'vacilando territory blues', released earlier this year. though the sound remains dreamy, it's expansive; the melodic songs have a feeling of joy & his mournful solitariness is replaced by a clear, upfront vocal singing mystical lyrics. with hammered dulcimer, banjo, strings, recorder & wheezing organ backing tillman's hushed voice, this is a beautiful, soporific late-night gem. for fans of damien jurado, bon iver, fleet foxes & peter broderick. *"exquisite"* - 4/5, [mojo](#). [bella union](#)

karen o & the kids : where the wild things are - motion picture soundtrack

the yeah yeah yeahs' awesome front woman releases her soundtrack to the new spike jonze film, an adaptation of the maurice sendak 1963 children's picturebook classic. to compose the music that jonze wanted to be central to the film, karen enlisted friends & fellow musicians which included tristan bechet (services), bradford cox (deerhunter), dean fertita (qotsa, the dead weather, the raconteurs), aaron hemphill (liars), greg kurstin (the bird & the bee), jack lawrence (the dead weather, the raconteurs, the greenhorns), oscar michel (gris gris), imaad wasif (new folk implosion) & yyy's bandmates nick zinner & brian chase, as well as an untrained children's choir. the resulting record is a mixture of cheerful acoustic twee-pop songs a la kimya dawson, more sombre outings & some gotteam-esque shouty stylings that beautifully evoke the wide-eyed innocence of childhood. *"what i wanted to do was close to cat stevens in 'harold & maude', really simple but memorably & seamlessly woven into the movie"* - karen. [polydor](#)

v/a : dom thomas - miscellaneous mutant mishaps

b-music & finders keepers' linchpin dom thomas digs deep into his library of forgotten & unloved sound oddities to bring us a spaced-out tapestry of delights on the embryonic brutal music label. a dazzling plethora of anti-world music, siphoned from the far corners of the earth & beyond, bringing together musical marauders that have no link, only the uncommon thread of constructing indefinable, sonic soundscapes which have somehow mutated into hybrid masterpieces, some by fluke, others by design. a breathtaking collage which blurs passages from protest fuelled france with politically sensitized turkish psychedelic beats : schizo spanish sci-fi soundtracks together with scorching lollywood club bangers - all lovingly distilled with liquefied dreams of proto-hacienda anthems. this is the sound of now, the past & the future, a mysterious, beaten-up global jukebox taking you to the dance floor & beyond...an un-adulterated celebration of unknown universally-challenged song smiths, all neatly categorised into a new sub-genre - "miscellaneous mutant mishaps". [brutal music](#)

kid harpoon : once

after being holed up in la with legendary producer trevor horn over the winter of 2008/09, kid harpoon is finally set to release his debut album. 'once' is a record that, as even kid harpoon would agree, has been a long time coming. this record has something of a timeless quality that highlights the kid's talent as a classic songwriter & composer. from the bustling rock 'n' roll of 'back from beyond' to the gorgeous, heartfelt paean to a long lost relationship that is the album's title track & centrepiece, it's an album that delivers on the long held promise that kid harpoon has demonstrated since bursting on to the music scene. "*dreamy imagery sparkling with passion*" - the sun, "*novels without pages, daydreaming diary entries stripped of all self-consciousness*" - nme, "*beautifully lyrical songs that defy being pigeonholed... in a league of his own*" - the independent. [xl](#)

liam frost : we ain't got no money, honey, but we got rain

the 2nd album from the acclaimed manxman troubadour has been produced by victor van vught (nick cave, pj harvey) & features a duet with martha wainwright & several tracks were co-written by ed harcourt. for some artists, 3 years dominated by broken hearts, the spectre of bereavement & wrangles with their record company would be the perfect excuse to churn out a set of self-pitying songs. thankfully for us, liam frost has synthesised his experiences into a brilliantly soulful pop record that mixes sweet melodies with tantalisingly dark undertones. frost really does mash & contort as many genres as possible into its songs - pop, punk, indie even big band frank sinatra type swing - this album sees it all. [emperor records](#)

paramore : brand new eyes

the prodigious tennessee emo-punk quintet return with their 3rd album, with punchy production from grammy award-winner rob cavallo (green day, kid rock, my chemical romance) & co-produced by the band. despite no remarkable changes in their sound, overall the album has a more mature & experienced vibe. the 11-track collection is unquestionably paramore's best & brightest album to date, fit to burst with all the exuberant melodies, breathless hooks & irrepressible energy that has made the nashville-based band one of the most popular rock outfits in recent memory. [fueled by ramen](#)

megafaun : gather, form & fly

megafaun, was created by joe westerlund & brothers brad & phil cook from the ashes of deyarmond edison (the group they had formed with their long-time friend justin "bon iver" vernon). on 'gather, form & fly', they've reinvented traditional american folk music, combining acoustic instruments & mountain harmonies with radically alien elements inspired by anything from free jazz to 50's experimental electronics. they're part of that rare crop of young artists driven by an unquenchable thirst for a wide range of sounds & styles. you'll hear delicate appalachian banjo figures, tumbling steve reich pianos, sumptuous multi-part harmonies or bracing, string-scraping dissonance. that everything fits together in the context of a beautiful 13 track suite is evidence of the unique mixture of the songcraft & improvisational spirit that megafaun have grown to command. "*an intriguing & heartfelt album*" 8.1/10 - pitchfork. [crammed](#)

pens : hey friend, what you doing?

(cd / lp) debut album from london's pens, a female three piece that give you 26 minutes of infectious scuzzy-pop-punk. splitting opinion even more than other bands of a similar ilk, for every glowing positive review there is a negative one which often seems more personal attack than critical opinion. if technical brilliance & recording quality are your thing you should probably look elsewhere, but for two minute slices of fuzzy, blown out nuggets of joyous pop abandon, look no further. the album which captures the euphoric chaos of their live shows perfectly. "*nice bit of scuzz rock inhabiting the same segment of the audiosphere as times new viking & wavves. pens are a bit more lo fi than the two aforementioned bands - if that's possible - & a bit easier on the ears. & a bit vivian girls*" - artocker, [sub pop / de stijl](#)

rachel grimes : book of leaves

even if you're a fan of kentucky post-rock / indie chamber ensemble rachel's, which was responsible for 1996's quietly majestic 'music for egon schiele', you'd be forgiven for thinking the band was named after its extraordinary pianist, rachel grimes. in fact, the group (on hiatus since last year) began as a solo vehicle for jason noble, the erstwhile shredding guitarist for louisville cult icons rodan. yet it's impossible to deny the overwhelming impact grimes's bold piano playing had on the group's compositions. her music has quietly evolved through a diverse musical ventures. her new record is an album of impressionist piano pieces, largely pastoral, incorporating field recordings made outdoors. early versions of the new material were featured in the film 'rotating mirror', directed by rachel's member greg king & the music is fittingly cinematic. this is a beautiful, moving, delicate set of piano studies that will undoubtedly appeal to fans of michael nyman or max richter. "*rachel grimes' piano is peerlessly beautiful*" - a.carew, [neumu. ruminance](#)

chris garneau : el radio

the brooklyn based singer/songwriter's 2nd album retains some of the poignant melancholy of his debut, augmented with a playfulness in its melody & arrangements. recorded in new hampshire surrounded by the simplicity of lake & mountains, a rich harmonium & a wave of strings opens the album before garneau's quavering vocal enters the mix, recalling the stark theatrics of antony & the johnsons. from here on in, 'el radio' moves from sublime retro pop, instrumentals, silver mt zion-esque orchestral flourishes & tin pan alley-styled songs through to sujfan stevens-esque upbeat baroque. garneau's lyrics shift from violent to whimsical, sweet to sinister through carnival & funeral, generally covering morbid subject matter which infuses the music with a sense of eeriness. one for fans of any of the aforementioned, rufus wainwright or patrick watson. [fargo](#)

shannon wright : honeybee girls

after 4 solo records on quarterstick, as well as her earlier work with florida's crowsdell, shannon has established her own unique sound. she takes the clarity & artistic sensibility of lou reed, mixes them with the subdued simplicity of erik satie & the explosive abilities of jimmy page but emerges with her own identity. with her long-standing associate andy baker (bass player & sound engineer) & also brant rackley (drummer in japancakes), shannon now delivers an album of deeply personal, folk inflected songs. she covers her many styles on the one album, from dreamily autumnal pieces with lulling & gentle guitar picking to introspective piano, sweet melodies, unusual compositions, a jangly, queasy hootenanny of a song & more aggressive, staccato guitar. this is a much more low key & less visceral affair than you might expect from the feisty lady but her voice is what it's all about & that's what's given the attention on these gentler songs (although the odd, rockier moment comes as a welcome contrast & a reminder of how well the outsider's angst comes across on record). [vicious circle](#)

paloma faith : do you want the truth or...

the debut album from the burlesque dancer, actress & chanteuse paloma faith blomfield. her music & intriguing vocals are heavily influenced by classic soul & jazz but also feature funky pop rhythms that keep things lively & her uniquely flamboyant style gives her the air & glamour of a 50s movie star. possibly one for fans of duffy, macy gray or amy winehouse. "*faith's voice is the first element of these sumptuous arrangements to strike, its idiosyncratic ticks & sharp inflections separating her from the pack...one can't find much fault with paloma faith's performance here*" - bbc. [epic](#)

three trapped tigers : ep2

(super limited ep) the hotly-tipped, london based, electronic noiseniks release the imaginatively titled follow-up to debut, 'ep1'. opener '6' starts with a mournful, reflective fuzz before breaking into a warm, 80s inspired, synth-driven wonderland that's complemented by looped harmony vocals singing nothing but vowels. the glitch elements may find themselves temporarily taking a back seat here but with '7', we are back in more familiar territory where the fuselage is broken apart by pummelling, industrial, filtered drums that hide a menacing monosynth. ttt's strength come from their complex arrangements which are driven by an incomprehensibly intuitive groove. now with guitarist matt calvert on production duties, 'ep2' benefits greatly from a vastly improved sound. for fans of squarepusher, aphex twin & fuck buttons. 'ep1' is long gone, so get this one while you can! [blood & biscuit](#)

newton faulkner : rebuilt by humans

the acoustic guitar virtuoso returns with his eagerly-anticipated 2nd album. the title refers to his near-career-ending accident on boxing day last year when he slipped on ice & fractured & dislocated his right wrist, which could have meant no more newton faulkner albums for us. thankfully though he made a full recovery & is back on form with another album of catchy, jack johnson-esque acoustic pop. wonderful! [sony](#)

piney gir : the yearling

when piney gir turns her busy hands to music, all genres are embraced & so her work to date has already spanned jazz, electronic pop & full on country y'all. angela penhaligon, for she is piney, has made perhaps her definitive album, all kansas plains heartbreak fed through a blend of electronica, folk, wistful pop & knowing jazz. no boundaries, all melodies. produced with her sonic collaborators, the age of reason & an international cast of musicians from gospel choirs in kansas city to saw players in tooting, the album is a sumptuous musical ride. she combines delicate heartbreak sci-fi folk ('the weeping machine'), with straight to the bop pop ('say i'm sorry'), whilst plying her way with a campfire narrative ('miss havisham') & all of it dipped in the gal's never less than pin-sharp eye for a great story about the wanderings of the heart. quite a cocktail...this is piney's most dazzling record yet. [hotel records](#)

