

o u t t h i s w e e k

album of the week

atlas sound : logos

(cd / lp) a new solo album from bradford 'deerhunter' cox was guaranteed to be an exciting affair for us residents & thankfully, it more than lives up to expectation. what's more, 'logos' features contributions from animal collective's panda bear & stereolab's laetitia sadier lends her vocals to the epic ambient motorik number, 'quick canal'. cox delivers more of his ethereal pop genius & whilst its predecessor was a record of fragile beauty & acute experimentalism in comparison to the often volatile bluster of deerhunter, 'logos' has a far more rooted pop sensibility. at its heart is 'walkabout', a collaboration between cox & noah lennox (panda bear) put together whilst he was on tour with animal collective in europe. combining their love for tape loops & doo-wop, the single lifts the hook from the dovers' classic 1966 garage track 'what am i going to do?' to form a glorious summertime jam. will this guy ever fail to astound us? we sure hope not. *"like animal collective's best work, logos manages to combine simple melodies with enough experimentalism to allow you to keep returning to the record with fresh ears, but not too much to reduce it to avant-garde mush"* – guardian. 4ad

rock / indie / modern classical

sufjan stevens : the bqe

(cd+dvd) a film & musical suite exploring new york city's infamous brooklyn-queens expressway, performed at the brooklyn academy of music's next wave festival in 2007. the critically applauded performance featured 36 performers including a band, a wind & brass ensemble, string players, horn section & 5 hula hoopers. it's instantly recognisable as sufjan but it's entirely instrumental. there's fidgety, fluttering woodwind brushed aside by bustling brass in a repetitive manner that recalls both the 1960s minimalism of riley, glass & reich & the earlier american representational tradition of ives, copland & gershwin, interrupted occasionally by twinkling celesta, shimmering strings & whirls of synthesiser noise, this double-disc extravaganza includes the original 16mm/8mm film (in widescreen 'triptych' display), the original motion picture soundtrack, a 40-page booklet (with extensive liner notes & photographs) & a stereoscopic image reel (playable in all viewmaster viewers). *"the bqe uses swirling, glimmering romantic orchestration (by way of soundtracks & 1950's pop) to make stevens' private ruminations more quizzical & more alluring at the same time"* – ny times. rough trade

kings of convenience : declaration of dependence

(cd / lp) the norwegian finger-picking electro-acoustic duo return with their 3rd album, their 1st in 5 years. here they continue to make a splash in their own low-key way with their simon & garfunkel harmonies & gentle, acoustic ballads but this time, eirik b e & erlend  ye have introduced an element of bossa nova – imagine if paolo conte covered simon & garfunkel & that's kind of where this sounds like it sits.  ye claims this is "the most rhythmical pop record ever that features no percussion or drums". the record began to take shape in 2007 when they met up on the same beach in mexico that is pictured on the album's cover. the pair came together to play a concert in the city the following month, the first time they had appeared together in more than 2 years. they shared a feeling that there was another record to be made. "really," says eirik "we had no choice". we can be thankful they had the good sense to explore their joint creativity again as this is as beautiful, breezy & summery a record as you would hope – as perfectly realised as anything they've ever written. virgin

do make say think : other truths

(cd / deluxe 180g lp that includes a limited edition poster) a magnificent return from the constellation mainstays. more than ever, the players keep their heads down, creating wonderful multi-movement instrumental works (with the occasional mantric or wordless vocal passage, courtesy guest singers the akron family & lullabye arkestra), overflowing with attention to tone & timbre, animated by unfussy yet ornate harmony, melody & polyrhythm, shot through with ineffable soul. the 4 songs on 'other truths' are vintage do make say think & the album represents the first time since the band's debut (recorded over a dozen years ago) that they have found themselves with an entire collection of songs that unfold so organically over long duration. as testament to the unfettered evolution of these tunes, the band has titled them simply 'do', 'make', 'say' & 'think'. cerebral, majestic, atmospheric, visceral, cosmic, pastoral, synthetic, organic, meditative, ecstatic – 'other truths' rallies them all these elements at once again, in new & dynamic ways. highly recommended. constellation

etterklang & the danish national chamber orchestra : performing parades

(limited cd+dvd) a limited edition album featuring etterklang performing their 2007 masterpiece 'parades' in full, accompanied by the danish national chamber orchestra. the concert was recorded in their hometown of copenhagen in september 2008 & the live audio recording is packaged with a 55-minute concert film on dvd, which includes plenty of extras, including a behind the scenes documentary & all 6 videos made for 'parades'. when scored in this way, etterklang sound more like sigur ros than ever before – by turns majestic & fragile, flamboyant & restrained. this recording makes you realise how truly accomplished this outfit are & it's guaranteed to become a collectors' item. *"this is their dark side of the moon, their ok computer; it's the album bj rk wishes she'd conjured in her mind when realising vespertine, full of mystery & long-term intrigue. seriously; this is one 2007's finest lps, no question"* 10/10 – dis, *"uplifting, celebratory & gloriously ridiculous, like an alternate national anthem for a new northern utopia of untrammelled happiness"* – moja. leaf

mark eitzel : klamath

'klamath' is the american music club frontman's 1st proper solo album of new original material since 2001's 'invisible man'. written & recorded in a log cabin in the middle of the woods (as seems to be the trend these days) by the klamath river, california, eitzel was aided on production duties by franz nicolay from the hold steady & marc capelle from american music club & dave douglas (who drums with kelley stoltz) guests on the album. the pastoral, laid back, late night sparse feel to the album harkens back to eitzel's folk influences of nick drake & john martyn & earlier work with amc. this time out, eitzel has primarily built his arrangements around the acoustic guitar, with limited percussion & electronics, leaving plenty of room for his seductive voice to sit at the fore. this is an utterly beguiling record – a magical, late night listen that would be best accompanied by a glass of whisky, a nice smoke & maybe a little luuuuuvrring. *"america's greatest living lyricist"* – the guardian. d cor

fever ray : fever ray (special edition)

(cd/dvd) the solo project of the knife's karin dreijer has proven to be one of 2009's most incredible records & now, it just got even better! this special edition features the unmissable album alongside a 2nd disc which features the 2 cover versions the band performed live during their tour (vashti bunyan's 'here before' & nick cave & anita lane's 'stranger than kindness') & a dvd featuring all the videos from the project so far & more exclusive never seen before footage. constantly inventive, restlessly emotive, fever ray swaggers, broods, intrigues & dazzles – this record is still very much steeped in the knife's wonderful synth pop & constructed on electronic foundations but it's a bit more organic, slightly folky & embellished with traditional instrumentation (guitar here, congas there). it's as if the cure's 'faith' has been reinterpreted through the crazy mind of kate bush, running through your mind during a sleepless night. the haunting opener 'if i had a heart' is undoubtedly one of the most intense, all enveloping tracks you'll hear this year & it sets up the album perfectly. so, if like many of us you fell in love with 2006's 'silent shout', or if you have taken telepathe's debut into your heart & mind, then you're gonna love this – trust us! it's absolute magic, so prepare yourself to fall under its spell. *"opaque, creepy & forbidding...triumphant"* 5/5 – guardian. rabid

lightning bolt : earthly delights

it's been a long time coming...the world's most awe-inspiring band, according to our john, finally release their follow up to 2005's 'hypermagic mountain', & once again it's a an absolute stormer, the two brians have yet again delivered an album of mammoth-heavy, juggernaut rock riffs, super-spazzed machine gun drumming & feedback-drenched noise as only they can. 'earthly delights' is a more controlled beast than previous releases, with the band focusing on a more classic, epic rock sound, but without ever compromising their unique, gut-wrenching, full-on style. "lightning bolt consistently sound like no one else." - *mojo*, "zero subtlety, zero bullshit: lightning bolt have delivered what you knew they would, a record that both ups the ante & liquidises it, spreading its gooey goodness all over their sweaty faces" - *drowned in sound*. [load](#)

heavy trash : midnight soul serenade

jon spencer (pussy galore, boss hog & the jon spencer blues explosion) & matt verta-ray (madder rose & speedball baby) continue to ransack 50s, 60s & 70s, punk, blues & rock 'n' roll on this, their 3rd album. their souped-up 21st century rock 'n' roll is undoubtedly best appreciated live & loud but this record will most definitely give you a flavour of where these boys are coming from. their hangdog charm & considerable swagger are sounding in mighty fine form on both the upbeat numbers & the more introspective moments. it's one of spencer's more restrained outings – there's no spit n' growl here – but it's a thoroughly satisfying ride nonetheless. "wild, loose, dangerous, ridiculous & respectful" - *pitchfork*, "pure genius...blending elements of bo diddley, link wray, eddie cochran & joe strummer" – *the independent*, "what jack white would've wanted the white stripes to sound like with their crunchy blues guitar, hip-swaying drumming & crooning vocals" – *aquarian weekly*. [bronzert](#)

alec unsworth (clap your hands say yeah) : mo beauty

alec unsworth is the celebrated singer/songwriter & lead singer of clap your hands say yeah – this is his debut solo album. the album was produced by veteran musician/producer & fellow philadelphian steve berlin (los lobos, blasters, john lee hooker, the replacements), who initially suggested a new orleans setting for recording. working with some of that city's most storied musicians, including george porter of the meters on bass, unsworth has crafted a collection of songs that pick up where clap your hands say yeah leave off. 'mo beauty' carries on that band's vein of quirky humour, unashamed melody & sonic experimentation but with the weight of new orleans & its history hovering over the recording, unsworth has capitalised more on the tom waits influence that has long been simmering within cyhsy's sonic soup. for fans of clap your hands say yeah, andrew bird or wolf parade / sunset rubdown. [anti](#)

annie : don't stop

(cd / 2cd) 5 years after 'anniemal' & having faced many setbacks (including being dropped by island), the norwegian cool-pop girl is back & is in fine pop form, with previous collaborators timo kaukolampi & richard x, plus new friends paul epworth & the mighty xenomania. opener 'hey annie' takes the chanting backing vocals & marching band drumming from gwen stefani's 'hollerback girl' & adds a driving electro throb over lyrics about starting anew. highlights abound, especially 'I don't like your band' a stuttery pop jam similar to 'chewing gum' in sound & sentiment & also 'my love is better' which comes with a deliciously angular guitar hook courtesy of franz ferdinand's alex kapanos, a typical xenomania monster pop smash in waiting. this album's mixture of catchy hooks, punchy beats & singalong choruses teamed with her penchant for a bit of twisted darkness, makes perfect sense of pop's brilliant extremes - this is, after all, the work of a woman whose cat joey was named after her favourite ramone & her favourite new kid on the block. 8/10- *nme*. [smalltown supersound](#)

pelican : what we all come to need

the 4th album from the mighty chicago instrumental metal outfit finds the band shifting gears once again. 'what we all come to need' is pelican through & through & the apex of their creative aspirations. it is the album that straddles most confidently the fine line between adherence to roots & the mining of the unexplored. as punishing as it is calming, this is pelican at their most inspired & sonically adept, delivering 50 minutes of weighty riffs & textured progressions in the momentous succession. this isn't maturation as much as it is confidence & purpose & the latter are stamped on every note. guest performances on the record include greg anderson (sunn0))), aaron turner (isis), allen epley (shiner, life & times) & ben verellen (helms dee). [southern lord](#)

white rainbow : new clouds

(cd / 2lp) white rainbow (aka adam forkner) returns with his 2nd stunning release on kranky. the tracks on 'new clouds' are a tug-of-war between stasis & change, the desire to meld the meditative effects of a near static drone with the uplifting trip of free-flowing compositions. slowly melting fluorescent sunsets morph into drapes of psychedelic fog, rumbling over cacophonous rhythms. the portland-based psychedelicist has hunkered down & dug deeper into his personal vision of what head music can be. he roams the kosmische electronics of moebius & roedelius, animal collective's pop-psych bounty & some electronic improvisation, dragging his project from the deep semi-obscure trenches of the west coast psychedelic/noise underground into a slightly more accessible realm. forkner has shaped this album into a dense, lengthy, gently blurred exploration of the relationship between hypnotic, circular, fourth-world drum rhythms, acid-boogie guitar & drifting sheets of fuzzy psychedelic drone & has once again come out on top. [kranky records](#)

emily loizeau : pays sauvage

for her 2nd album, emily has joined the esteemed bella union roster. after a 3 year absence, she's devised a truly extravagant & generous album : open, irreverent & carried by the collective vibrations of an exultant band of revellers. she calls this her "hippie record" : all her friends were invited to bring their instruments & temperament along. david herman düne contributed to 5 tracks in different roles (co-arranger, musician & duettist), while the entire moriarty family bring their distinguished folk to 4 songs. still, 'pays sauvage' was primarily built around 2 musicians : cellist olivier koundouno & drummer & guitarist cyril avèque who provide the perfect accompaniment to emily's voice, which gains in range, gravity & frivolity throughout. her influences range from tom waits to nina simone, via dylan & devendra banhart, with springsteen's 'seeger sessions' providing particular impetus – this fabulous record is gorged with a similar reverential faith in folk, blues & country traditions. "an impeccable menu of pop, folk, tribal call-&-response, classical & piat-like ballads" - *uncut*. [bella union](#)

apse : climb up

'climb up' is a major departure & massive leap forward from apse's most notable predecessor, 'spirit'. they return with a different line-up & their horizons broadened - this is the sound of a 'post post-rock'. where 'spirit' explored a dark world of reverberant guitars, ambient passages & minimal, haunting vocals, 'climb up' proves a bold step out of that darkness. it was recorded entirely by the band in their homes with the bulk of the arrangements & mixing authored by bobby jed & michael. this is a wildly unique record that is inarguably the bravest yet most accessible work by the band – the driving rhythms carry the somewhat cleaner, hookier-songs with the silver mt zion-esque vocals to great effect. "spectacular & frequently unsettling climaxes spiked with sonic youth guitars, ghostly disembodied vocals & a relentless rhythmic drive" 4/5 – *uncut*, "epic in scope & black in heart...an ominous treat" – *clash*. [atp](#)

converge : axe to fall

formed in salem, ma, in 1990, converge are to modern metal what the ramones were to punk, with albums like 'jane doe' & 'you fail me' considered touchstones of the genre. 'axe to fall' takes the band's maverick attitude to new highs; with leader jacob bannon finding searing melodies amidst the chaos of chords that is their hallmark, while the band's sound finds richer textures & deeper hooks than ever before. once again they assault the senses with fast & furious riffs, brutal drumming & bannon's ever emotive, throat shredding vocals, continuing to outperform any other metalcore band in listening distance; only this time they've thrown in more stylistic curveballs & mathier riffs than ever before. whilst being more accessible than some of their previous releases, nothing of the old converge is sacrificed on this album. everything is gained, in what may come to be considered the band's masterpiece. one that should be enjoyed by fans of gallows, the dillinger escape plan & slayer. [epitaph](#)

mr hudson : straight no chaser

the critically acclaimed singer-songwriter ben hudson releases his 2nd album, executive produced by global superstar kanye west. it is a take-no-prisoners collection of monster pop hooks, shiny plastic synths, vocoder vocals & piercingly lyrical songs of love & disaster, heartache & hope. 'straight no chaser' is chock full of punchy, singalong pop songs, such as glam slamming 'white lies', electro anthem 'knew we were trouble', lyrically twisting relationship drama 'stiff upper lip', bar room gospel hymn 'lift your head' & consoling ballad 'time'. "i think it's a great time in pop music" says ben, "cos no one gives a shit about the supposed divisions between hip hop & guitar music anymore, they want to hear everything all in one go, the best of all these worlds, & they want it in 2 minutes, which suits me. this is a pop album. it's my greatest hits. It's about blowing up & busting out. *"his characterful junk-shop anomalies have been ironed out, with electronic elements brought to the forefront, making way for a more expensive-of-feel affair. it works with effortless grace"* - [bbc](#). [mercury](#)

slaraffenland : we're on your side

the new album from the danish melodramatists draws their virtuosic musicianship, pop sensibility, emotional directness, compositional experimentalism & the road-proven energy of their live performance into absolute, impeccable & addictive focus. handclaps, clarinet, horns, drums, piano, peripheral bits of ambient electronics & all-male vocal harmonies are layered up beautifully to make a colourful, engaging record. theirs is a charming mixture of the jovial & the hypnotic that conjures up a similar multi-instrumental glory to that of jonquill or fellow danes efterklang. *"burnished, melancholy, optimistic & forsaken...slaraffenland make that perfect music for when summer disappears, vanishing under a string of black clouds"* - [gramophone](#), *"it's got the nostalgia of death cab for cutie, the reverence of sigur rós & the driving force of the national without ever being over-the-top or precious. it's impactful when it's delicate & moving when it's thunderous"* - [atlanta music guide](#). [hometapes](#)

UUVVWWZ : UUVVWWZ

continuing saddle creek's diversification into previously unknown realms of musical fancy, the 4-piece known as uuvvwwz (pronounced "double u, double v, double w, zee") spring from the label's homestead of nebraska - lincoln to be precise, with a musical concoction variously described as avant-rock/blues & at worst, power jazz. none of these terms work very well at describing the sounds of uuvvwwz - comparisons don't fare so well either - so far they've had captain beefheart, deerhoof (probably the closest), lydia lunch & dog faced hermans bantered around but none of these quite marry up. to these ears, they sound a lot like the yeah yeah yeahs before they became all polished. one thing is certain, uuvvwwz is a rare bird & as these are the first 9 songs the band have ever recorded, it'll be exciting to see where they go from here. *"loose yet tense, arty yet accessible, epic but not ponderous. the thrilling buzz of inspiration & discovery"* - [pitchfork](#). [saddle creek](#)

tone : small area of sea

with her abstract beats, unique voice & hypnotic lyrics, the dutch female singer, musician & producer tone is renowned for her experimental compositions within the electronica-genre. musically, tone creates a remarkable audiovisual realm where her light & almost spellbinding voice adds to a bedrock of crunchy break beats, abstract compositional structures & catchy melodies. this album has been a slow burner in her homeland & as word of mouth has spread, it now warrants a full european release. you can't help but make coco rosie comparisons when hearing this record - it seems almost impossible that there is no connection - but in the absence of a new album from those girls, this is definitely worth checking out. not being a typical songwriter in terms of clinging to the usage of the traditional structure of verses & choruses, tone relies on improvisation & creative exploration in the creation of her unpredictable musical landscapes & this results in a charming record that holds your attention throughout. for fans of paavaharju, coco rosie, mum or bjork. [pony rec](#)

jodis : secret house

jodis, an entirely new outfit involving james plotkin (khanate, khlyst, phantomsasher), aaron turner (isis, old man gloom, lotus eaters, greymachine) & tim wyskida (khanate, blind idiot god), is a modern exploration of restrained sonic minimalism & tonal/textural density. as a whole, the record recalls a void, a shoreless pit, a slow nihilistic decent into absolute blankness... the guitars loom with an almost inconceivable image of stillness & the percussion possesses an irregular circularity that only adds to the encapsulating mood of the record. it's doomy, gloomy, heavy & murky in the best way possible." *the most beautifullest kind of sonic sludge this side of john cage*" - [eq](#), *"the sound might be described as expansive, tonal, minimal, or all of the above. it has been described to me as a more relaxed khanate, & a much heavier low"* - [james plotkin](#). [hydra head](#)

james husband (of montreal) : a parallax i

james "jamey" huggins (a.k.a. james husband) originally hails from sweden but he's mostly known for his work as the touring multi-instrumentalist for athens, ga.'s of montreal. he joined the band as a "part-time" player in 1998. huggins is also a founding member/songwriter for great lakes & was a hired gun for several elephant 6 associated groups, including the essex green, ladybug transistor & elf power. james husband is a side project led by multi-instrumentalist jamey huggins & features dottie alexander & bp helium (aof montreal members) as well as sweden's critically acclaimed jenny wilson. this is a collection of songs written & recorded over the course of touring & recording with of montreal. 'a parallax i' at last allows james to showcase in his own right the adept musicianship he has leant to the many bands he is involved with. the lush, lysergic release aligns with the elephant 6 collective's wide-eyed enthusiasm for 60s psych pop/rock. [polyvinyl record co](#)

charlotte hatherley : new worlds

having established herself as a fine addition to the bat for lashes band, the former ash lady returns with her new solo album. she certainly seems to have a renewed energy & enthusiasm for her solo output & 'new worlds' is dripping in hatherley's own wide-eyed energy & subtle sexuality. her vocals move between breathy cardigans-esque kooky folk offerings & all out pop, bratty-teen punk rants. *"a fine, sleek & sultry grown up piece of pop music"* - [mojo](#), *"forget florence & the machine et al : charlotte hatherley is setting the creative agenda for british female artists"* 4/5 - [the skinny](#). [fullfill](#)