alice in chains : black gives way to blue

alice in chains' first new studio album in more than 10 years. the band & producer nick raskulinecz (rush, foo fighters) began recording last october at studio 606 in northridge, ca & recently finished mixing at henson studios in hollywood. 'black gives way to blue' reaffirms their undeniable place in rock history. a remarkable new album, it makes clear how timeless, potent & visionary alice in chains are. guitarist/vocalist jerry cantrell, drummer sean kinney & bassist mike inez reunited in 2005 at a benefit for victims of the tsunami in indonesia. they began touring with new guitarist/vocalist william duvall the following year. "we're in a good place," says kinney. "we've made a record that we're really proud of & we're excited for the fans to hear the new songs". the track 'black gives way to blue' features a special guest performance by elton john - a heart-stirring tribute to alice in chains' late lead singer layne staley. [parolophone](#)

melvins : chicken switch

the melvins release 'chicken switch', a 15-song remix cd with a twist. unlike usual remix cds where the re-mixer is given a single track to work with, for 'chicken switch', each re-mixer was given a full album to work with & pull from, to create their track (in some cases, more than one full album was used as source material). the song names were also newly selected by their re-mixer. for the re-mixers themselves, the band picked an almighty motley crew : from japanoise legend merzbow to breakcore king speedranch, sonic youth moonlighter lee ranaldo to dark electro fellow panacea & also matmos, v/vm, farmersmanual, eye yamatsuka & beyond, making for a varied & deeply twisted listen. [ipecac records](#)

strike the colours : seven roads

the much-anticipated 2nd album from jenny reeve's strike the colours, previously known for her work with malcolm middleton, arab strap, idelwild & her own band eva. this mesmerising & expertly crafted 2nd outing draws from her experiences as a veteran of the us, europe & uk touring circuits. an enthralling collection of 10 tracks inspired by the road less off-travelled, by losing & finding people along the way. beautifully imbued with reeves trademark folk-inspired, dark edged narratives & hints of goth-pop, the album features appearances from davey macauley, gareth russell (idelwild), stevie jones, johnny scott & craig b (aerogramme). "a captivating saunter in a world of soul-pondering organic song-writing. impossible not to be knocked out by it" - the skinny, "folk along the lines of pentangle & espers, weaving stories through finger-picked guitar, jenny's voice gliding along the long violin notes" - bbc. [deadlight records](#)

simon joyner : out into the snow

nebraska's simon joyner's musical career began during the early 90s lo-fi explosion which spawned contemporaries like smog, lou barlow, & will oldham. he released a series of influential records on various independent labels & john peel was an early champion of his music but without regular touring, joyner remained under the radar - a cult hero known only to a few - one of those songwriter's songwriters that other artists discuss eagerly. joyner's 12th record is another challenging & rewarding song-cycle, sounding sometimes like doug yule era velvet underground (with some 'paris 1919' john cale thrown in for good measure), 'on the beach' period neil young, 'happy/sad' era tim buckley & 'our mother the mountain' period townes van zandt & as such, is likely to appeal to fans of any of the aforementioned. "it's not critical hype to say that joyner possesses the same emotional depth as leonard cohen, or the same ability to tell a story" - amg. [team love](#)

v/a : snow patrol - late night tales

the 'late night tales' series was launched in 2001 & has been called "the rolls royce of compilations". the idea: pick an internationally known artist with great musical knowledge, offer them the chance to choose & mix their favourite "home listening" & musically inspiring acts, together with an exclusive cover recording of an all time favourite song. 22 albums later, 'late night tales' bring you the mighty snow patrol. whether you're a fan of their music or not, there is no denying the band's impeccable taste (previously showcased on their excellent 'the trip' compilation) & this is set is a stunning mix, blending, re-editing & remixing many of the tracks featured. the booklet features track by track comments by the band & as with all these releases, there's a bonus late night tale, this time with the one & only will self & the exclusive cover version from snow patrol is of inxs' "new sensation" (only ever available on this cd). [late night tales](#)

circulatory system : signal morning

7½ years in the making, culled from hours of recorded material sculpted in at least 7 different studios, the new circulatory system album is an absolutely stellar document of song & sound. still concerned with matters of the inner / the outer, the incomprehensibly huge & the very, very small, ex-olivia tremor control man, will cullen hart, has composed this record while in the midst of battling multiple sclerosis within his own system. this is at once both a familiar will cullen hart project as well as a departure. while the same tendencies from the debut remain (namely the floating collage aspect of the work), this is a darker affair, perhaps a reflection of both hart's inner struggles. while the psychedelia (always a facet of hart's muse) is still intact, 'signal morning' finds itself existing in an universe more tim burton than yellow submarine. "the most affecting album he's released to date. the beautiful, lush orchestration, inventive instrumentation & fanatical attention to sonic nuances are still in full form" - pitchfork. [cloud recordings](#)

beat circus : boy from black mountain

beat circus's music bridges a number of disparate genres including americana, cabaret, circus music, appalachian string music, bluegrass music, old-time music, southern gospel & funereal music. this is a very artful-yet-accessible album with great lyrics, memorable songs & rich orchestrations. both the songs with brian carpenter's affecting vocals & the haunting instrumentals work successfully & are likely to appeal to fans of the decemberists, beirut or wovenhand. "boston's circus of malcontents not only has the chops but features a fallen hellfire preacher/band leader (the captivating brian carpenter) who simultaneously channels nick cave & johnny cash" - village voice, "couched in american folk traditions & myths, with a sordid atmosphere drawn from works of southern gothic lit - think the america of william faulkner, flannery o'connor & harry crews" - boston phoenix. [cuneiform](#)

amy millan : masters of the burial

having clocked in years with canadian indie mainstays stars & broken social scene, toronto native amy millan struck out on her own in 2006 to release her debut album 'honey from the tombs', to rapturous reviews, receiving comparisons to emmylou harris & lucinda williams. now, amy returns with a wistful yet warm collection of songs. 'masters of the burial' includes interpretations of death cab for cutie's 'i will follow you into the dark' & 'old perfume' by sarah harmer, recorded earlier this year in rural ontario & produced by martin davis kinack (broken social scene, sarah harmer) the album features guest performances from evan cranley (stars), dan & jenny whiteley, feist, liam o'neil (the stills) & many more. this album is a very easy listen, relying on softly brushed drums, well placed mandolins & of course, millan's beautiful voice to carry you through. one for fans of feist, alison krauss or diana krall. [arts & crafts](#)

v/a : the ballad of britain

this compilation of field recordings celebrates the diverse & strange selection of music currently being recorded in britain. released in conjunction with the book 'the ballad of britain', by renowned journalist & author will hodgkinson (also responsible recently for 'guitar man' & 'song man'), travelling to remote communities & into major cities (in a decrepit vauxhall astra), hodgkinson meets a hugely diverse range of artists, including folk's first family the watersons, jarvis cocker & richard hawley in sheffield, students from the brit school, gruff rhys in wales, bonafide hippies, grime producers & suburban chroniclers. in fields, kitchens, pubs & car parks, he made a fascinating collection of intimate & unique recordings, a selection of which are collected here. features exclusive versions of tracks by gruff rhys (super furry animals), martin carthy, pete molinari, king creosote & more. [heron recordings](#)

tap tap : on my way

tap tap's 2nd album of beautiful bittersweet pop songs. after 2007's 'lanzafame', tap tap (tom sanders, lead singer of pete & the pirates) has written his follow up over the last 2 years, in the turmoil, excitement & loneliness of touring with pete & the pirates. it's an instantly likable album with just the right amount of quirkiness to set it apart from the norm without being irritating, recalling the likes of eugene mcguiness or the shins. "these songs seem forced into the world by a buckling, overcrowded brain. the popcraft exhibited is light enough & 'now' enough to reduce the listener to booster-mush on a first listen" – pitchfork, "with a forlorn, introspective, courtly vocal style, suggesting both lost english folkie duncan browne & an unlucky in-love gaz coombes, sanders sings songs of youthful innocence & elemental woes over summer pop mini-psych arrangements reminiscent of the shins & elephant 6 collective. if we keep sanders unhappy & lonesome for the near future we might have a truly great british songwriter to cherish. it really is that good" 4/5 – [mojo](#). [stolen recordings](#)

fresh & onlys : debut

(cd / lp) despite reaching these shores two weeks after 'grey eyed girls', this is in fact the debut album by fresh & onlys, originally out in the states earlier this year. the san francisco chronicle described it as "a balance between the psych-fried blur of the california sun & an amp-crackling, four chorded garage basher", which pretty much hits the nail on the head. whilst consisting primarily of rougher, simpler mixes than on their woodsist follow up, the songs themselves are of at least equal quality. 'peacock & wing' in particular is incredible, a primal garage tinged stomp that is without doubt one of the songs of the year thus far. for such a prolific band, the quality & variety shown over both this & 'grey eyed girls' is stunning, even more so considering they have another album (to be released on in the red in the winter) already recorded! [castle face](#)

fred kinbom : hedgehogs & elephants

soulful lap slide guitar tunes with a scandinavian touch from an artist who is gaining recognition as a truly unique voice on the slide guitar scene. drawing on influences from his scandinavian roots as well as music from various parts of the world, kinbom's very personal brand of music & approach to the lap steel guitar, along with his strong sense of melody, has won him many fans across the globe. this is fred's debut full-length lap sliding cd & it contains 12 beautiful tunes that serve well to showcase his unique style. most songs are based around fred's lap steel guitar - mainly acoustic weissenborns & soulful voice & he's joined by a great bunch of guest musicians on double bass, percussion, accordion, drums, fiddle & steel drum. [self released](#)

the yeah you's : looking through you

the debut album from london based duo of mike kintish & nick ingram. taking their lead from 70s rock heroes queen, the album mixes grandiose pop with anthemic mor rock recalling fellow contemporaries mika & the feeling. "tunes so massive they would dominate your field of vision if you were standing 80 miles away (we're talking tunes bigger than the sun here)" – [nme](#), "the duo have released a greatest hits compilation as their first album. it's a collection of gloriously overblown, cheerful pop songs" – [northern echo](#). [island](#)

ari benjamin meyers : symphony x

meyers has constructed a vividly evolving, involving minimalist meditation that is propelled by a rock backbeat. it pummels through a dizzyingly unrelenting series of progressions, existing somewhere at an intersection of branca, glass & love of life orchestra. it is a work of symphonic scale that combines elements of hardcore, experimental & minimal music into an entirely original musical texture. meyers wrote this 70-minute piece specifically for his unique 17 member redux orchestra which includes saxophones, brass, strings, electric guitar, electric bass, drums & electronics. this physically demanding work combines complex repetitive instrumental arrangements with electro-noise, martial percussion rhythms & intense guitar melodies, escalating into a veritable tour de force. by uniting the formalistic structures of classical & minimal music with the sonic palette of rock, hardcore & electronic music, meyers builds upon experiences gained from collaborations with philip glass, einstürzende neubauten, the residents, the orb & many others. recommended. [potomak](#)

liam hayes & plush : bright penny

liam hayes aka plush is now, confusingly, credited as liam hayes & plush & this record appears to be his ode to the sweet soul pop that emanated from chicago back in the early to mid 70s. backed by a sterling cast of musicians - including chess stalwart & curtis mayfield sideman morris jennings on the sticks, jackie wilson's bass player bernard reed, the autumn defense (wilco's john stirratt & pat sansone) & two of brian wilson's touring band – hayes concocts a joyful paean to 70s am pop & soul with sweet throbbing hammond organs & a parping horn section. it fits neatly into his discography & feels like a logical step forward – equal parts todd rundgren style soul pop & curtis mayfield's sweet soul & the obligatory nod to brian wilson. "recalls the heart-bleeding soul of curtis mayfield & the chi-lites" 4/5 – [mojo](#), "a creamy rock'n'roll soul fantasy" 4/5 – [uncut](#). [broken horse](#)