ailsa craig : a silent no

ailsa craig is the new project of matt robson, whose record of achievement in the diy/underground scene has been prolific to say the least. featuring a core of players centred around robson's writing & the lyrical & vocal skills of the manhattan love suicides' caroline mcchrysal & ex-sierpinski bassist lee hooper, the outfit is further augmented by a vast range of guest players such as paul elam (the declining winter, fieldhead, glissando) gavin montgomery (cissy) andrew stavely (the inecto school) & darren lockwood (the manhattan love suicides) to name but a few. drawing on influences as diverse as the field mice, autechre, hood, mum & epic 45, ailsa craig weaves a rich tapestry intertwining elements of indie pop, electronica & post rock. melding live & programmed rhythms with moody synth & guitar hooks, mcchrysal's inimitable captivating vocal style, wonky beats, sparse guitar, lonely atmospherics, solo piano & pop to great effect. [squirrel](#)

c joynes : revenants, prodigies & the restless dead

c joynes is a musician whose playing has consistently invoked a broad & shifting stream of inspirations. as a guitarist, there is no doubt that joynes has been influenced by some of the most idiosyncratic finger-pickers of the last 40 years & beyond but his music goes far beyond simply this. his recordings have always offered many dimensions to explore, be it through solo acoustic pieces, larger ensemble work, or the intimate use of improvisations & hill recordings. building on previous albums, 'revenants, prodigies & the restless dead' is a more expansive affair. joined on a number of these tunes by an assortment of friends & collaborators, a range of acoustic & vintage electronic instruments all make appearances, adding colour & hue to some of these beautiful compositions. while joynes remains at home with english & american forms of folk music, the 12 pieces on this album continue to demonstrate the extent to which other traditions, both eastern & western, have an equal & instinctive pull on his music. [bo weavil](#)

thomas function : in the valley of sickness

thomas function love punk rock, but they love country, blues, new wave, garage rock & the shit happening up the street, too. it comes out sounding like a bunch of earnest, severe songs from the foothills of huntsville, alabama, full of anger, clarity & bourbon. is america on the brink of a new rock 'n' roll renaissance? people who snapped up their instant sell out singles, saw one of their chaotic shows or participated in the fervid blogging about this bunch aren't betting against it. "sounds like reigning sound before they got all grown up, a cousin of king tuff that's a cross between a gruffer gentleman jesse & a less batshit nobunny. the organs will bring to mind the turpentine brothers & the clean swagger a throwback to some early television or even the b-52's. but in the end, this is just a really good rock album, made by a bunch of guys who know how to write really good songs" - dusted. [fat possum](#)

the silent years : the globe

picking at the darkened americana heartstrings of fellow travellers like flaming lips, mercury rev, the shins & arcade fire, the detroit based band have built upon their spin magazine "underground artist of the year" accolade to deliver their 3rd album of harmony & wonder, mixed with chris coady (of tv on the radio, blonde redhead, grizzly bear & !!! fame). thoughtful, edgy, orchestral & luxuriant, these songs reach gloriously upward - simultaneously immediate & timeless. the songs shift naturally from the microscopic to the universal, wandering between the fingerpicked reflections & the thundering epiphanies of their sophomore album. "brings beautiful orchestration to new highs with its earnest, almost organic sound. each track is gorgeous - a blend of symphonies, strong rock guitar riffs, gentle banjos a pianos" - *kalamazoo gazette*. "a simply beautiful piece of work" - *steve lamacq*, "a panoramic scene...endlessly open arms & room enough to breathe big & deep" - *daytrotter*. [gift music](#)

skygreen leopards : gorgeous johnny

it's been 8 years since the 1st sgl's record was released. since then the boys have maintained their singular aesthetic while managing to dabble with faux-folk, avant garde pop, reverb-drenched lofi psychedelia, plastic country & blurry ballads. this latest effort finds them collaborating with jason quever (papercuts) to create a melancholy world overflowing with melodic shuffles, harmonies, frail piano & romantic guitars. as always with the leopards, the rhythms refuse to be bridled, the boys resist the urge to jam & they won't ever learn to sing properly. this will frustrate the expectations of some. others will find a sweet shadowy hiding place in these songs. "a slab of sun-drenched californian joy which mixes up low-rent psychedelia, dreamlike storytelling & all out skewed summer pop-rock joy" 4/5 - *big cheese*, "slow-burning bucolic americana, like a green tea bag infused with the shins & beachwood sparks. the kind of stuff pavement might have produced if they lived in a hedge with only a lapsteel for company" - *art rocker*, 4/5 - *mojo*. [cosmos recordings](#)

i concur : able archer

i concur formed in leeds in 2006 thanks to a shared love of american indie, slowcore & post rock - bands such as the national, low, wilco & mogwai feature high on their list of influences. comprised of tim hann (vocals / guitar), james brunger (drums / vocals), toby page (bass) & chris woolford (guitar) the band formed from the remnants of other defunct leeds bands & their debut album has been recorded with james kenosha (grammatics, this et al, duels). this is a bright, rich, energetic record that takes the influences that brought them together & melds them into one cohesive whole. with a penchant for reverb, delay & distortion the band began blending hann's narrative lyrical style with layered barrages of noise. released on the shoegaze loving club ac30 label, 'able archer' tackles themes of cold war nuclear tension, ancient lost languages & characters from the acclaimed hbo series 'the wire'. "i concur's epic post-punk symphonies are monumental" - *nme*, "brilliant" - *huw stephens*, *radio 1*. [club ac30](#)

absent elk : caught in the headlights

brighton's absent elk have spent 2 years writing & gigging around the uk & building an expanding & dedicated following & now they finally release their debut album. with their charismatic frontman, kjetil morland, who originates from grimstad in norway, they make epic, affecting music that calls to mind air traffic, starsailor or tour-mates the hoosiers. "emotive, epic melodic rock that suggests a blend of coldplay & doves" - *time out*, "beautifully crafted songs that walk the treacherous line between poppiness & obscurity with ease" - *william brown*, (*the ordinary boys*), "soars majestically" - *the guardian*, "built for the bar as much as the bedroom, this record is adorned with unexpected musical twists, powerful hooks & ambient textures. an accomplished debut" - *the independent*. [new state](#)

zoey van goey : the cage was unlocked all along

the critically acclaimed debut album by the canadian / english / irish indie 3-piece based in glasgow was produced by ex-delgado paul savage (the phantom band / brakes / franz ferdinand). this is intelligent, humorous, pleasant twee-pop that, from the well-crafted song structures to the wonderful cover art, possesses all the warmth & attention to detail you could hope for from a band that have taken their time getting to this point. a history of involvement with stuart murdoch is reflected in a palpable belle & sebastian influence but rather than being mere pastiche, zvg have a pronounced sound of their own. "this cuddlecore trio have learnt from their city's past forays into twee, adopting sugary boy/girl harmonies ('we don't have that kind of bread'), ornate strings ('the best treasure stays buried') & the odd kooky tale ('two white ghosts')...this is charming folk-pop as brooklyn's the essex green see it" - *nme*. [chemikal underground](#)

spiral stairs : the real feel

(cd / lp+7" featuring 2 exclusive songs not available anywhere else) the former front-man of preston school of industry & guitarist, singer & founding member with pavement, scott kannberg returns to claim his indie-rock crown. his first solo album, 'the real feel', has been credited to his long-running nom-du-rock, spiral stairs. written in seattle & australia, the songs have a loose, latenight vibe, soulful ache & charmingly vulnerable optimism. tracks were recorded with some of his former bandmates in preston school of industry, including bassist matt harris & drummer darius minwalla, as well as jon auer (the posies, big star) & friends down under. imagine if richard ashcroft went americana & you'll get where this is coming from. one for fans of rem, wilco, modest mouse, go-betweens, the cribs & the posies. "it's hard to fault kannberg's strongest solo album to date" 7/10 - *nme*. [domino](#)

senser : how to do battle

senser have always been a band with a clear, laser-honed political stance wrapped up in an utterly compelling fusion of rock, metal, hip hop & alternative electronica. during the turbulent 1990's, they spearheaded a movement of musical discovery & aggressive proactive polemic. now in 2009 they find themselves in just as turbulent a time & just as ready to unleash a maelstrom of musical liberation, stimulation & motivation. their new album is a cry for disaffected youth, bitterly disappointed & cynical liberals & everyone in between. produced by neil mclellan (the prodigy), jason wilcock (the ghost of a thousand, reuben) & new york hip hop producer scott harding (wu tang clan, new kingdom), it effortlessly threads massive grooves, crushing guitars, delicate soundscapes & utterly infectious raps to create something truly special. from the battle cry of '2.3 clear', to the dance-floor threatening 'end of the world show', senser are out to prove that they are as vital & contagious as ever. [imprint](#)

maserati : passages

athens, ga's premier (or maybe only) psych-dance-rock-etc stalwarts collect their rare & out-of-print vinyl tracks from the past couple of years onto cd for the first time. featuring all 4 tracks from their blink-&-it's-gone limited-edition split lp with zombi, as well as their remix lp (featuring the dfa's tim goldsworthy & !!!'s justin van der volgen), 'passages' is augmented with 2 previously unreleased tracks - the moog-fueled meditative trance of steve moore's 'monoliths' remix & the positively sublime emotional heft of 'do you hear the nightbirds calling?', all remastered from the original master tapes. maserati's reputation varies depending on who you ask : they are either one of dance music's most viscerally addictive live performers, or underground rock's most ingenious hybrid of u2's guitar heroics, pink floyd's arena-ready psych rock & daft punk's head-slamming, club-burning rhythms. represented in all their sweaty, fist-pumping glory, 'passages' brings maserati's many unique, disparate worlds together. also included on the enhanced cd are 2 brilliant videos. [temporary residence limited](#)

this city : we were like sharks

to put it simply, the difference between this city & other melodic post-hardcore bands is this - you can dance to this city, it is truly the thing that sets this group apart from the other bands operating in this realm, the thing that opens up a world of possibilities for their music. the brighton quintet spent the first two months of 2009 in seattle recording with legendary producer & erstwhile minus the bear member matt bayles, whose past credits include such names as blood brothers, pretty girls make graves, pearl jam, the fall of troy, soundgarden & mastodon. the result is a debut filled with suburban tales & broken heart stories told with soul, anger & purpose. it's a snarling post-hardcore record but with a more approachable & light-hearted side, fired up with an aggressive attitude, skyscraper sized firework choruses, abrasive & angular punk vocals & indie dance floor beats. [epitaph](#)