grand archives : keep in mind frankenstein

(cd / lp with a free download code) the 2nd album from mat brooke, former band of horses & carissa's wierd member. mat brooke re-emerged in 2006 with his new project grand archives. currently comprised of brooke, drummer curtis hall, bass player jeff montano & guitarist thomas wright (all 4 members sing), the band have been joined by a few friends on this recording, including brooke's former carissa's wierd cohorts jenn ghetto & sera cahoone (who sang backing vocals) & jason kardong (who added the gorgeous streaks of pedal steel across the wistful sweep of 'oslo novelist'). for the most part, grand archives played everything, especially the weird bits & while it's a little darker than the 1st record, the album is made up of disparate elements artfully fitted together & brought to life with affecting results. delightful alt.country fare for fans of fleet foxes, midlake, beach house & band of horses. [sub pop](#)

hornet leg : ribbon of fear

hornet leg has had many manifestations as both a bedroom & live project for chris sutton (of c.o.c.o. & dub narcotic sound system). in the past, hornet leg has been a solo acoustic guitar project, an electro-dance undertaking, a crushing two-person art noise assault, a melancholy pop outfit & a personal 4-track recording enterprise. those many incarnations have been presented at live shows for six years. now with the long-coming full-length debut, hornet leg is solidified as a 3-man punk-blues powerhouse. sutton has draped this hornet leg session in a delightfully raw sound, heightened with a polyrhythmic jamboree of tambourine, piano keys, ghoulish laughter & female voice accompaniment. punky twang meets doo-wop. "ever the chameleon, with hornet leg, [chris] sutton is exploring stripped-down, minimalist, indie garage blues - if there is such a genre. if there wasn't, there is now" – pitchfork. [k records](#)

charles hayward/john coxon/pat thomas/alexis taylor : about

about, a project featuring charles hayward (this heat drummer), treader label regulars pat thomas & john coxon & hot chip's alexis taylor, release their debut album. recorded in one 2-hour session, the album was made on the first occasion the 4 musicians played together & features 4 polyrhythmically & texturally intense improvisations. charles' relentlessly inventive drumming provides the solid centre for these improvisations which recall this heat, boredoms & middle period can. hayward leads from the backline via some stunningly powerful drumming. the remainder of the musicians take up predominantly electronic instruments - mostly synthesizers & samplers but within taylor's musical menagerie you'll hear a spot of electric guitar, percussion & shruti box. this record is more of an avant-rock project than it is an out-&-out jazz-styled improvisation. hayward seldom slips out of a tightly organised groove but when the drummer does permit room for a little exploration, the other 3 rise to the challenge with a flurry of obscure sonorities & incisive electronic oscillations. [treader](#)

animal kingdom : signs & wonders

animal kingdom have been tipped as one of the acts to watch in 2009 & following singles 'chalk stars' & 'tin man' they have teamed up with phil ek (fleet foxes, the shins, dodos) for their debut album. it's an album bulging with delicately crafted, emotive pop hooks & chiming guitars with a melancholy streak a mile wide running through it. they could be loosely compared to a diverse range of acts from mercury rev to the arena sized pop of coldplay. "the sonic sweep & grandeur of early radiohead & second album-era coldplay... lovely, sunny songs, but with that key ingredient - a lurking melancholy" - *sunday times*. "achingly beautiful celestial indie... will have sigur rós quivering with envy" - *nme*. "they could be the first stadium-rock balladeers it's ok to like" - *the guardian*. "their debut swells with spiritually melancholic masterpieces" - *the fly*. "responsible for making some of the catchiest tunes this side of 2009" - *clash*. [warners](#)

za : macumba o muerte

za is a group of 3 guys & 9 instruments. while their music coordinates include heavy distortion, thick bass rhythms & a taste for the "bright" side of death metal, their compositions vary from ancestral melodies to free-jazz, noise, psychedelia, the songs of the shepherds of tuva, monty python, drone-rock, macho post-rock or even analog electronics. 'macumba o muerte' features 9 songs recorded by santi garcia & mastered by bob weston (shellac). each track is unique & different but all are performed under the same tribal philosophy - a mixture of genres, sounds & speeds that co-exist in a perfectly smooth disorder. [acuarela](#)

beep beep : enchanted islands

(2cd) it's been 3 or so years since beep beep unleashed their original twisted ideas on an unsuspecting public - unsuspecting, because they were at odds with saddle creek's output up to that point. now however, things have changed - the label's releases have diversified & the landscape has changed. this hasn't stopped beep beep from providing us with another record so completely at odds with the current musical climate though, created from the minds of people who are steeped in adult contemporary radio, fed through the influences of mark hollis, the soft machine & early omd. only remnants of the original beep beep sound remain - this is a far more diverse, oddly beguiling & almost haunting body of work than their debut. the 2nd disc is an appendix to 'enchanted islands', entitled 'surrounding islets' - these tracks were recorded at the same time as the album but did not fit in with the overarching theme of the full length. [saddle creek](#)

baddies : do the job

made up of identical twins michael (guitar/lead vox) & jim webster (drums/vox), simon bellamy (guitar/vox) & danny rowton (bass/vox) baddies have quickly established themselves as a "one to watch" in the eyes of much of the music press since their inception in early 2008. having toured the uk almost constantly for the past year, news of their relentless live shows quickly spread across the continent, where they have played to sell out audiences in france, germany & spain. having chosen to release the album on their own label (medical) instead of one of the majors, baddies are on course to show us you don't need a bucket load of money to do this music malarkey - you just need energy, attitude & a cleanly pressed shirt. "given the chance, 2009 could belong to baddies" - *nme*, "like franz ferdinand coming out of prison & losing faith in humanity" - *bbc*. [medical](#)

cubical : come sing these crippled tunes

countless liverpool bands hark back to the 1960s & these garage rockers aren't about to break the mould. the band have created an alternate reality where it's forever 1966 - dedicated to capturing that moment when frenetic, strutting garage rock started to spiral into mania, weirding out under the influence of acid. full of snotty bad attitude, this record evokes the era of the troggs, animals, yardbirds, pretty things, 13th floor elevators & seeds, recreating the vibe of the legendary nuggets compilations for a new generation. singer/guitarist dan wilson has a hoarse, gravelly holler that recalls howlin' wolf, tom waits, captain beefheart & drunk-era jim morrison on the more frenetic numbers; & nick cave in sinnerman mode on the slower, more atmospheric tunes. for that extra dollop of authenticity, this raw, murky debut was recorded live in 4 days, with vintage kit. "wilson makes waits sound like tiny tim" - *guardian*, "enough to raise the ghost of willie dixon, track down captain beefheart circa safe as milk & have a chat with the la's" - *mojo*. [dead young](#)

v/a : come o spirit - anthology of hymns & spiritual songs volume 1

for more than 30 years, pop music has suffered from a god complex - attaching a scarlet letter to artists who include the religious experience in their songs. but a new generation of musicians from across the spiritual spectrum is emerging, discarding the trappings of the christian culture industry to reintroduce the transcendence, beauty & historical gravity of western sacred music to the places where it belongs. the brainchild of producers isaac wardell & mason neely, 'come o spirit' interprets hymnody through lush, cinematic arrangements & a drop of southern gothic mystique. they bring together artists like damien jurado, rosie thomas, the welcome wagon (featuring sufjan stevens), j.tillman & laura gibson to revive 400 years of long-forgotten melodies & liturgical music. it's hushed & intense like a prayer. [great comfort](#)

you're smiling now but we'll all turn into demons : contact high

4th album from portsmouth's psych rock band, following last year's 'black demon time' which was produced by local hero, blood red shoes' steve ansell. the demons play sabbath like slabs of hypnotic drone rock with the odd foray into psychedelia & a nod to the downtuned twin guitar attack of sonic youth. dust off the superfuzz & big muffs & expect your ears to ring & your teeth to vibrate. [function](#)

treader duos : untitled

the innovative treader label arranged a concert at st giles in the fields church in the west end of london on 15th february 2008. ashley wales recorded the event & this cd is the result. it features a peerless lineup with a dramatic reverberant sound, including john butcher on tenor & soprano sax, mark sanders on drums, alex ward on clarinet, roger turner on drums, john tchicai on tenor sax & bass clarinet & tony marsh/drums. [treader](#)

telley : now i'm the big sister

the line-up of telley has changed since this debut album was recorded, although main-man james parsons (a member of spearmint) is still very much a part of the band. having composed the 9 original songs here & providing guitars, bass & keyboards, it's very much parsons's vision that steers this album. drawing inspiration from the likes of xtc & sparks (the album includes long-time live favourite, a cover of sparks' 'get in the swing'), they sound somewhat like a cross between squeeze & the flaming lips. [hitback](#)

v/a : high all the time vol 1

originally released in 1993 & finally available on cd for the first time, volume 1 of this classic compilation gathers together 14 of the best 1960s psychedelic obscurities you've probably never heard from america & further afield. there's the face-painted & substantially trippy danes dragonfly with their classic 1968 single, 'celestial dream', the acid-burned 'city jungle', parts 1 & 2 from l.a.'s the beautiful daze & 'quasar 45' from indiana's snarly garage-punkers the sun lightning incorporated. drenched in fuzz, echo, feedback & any other effect you care to mention, they're furious & exciting testaments to the musical benefits of being "high all the time". other artists include mammoth, the hobbit, the thingies, the darelycks, the shakers, the tower, the chaen reaction, the buzzards & pendragon. [past & present](#)

magazine : live & intermittent

restored & remastered from 3 shows recorded in 1979 & 1980 (tracks 1 & 2 were recorded at hurrah, new york on 02/08/79, while tracks 3 through to 9 were recorded live at the whiskey a go go, los angeles on 01/09/79 & tracks 10 to 17 were recorded at the family hotel, sydney on 20/09/80). 17 previously unreleased live recordings, digitally restored & remastered by dave formula from 1979-80 mono & stereo master mixes. some sources dave was working with were a bit lo-fi, so the sound quality is variable...but of great historical interest nevertheless! [wire-sound](#)

the adverts : cast of thousands

(2cd) famously recorded with mike oldfield associate tom newman at the controls, the 2nd adverts album was never going to be just another punk album. although the group's live performance remained as fiery as ever, t.v. smith was opening their sound to all manner of influences, including augmenting the lineup with keyboards. richard strange handled synth on what would become the new album's title track, before newman introduced another oldfield sideman, tim cross. his flourishes & textures would come to dominate the record (he appears on all but 2 songs), adding to the alien environment that was the new, ambitiously arranged world of the adverts. a flagrant departure from even the most extreme expectations, 'cast of thousands' not only cast the band adrift from the new wave mainstream, but also alienated all but the most adaptable of the band's following. the bonus tracks have been drawn from their period singles. [fire records](#)

v/a : good rockin' tonight red hot rockabilly

(3cd) from across the gamut, this carefully compiled set offers a sizzling selection of some of the finest rockabilly recordings from the period 1954-58. alongside the household names sit the more obscure & whilst their stars may not have burned for long, they burned no less brightly thanks to records that are now regarded as classics. including genre-defining cuts from the likes of proto-punks the johnny burnette trio, janis martin 'the female elvis', billy riley, charlie feathers, ronnie self & bob luman, as well as lesser-heard gems, this is rockabilly at its red hot rockin'est best. [fantastic voyage](#)

v/a : piccadilly sunshine part one

before psychomania found a limited amount of fame & even less of a fortune curating the widely-respected electric asylum series, he cut his musical molars on the little-known 'piccadilly sunshine' series, which took the wide-eyed aficionado into the deep & wondrous valleys of british pop music culture. daring to bring forth the once overlooked & sadly neglected songs that were laid to waste in a saturated wonderland of suburban teenage pop, psychomania asks you to join him as he tiptoes barefoot through the late 60s & early 70s in great britain's vast & glorious cultural waste paper basket. [past & present](#)

v/a : the electric asylum 3

the psychomaniac has returned from another journey into the vaults bringing back 20 lumps of best cut prime british freakrock. volume 3 conjures up a storm of glittery mod rockers with some refined, funky freakrock, budgerigars & bubblegum freakouts. presenting a feast for the purveyor of aural pleasure with a hunger that can only be satisfied by a fine collection of obscure records. artists featured include renegade, primitive man, sensations, puzzle, barracuda, grumbleweeds, boneshaker, barron knights, dynasty, m.a.s.k., shakane, wheels, spode, 1984, greg robbins, things fall apart, roger ruskin spear, don crown, zebedee & amazon trust. [past & present](#)

v/a : women blue

this superb new compilation gathers sixteen beautiful ballads performed by overlooked american female singers of the late 60s & early 70s. touching on folk, blues, pop & psychedelia, with the emphasis on acoustic guitar, the collection is culled from some of the best unknown singer-songwriter albums of the era & features some of the loveliest songs you've probably never heard. featuring california's penny nichols with the 'salton sea song', a jazz-inflected folk track from her 1968 buddah debut, oklahoman anna black with her smoky blues rendition of the suicide-inducing 'gloomy sunday', chicago's joni mitchell, bonnie koloc, with her heart-rending & haunted 1971 folk ballad 'devil's nine questions', the soporific dream-haze of new york's lily & maria with their 1968 rarity, 'morning glory morning' & more, these mellow tracks exemplify rare, unpolished beauty. [past & present](#)

v/a : wednesday morning dew

recently, the psychic circle label delved into the relatively uncharted waters where american psych & lush orchestration flow seamlessly together. they called it 'realistic patterns' & it carried them on a voyage that was both pleasing & eyeopening. now they feel it is time to take another cruise through similar oceans, during which we can visit the house band at sammy davis junior's hollywood club, an ex-member of the leaves getting rather groovy, the lead singer of the third bardo doing his solo thing, a song from the man behind the banana splits & an old bandmate of a pre-byrds chris hillman. come aboard, the anchor's up & the sea is like a millpond. [psychic circle](#)

v/a : routes of rockabilly

(3cd) spanning more than 20 years, this is an exciting musical odyssey that draws together key recordings from all points on the compass & from across the racial divide – essential listening for all fans of the rockabilly genre & its origins. includes many of the original versions of songs later adapted by barnstorming rockers such as elvis presley, carl perkins, jerry lee lewis & wanda jackson. early recordings by country legends such as hank williams, jimmy revard, bob wills & the delmore brothers & by blues exponents arthur gunter, big mama thorton & piano red, indicate that the roots & branches of rockabilly grew in many directions & stretch back further than one might think. also featured are lesser-heard names such as jimmy selph, gene henslee & mack davis whose recordings showcase rockabilly at its downhome best. "the ideal soundtrack for that summer barbeque we never had" 4/5 – *mojo*. [fantastic voyage](#)

blonde on blonde : rebirth

'rebirth' is the 2nd (& best) of 3 albums released by the late 60s/early 70s band. their debut, 'contrasts', had ranged from pop to rock, with elements of folk & psychedelia. with distinctive new singer dave thomas on board & fiery guitarist gareth johnson taking a dominant role, 'rebirth' was a far more coherent affair. the band delivered an ambitious set of melodic, progressive rock. from the moody blues-like pop-rock of opening track (& single a-side) 'castles in the sky' to the procol harum-style keyboard grandeur of finale 'you'll never know me/release', via heavy magnum opus 'colour questions', this is a consistently excellent album. [fantastic voyage](#)

v/a : tell me - ember beat vol. 1

in 1960 ember joined the small number of indies trying to compete in a market dominated by the four major record companies. that it survived until 1979 is testament to the acumen of founder jeffrey kruger, who had made waves in the 50s music scene with his london jazz club, the flamingo & his interests in publishing. hit records proved hard to come by, but by spotting opportunities ahead of the pack & catering for specialist audiences, kruger was able to run a flourishing record label. this is the first coherent survey of ember's releases from the beat era. many of the original singles are highly collectable (mint copies of carter, lewis & count downe are going for £50 & £35 respectively). recordings have been mastered from tape, where available & the booklet has been illustrated with sleeve & label shots. [fantastic voyage](#)

far east family band : nipponjin

(numbered limited edition) regarded by many as the first japanese progressive rock group, the far east family band featured the keyboardist & future new age composer, kitaro & this album features at no.14 on julian cope's list of top japanese albums. a keyboard-dominated space rock band, they played extended compositions that brought comparisons to tangerine dream & early pink floyd & they have also been described as being a cross between the moody blues & the cosmic jokers, with a dub infected production courtesy of klaus schultze. "if you've heard of the far east family band you already know about them; & if you've stumbled onto them out of the blue, get ready for a treat" jazz rock, "a great album if you like pink floyd-like space rock with a japanese twist" - *groove.nl*. [phoenix](#)

hope sandoval & the warm inventions : bavarian fruit bread

(mid-price reissue) after the breakup of mazy star, vocalist hope sandoval joined with colm o'ciosoig (formerly of my bloody valentine) to form hope sandoval & the warm inventions. the project retained the laid-back, slowcore sound of mazy star, & much like mazy star, featured sandoval's sensuous, hypnotic voice. however, it replaced the psychedelic leanings that mazy star was known for with spare, subtle arrangements that reinforced sandoval's gentle vocal style. sandoval's 2001 debut album proper is a gorgeous slice of minimalist folk pop, with her gorgeous vocals sitting atop often sparse acoustic instrumentation. [network](#)

shudder to think : live from home

with 'ten-spot', their first dischord records release in 1990, 'funeral at the movies' in 1991 & 'get your goat' in 1992, shudder to think continually exhilarated their fans with music & style that pushed the boundaries of what a band from the hardcore punk scene could look & sound like. in 1994 shudder to think signed to epic records & released their opus 'pony express record', an album still considered one of the most groundbreaking & influential albums of our time. in 2008, 10 years after the band's break-up, they reunited in response to overwhelming requests from new fans who had recently discovered them & embarked on a tour during which the band delivered some of the most compelling & potent shows of their career - the best of those live shows can be found here. [team love](#)

abstract truth : totum

the south african band abstract truth existed only for a very short time but it was a time of super-creativity. they exploded on to the music scene early in 1969, released 2 studio albums during 1970 on emi & imploded in 1971. melodic wistful freak rock blends with african sounds featuring assorted instruments : keyboards, flutes, electric guitars, saxophone, percussion etc resulting in a refreshing approach with an eastern touch. 'totum' was recorded in johannesburg over a single weekend & released in early 1970. it consists of odd covers (donovan, dylan, gershwin & others all get given the special abstract truth treatment) & 1 exceptional sitra-drenched original, 'total totum/acid raga'. if you like bands such as quintessence & blodwyn pig, this album's for you. [shadoks](#)

abstract truth : silver trees

the south african band abstract truth existed only for a very short time but it was a time of super-creativity. they exploded on to the music scene early in 1969, released 2 studio albums during 1970 on emi & imploded in 1971. 'silver trees' was a milestone in south african music. musically it follows the same routes as uk bands like bloodwyn pig, traffic, spooky tooth & many others but 'silver trees', was an attempt to record more structured songs, to make the band a bit more accessible to the record-buying public. this is underground prog-psych-jazz of the highest order, with organ, guitars, flutes, sax & great vocals & a few zappa-style guitar solos. [shadoks](#)

hardal : nasil? ne zaman?

this 1st album by the turkish band hardal (mustard) is entitled 'nasil? ne zaman?' (where from? where to?) & was recorded in turkey in 1979 by sükrü yüksel (guitar), aydin sencan (bass), cahit kukul (guitar) & sedat avci (drums). the band was only known by a very small insider-group but those fans adored hardal. this music is the best turkish progressive underground you can think of. filled with guitars, synth sounds, great eastern vibe vocals & harmonies & pumping rhythms, it's as good as the best koray tracks for sure. this is the 1st time the album has ever been available on cd. lap it up! [shadoks](#)

stephen duffy : memory & desire - 30 years in the wilderness

(2cd) this 2cd collection, compiled by stephen duffy & completely remastered from the original tapes, takes in both his solo & lilac time work. the 36 track set includes 2 previously unreleased songs - one a brand new piece & the other a radical reworking of his biggest hit 'kiss me'. the initial release of the album comes in a beautiful digipack with an expanded lyric booklet complete with personal musings from stephen on each track. [umc](#)

madness : total madness

(cd & dvd) madness are the ultimate british singles band, holding the record for single sales in the 1980s when over 6 million madness singles were bought by the adoring british public. 30 years on, the band are as active as ever, having delivered the critically acclaimed new album 'the liberty of norton folgate' earlier in the year. the likes of 'baggy trousers', 'it must be love' & 'one step beyond' are still winning over new fans whilst never losing any of the old. 'total madness' celebrates the band in their 30th year with 23 classic madness tracks including 20 top 20 hits & all the accompanying videos on one fantastic value cd & dvd set. [union square](#)

the barracudas : endeavour to persevere

this london-based anglo-american band, whose members include jeremy gluck (vocals), robin wills (guitar), david buckley (bass) & nick turner (drums), was formed in 1979 & scored a u.k. chart hit in 1980 with the neo-surf song 'summer fun'. turner & buckley left after the release of the first album & were replaced by jim dickson & terry smith. chris wilson also joined on guitar. this quintet made the 2nd & 3rd albums, 'meantime' & 'endeavour to preserve', which were released only in france. the barracudas disbanded in december 1984 but re-formed in 1989. this album was delivered by a solid lineup & chris wilson perhaps more integrated into the band - the playing here is wonderful, with chiming 12-strings once again the order of the day. [lemon](#)

the velvet underground : singles 1966-69

(7 x 7" box set) a 7 disc box set honouring the legendary new york combo's 7" vinyl output in their rare mono versions. the set features exact reproductions of velvet underground singles, 2 of them with their original picture sleeves. the singles are packaged in a distinctively designed box, along with rare vintage photos & new liner notes by rolling stone's david fricke (who also penned the acclaimed notes for the historic 1995 velvets cd box set 'peel slowly & see'). the original 7" masterpieces inside this box comprise the 4 velvets singles originally released in the u.s. on the verve & mgm labels, plus an additional pair of singles that were prepared for release but never made it to the marketplace & a special radio-only promotional single. the singles feature alternate mono versions that differ in significant ways from the songs' better-known stereo album versions. includes 'all tomorrow's parties', 'sunday morning', 'white light/white heat', 'what goes on', 'i heard her call my name', 'temptation inside your heart' & 'stephanie says'. [sundazed](#)

funeral for a friend : your history is mine 2002-2009

(cd/2cd) this welsh quartet made quite an impact on the emo scene back in the early 2000s with their unique mix of emo, metal & post hardcore & the now familiar sing/scream dynamic. they collect here 12 smash hits from their previous 4 albums & also include an ep's worth of new material, notable for being the 1st involving new member, gavin burrough (bass), fully in the writing & recording process. "it's made a huge difference having [gav] come into the band as a fan & almost like a spokesman for all the fans out there who've been wanting to hear elements of the band they fell in love with that maybe have been missing for a while" says ryan richards. [atlantic](#)

fanfarlo : reservoir

(very limited swanky 2cd & game version) a 2nd. even more beautiful special edition of this brilliant debut. this edition is larger, housed in a square linen box with foil blocked mask imagery on the lid. apart from the fabulous album itself, this set includes a 2nd cd with 8 songs - album outtakes & exclusive, unreleased material. it also contains beautiful fold out art on heavy paper, with song lyrics & photography by lilja birgisdottir. ridiculously lovely. [self released](#)