rammstein : liebe ist fur alle da

(cd / 2cd) the 6th album from the german industrial metallers features 11 brand new tracks. the album title translates as 'love is there for all' & has been produced with their longterm collaborator jacob hellner. it is already being spoken about in hushed tones as their best work since 2001's 'mutter' & it features some of the heaviest material they have ever recorded as well as lyrics in english for the first time (notably on the controversial single 'pussy'). this is the kind of preposterous rock that muse wish they could make. needless to say, both versions of the album are elaborately packaged - the standard version is housed in a digi-pack with gold-blocked lettering, while the deluxe version has all of this plus an outer slipcase & a bespoke fancy sticker. [spinefarm records uk](#)

elliott minor : solaris

the 2nd album from the classically-influenced york pop-rock quintet. back on indie label repossession following their all-too-brief stint with warner bros, their sound has not radically altered, although their songwriting has improved. they show their classical chops with subtle use of dissonance & choral harmonies but have not forgotten to include their trademark massive pop choruses. the new songs pull from the band's experiences of making & touring their first album. 'electric high' signifies a more mature leap forward in every department for elliot minor, from playing to song writing, production & ambition. [repossession](#)

naam : naam

we've got something heavy here, man. the incarnation of brooklyn's naam manifests a signature brand of super-sonic & ultimately mesmerising heavy psychedelia. trance-like & punishing at times, the trio of psychonauts (john bundy - bass, vocals; ryan kugar - guitar, vocals; eli pizzuto - drums) mould elements of jam-heavy bliss & apocalyptic amplitude. naam's self-titled debut is more so an aural-intoxicating odyssey than an album, recorded on a 100-acre farm in upstate new york - an elemental sound, surfacing the hidden wisdoms of the forest & the fields while capturing the mysticism of the night sky. [tee pee](#)

john foxx : a new kind of man

john foxx, the man behind ultravox!'s 1st 3 post-punk albums releases 2 new albums - 'impossible' & 'a new kind of man'. 'a new kind of man' was recorded on foxx's 2007 metamatic tour & includes live versions of all the tracks from the pioneering electronic album, plus b-sides & rarities. as uncut comments, "*this is the klaxons' all-time favourite album apparently but its influence moves immeasurably beyond that*", while the sunday times recognizes that 'metamatic' is "*a hugely influential album & still an eerie experience to hear it all these years later*". the minimalist approach, cold electronics & stark vocals make it "*one of the most under-emoed records in pop history*" - [mojo](#), "*john foxx is a genuinely creative, innovate & inventive artist*" - [gary numan](#). [metamatic](#)

john foxx / louis gordon : impossible

the man behind ultravox!'s 1st 3 post-punk albums releases 2 new albums - 'impossible' & 'a new kind of man'. john foxx & louis gordon's album features 2 new tracks - 'adult concerns' & 'walk this way' - plus 10 re-worked versions of previously released material including classics such as 'dislocation' & 'the man who dies every day'. some of these are completely new arrangements, others are closer to the live versions. there's a raw, analogue, fractured, aggressive style to the material - the closest in sound is foxx/gordon's 2003's 'crash & burn' but it's heavier than that album, featuring rusty metallic synths, live improvisations & shredded vocals. one of the darkest albums foxx has released in years. "*john's music always conjures entire movies in my head - i think it is his mastery of atmosphere that has most stayed with me through the years. if i could only make a movie as textured & evocative as john's music i would be a happy man*" - [alex proyas](#) (director of *i robot* & *the crow*). [metamatic](#)

nat johnson & the figureheads : roman radio

nat johnson is the former singer, songwriter & guitarist of monkey swallows the universe - a sheffield based 5-piece band who released 2 critically acclaimed albums earlier in the decade. since the band split in 2008, nat has embarked on a solo career. now with her debut album all recorded, nat has assembled a new backing band, the figureheads (featuring mstu co-founder kevin gori, chris loftus of fury of the headteachers & neil piper of champion kickboxer). 'roman radio' is a lovely album that deserves your attention - it has 13 great songs with real flavour & depth. the picks are the semi-country stomping 'dirty rotten soul', the total indie jangle of 'wonderful emergency' that sounds like a mix of the smiths & c86 indie legends the siddeleys with a young chrissie hynde on vocals & 'january' which is a delicate & heartbreaking folk number with nat's sweet & alluring voice taking centre stage. "*upbeat, jangly indie rock with a hook so catchy you could haul in a shark*" - [rock & reel](#). [damaged goods](#)

gliss : devotion implosion

the supersonic, ethereal album from the american shoegazers. gliss have compressed guitars & lured distraction & distortion into their midst to create a hazy morning-after trip. this blissfully fractured trio are so integrated in their roles that they frequently change instruments in their gigs & recordings. the tracks have the fractured brutality of my bloody valentine versus the foggy beauty of goldfrapp & lush. their seductive sound pulls in so many different vibes - think krautrock meets the liars - the buzzy bass 'psychocandy' evokes a bruised velvet underground wrapped in a stutter-cool shell. "*an effortless air of cool & beauty. a compelling listen*" - [the fly](#), "*icicle-crackingly cool*" - [nme](#), "*a sexy, messy tangle of hedonism & late nights... straight up rock 'n' roll*" - [artrocker](#). [cordless](#)

this immortal coil : the dark age of love

(limited) rather than just being another tribute compilation to coil, ici d'ailleurs have assembled a cast of brilliant musicians who go under the cleverly cheeky banner of this immortal coil. these folks are yann tiersen, bonnie prince billy, yael naim, matt elliot, oktopus, sylvain chauveau, daau & many more. the respect & the admiration they have for coil's work means these guys have put all their soul, humility & maturity into their participation. to finish & in order to strengthen this team spirit, the whole album was mixed by oktopus (dälek) who knew better than anyone how to put each member of the project's contribution forward. "*the most extra-ordinary, beautiful & moving, re-interpretations of coil i have ever heard!*" - [peter christopherson](#) (coil). [ici d'ailleurs](#)

exene cervenka : somewhere gone

no band epitomized the burst of creativity & energy of us punk rock better than x & their lead singer & co-lyricist exene cervenka & exene is a genuine icon & inspiration to a generation of music fans. 'somewhere gone', exene's 1st solo album since 1991, is a sometimes dreamy but always intimate, passage through folk & country; subdued but no less edgy. exene's lyrics & immediately recognisable, simultaneously fragile & totemic vocals, carry all the passion of x without all the loud stuff. exene plays guitar on most tracks & her band includes such luminaries as amy farris (dave alvin, alejandro escovedo, kelly willis) on cello & viola, joe terry (skeletons, morells) on piano, producer lou whitney (skeletons) on bass, dex romweber on keyboards, cindy wasserman (dead rock west) & jason edge on guitar. [Bloodshot](#)

leonard cohen : live at the isle of wight 1970

(cd+dvd) this is a superb live cd & dvd package from leonard cohen's legendary performance at the isle of wight festival in 1970. the cd features the complete live concert plus spoken word & poetry pieces. the dvd is a new documentary by murray lerner & features the entire concert plus backstage features, interviews etc. [sony](#)

phosphorescent : aw come aw wry

reissue of phosphorescent's much sought after debut release from 2005. it is bold to say but matthew houck is easily one of the best vocalists around. behind houck's songs lies nothing but the raw compulsion to write & play them - the fateful, joyful yearning to connect - the intuition that making music, for houck, is inevitable. if you have already tuned into the spark in houck's cracked voice & have wondered at his weird & beautiful poetics but have not yet heard this early masterpiece, then this is an essential purchase. 'aw come aw wry' moves the band's loose, ever-shifting arrangements away from the sparse & melodic & toward the rowdy & unhinged, at times conjuring a free, revival-tent spirit awash in homespun orchestrations & brushed with spiritual & psychedelic undertones, backed by an always revolving (& expanding) ensemble of horns, pump organ, piano, pedal steel & fuzzed tracks. let the dense & enchanting intimacy of these personal yet universal songs soak in, turn them up & sing along. [misra](#)

the slits : cut – 30th anniversary deluxe edition

(2cd) the slits are one of the most significant female punk rock bands of the late 70s. through sheer emotion & desire they created some great music. this was especially true when they worked with veteran reggae producer dennis bovell, setting the stage for a future generation of riot grrrls. 1979's 'cut' is an ebullient piece of post-punk mastery that finds the slits' interest in caribbean & african rhythms smoothly incorporated into their harsher punk rock stylings. ari up's wandering voice (a touch like yoko ono) might be initially off-putting but not so much so that it makes listening to the record difficult. 6 tracks are revamped from earlier peel sessions & sound better for the extra effort. with its goofy charm, gleeful swing & sway & subtle yet compelling libertarian feminism, this is one of the best records of the era. this expanded, deluxe format features 30 bonus tracks, including recently discovered demos, dub versions & outtakes that shed new light on the making of the album plus 2 trailblazing bbc sessions for john peel that capture the slits at their ferocious best. [umc](#)

bauhaus : in the flat field omnibus edition

(2cd) bauhaus are the founding fathers of goth rock, creating a minimalistic, overbearingly gloomy style of post-punk rock driven by jagged guitar chords & cold, distant synthesizers. the band's 1980 debut practically single-handedly invented what remains for many as the stereotype of goth music - wracked, at times spindly vocals about despair & desolation of many kinds, sung over mysterious & moody music. this dynamic collection defies categorisation, offering an incendiary tinderbox of driving jagged rhythms, screeching guitars, brooding atmospherics, provocative lyrics & wildly animated vocals. this is the sound of an awesomely powerful, glam-inspired rock band firing on all fours, capable of restraint & complete overdrive, fronted by a charismatic, storming frontman. the omnibus edition of their classic album comes in a lavishly packaged 2cd set with a 48 page book. all tracks have been remastered from the original studio masters & the 2nd disc features the non-album singles, previously unreleased out-takes & alternative versions. [beggars archive](#)

bauhaus : mask omnibus edition

(3cd) bauhaus are the founding fathers of goth rock, creating a minimalistic, overbearingly gloomy style of post-punk rock driven by jagged guitar chords & cold, distant synthesizers. managing the sometimes hard-to-negotiate trick of expanding their sound while retaining all the qualities which got them attention to begin with, on their 2nd album, 1981's 'mask', the members of bauhaus consciously stretched themselves into newer areas of music & performance, resulting in an album that was arguably even better than their almost flawless debut. this re-mastered set includes a 2nd disc of the non-album singles, previously unreleased demos & alternative versions plus a newly mixed 1981 live show on the 3rd disc that captures the band at their incendiary best. the 48 page book traces the development of the album with rare memorabilia, photographs & the complete lyrics. "a perfect trouncing of the sophomore-slump myth" – amg. [beggars archive](#)