yo la fengo : popular songs

(cd album with limited soundtrack lp & poster bundle) a very limited bundle version of the album with a poster & an exclusive vinyl lp featuring yo la fengo's original score from greg mottola's motion picture 'adventureland'. [matador](#)

dance/electronica

zero 7 : yeah ghost

think you've got the zero 7 sound pegged? well, mercury music prize & grammy-nominated duo, henry binns & sam hardaker, might just surprise you. known & loved as the godfathers of exquisite ambient & downbeat pop for the best part of a decade, their latest album pushes the boundaries like nothing you've heard by them before. spanning dance pop to acoustic folk & everything in between, it's an idea-splattered work that even includes a quartet of instrumental tracks derived from their experimental side projects, sampled, overdubbed & rebuilt from scratch. from the evocative intro 'count me out' to the album's shuffling, twitchy closer 'all of us' - via the haunting 'solastalgia' & 'ghost symbol's' avant-garde electronic & distorted vocals - it's zero 7 as you've never heard them before. features vocals from folkie martha tilston & the soulful, throaty eska mtungwazi, who has performed with matthew herbert. [ultimate dilemma](#)

vitalic : flashmob

(cd/lp) like fellow gallic beatmasters justice & daft punk, vitalic stands out like a glistening beacon of light, an incendiary guiding force away from the commercially unlistenable pap like cascada et al that seems to have dragged the genre back into the dark ages & beyond. whereas 'ok cowboy' was vitalic laying his cards on the table, 'flashmob' is a stunning realisation of arbez-nicolas' decade-&-a-half's worth of dalliances & eventual mastering of electronic music that sits somewhere between 'homework' era daft punk & the dewaele brothers' 2 many djs slant on dirty underground electronica. big, brash & a lotta fun. "get this record & spin it til you're tired of it, then go listen to some berlin-era bowie or early roxy music or something. then put on 'flashmob' again & realize multi-layered paradoxical pop doesn't come around that much anymore" 4.5/5 - resident advisor. "gigantic slabs of oscillating, pulsing synths & propulsive percussion that might just be his boldest dancefloor killer yet" - vice. [different](#)

v/a : warp20 (chosen)

(2cd) if you don't want to put yourself on the breadline by splashing out on the beautifully lavish warp box set then co-founder stephen beckett & co. have come up with a solution. they have released 2 fine compilations under the title warp20. this, the 'chosen' volume compiles some of the finest ever warp music to celebrate their 20th anniversary. the 1st disc compiles 10 tracks chosen by fans via a public vote (over 50,000 votes were cast on warp20.net) & the 2nd, 14 tracks chosen by steve beckett (it was originally going to be 10 but it was too hard to choose less than 14). voters were encouraged to leave personal stories & memories & messages about their favourite tracks & over 20,000 messages were written & so the cd comes with a pull-out poster which includes hundreds of the best of these messages. what you get is by no means comprehensive - the warp catalogue is far too large to manage that - but features a frankly impressive line up of tracks including the obligatory - 'windowlicker,' 'my red hot car,' 'gantz graf' - & the personal - 'tender buttons' by broadcast, 'spangle' by seefeel. it's safe to say there isn't a wasted (rotten) note. [warp](#)

v/a : warp20 (recreated)

(2cd) to celebrate their 20th anniversary & as a companion to 'warp20 (chosen)', the label encouraged their roster to tackle any tune of their choosing by a fellow warp signee & snazzily called it 'warp20 (recreated)'. some tackle likeminded acts, such as bibio covering boards of canada, mira calyx also doing (a rather beautiful) boards cover & clark doing milanese & there are the maverick warp signings like the uncategorisable jimi tenor 's afro funk take on elektroids & then there is the new breed - rustie also doing elektroids & hudson mohawke doing a perverse (& great) cover of jimi tenor. it displays the diverse talent of warp artists & presents a fascinating melding of styles with a common thread of depth throughout both discs. an intriguing & entirely welcome addition to the warp catalogue. [warp](#)

andrew weatherall : a pox on the pioneers

the 1st ever 'solo' album from andrew weatherall, a man who should need no introduction but in case he does, here it is : having forged a path against the mediocrity of popular music for nearly 2 decades by issuing releases under the names sabres of paradise, emissions & two lone swordsmen, as well as having produced the now-legendary 'screamadelica' by primal scream, he has still found time to run a number of record labels, notably sabres of paradise & of course, rotters golf club. 'a pox on the pioneers' is a career-scanning yet forward-thinking beast of a release that explores the integration of the substrata of rock & roll with modernistic electronics. the record takes clear sonic cues from his status as a dance, techno & house phenomenon whilst skillfully acknowledging his grandly professed love of protest music - rockabilly, soul, rock 'n' roll - from the mid 20th century. "i'm not purist, i'm not precious, it's just about that rock n roll essence, whether it's done with a drum machine or by twanging a guitar. it's about that swing, that kind of groove" - weatherall. [rotters golf club](#)

v/a : body language volume 8: modeselektor

modeselektor should require very little introduction. the berlin-based duo of gernot bronsert & sebastian szary have destroyed so many dancefloors around the world that their reputation precedes them & as producers too, their stature has grown & grown. they've released two critically acclaimed albums & collaborated with the likes of thom yorke & paul st hilaire. somehow or other modeselektor still find time to be among the best, most reliably party smashing djs on the planet. their contribution to get physical's 'body language' mix series is a riotous, bass-heavy affair, one that takes in all kinds of interesting developments in cutting edge contemporary dance music. dubstep takes a big role but their eclectic mix finds room for animal collective, juice aleem, major lazer & missy elliot too. a superb mix. "the pair edit, screw & tease their selection into place with all the tricks at their disposal - killer set!" - boomkat. [get physical](#)

pictureplane : dark rift

the 24-year-old odd-ball performance artist pictureplane (aka denver's one man factory, travis egedy), apparently obsesses over the cosmos, 90s house music, collective consciousness & mind altering chemicals you've never heard of. on his debut for lovepump, his music is strange & boundless - grimy synths, broken beats & bucolic vocals collide somewhere between early 90s house music, the synth dance anthems of mylo & the gnarly soundscapes of black dice to forge a sound that's wholly unique & endlessly exciting. it's exceedingly rare to find dance music that transcends the cold & robotic but on 'dark rift', pictureplane does just that - churning out intricate electronic jams out of his denver bedroom. it feels at once personal & cosmically expansive. "pictureplane shows that he can run the gamut from spastic, frenetic tracks like 'trance doll' to crooned, slower jams like 'gang signs" - cmj. [lovepump united](#)

v/a : chromeo - dj kicks

the latest & 1st in a couple of years of k7's dj kicks turns to canada's p-thugg & dave 1, aka chromeo for their own party starting mix. these best friends, virtuoso musicians, walking hip-hop encyclopedias & the only successful arab/jew partnership since ... well, ever, have turned in a mix that is a tribute to canada of sorts, as it includes so many maple leaf underground classics & obscurities. as you would expect from remixers of the diverse likes of cut copy, lenny kravitz, feist & vampire weekend, it is an eclectic mix that doesn't know the meaning of 'cheesy' but does know the meaning of disco & this mix is packed to the gills with rare, unlikely (hello leo sayer) & frankly awesome tunes plus the obligatory dj kicks cover version - they tackle the eagles 'i can't tell you why' for your listening pleasure. "packed out with rare & killer cuts to grease even the rustiest hips" - boomkat. [k7!](#)

lusine : a certain distance

texan jeff mcilwan has been recording ambient techno under the lusine moniker since the late 90's & with each new release has drifted further into ambient/pop territory. his 2nd album on the fantastic ghostly international strays further across the electronic/pop divide. 'a certain distance' sees mcilwan employing human vocals & pop structures, hooks & melodies in the service of something warmer & more welcoming than the lusine of old. the apex of his adventure is 'twilight' wherein he employs the vocals of vilja larjosto. her dextrous vocal perfectly compliments mcilwan's gentle pulsing backing track. elsewhere he pushes into more dancefloor territory with the likes of 'every disguise' - similar in feel to fellow ghostly artist matthew dear's work - & airy, weightless rhythms of 'crowded room.' "the frontline of dreamy electronic techno-pop" - boomkat. [ghostly international](#)

v/a : cosmic balearic beats vol. 2

(2cd) the second instalment of cosmic balearic beats features 16 exclusive & unreleased tracks of beautiful sun kissed cosmic house, disco, funk & more mixed for the ultimate slo-mo house party. the emphasis here is on nurturing & developing talented artists from all over the world & giving them a platform to shine. the production quality is impeccable, matched only by the beauty & inventiveness of the track selection, as eskimo traverses the worlds of disco, house, funk, italo, electro & beyond, all expertly selected programmed & mixed by dirk de ruyck & villa. if you like a bit of slo-mo deep disco action then a tracklisting featuring hot-toddy, nelue, roberto rodriguez, social disco club & mugwump should start the salivating. [eskimo recordings](#)

logistics : crash bang wallop

the mighty drum & bass don logistics returns with his 3rd album for the ever-reliable hospital label. from start to finish this is pure unadulterated drum & bass with spot-on production aimed squarely at the dancefloor. what makes him stand out from the rest is the balance he achieves between full-on heavy amen breaks & lighter melodic touches such as piano & sweeping pads, making an overall sound that effortlessly straddles the light & dark elements of d'n'b. fans of high contrast, london electricity & all hospital crew are gonna love this! "this is heady, luminous stuff guaranteed to be filling dance floors for months to come" - 4/5, *mixmag*. "essential for all drum & bass lovers" - *idj*. [hospital records](#)

schlachthofbronx : schlachthofbronx

schlachthofbronx is not a single person/producer from berlin, but three guys (live at least a two tag team) based in munich, bavaria. few people know that the capital of bavaria is not only a hot spot for beer but also for deep bass music. only a year after getting together they have found their music blogged about around the world by the likes of diplo on his mad decent blog & radio shows hosted by the count & sinden. until now not a single track has been regularly available yet there are plenty of versions of tracks floating around the web but now they have finally collected together definitive versions of these dancefloor filling tunes. munich bass is a carnivorous animal that takes bits of african kuduro, south american cumbia, caribbean soca /dancehall, brazilian baile funk, cape verdian funana, american bootybass, uk dubstep - & bavarian schranz - no wonder diplo is a fan. if major lazer relocated from jamaica to deepest bavaria this may well be the result. undoubtedly a sick mixture nobody else has ever tried before & lord diplo must have tried! [disco b](#)

v/a : dj stephane pompougnac presents hotel costes 12

pompougnac returns with the latest instalment of his ongoing hotel costes series & once again collects the finest in downtempo dance & pop by the likes of natural self, dj vadim, ben westbeech, unforscene & stephane pompougnac himself. if you want the soundtrack to sipping skinny mocha-choco-latte's in some chic parisian café or indeed the hotel costes then you have found it right here. [pschent](#)

kryptic minds : one of us

loefah's swamp 81 imprint gives birth to a darkside mutant in the form of kryptic minds' debut full length dubstep album. a favourite of martin 'blackdown' clark & obviously loefah-most-high, kryptic minds are probably the most successful & respected of the barrage of d'n'b refugees to enter the dubstep camp. they've succinctly adopted the bass swollen halfstep swagger that loefah pioneered with a string of seminal releases a few years back, but added a precision engineered darkside vibe more commonly associated with their other genre. the results are impressively slick, possibly comparable to the clubroot sound but shaped with the experienced touch of a true d'n'b technician, allowing for a warehouse-spacious sound with powerfully dynamic rhythms. 'generation dub' is considered dread science of the highest order, while 'six degrees' & 'secure lost' will easily impress any d-bridge or burial heads, heading straight for their night bus ipod playlists. "definitely one for all the edge-of-the-dancefloor, hoods-up skankers. smart." - boomkat. [swamp81](#)

mongolian jetset : we gave it all away... now we're taking it all back

(2cd) a double album from the norwegian genre-benders including remixes, covers & originals. the flavours cover everything from house & disco inspired cheekiness via shameless dabblings with soft rock/norwegian west coast, balearic, dub & ambient, psychedelia & techno, all melted into one giant wormhole of sound. compared to a lot of the epic disco-soaked prog reassemblers out there at the mo the mungers are decidedly less interested in being tasteful & demure in their process of reclamation. their humour is equally self-celebratory & self-mocking, almost aggressively goofy, daring you to think that this might be a quick giggly fix that you'll blushingly file away along the line. superb cosmo-fied disco-fied prog-type stuff which fans of lindstrom, idjut boys & the emperor machine should check out. "a lush, alien soundworld somewhere between the ethnodelic mystery of brian eno & david bryne's 'my life in the bush of ghosts' & the cheesy progstastic expansiveness of orb's 'adventures beyond the ultraworld'" - pitchfork, "bonkers but compelling" - mojo.. [smalltown supersound](#)

crookers : i love techno 2009

italian techno pests crookers are enlisted for the latest 'i love techno' mix, following in the footsteps of boys noize, dj pierre & many more. they open up with photek's brilliant 'glamourama', before churning in emvee's funky anthem 'glitch dub', osborne's 'the count', zombys 'aquafresh', rustie's 'bad science' & untold's 'anaconda', next to electro-rave fare from jahcoozii, ku bo, noob & brodinski, deepgroove, jack beats, jesse rose & nadastrom. don't go by the title though, as you'll also find house, dubstep, fidget, electro & electronica getting a look in too. [lektroluv](#)

kaito : trust

kaito, aka hiroshi watanabe, has long been a djing stalwart of the us east coast trance scene. 'trust' is his 3rd full length album for the trusty berlin label & it sees kaito build soaring, trancey melodies, deep beats & washy synths into a more intimate record than might normally be expected from the genre. to start out, you'll feel like you're being treated to the perfect spa or massage with the ambient textures washing over you & gradually the gentle beats wander in, as do the breakbeat rhythms & trancey chord progressions. although this all sounds like it could be incredibly dated & cheesy, somehow kaito manages to pull it off with clever execution & enough variety to keep the mellowness & the beats perfectly balanced. fans of ulrich schnauss or the orb will find much to love here. [kompakt](#)

v/a : renaissance: the masters series – dave seaman

dave seaman, the most decorated champion of the renaissance masters series, returns to defend his crown. whilst you might associate his name with either a footballer or a prog house dj, whichever way there's no denying this chap has skills & impeccable taste. opening with four tet's 'swimmer', he then goes on to deftly blend tracks from unkle, mobby, jon hopkins, adam freeland, moderat & more over the course of 2discs, throwing in some nifty edits & fx along the way. a great addition to the renaissance series. [renaissance](#)

v/a : future disco #2

the disco renaissance continues! with the doom & gloom that feeds daily out of the world's media, it seems people have been attracted to something altogether more colourful, freer & far more happy to fill the void, namely disco music! however, this is a new kind of disco created by a new breed of producers who have taken the influences of the 70s, 80s & even 90s house & created a sound that has captivated dance floors in 2009. included here are the likes of faze action, the juan maclean, shit robot, friendly fires, prins thomas & greg wilson all delivering more dancefloor sparkle than an overweight glitter ball. [need want](#)

zoot woman : things are what they used to be

it is hard to think of dance pop in the '00s without stuart price. he was madonna's music director for 3 international tours & her studio accomplice for 'confessions on a dance floor'. he had a steady stream of hands-in-the-air remixes for artists as varied as felix da housecat, the faint, missy elliot & depeche mode & you can't help but think that contemporary top 40 electro-pop hopefuls such as calvin harris & frankmusik owe their careers to him. known for his many aliases (les rythmes digitales, jacques lu conti, thin white duke etc.), he also formed zoot woman with johnny & adam blake in the mid 90s as a way to channel his brotherhood-era new order fixations. now the electro-pop underachievers make a welcome return with their royksopp-meets-pet shop boys-meets-kraut sound well sharpened. "feels like the return of an exiled prophet. like kindred spirits phoenix, they've reworked their own template" 7/10 - *clash*. [zwr](#)

v/a : the many faces of joey negro volume two

(2cd) dave lee aka joey negro has been a busy chap over the years. using more aliases than an mi5 spy, he's added his production to countless tracks, all verified dancefloor movers. this is the 2nd compilation to round up just some of his many ventures, with disc 1 including his dave lee, doug willis, z factor & the sunburst band aliases while disc 2 rounds up remixes including artists such as dennis ferrer, jimpster, henrik schwarz & dave spoon. respect due to a true veteran of the scene. [z records](#)

hip hop

anti-pop consortium : fluorescent black

(cd/2lp) some say it was a hiatus, some say they split up but it really isn't of much consequence because after 7 years apart they have returned with their 3rd album. back in the early 2000s they pioneered a new breed of electronic hip hop & while the world has caught up a deal since & the mainstream has assimilated a bunch of their innovations, there isn't a rap group around that can hold a torch to their idm & techno inspired beats & thrillingly dense rapping. the uk's very own hip hop explorer roots manuva crops up on 'ny to tokyo' but the spoils remain beans, high priest & m sayyid. "pitch-dark electro, evil bass, & scientific rapping – everything latter day hip-hop has been crying out for" – the skinny, "a futuristic blueprint that will subtly define the coming decade's urban landscape" – clash. [big dada](#)

crown city rockers : the day after forever

the rockers new album is their 1st in 5 years & though the group has remained intact, the album represents a reunion of sorts, as many of the group have been off doing their thing with other likeminded souls such as blackalicious's gift of gab, lateef people under the stairs' thes one & common. if you are unfamiliar with this crew, the aforementioned collaborators should give you a pretty good idea. these guys offer backpack rap of the best stripe & through constant touring have fine tuned their mix of live band & old school turntablist sound til it puffs beautifully. [gold dust media](#)

terror danjah : gremlinz (the instrumentals 2003-2009)

terror danjah isn't a household name, he's not as well known as wiley or dizzee rascal but he's considered by the grime cognoscenti to be the best grime producer ever. this album collects the best of his productions & remixes spanning the last few years. the title of the album is a reference to the gremlin cackle terror uses as an audio-logo to indicate a terror danjah production, much like timbaland's singing/beat boxing on his early productions. the lateral movement & luscious flavours have obvious parallels with the haywire synths of kode9 & joker, or the intricately wonky rhythms of rustie & flying lotus not to mention the techy productions of bengal. "of the handful of grime producers who've made some beats that work as stand-alone aesthetic objects the undoubted ruler is terror danjah. he's one of the great electronic artists to emerge in the 1st decade of the 21st century" – simon reynolds, "some of the most overtly opulent music ever to emerge from a down at heel producer" – wire. [planet mu](#)

soul / funk

breakestra : dusk 'till dawn

the whole soul funk revival's beginnings can be traced back to this gang of south cali funkateers. after a four-year break from the studio, l.a.'s finest practitioners of party funk & breaks return & believe it or not this is only their 2nd album. built around the vision of 'music man' miles & mixmaster wolf (as well as producing, miles plays drums, bass, guitars, keys & percussion on the record), the trademark breakestra touches remain intact. these guys play music that knows where it's at. the template of their sound remains the tight & funky styles of the jb's, sly & the family stone & the countless other 60s & 70s funk acts filtered through the perceptions of the golden era of hip hop – the likes of producers like pete rock & dj premier. this time out miles fleshes out their sound with his own vocals & those of newcomer afrodyete & j5's chali 2na. essential stuff for disciples of quantic soul orchestra & the dap-tone label roster. [strut](#)

betty davis : is it love or desire

in these days of album blogs, torrent sites on the all seeing, all knowing web it is a rarity to come across a genuinely lost musical artefact. 'is it love or desire' is one of those. it has never been bootlegged, never released & never heard until now. recorded in 1976, the follow up to 'nasty gal' promptly vanished from view. it appears that after capturing 10 hard-hitting tracks at the remote studio in louisiana, a creative difference with her then label caused the platter to be unexpectedly shelved. considered her most personal work it contains the usual mix of hard funk, rock & keyboards with a bone hard 'carapace'. this little known (or heard) gem should finally gain the wider audience it deserves. features detailed liner notes by oliver wang (soul sides, betty davis & they say i'm different re-issue contributor), the originally intended artwork housed in a lavishly packaged digipak, rare photos, archival material, & recent interviews with davis. [light in the attic](#)

v/a : good to the last drop – from the ember tape vaults

this 23 collection compiles the finest of little british label, ember's finest soul cuts from the sixties & seventies. started by jeff kruger, proprietor of london's famous celebrity nightclub, flamingos nightclub, ember licensed music across the board, some hit, some miss. this collection is thankfully all hits (though not necessarily recognised by the charts), it includes tracks by the great johnny otis, spectorish soul pop from the values, gospel from mary frazier jones & more from the likes of carol wood, mickey stephenson & ed robinson. many are available for the first time in decades & all are rare & collectable. mint copies of the original 45s would cost in the region of £500. the informative booklet notes are authored by respected echoes/record collector journalist mike atherton. highly, highly recommended stuff. [fantastic voyage](#)

harlem underground band : harlem underground band

this is one of those monster lost funk albums that you will have heard - it has since been cut to ribbons by some of hip hop's finest, including eric b & rakim, genius/gza – but you won't necessarily have known it. harlem underground were credited as jackson, george benson, & ann winley but many accounts say that there were a few other well known & uncredited people in on the recording & that george benson never actually played on any of the tracks. whoever the personnel actually were & it seems the facts have been lost in the mists of time, this is an album of great grooves. the super-funky, tripped-out & straight-blunted 'smokin' cheeba-cheeba,' the great breakbeat version of 'ain't no sunshine' & the slow bluesy talking cut 'fed up', a baaaad rap about a couple splitting up. [paul winley](#)

ruth copeland : 'self portrait' & 'i am what i am'

(2cd) originally from durham in the north of england, ruth copeland married invictus' head of a&r, jeffrey bowen & became an unofficial member of, co-wrote songs with & was backed on records by, the musicians headed by george clinton & known variously as parliament & funkadelic. these two incredibly rare albums were written in 1970 & 1971, & feature many songs co-written with clinton & include her versions of songs recorded by parliament on their debut, 'osmium'. also included are ruth/parliament's extended cover versions of the rolling stones 'play with fire' & 'gimme shelter', along with five bonus tracks. [edsel](#)

michael olatuja : speak

british/nigerian bassist michael olatuja has long been an in demand session player working with the diverse likes of lisa stansfield, terence blanchard, the brooklyn tabernacle choir, chaka khan, patti austin & stevie wonder. on his debut he helms the project as producer, composer, arranger & performer & invites lynden david hall, andrew roachford, ty, terri walker, eska & others to share the vocals. the album is inspired & influenced by the various places he has lived around the globe including london, lagos & new york. olatuja uses hallmarks of traditional african music such as the conga & djembe drums, call-&-response vocals & the yoruba language, while working comfortably with musical vocabularies more familiar to western ears: neo-soul balladry, modern jazz, deep grooves, r&b & gospel. "elegantly embraces all of the myriad musical moods & grooves that abound at the start of the 21st century" – [allaboutjazz](#). [backdrop](#)