mccarthy : that's all very well but... the best of

probably remembered more for their left-wing politics than their jangly sound, mccarthy formed in barking in 1985 & featured the irrefutable talent of malcolm eden, tim gane & laetiitia sadier (the latter 2 later went on to great success with stereolab). influenced by british punk groups such as the sex pistols, the clash & the buzzcocks, in turn mccarthy have been cited by many bands as an early influence, including the manic street preachers who of course covered the classic 'we are all bourgeois now'. this release features the highlights of mccarthy's career as well as unreleased material & obscure bbc radio sessions. [cherry red](#)

hurrah! : the beautiful

hurrah! were quite simply ahead of their time; they created pure & extraordinary pop - the way it should be. 4 individuals intent on extreme personal expression who just had to play together like this. what you hear here is a direct result of the collective attitude/stance wrought from very personal experience. pure emotion + pure expression = soul. hurrah! were of course kitchenware label-mates of prefab sprout & this is their follow up to the 1st album 'tell god i'm here' & it is a cracker! recorded in 1989, it has a distinctively guitar-led sound that coupled to some strong songs, makes it a lost work of art. [cherry red](#)

v/a : britain learns to rock! by bob stanley

this collection chronicles the evolution of british rock'n'roll during the 50s, from awkward early attempts by dance bands, jazz musicians & popular vocalists, through the skiffle boom popularised by lonnie donegan, to the emergence of genuinely talented rock'n'roll performers like marty wilde & cliff richard, culminating in the fully-fledged sound of richard's awesome 'move it' from 1958. the selection complements the films which have been chosen for the barbican's 'britain learns to rock' season. [fantastic voyage](#)

barracudas : two sides of a coin 1979-84

(remastered) the ultimate surfing collection from the ultimate modern surf band! the barracudas not only gave the world jeremy gluck but also some of the wackiest pop around. this is a collection of songs which were originally slated to appear on the follow-up to the 'endeavour to persevere' album but the band split up before it could be completed. however, what this showcases is that their songwriting & musicianship - heavily influenced by the jangly guitars of the flamin' groovies - was stronger than ever. this cd contains 18 of their greatest moments including 'i want my woody back', 'inside mind', 'very last day' & 'next time around' plus 5 unreleased (at the time) studio gems. [lemon](#)

barracudas : the big gap 1978 - 1981

the barracudas were an english based anglo-canadian band formed in the late 1970s. the band's original lineup consisted of jeremy gluck (vocals), robin wills (guitar & vocals), david buckley (bass & vocals) & nick turner (drums). they are notable for their summer 1980 hit 'summer fun', which started with an excerpt from a spoof 1960s advertisement for the plymouth barracuda, in which one of the announcers has difficulty pronouncing the word barracuda. the single reached number 37 in the uk singles chart. originally perceived as a novelty surf act due to the 1st album, subsequent recordings showed them to be a fierce garage rock & roll band, in the mould of the 13th floor elevators & the seeds. the original version of this record was released on coyote records in 1984 & is a very scarce item. this cd reissue includes 3 live bonus tracks. [lemon](#)

picadilly line : the huge world of emily small

the band (essentially a duo lead by rod edwards & roger hand, who would later record as edwards hand) flourished briefly in the late 60s, releasing this one album. with them is the cream of uk session men including danny thompson (bass), alan hawkshaw (keys), herbie flowers (bass) & harold mcnair (flute). the picadilly line even managed an appearance at the middle earth club in london, the then hallowed centre of the uk psychedelic scene. the album is breezy post sgt. pepper psychedelic pop with plenty of swinging london vibes, orchestration & evocative whimsical lyrics. reference points are a psychedelic hollies, world of oz, donovan & the bee gees. filled with beautiful dreamy vocal harmonies & elaborate electric & acoustic arrangements, this is a real trip back to the height of flower power. all material is original except for a great version of dylan's visions of 'johanna' & the everly brothers' 'gone, gone gone'. [grapefruit](#)

phoenix : wolfgang amadeus phoenix

(2cd special edition) often dubbed the french strokes, they always seemed like a band that drove themselves to extremes in order to boil their songs down to their essence. the simplicity of their songs seemed to be hard won. in that way it doesn't seem like much has changed in phoenix world: they still sound like a band that go to a lot of effort to perfect every last detail but listening more closely the songs arrangements are getting almost ornately complex rather than stripped back to the bare essentials. if studio, or lindstrom produced the strokes new album the results may well sound a lot like this. this new edition of phoenix's latest comes with a bonus disc of remixes & interpretations of songs from the album by the likes of devendra banhart, animal collective, yacht, friendly fires, passion pit & more. surely now they can be considered to be amongst the french pop aristocracy?? v2 co-op

ray davies : collected

aside from the lengthy kinks discography, ray davies has released 5 solo albums & a choral album. 'collected' pulls together the best songs from his 2 well received v2 solo albums as well as some other choice tracks from his illustrious solo career. [Umtv](#)

dance/electronica

2562 : unbalance

dave huismans aka 2562 follows 2008's awesome debut 'aerial' with more vital rhythmic experiments. this is another fine example of the colourful contours & rhythmic shifts occurring in the world of post-garage, dubstep & technofied house. as recent single 'love in outer space' proved, he's allowed a spurt of synthetic colour to enter his sparse dub productions & much like his amazing dj sets over the last year, the album also follows an unpredictable rhythmic curve from detroit flexed garage on the theo parish meets wookie style of 'flashback', to mr fingers crossbred with pinch on 'like a dream' or step-wrecking syncopations on 'yes/no' or 'superflight'. every element just seems to be torn from the many styles he loves & moulded until it fits, having the serendipitous thrill of a dj who mixes two incongruous tracks but manages to make them sound like the sickest fusion imaginable. "an incredibly strong album" – boomkat. [tectonic](#)

kelpe : cambio wechsel

(cd / 2lp) kelpe makes a welcome return with album no.3. whilst his previous work has been pretty firmly entrenched in the downtempo realm, this album takes a more upbeat stance & shows a real progression in his sound. the beats sound chunkier, with the heavily compressed antics of peers such as flying lotus & lukid coming into full effect. there's plenty of pneumatic bass, bbc radiophonic style analogical bleeps & menacing hip hop swagger that shine through, making this a dancefloor-friendly affair. however it's not all about the boom-bap, as tracks like 'eye candy bath' echo the more reserved, melodic kelpe of old. big recommends. "another assured release from the man they call kelpe" – fly. [dc recordings](#)

shackleton : three eps

the long awaited debut from sam shackleton of skull disco is finally here & my my it was worth the wait! shackleton has never really been one for club bangers but this release sees him moving further away from the dancefloor than ever before & into a much deeper, darker, middle eastern territory (i know, it's hard to believe he could actually get any deeper & darker). here, he completely breaks free from his dubstep shackles, embracing more of a berlin vibe than ever before - don't worry though, the gorgeous oozing bass dips are still prevalent, as are the haunting chanting vocal samples & his trademark spidery, massively intricate percussion patterns. shackleton really is unlike any other producer around - dancefloor or otherwise - & this release only serves to cement this. most definitely one of the best electronic albums released this year that will appeal to fans of the more intricate, boundary pushing side of the dubstep genre - appleblim, peverelist, scuba, ramadanman, 2562 etc & older experimental industrial electronic artists such as muslimgauze & pan sonic. [perlon](#)

christ. : distance lends enchantment to the view

although christ. has always tried to shun his early work with boards of canada, it's hard to forget about his involvement with them, especially given the wobbly synth-heavy nature of his own productions. this new album treads a more accessible path than previous album 'blue shift emissions', with 10 tracks of classic sounding electronica, laden with nostalgic-sounding battered keyboards, twittering drum machines & of course, his trademark melodies. it's reminiscent of early warp & will no doubt appeal to followers of that classic idm sound. "what we've got here are 10 tracks delivered with no fuss & plenty of charm & personality, all of them displaying home's talent for blending analog synthesizer melodies & crisp broken beats" – textura. [benbecula](#)

claud vonstroke : bird brain

technoid oddball claud vonstroke returns with more elastic tech funk for the dancefloor which never takes itself too seriously which, in this world of uber-serious minimal producers & electronic nerds, is quite refreshing. in true vonstroke style, the music is a diverse menagerie of sounds & samples, many provided by the man himself. his love for his home city of san francisco & its people heavily influences his music, with the sites & sounds of the bustling haight st. where he lives, seeping neatly into the tracks, as well as the good san fran folk who love getting down to the booty-shaking, rump-rustling bass in golden gate park. heavy jackin', ultra-deep, nasty funk & inventive arrangements are all present, as are legends (bootsy collins) & friends, creating a complete guide to the musical mind of claud vonstroke. [dirtybird](#)

v/a : balance 015 mixed by will saul

(3cd) the 'balance' mix series is quickly gaining a reputation as a reliable compilation featuring forward-thinking dj's that best represent the ever-changing nature of dance music & the shape of things to come. this time around the simple label's head honcho will saul steps up with an epic mix that spans 3cds, firmly rooted in dub, disco, house & techno with flashes of soul & irresistible melodies that hark back to the early days of detroit (from motown to planet e). featured artists include studio, bat for lashes, zomby, i:cube, isolee, dj koze, sly & robbie, syclops, reclone, model 500 & modeselektor. as ever, the quality bar is as high as we've come to expect from this series, with impeccable selections & plenty of mixing skills on display. [eq recordings](#)

pnau : pnau

australian dance act pnau might not be an instantly recognizable name despite releasing records since 2000. however, once you know that empire of the sun's nick littlemore is one half of this duo you might get more of an inkling of what these guys are all about. indeed album opener 'with you forever' is an 80s-tinged electro-pop stunner that could have been lifted straight off the empire of the sun album. however, beyond that the comparisons end. this is a varied listen that is resolutely upbeat, taking in influences from early house/rave, 80s pop & sturdy bass-heavy electro & forming something unique & skilfully produced in the process. with guest vocals from ladyhawke & of course empire of the sun's luke steel, this is an uplifting genre-baiting set that fans of mgmt, empire of the sun, simian mobile disco & justice should check. [pnau records & types](#)

luciano : tribute to the sun

to our knowledge, this is only luciano's 2nd full length studio album to date, but unapologetically this guy is really a singles man, serving up some true classics of the minimal genre. for 'tribute to the sun' he's put together a cohesive set of groovy dance tracks balancing out his lean but supple rhythms with vocals from martina topley-bird, keren ann & ali boulo santo matched by bright latin instrumentation & sophisticated electronics. 'los niños de fuera' might be his answer to villalobos' 'enfants', using hypnotic chants to suck you into his rhythm, while the lilting percussive arrangements of 'sun, day & night' use topley-bird's cottony-soft vox to great effect without resorting to the usual kick drum underlay. arguably though, the best cuts are instrumental, like the fragile 'conspirer' or the tricky intricacies of 'metrodisima'. "very good indeed" – boomkat. [candenza](#)

v/a : 10th anniversary boxset

(3cd) the brighton home of all things jazz, funk & beat-obsessed celebrate a very productive 10 years in the business. starting out a decade ago with a handful of brighton bedroom producers, tru thoughts have grown into a formidable independent label, with a large roster of international artists & many supporters across the globe. this 2 disc set plays like a who's who of the current ft roster & includes music from quantific (in his many musical incarnations), belleruche, the bamboos, hot 8 brass band, stonepface, nostalgia 77, lizzy parks, flevans, domu, hint, natural self & kylie auldust, alongside previous acts such as the mighty alice russell, bonobo & tm juke. the tracks here have all been pivotal to the label in different ways; some were big sellers, many reflect the producers or vocalists perfectly, some have been massive club tunes & others are simply the songs that are never far from the office stereo. this boxset edition includes a bonus disc of previously unreleased music recorded especially for the occasion. many happy returns! [tru thoughts](#)

v/a : 10th anniversary - best of

(2cd) the brighton home of all things jazz, funk & beat-obsessed celebrate a very productive 10 years in the business. starting out a decade ago with a handful of brighton bedroom producers, tru thoughts have grown into a formidable independent label, with a large roster of international artists & many supporters across the globe. this 2 disc set plays like a who's who of the current ft roster & includes music from quantific (in his many musical incarnations), belleruche, the bamboos, hot 8 brass band, stonepface, nostalgia 77, lizzy parks, flevans, domu, hint, natural self & kylie auldust, alongside previous acts such as the mighty alice russell, bonobo & tm juke. the tracks here have all been pivotal to the label in different ways; some were big sellers, many reflect the producers or vocalists perfectly, some have been massive club tunes & others are simply the songs that are never far from the office stereo. many happy returns! [tru thoughts](#)

jimi tenor & tony allen : inspiration information

a truly inspired choice from strut's inspiration information series of collabs has lead to this album from finnish electronic jazz maverick jimi tenor & the architect of the afrobeat rhythm, tony allen. after a week spent in the studio the resultant album sounds like the pair have been at this for years, with tenor's jazzed-up sax, keys & flute gelling perfectly around allen's bristling rhythm section. the session was mixed down at tenor's studio in finland & berlin, lending a distinctly dubby but vintage classic sound to the set, helping to erase any blatant time markers & make this the electric-afrobeat-jazz-fusion classic that never happened, until now! *"this 4th offering is perhaps the most unlikely pairing yet, but one of the most engaging & fully realised albums in the series so far"* – [bbc](#). [strut](#)

fuckpony : let the love flow

perhaps the most well-known alias of house mensch jay haze, fuckpony shows the dj-producer's more soulful side, with one eye on the dancefloor & the other on the bedroom. 'let the love flow' is a 10-track journey coming directly from haze's hand, eschewing samples entirely in favour of a more personal take on the fuckpony sound. haze meanders into a strange realm somewhere between the gleaming lightning of saturday night & the pale daylight of a sunday morning when experiences vibrate back down to the floor, while the bass drum gets quieter & quieter. a sort of afterhour for lovers, only here the sweet taste after the club doesn't dissolve away on the tongue. this is deep, melodic house music that is designed more for home or headphones rather than the dancefloor. with vocals from haze himself, as well as chela simon & laila tov, this is a tender & sentimental house record, perfect for the winter months ahead. [bpitch control](#)

klimek : movies is magic

this sublime new klimek album engages with that age-old idea of creating soundtracks for films that don't exist. the musical content plays against the pre-conceptions of what we expect from film soundtracks - often by integrating sliced up field recordings & location sound with digitally dissected orchestral figures. the customary levels of depth & sonic richness you'd expect from a klimek production are abundant throughout, although there's a knowingly meta approach to its cinematic soundscaping that makes you very aware of its processes; this isn't so much a suite of film music as it is an electroacoustic project about film music in general. the end result is an incredibly beautiful album & another precious addition to the already formidable klimek archive. [anticipate](#)

natural self : my heart beats like a drum

its been a busy time for brighton b-boy nathaniel pearn of late – contributing vocals to dj food's recent single, tinkering with synths, falling in love & producing this marvellous beat-heavy beast for the tru thoughts label. this, his 3rd album proper, finds pearn once again doing what he does best, blending up a little funk, a touch of dubby bass & soulful brass, culminating in a satisfyingly melodic record, featuring both his own vocals & guest vocalist elodie rama (hocus pocus). it's an accomplished record that should certainly see pearn gain some of the wider recognition he rightly deserves. fans of fink, mr scruff & all things tru thoughts should check this out. *"its got quality written all over it"* - [mark lamarr](#). *"kooky chants, dirty brass & all kinds of wonky beats. outstanding"* - [idj magazine](#). [tru thoughts](#)

v/a : at the controls

dubstep label studio rockers was born when tony thorpe aka the moody boyz decided to combine his extensive knowledge of dub with his uncanny ability for unearthing the freshest musical talent. no stranger to the studio himself, thorpe's known for his own pioneering dub productions, as well as his remix work for everyone from amy winehouse to lee scratch perry. this compilation rounds up some of the hottest tracks to have appeared on the label in the last 3 years, taking us on a heavy bass-fuelled journey with the likes of jazzsteppa, cotti, caper, the widdler & of course the moody boyz all delivering the goods. make no mistake, this is one for those that love their basslines wobbly & in yer face. proper heavy. [studio rockers](#)

patrick cowley & jorge socarras : catholic

one of dance music's most influential but undersung producers, though the uproarious, synthesised disco anthems patrick cowley created for sylvester have been acknowledged by anyone from the pet shop boys to new order. in 1976, cowley, who died of aids in 1982, started a concept album at his san francisco home studio with singer jorge socarras from local synth-pop pioneers indoor life. after completing it in 1979, the master tapes disappeared until turning up in megatone co-owner john hedges' basement. far from the expected dancefloor anthems, the starkly primitive, darkly atmospheric music ranges from introverted ballads to angular post-punk electro-pop, with tracks such as 'i never want to fall in love' recalling suicide's occasional early rock sorties. a proper archaeological gem. [macro](#)

mathias kaden : studio 10

after 5 years of singles for vakant & freude am tanzen, mathias kaden gets down to completing his debut album for vakant. kaden fleshes out his previously stripped & skeletal rhythmic frameworks with a deep house influenced palette of basslines, spoken word vocals & afro-indebted percussion. 'state of stasis' is probably the best example, featuring gjaezon's vocals & lyrics set to kinky tucked house rhythms, while 'panic stricken' features hushed vox from ian simmonds over jazzy flügelhorn & bodywarmed keys. 'kawaba' strikes one off for the dubby house sound with sensuous japanese vocals from tomomi ukumori & sven weisemann styled dub chords, & ron trent is checked on the final cut '1981' again featuring gjaezon's intimate vox. for fans of loco dice, carl craig or the innervisions crew. [vacant](#)

v/a : 4hero presents extensions

4hero return with an album featuring reinterpretations of some of their classic tracks, with a hand picked selection of cutting edge producers getting stuck in. its all very much on a nu-jazz tip, with some great reworks courtesy of sonar collectiv, christian prommer, the sub ensemble, nu tropic & more. one for fans of 4 hero, compost, gilles peterson & tru thoughts. [raw canvas](#)

dj kentaro : tuff cuts

legendary turntablist dj kentaro steps up with a proper bass-rumbling dub set for the excellent pressure sounds label. although known more for his hip hop & drum & bass sets, this mix album shows just how versatile kentaro is as he cuts, scratches & blends up a mighty selection of dub tracks from the likes of prince far i & the arabs, king tubby, jackie mittoo, the revolutionaries & dennis brown. if you enjoyed andy smith's 'trojan document' or the recent j-star 'nice up' compilation then this should definitely rattle your bass bins. [pressure sounds](#)

v/a : disco circus vol. 01 - compiled & mixed by mighty mouse

the disco revival continues! this collection, put together by london duo mighty mouse, doesn't focus on one particular colour of the disco palette, but rather gives a broad overview, taking in cosmic & balearic disco (prins thomas), classic disco (dinosaur l, chic), indie disco (franz ferdinand, james yuill) & downright freaky disco (emperor machine), blending it all into one big uplifting disco extravaganza spread over 2 discs. [glitter-ball-a-go-go](#). [music response](#)

talvin singh : ok (expanded edition)

(2cd) talvin singh first rose to notoriety running 'anokha' at london's legendary blue note venue. this was a night that paved the way for the asian underground, showcasing artists who were pioneering a sound that fused traditional elements of indian classical music with the emerging & rapidly expanding drum & bass scene. 'ok' was singh's debut release & was undoubtedly the record that defined that period of experimentation, with rich instrumentation including flute, sitar, tabla & film-esque strings underpinned by twisted breakbeats & samples. critically acclaimed upon its release in 1999, it went on to win the mercury music prize. this expanded edition includes a remix disc with the likes of murcof, richie hawtin, 4 hero, leafcutter & francois k all providing some quality reworks. a true classic. [umc](#)

zinc : crack house e.p.