Speak Low : hands up

Speak Low are Madrid's premier funk combo. They wield the sound of the Hammond organ, the powerful brass section, the stomping rhythm section & the super funky guitars to make an unstoppable funk machine. Unstoppable on stage, but also in the studio, as you will hear on their brand new record. Their 1st album was released on Acid Jazz, to much critical acclaim & they are much praised by the likes of Mr Scruff. Their brand of funky Hammond groove funk is halfway between New Orleans' meters & Pennsylvania's Jimmy Smith & recommended to both. A record that will fill many a life with happiness, buckets of sweat & a whole lot of soul! [lovemonk](#)

8th Day : 'the 8th day' & 'i've gotta get home'

(2cd) set up by the famed songwriting team of Holland-Dozier-Holland after they left Motown, the Invictus & Hot Wax labels released albums by Chairmen of the Board, Freda Payne, Parliament, Lamont Dozier, Laura Lee, the Honey Cone, Ruth Copeland & many more. Featuring the lead vocals of northern soul legend Melvin Davis, this 2cd set contains every 8th Day associated track that was released on Invictus or Hot Wax, whether credited to them or not & is the most complete documentation of their career to date. Stand-out tracks are the two top 3 R&B singles 'She's Not Just Another Woman' & 'You've Got to Crawl (Before You Walk)', as well as 'If I Could See the Light' & 'Eeny-Meeny-Miny-Mo (Three's a Crowd)'. The nine bonus tracks include the single mixes & their rare instrumental B-sides. [edsel](#)

Soul Sugar : nothing but the truth

The man behind Soul Sugar, Guillaume Metenier, is a highly respected Parisian keyboard player whose previous credits include the Last Poets & Emilie Simon as well as being a long time collaborator of Trip Hop hero Kid Loco. In fact, Kid Loco has worked with Guillaume on 'Nothing but the Truth' to produce the perfect mix of vintage sounds & styles, but with a contemporary edge. From the outset they blend Hammond, piano, squelchy analogue synthesizers & fresh beats & production to refresh one of Black Music's most enduring genres, this is chilled out, soul jazz for modern ears. As a tribute to the Hammond's incredible legacy, Lonnie Smith & Jimmy Smith get loving reworkings but it is Guillaume's deft, highly original approach that sets this collection apart from the often derivative organ sounds of today. He breaks new ground & also keeps the organ groove re-energized, fresh & relevant for contemporary fans of top quality sounds. [freestyle](#)

Cymande : arrival

Cymande (sah-mahn-day) were an eclectic band who released some of the finest & most sophisticated funk in the seventies. The group was formed in 1971 in London by musicians from Guyana & Jamaica. The group developed a subtle & complex, deep funk style influenced by calypso rhythms, jazz, African music, American soul & UK rock of the time. They have since been harvested for breakbeats by some of hip hop's finest including De La Soul, Koolhaer & Grandmaster Flash. 'Arrival' was the last album ever made by Cymande & was released in 1981 on Paul Winley Records after having languished in the vaults for years. Heavily funky in an ensemble kind of way & cut through with the afro-isms that gave this band their unique sound. A real rarity & an essential addition to any funk collection. [Paul Winley](#)

Carol Woods : out of the woods

Woods started out as a gospel singer but moved on to soul that took the soul-pop of Jean Terrell-era Supremes & married it to the gospel sounds of Aretha's Atlantic years. The result was her UK debut 'Out of the Woods' & three singles recorded for the Ember label 1970 - 72. The LP is now highly sought after by collectors & most of these tracks are appearing on CD for the first time. Since then Carol has found success in stage musicals & has also appeared in movies. "one can't help thinking however financially viable starring in Eddie Murphy movies might be, making this must have brought far greater spiritual reward... sassy & sunshine bright" 4/5 - [mojo](#). [fantastic voyage](#)

Mickey Stevenson : here i am

As a songwriter & producer William 'Mickey' Stevenson was one of the driving forces behind the extraordinary success of the Motown sound. He was Berry Gordy's first A&R director & organised the label's famous house band the Funk Brothers. In 1971 he sought to re-establish himself as a singer. His sole album, recorded for British independent Ember, sees Mickey tackling deep soul, psychedelic soul & some especially great adult material -- really mature numbers that provide a perfect showcase for Stevenson's vocal range. Luchi Dejesus arranged the album with Mickey, & it's got a sophisticated vibe reminiscent of 70s work by Lamont Dozier or Leon Ware (who contributes 4 tracks to the album). This is the 1st time on CD for any of this material & naturally both the 45s & the original LP collected here are now very collectable. [fantastic voyage](#)

v/a : soul breakout 1958

Soul Breakout '58 combines 25 recordings by various artists displaying the development of soul music in the US charts of 1958. All of the songs were R&B &/or pop hits & many have become classics of the genre. What you get is some stone cold classic R&B & pop that maps the evolution of what would become 'soul' music. Includes 'Little Boy Blue' by Bobby 'Blue' Bland, 'Lonely Teardrops' by Jackie Wilson, '(I Love You) for Sentimental Reasons' by Sam Cooke, 'Try Me' by James Brown & many, many more. It is the first of an ongoing year-by-year series following the evolution of soul. The informative booklet, including full details of the original label issues, are authored by respected Echoes/Record Collector Journalist Mike Atherton. [fantastic voyage](#)

jazz

John Abercrombie Quartet : wait til you see her

The John Abercrombie Quartet has become one of the most widely-admired groups in contemporary jazz. It is both a deeply swinging group & an adventurous one - as their 4th ECM album attests. With a range that can encompass everything from standards to bebop to free play to chamber music or raga-esque excursions, the quartet extends the jazz tradition, yet there is a consistent warmth & humanity to the sound. Recorded in New York last December, the disc features 7 new Abercrombie compositions, plus the tender & romantic title track, a Rodgers & Hart tune originally penned for the 1942 musical, 'By Jupiter'. Interplay between Abercrombie, Feldman & Baron is given a different inflection this time around by the input of a remarkable young bass player, Thomas Morgan (28), whose agility & deep rooted musicality is exceptional. "anybody who's got ears can hear the beautiful integrity of his improvisations & how incredibly well he plays the electric guitar. he's playing better than he ever has" - [John Scofield](#). [ecm](#)

Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith : abbey road quartet

These quartet recordings feature the improvisational skills of trumpeter Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith, guitarist John Coxon, keyboard player Pat Thomas & drummer Mark Sanders - an ensemble that convened at Abbey Road Studios last year to commit these 5 pieces to tape. Wadada takes the lead, perhaps most staunchly reminding you that this is, at heart, a jazz album thanks to his florid, lyrical phrasing. The relationships formed between the instruments are an immediate source of intrigue, forming plenty of complex exchanges, throughout which Coxon - who also assumes a producer's role - puts in some sterling textural work, on 'For Mongezi Feza' laying down precise feedback formations that at times are reminiscent of Thurston Moore's most incisive & restrained outings. [trader](#)

Gato Barbieri : in search of the mystery

Gato Barbieri is the 2nd Argentine musician to make a significant impact upon jazz - the first being Lalo Schifrin, in whose band Barbieri played as a teenager. His story has been that of an elongated zigzag odyssey between his homeland & North America. He started out playing traditional Latin rhythms in his early years, turning his back on his heritage to explore the jazz avant-garde in the 60s, reverting to South American influences in the early 70s, playing pop & fusion in the late 70s, only to go back & forth again in the 80s. 'In Search of the Mystery' is Gato Barbieri's forceful, uncompromising, debut album as leader & was recorded for ESP in 1967. This record features 4 extended compositions by Barbieri, played with powerful creativity by the quartet in a style where strident, free improvisation meets a more impressionistic, hard bop. Barbieri himself plays with a possessed energy, reminiscent of Coltrane, Shepp or Pharoah Sanders at their most unrestrained. Who needs time signatures?! [esp disk](#)

anouar brahem : the astounding eyes of rita

anouar brahem has become one of ecm's most popular artists, with a staunch worldwide following & near-unanimously positive press reactions. the label's 40th anniversary brings a new album of warm, dark sounds & dancing, organic pulses from the tunisian oud master, performed by his new band. after 2 albums more closely related to european music ('le pas de chat noir' & 'le voyage de sahar') comes a recording built more upon traditional phrasing & arab modes. on hand drums, brahem added insightful young lebanese percussionist khaled yassine. [ecm](#)

mike stern : big neighborhood

guitarist mike stern, the fusion legend, is joined on this record by a number of high profile guests from both rock & jazz including guitarists steve vai & eric johnson; bassist-vocalists esperanza spalding & richard bona; jamband godfathers medeski martin & wood & drummers dave weckl & cindy blackman. stern made his reputation as a member of miles davis' "comeback" band of the early 80s & has always grafted elements of rock, blues, soul & more to his solid jazz foundations. 'big neighborhood', therefore, refers to mike's eclectic approach & as he says himself "you can find all kinds of things in a big neighborhood – all kinds of different people, all kinds of different ideas & perspectives & of course, all kinds of different sounds." [heads up](#)

julie tippetts & martin archer : ghosts of gold

julie tippetts is one of the foremost european vocalists in the field of contemporary jazz & improvised music. her recording & performing career has taken her from the early years of soul/jazz/r&b with brian auger in the 1960s to working with some of the world's leading improvising musicians today. she has developed a vocal technique beyond the boundaries of a conventional singer. this record presents 10 beautiful new songs / poems (plus 2 instrumentals) by julie, set to music by martin archer in styles ranging from electronic beats to pure free jazz abstraction. "this is the record that tippetts always had in her" - jazzwise, "archer has found a fresh bardic language for his collaboration with tippetts...welcome them with patience & warmth" – wire. [discus](#)

blues

v/a : let me tell you about the blues - chicago

(3cd) the blues may have been born in the rural south but chicago is where it made its home. since record companies first came to town in the 1920s, the city was a mecca for blues musicians as attested to here on 75 tracks by some of the all-time greats recorded over a 33 year period. this is the first chapter in 'let me tell you about the blues', a series of multi-cd sets that celebrate the blues as it was made in the cities & states of america. each provides an historic overview of the ways in which the music developed through the middle decades of the 20th century. don't see it as an education. sit back & be entertained. [fantastic voyage](#)

v/a : let me tell you about the blues – memphis

(3cd) memphis was the town blues musicians passed through on their way to chicago but some of them stayed & the record companies sent their mobile units to record them. over a 3 year period from 1927, an astonishing amount of talent was recorded : local stars & musicians from neighbouring states who came to try their luck. memphis jug band, frank stokes, cannon's jug stompers, jim jackson, furry lewis, robert wilkins, bukka white, memphis minnie, mississippi john hurt, lonnie johnson, lewis black, charlie mccooy & more - all of these musicians are featured on the first cd of this collection, caught at their best, cutting songs that became blues standards. "small wonder, with this legacy to draw on, elvis became king" 5/5 – uncut. [fantastic voyage](#)

folk

sharon shannon : saints & scoundrels

hailed as ireland's greatest national treasure, shannon returns with a brand new studio album. the record includes several newly penned tracks by the accordion maestro herself & boasts a hoard of special guests including imelda may, jerry fish, carol keogh (automata), justin adams (robert plant band), jack the rapper & the mighty cartoon thieves. one of her instrumentals, 'cape clear', features in the new neil jordan movie 'ondine' in which sharon stars as herself alongside colin farrell. perhaps the most musically important track is 'saints & angels' written by chief waterboy mike scott. this track was written for 'fisherman's blues' but was never included on the album. the new recording features the first ever reunion of that classic 1989 line-up that includes mike, steve wickham, anthony thistlethwaite, trevor hutchinson & sharon. [daisy discs](#)