dj zinc may be more familiar as a drum & bass & jungle dj but with this latest release he signals his move into the house arena. it shouldn't really come as a surprise as he has long turned his nose up at the perceived barriers that divide genres of dance & it seems clubbers up & down the land are finally coming round to his way of thinking. so, while this is undoubtedly a 'house' record, zinc has brought the warm bass of dubstep, raw energy of jungle & feel-good release found in all good music that compels you to jack your body. [bingo bass](#)

hip hop

themselves : crowndown

dose one & jel are much better known in combination as themselves. this album is another slice of lyrically abstract hip hop which amply exhibits their sharply honed skills learned via cloudead, deep puddle, subtle & the vast number of projects in between. one of the signs of their fitness to hit the auditory nerve hard is the furious pace & bombastic delivery of the opening cuts 'back ii burn', 'oversleeping' & 'themark', all served up with steaming beats & hungry jaws, explained in part by the fact that themselves prepared for this lp by revisiting the classic hip hop of gangstarr, ultramagnetic mcs & public enemy, giving a sturdy recurring theme that grounds this record in the abstract landscapes of leffield hip hop. [anticon](#)

fefe : jeune a la retraite

fefe was previously a member of hugely successful & influential french hip hop outfit saian supa crew. moving on after a 3 year absence, this is his debut solo effort. if you're expecting a slice of leffield hip hop then think again – fefe's found his singing voice, picked up a guitar & made a highly accessible record of soulful french pop with a dash of old school-flavoured hip hop & reggae thrown in for good measure. produced by dan the automator, this is a summery affair that lies somewhere between the strumming of jack johnson & the vocals of wyclef jean. [blue wrasse](#)

foreign beggars : united colours of beggatron

foreign beggars are back & at it again on this their 3rd album. 'beggatron' shows a shift in the group's style, smashing the listener with a seriously fresh & experimental take on hip hop music. unlike its dark & edgy predecessor 'stray point agenda', this record adopts a light-hearted approach, with a sound that is accessible whilst remaining thoroughly rugged to the ear both lyrically & sonically. with production from d'n'b kings noisia, off kilter beat collective ghosttown, dag nabbit, king knut, rednaz & dj 2tall & guest spots from a seemingly endless list including guilty simpson, dubbledge, jehst, kashmere & dr syntax, this is an assured slice of uk hip hop from a crew at the top of their game. "with production that's brave, bold & experimental, foreign beggars have their finger knuckle deep on the pulse of people who want something gritty, playful & inventive" – [bbc](#). [dented](#)

krs-one & buckshot : survival skills

in an era of watery pop rap, it's heartening to see krs-one's name on a record & it's even better to see his name alongside buckshot's, pulling two of hip-hop's most qualified mcs together to work as one unit. with 'survival skills' they unleash a fleet of exceptional rhymes backed by solid production & some great guest spots including immortal technique, mary j. bilge, talib kweli, slug (atmosphere) & pharaoh monch all providing the goods. buckshot, the leader of boot camp clique & member of black moon, works immaculately alongside krs-one, whose bronx belligerence is in full effect, blowing through ridiculously slick verses with the assurance only a veteran of his level can muster. this is a solid record that's all about lyricism & the craft of rhyming, plain & simple. [duckdown](#)

big l : harlem's greatest

simply put, big l is harlem's greatest emcee – the best there is, the best there was & the best there ever will be. known for his gritty street tales & flawless flow, l corleone was first introduced to the masses in 1992 through various mixtape appearances & his ditc affiliation. after releasing a critically-acclaimed yet poorly marketed debut album in 1993, big l's sophomore album, 'the big picture', went gold in 2000. unfortunately he never got to see how his music truly affected people, as his life was tragically cut short in 1999. this album pays ode to an mc who was way ahead of his time & one of the best to ever do it, with plenty of rare freestyle recordings including some early work with jay-z. [modular](#)

soul/funk

smokey robinson : time flies when your having fun

except for a set of pre-rock pop standards, smokey robinson has been largely absent this decade. he returns here with the smooth 'quiet storm' vibe he invented on his 1975 album of the same name, duetting with joss stone & india.arie on a pair of wind-chime-romantic ballads & turning in an inspired remake of the j's 'i want you back'. when he puts his sterling tenor to the slow-burning funk of 'one time' & the carlos santana-assisted 'please don't take your love' it's clear where young michael got much of his groove. using a sparse mix of keyboards & mellow rhythms & produced with a slightly earthy feel at points, this is arguably the most classic sounding record robinson's recorded since the 70s. [wrasse](#)

jazz

portico quartet : isla

the mercury music prize nominees release their 2nd album on peter gabriel's real world records, produced by the legendary john leckie. their debut album 'knee deep in the north sea' won them fans from gilles peterson through to time out's jazz album of the year. from a grassroots start in 2005, busking on london's south bank, their reputation spread swiftly. the new album, is a thoughtful & richly tuneful collection of 9 pieces that sound like nobody else in jazz, world or contemporary music. this record has a very distinct mood & atmosphere, thanks to the use of the hang, a tuned percussion instrument. this is jazz first & foremost & there are segments of wild improv sure to turn off fearful jazzophobes. for less sensitive ears, though, this is a rich, rewarding, thought-provoking listen. "retains its musical integrity but reaches beyond jazz to skirt the outer shores of ambient electronica & modern classical, even the sort of harmonic arpeggios used by radiohead of late (especially on 'clipper', which is more than a little reminiscent of yorke et al's 'reckoner') 4/5 – the skinny. [real world](#)

blues

seasick steve : man from another time

a return of the unlikely phenomenon of steve wold, known more affectionately of course as seasick steve. he may no longer ride the rails but steve's hobo experiences still drive his muse, with recollections of time spent sleeping rough, picking apples as a migrant worker & spending time in spokane jail. elsewhere, 'just because i can' & 'big green & yeller' respectively find a nostalgic steve hopping a freight train for old time's sake, & devising a plan to buy himself a tractor & caravan & 'drive down the highway blockin' traffic every chance i can'. musically this is a much more pared affair than its predecessor with steve playing all the instruments, aside from drums, recording it all on studio equipment of comparably venerable vintage to steve himself. all the battered, homemade instruments of old are present & correct too, including a guitar made out of an old cigar box, his famous 3-string france wonder guitar & an old beat-up acoustic. business as usual then but, as they say, 'it ain't broke...'. "there is still life in the old dog yet" – *mojo*. [atlantic](#)

country

lyle lovetz : natural forces

always more than a straight-ahead country artist, lyle lovetz has also dabbled in gospel, jazz, folk, rock, pop & even acting. after the big band sound of 2007's 'it's not big it's large', this new record mostly returns him to relatively stripped-down country settings, on a well-judged mix of originals & covers. it's a great irony that country songs don't often deal with 'the country' itself, stereotypically being largely concerned with cheatin', drinkin' & 'exes' that live in texas. but as its name suggests, 'natural forces' is replete with images of the natural world, as well as plenty of artful song writing. highlights here include a warm, affectionate version of townes van zandt's 'loretta' & the hilarious, razor-sharp observations of 'it's rock & roll', a rumbustious co-write with fellow texan robert earl keen, which obviously draws heavily on experience. "a treat from start to finish...it's the most satisfying record he's made in many a year" – *bbc*. [humphead](#)

joe ely : musta notta gotta lotta/hi-res

country rock singer/guitarist joe ely's last 2 albums for mca. 'musta notta gotta lotta' (1981) was ely's 4th studio album, & showed a more aggressive direction after years of playing to as many rock as country fans. ely claimed jerry lee lewis as his first inspiration & that inspiration is on display right up front here in the title track, which is steeped in 1950s rockabilly. this set rocks throughout, making it a much better fit with the work of the blasters & the stray cats than anything coming out of nashville in 1981. 'hi-res' (1984) is dominated by slashing electric guitar work, the songs often bearing ely's cockeyed sense of humour. there are synthesized keyboards & even synth-drums to be heard here & there & the arrangements are more elaborate & somewhat more pop-oriented than before, but this is still the same joe ely who made 'musta notta gotta lotta'. [bgo](#)

folk

the kittiwakes : lofoten calling

the debut album from 3 versatile singers & musicians based in the south east. the concept of the album is based on the people, wildlife, landscape & folk-lore of the lofoten islands, the north western archipelago in arctic norway. bathed by the gulf stream waters & the 'aurora borealis', they are home to an ancient viking culture & fishing industry. a true labour of love, the album was conceived & written by kate denny (sings & strings) after a visit to the area. the picture is made complete with the able assistance of jill cumberbatch (violin, mandolin, octave mandola, guitar, vocals) & chris harrison (piano accordion, piano vocals). from shanty-inspired rousing tunes, through intricate 3-part harmonies & finely-arranged, haunting, winterset-esque songs, 'lofoten calling' displays an acute sense of what's at the heart of the british folk tradition & brings it sailing into the 21st century - at once enchanting, touching & irresistible. [midwich records](#)

world

pax nicholas & the nettey family : na teef know de road of teef

nicholas addo-nettey or pax nicholas as he was known on record was a vocalist & conga player in fela kuti's africa 70 band & recorded with the legend in the seminal period of fela's career between 1971 & 1978. while playing & recording for fela, mr. addo-nettey always had his own thing going on the side – he recorded two albums: 'mind your own business' in 1971 & 'na teef know the road of teef' in 1973. fela was not amused & forbade nettey to ever play them again & they fell into obscurity shortly after. thankfully renowned dj frank gossner discovered a copy in the back of a record shop in philadelphia & brought it to the attention of daptone. hearing it now it is easy to understand why fela forbade this recording from being heard – it is a prime slice of afro beat that stands shoulder to shoulder with fela's music of the same period, a strong brew indeed. this should come as no surprise really as not only was nettey in africa 70 but he had persuaded most of the rest of africa 70 to contribute to this amazing record. highly recommended. [daptone](#)

franco & le tpok jazz : francophonic retrospective volume 2 1980-89

(2cd) in 1980 franco was declared a grand master of music in his native zaire & this 2nd volume collects more of his greatest music, bringing to a climax the story of the final 9 years of his life – when he released some of his greatest compositions & made some of his boldest statements. the signature sound of his band, full name tout puissant orchestre kinshasa – orchestre poly-rythmo nicked the prefix – was african rumba, light on percussion & anchored by firm bass with franco's sparkling guitar lines & direct vocals front & centre. this finely selected & researched set includes tracks specially re-mastered & not previously released on cd & a highly informative booklet. highly recommended. "an invaluable account of a true giant in african music" – *wire magazine*, "justifiably revered as a guitar god" – *all music*. [sterns africa](#)

ravi shankar : film india - the cinema of ravi shankar

'film india' comprises 5 film soundtracks from ravi shankar; 4 from the films of india's internationally celebrated director satyajit ray, including the masterful 'pather panchali / the apu trilogy', 'jalsagar (the music room)' & the soundtrack from jean renoir's first technicolor feature, 'the river', the first colour film made in india & regarded by martin scorsese as one of the most beautiful ever made. the music for 'pather panchali', described as at once plaintive & exhilarating, recently featured in the guardians list of 50 greatest film soundtracks. [el](#)

zeep: people & things

london-based musicians nina miranda & chris franck return under their zeep guise, bringing with them a fresh, immediate pop album that dips its elegant toes into every musical pool they have previously explored as smoke city & da lata, as well as embarking into exciting new waters. standout cut here has to be their daring brazilian folk reworking of the specials' classic 'ghost town'. with words rewritten in portuguese they reapply the original anger & ominous feel to inner city tensions in modern-day rio. this is an album of pure south american-tinged sunshine pop, which fans of nouvelle vague & bebel gilberto should definitely check. [crammed](#)