country

kris kristofferson : closer to the bone

(cd/deluxe 2cd) for his latest album kris & producer don was have headed down the road that proved so fruitful for his late friend johnny cash & rick rubin & consequently stripped his songs right back to their bare bones. the bare accompaniment supplied by session legend jim keltner, the late steve bruton & don was himself, gives kris & his songs plenty of room to breathe. his rough voice has weathered & toughened wonderfully with age & gives his words absolute authority while he reflects on love, separation, loss, & mortality. kristofferson himself says, "i like the intimacy of the new album. it has a general mood of reflecting on where we all are at this end of life." 'closer to the bone' is a deftly observed, honestly executed work about the subject matter ranges from the musician's family to kristofferson's late friend johnny cash. the deluxe version includes a 2nd cd with 8 live tracks recorded at the dublin olympia, plus a poster. "no singer/songwriter freezes moments in amber with the delicate detail & emotional frisson like kris kristofferson" – americansongwriter. [new west](#)

joe ely : down on the drag/live shots

two records into his career, country rocker joe ely was riding a creative high with his eclectic southwest mix. produced by folk-rock maven, bob johnston (bob dylan, simon & garfunkel) & released in 1979, 'down on the drag' came with high expectations. & it didn't disappoint. it picks up exactly where his 2nd 'honky tonk masquerade' left off & his crack band are as good as ever & pal butch hancock supplies some fine 'outside' tunes. his 4th album was recorded live in london in 1980 while on tour with the clash & selects material from across his career to date. his touring partners couldn't resist joining on vocals & duly appear on 'honky tonk masquerade'. [bgo](#)

reggae

v/a : the evolution of dub vol 4 - natural selection

(4cd) the 4th part in the excellent 'evolution of dub' series focuses on joe gibbs & the professionals, collecting together 4 classic sets from the golden age of dub. joe gibbs & errol thompson, aka the mighty two, brought dub to the wider public with their successful african dub series & showcased the expert playing of the mighty professionals super-powered by the unmistakable drum & bass of sly dunbar & lloyd parks. includes 'state of emergency', 'majestic dub', 'african dub chapter 5' & 'syncopation' plus classic photos & images along with sleeve notes by reggae historian noel hawkes. an essential addition to the series. [greensleeves](#)

pat kelly : srevel

born in 1949 in kingston, jamaica, pat kelly was one of the island's leading purveyors of the rocksteady genre. the curtis mayfield sound-alike took slim smith's place alongside bruce ruffin & winston riley in the techniques around 1966. the group recorded some fine covers of soul music especially impressions tunes. kelly went solo in 1968, debuting with yet another curtis mayfield song, 'little boy blue', which was the biggest selling jamaican single of 1969. this album contains some of his hit tunes which appear on cd for the 1st time. [ethnic records](#)

easy star all-stars : until the day

the easy star all-stars performing their own songs? surely not! but sure as day this ep features the beatles-baiting, floyd-mutating reggae giants doing their own material, tracks that have been firm staples of their live set for quite some time. whilst it lacks the novelty factor of their normal output, it still serves a nice slice of roots reggae that fans will definitely want to check. [easy star](#)

world

v/a : quantic - caja y guacharacha (mochilla mix)

the us label mochilla delivers this fantastic mix of la cumbia rhythms from ex-brightonian will holland, aka quantic. cumbia's origins are often disputed but its melodies can rarely be ignored. the music of panama & colombia both share a wonderful lyrical quality & vary rhythmically in a complexity only comparable with that of african polyrhythm. born of celebrating life, quantic's 'caja y guacharacha' is a lovely blend, venturing into some of his favorite musicians & composers, while sweetly speaking quantic's fever for music without tongue but translating a pulse comparable to the heartbeat. this mix is a pure dose of why quantic has moved to colombia. you won't be finding this music anywhere else. highly recommended! [mochilla](#)

v/a : african pearls v9 - cote d'ivoire

(2cd) the latest in the continuing series of african pearls this time turns it's gaze on the côte d'ivoire or as you & i might more easily pronounce it, the ivory coast. a natural west african crossroads, ivory coast has always been at the forefront of african musical trends, be it black american music, cuban rhythms, french pop, mandingo lyricism, ghanaiian high-life or congolese fusion. the seventy-two tribes of the côte d'ivoire, each with their dances & music, give the country a strong cultural heritage & all these many ingredients have fermented in the capitol of the ivory coast, brewing an exceptional, timeless music. the 33 songs collected here go some way to displaying the diverse array of musics that found popularity between the mid sixties right through the eighties from rumba to highlife to american soul & cuban rhythms & everywhere inbetween. excellent stuff. [sylvart productions](#)

v/a : bali 1928 - gamelan gong kebyar

volume one in a series which will contain every extent 1928 recording of balinese music -- the first ever to document pre-war genres. the compositions here are untraditional avant-garde experiments that later evolved into familiar forms. it's exotic stuff but not as alien as you might expect -- some of the ideas have been explored in western music since & the minimalist composer steve reich particularly comes to mind. this is no doubt something of a curio but an extremely intriguing one & this multimedia format disc includes analytical notes & silent films shot in bali in the 30s. (this requires a computer, but the music itself is playable on standard audio equipment). [arbiter](#)

abdul tee-jay : palm wine a go-go

abdul tee-jay picks up the mantle from the late great s.e. rogie & presents the new sweet sound of palm wine music from sierra leone. not since the late, great rogie has there been any new & notable recording of the enchanting palm wine guitar style of music. best known as leader of the electric sierra leone dance music group rokoto, abdul tee-jay has gone back to his roots & recorded a beautiful album of this gentle swinging guitar music. 'palm wine a go go' features new versions & arrangements of palm wine classics & abdul's fluid acoustic guitar & expressive voice are accompanied by a variety of percussion plus harmonica & banjo. like palm wine itself, these songs have long been fermenting in his mind, maturing, developing, & now very definitely, are ready for public consumption. [far side](#)

magic drum orchestra : in the studio

the magic drum orchestra began life over five years ago as a brazilian-style bateria or street-percussion band led by glyn bush (biggabush / lightning head) & ralph cree inspired by the carnival music of rio, salvadore & pernambuco. the musical style has evolved during that time from strict samba & batucada rhythms to incorporate elements of afrobeat, traditional african & cuban rhythms, funk, hip hop & ragga beats. a highlight of the band's live set is a medley of snoop dogg's 'drop it like it's hot' mixed with the theme from the muppet show & elements of james brown's 'funky drummer' which is included here. other pieces are based on 70s afrobeat favourites such as dr victor olaiya & dynamic africana as well as funk stalwarts the whitefield brothers. a tear up percussive storm. [lion head](#)

v/a : kokusai bunka shinkokai - japanese traditional music 1941

in 1942 a set of sixty 78rpm discs documenting the most authentic traditions in japanese music was privately issued by the cultural organisation kokusai bunka shinko-kai. due to the war & neglect, few copies survive but now the restoration of the anthology is underway. this 2nd volume of the kbs recordings features noh theatre masters, many of whom had been trained by artists active before the meiji (1868) period. the multimedia format disc includes an essay & texts in both english & japanese translation are included as pdf files. [arbiter](#)

rosalia de souza : d'improvviso

the 3rd album from the brazilian artist rosalia de souza is something of a departure from her previous records as it is totally acoustic, but she continues tackles many classic brazilian tunes by the likes of the jorge ben (it seems it's the law that he is covered on every brazilian release -- that's no bad thing, mind), marcos valle, carlos lyra & gerald vandré. the vibe is very laidback & jazzy & borrows from many aspects of brazilian musical tradition but above all recalls places & tastes connected to the sixties & the world conquering bossa nova movement. for fans of bebel gilberto & the original queen of bossa, elis regina. [schema](#)

vinyl

the mantles : the mantles

(lp & download) the san fran 4-piece have been dead-on in distilling a contemporary pop / psych concoction that mixes equal parts early chills with early dream syndicate - & really, who among us wouldn't want a bottle of that with which to quietly tippie the day away? if anything, this record burrows deeper into the core of rock, extracting essential magma that fuses early sf ballroom psychedelia, byrds-ian janglepop & the velvet underground's extraordinary ability for serpentine leads & bridges. yep, that pretty much covers all the bases. "a vibe somewhere between the crisp gauze of midwest groups associated with the early-'80s garage revival (vertebrats, plasticland, etc.) & the mysto-stroke of late-'80s new zealand" - [the wire](#). [siltbreeze](#)

boredoms : super roots 10

(2lp) the super roots series started as an occasional series of ep's where the boredoms could explore themselves. most were only originally only available in japan, as was this volume, but as their legend grows so does the demand & thrill jockey have got their hands on this limited edition deluxe double vinyl release -- the 1st super roots to appear on vinyl. their albums & their performances defy categorization, each one a completely unique event. the one commonality is that the members of the boredoms have amazing technical skills as musicians, limitless imagination & the ability to combine the two - as no others have. they continue to forge on & with 'super roots 10' they enlist the help of kosmiche disco producer lindstrøm & also japanese artist altz who contribute two sublime remixes. comes with a 24"x24" full colour poster that features artwork from boredoms' eye. "it's like all of a sudden boredoms find themselves in the middle of a crazy party, where someone left the front door open & you've no idea who is going to wander in next" -- [pitchfork](#). [thrilljockey](#)

yo la tengo : popular songs

(vinyl album with limited soundtrack lp & poster bundle) a very limited bundle version of the album with a poster & an exclusive vinyl lp featuring yo la tengo's original score from greg mottola's motion picture 'adventureland'. [matador](#)

fanfarlo : reservoir [fanfarlo](#)

the mars volta : octahedron [r1pe](#)

mount eerie : winds poem (2lp) tom lab

the clean : mister pop morr music

bombay bicycle club : i had the blues but i shook them loose island

the feelies : crazy rhythms domino

the feelies : the good earth domino

gong : 2032 (2lp + cd) g-wave

d v d

magazine : real life & thereafter - in concert manchester 02/09

(dvd/cd) the dvd is a complete record of the final date on the 'real life & thereafter' tour recorded live at the manchester academy on 17th february 2009. the accompanying cd was recorded straight from the desk at the forum, london on 13th february 2009. [wire-sound](#)

m a g s

record collector : november 2009 the beatles, status quo, polydor feature, richard hawley, porcupine tree.....

mojo : november 2009 kraftwerk, big star, ac/dc, yoko ono, jimmy page.....

s i n g l e s

single of the week

thom yorke : feelingpulledapartbyhorses / thehollowearth 12". xl

mumford & sons : little lion man limited 7". island

v/a : one inch badge split series vol 3 – lovers / knyfe hyts / best fwends / the death set
limited 7" with badge. oib

kryptic minds : 768 / false flag (remix) limited 12". tectonic

erland & the carnival : was you ever see 7". static caravan

lou barlow : the right very limited 7" . domino records

the drums : let's go surfing limited 7". moshi moshi

the stone roses : the 7" singles collection – boxset 7" vinyl box-set, now available as a complete set. sony

the leisure society : save it for someone who cares limited 7". full time hobby

bombay bicycle club : magnet cd & 7". island

wildbirds & peacedrums : my heart limited 7". leaf

aidan moffat + the best ofs : knock on the wall of your womb limited 7". chemikal underground

wounded lion : friendly limited 7". in the red

omo / the chap : oversized / well done you limited 7". loaf

trailer trash tracys : candy girl/ you wish you were red limited 7". no pain in pop

v/a : hyperdub 5.4 – martyn /ld ep limited 12". hyperdub

the hornblower brothers : adventures in the national geographic ep cd. bellboy records

slaraffenland : meet & greet limited 7". hometapes

jeremy jay : breaking the ice 7". k records

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