manu chao : baionareana

(2cd + dvd) a bumper 2 disc live album & dvd from manu chao. the album includes old classics & unreleased songs filmed & recorded in the historical arena at the beautiful town of bayonne in south west france. an essential fans package. [because](#)

reggae

king tubby & the clancy eccles all stars : sound system international dub lp

'sound system international' is a clancy eccles produced dub set featuring 10 king tubby deconstructions of a selection of dynamites rhythms where tubbs spins the tunes around & comes up with something very special. anyone who really wants to know what king tubby's early mixing style was all about need look no further as he takes these straight forward reggae songs, turns them upside down & on to somewhere completely different. includes tubby's dubs to lord creator's winsome 'kingston town', the dynamites' beautiful 'red moon' & king stitt & andy capp's 'herb man'. comes replete with contemporary photographs of king tubby & extensive sleeve notes detailing the origins of the dub & deejay phenomenon. the set has also been totally re-mastered. [pressure sounds](#)

delroy wilson : dub plate style

at first glance the material on this album might appear unremarkable - you will have seen many of the tracks on singles or on other albums & in most cases, heard the majority of these songs elsewhere. but what you will not have heard is these particular songs mixed by prince jammy. at the time jammy was working extensively with the producer of this set, bunny 'striker' lee & was at the beginning of his own production career. totally in tune with what was currently being played on kingston's sound systems, these mixes were clearly aimed at a sound system audience, consequently they are mixed quite differently from other versions of the same songs. these are deep heavy mixes that have a rawness & sparseness that were perfect for jamaican sound systems. this is delroy wilson as you have never heard him before, remixed by prince jammy & executive-produced by bunny 'striker' lee. [pressure sounds](#)

tommy mccook & the supersonics : pleasure dub

duke reid died from cancer in 1974 & his nephew, errol brown, who had been a junior engineer at treasure isle & who would go on to become one of the key engineers at bob marley's tuff gong studio, took over the studio controls. he mixed 3 dub albums at treasure isle that dressed down & dubbed up some of the best of the bond street catalogue. snatches of the original vocals were woven in & out of mixes that sound as fresh & as vital today as they did when they were first released. 'treasure dub volume one' & 'treasure dub volume two' have been available in various incarnations ever since, however 'pleasure dub', the best of the set featuring errol brown's cuts to rock steady classics such as 'the right track' by phyllis dillon, 'the tide is high' & 'riding on a high & windy way' from the paragons & 'things you say you love' by the jamaicans, has never been re-pressed since its initial release. [pressure sounds](#)

v/a : once upon a time at king tubbys

'once upon a time at king tubby's' captures from start to finish the full story of the most well known & certainly the wittiest, of all the wars of words that the highly competitive kingston recording scene ever produced. i roy & prince jazzbo were the principal players aided & abetted along the way by an assorted bunch of onlookers & minor characters who all helped the drama to unfold. bunny 'striker' lee was the catalyst that started this particular schism & the producer of all but one of the tracks. ever the entrepreneur, 'striker' hit the musical jackpot once again as he goaded both artists into making records that went 'straight to the head'. what had begun as a joke grew into an entire series of 7 inch singles that set the jamaican recording scene alight in the mid 70s. musical feuds & head games are nothing new in jamaican music but this album is probably the first to compile all the tracks from one of the best examples of feuds that ever happened. [pressure sounds](#)

soundtracks

piero umiliani : peiro's pleasure - the touch of

in italian soundtrack circles, the name piero umiliani is spoken with the same reverence as his famous contemporary ennio morricone. they, along with piccioni, trovajoli & others, were all part of the golden age of italian cinema that was the 60's & 70's; a magical time of newfound prosperity in rome when meals, records, stories & even girlfriends were shared, & cinema & music flourished. his most successful composition 'mah n amah na' is included here followed by a continuous programme of sensual, elegant often lighthearted music that attests to piero's genius. [bella casa](#)

ost : the twilight saga - new moon

what with a new film in the 'twilight' franchise on the horizon, here's the soundtrack which, as you'd expect, is full of moody music-to-get-sad-to, including the likes of death cab for cutie, band of skulls, thom yorke, lykke li, the killers, grizzly bear, editors & black rebel motorcycle club. [atlantic](#)

vinyl

leyland kirby : sadly, the future is no longer what it was

part 2 of 3 highly limited vinyl editions. while the profound impact of the 1st edition in this series has now had time to seep into the consciousness of anyone lucky enough to have grabbed one, the scene is now ripe for james leyland kirby to deliver a beautiful 2nd set of transmissions. this is quite possibly his most full-bodied & well-realised body of work to date, featuring the composer in the midst of a deep melancholy. it's a personal issue, one that kirby has bravely opened himself up to, in order to share with a faithful & understanding audience the tangible feelings of nostalgia connected to those pieces of music which have shaped our world & elicited the most visceral but often confusing inner responses. at times recalling classic harold budd or the surreal melodrama of david lynch, this is all-engrossing, emotive ambience that can't be praised highly enough. "a package of music that we think you'll cherish for a long time to come, something which can't be said about many things in life. a must" - boomkat. [history always favours the winners](#)

flight of the conchords : i told you i was freaky

(comes with a coupon code for a free mp3 download of the entire album) the 2nd album from new zealand's 4th most popular guitar-based digi-bongo-acapella-rap-funk-comedy folk duo. the songs from this album were performed on the 2nd season of the emmy-nominated comedy flight of the conchords, following the lives of new zealand's premiere digi-folk parodists jemaine & bret as they try & break new york. while flight of the conchords first hammered out their reputation from behind the relative safety of acoustic guitars, blithely billed as a 'folk comedy' act, nowadays their musical style runs rampant, unchecked. judging from the range displayed on their sophomore album, flight of the conchords have yet to unearth a genre which can withstand their artistry. unflinching in their lyrical stance, sophisticated with their arrangements, crafting melodies which always lodge firmly in the frontal lobe: flight of the conchords have here created 13 best-selling ringtones, humbly masquerading as songs. [sub pop](#)

excepter : black beach

(ultra limited clear vinyl with a free dvd plus a free digital download coupon) excepter is a nyc-based electronic improvisational performance group devoted to the exposure of cosmic consciousness through the trifecta of micro-movement, abstract razzle-dazzle & "living-in-the-moment". the music here was recorded on location, with electronic processing & production added later. come to a beach party...excepter-style! the black beach soundtrack lp features a dvd of the motion picture of the same name, shot by harrison owen, of the open-air performances conducted by excepter in big sur during its 2008 west coast tour. bonus video footage includes the full show of excepter at the echo in los angeles & other surprises! [paw tracks](#)

alela diane feat alina hardin : alela & alina

(10") names records announce the birth of family, a new new imprint that will concentrate purely on limited edition releases in limited edition formats. the very first record on family is very special as it features 2 beautiful singers & songwriters - both with new recordings & versions of songs they've always loved, all recorded in 2 days earlier this summer in portland, oregon. alela diane you'll probably know. the most startlingly wonderful new folk voice to arrive in the last 5 years, alela has charmed people the world over with her beautiful voice. here alela sings 2 new songs, 'amidst the movement' & 'i have returned', while also sharing with alina versions of the traditional songs, 'bowling green' & 'matty groves'. alina hardin has been touring with alela for a while, she also sang harmony vocals on alela's 'to be still' album. she sings a new song, 'crying wolf', as well as sharing a version of townes van zandt's 'rake' - taken from his classic 1971 album, 'delta momma blues' - with alela. absolutely gorgeous! [family/names](#)

aoki takamasa : rn-rhythm-variations

glitches & crackles of the autechre variety abound here. this incredible 25-minute set of percussion & bass variations from the japanese uber-producer is his 1st release on the raster noton label. aoki was born 1976 in osaka & is presently resident in berlin. he has been releasing music since 2001 & ever since has been reviewing his personal methodology whilst actively creating sounds based mainly on computer/software. aoki is an energetic artist who is renowned for expanding the limits of musical expression through hardware & software. the digital rhythms, hi-brow hip-hop swing & licks of caustic digital noise should appeal to fans of snd, autechre, alva noto or pan sonic. recommended. [raster noton](#)

v/a : tumbele! biguine, afro & latin sounds (2lp) [soundway](#)

richard hawley : true love's gutter (very limited 2lp + cd) [mute](#)

david bowie : space oddity (40th anniversary edition) [emi](#)

bad lieutenant : never cry another tear [triple echo](#)

califone : all my friends are funeral singers (2lp with download card) [dead oceans](#)

midaircondo : curtain call [twin seed](#)

tubelord : our first american friends [hassle](#)

books

soul jazz records presents gilles peterson & stuart baker : freedom, rhythm & sound

this heavyweight deluxe hardback book is a unique collection of cover artwork of revolutionary jazz music between 1965-83, compiled by gilles peterson & stuart baker, founder of soul jazz records. martin luther king, malcolm x & the civil rights movement of the 1960s loom large as self-determination, economic power & musical freedom led to jazz artists finding new paths - both musical & economic. years before the diy cultural revolution of punk, sun ra, john coltrane, pharoah sanders, don chery, ornette coleman, the art ensemble of chicago & others took control of their own work by recording, releasing & distributing their own music themselves. the record sleeves of this era are as iconic & historically unique as the music itself & a striking reflection of the time; pre-desktop publishing, pre-internet these small-run (sometimes as low as 500 copies), self-made sleeves are graphically bold & radical. this is the first ever collection of this fascinating goldmine of album art, which represents the first wave of inspired independent production within popular music. [soul jazz](#)

mags

wire magazine issue # 309 - nov 2009 [julian cope](#), [oioio](#), [jim jarmusch](#), [mordant music](#) & much more besides...

clash magazine issue # 43 - nov 2009 [dizze rascal](#), [muse](#), [fuck buttons](#), [the flaming lips](#), [editors](#) & more...

singles

single of the week

the twilight sad : seven years of letters 7". [fat cat](#)

the pains of being pure at heart : higher than the stars ep 12" remixes [fortuna pop!](#)

sarandon/the membranes : spike milligan's tape recorder limited 7". [slumberland](#)

frankie rose : thee only one limited 7". [slumberland](#)

60 watt kid / foot village : 2012 / kim ill limited 7". [absolutely kosher](#)

raveonettes : bang! / last dance 7". [fierce panda](#)

pre-orders

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ordering service

although we do try to cover as many new releases as possible, it will never be possible for us to take everything that is released, so if there is anything that we do not stock, we are more than happy to order it in for you. also, we don't carry a huge range of albums on vinyl but again, anything available on vinyl can easily be ordered in for you at no extra cost.

gift vouchers

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