

# resident

## what we've been listening to this month...

with such an insane & sometimes overwhelming amount of music available to us all, we thought you might like to know what's really been working for us lately. so, here's a run down of what's been keeping our ears & souls happy recently.....

### derry



#### **balmorhea : all is wild all is silent remixes**

there's a new album due in march but in the meantime, i've been listening to this deconstruction of balmorhea's pastoral post rock beauty. usually remix albums are disjointed & disappointing, with only the occasional version showing any invention or understanding of the original. this is a total exception. it opens with eluvium's 17 minute take on 'settler' which would be worth owning the album for on its own. it's like stars of the lid combined with early four tet & a touch of seefeel, the sound of a boat drifting peacefully on a warm sea on a still day. the mood turns darker on machinefabriek's tape hiss laden, claustrophobic version of 'remembrance' before library tapes delivers an unexpectedly uptempo(ish), nostalgia filled version of 'coahuila', jaczsek echoes pink floyd's 'welcome to the machine' on 'night in the draw' & helios produces a version of 'truth' that wouldn't sound out of place on 'music has the right to children'. all this & white noise from xela, an insight into peter broderick's thought processes, as well as top quality work from the likes of the fun years & rafael anton irisari. [western vinyl](#)



#### **dr. feelgood : malpractice**

this was one of the first three albums i ever bought ('dark side of the moon' & 'a night at the opera' if you must know), drawn in by what i'd read in sounds & the nme & the cover art which features the band in cheap suits in black & white in front of a run down barber's shop. this still sounds both the oldest & the newest of the three. all the publicity around julian temple's 'oil city confidential' has brought this most underrated but incredibly important band some of the recognition they've always deserved. they combined us influences from the raw end of rock'n'roll & the blues with the power of the mc5 but made it completely british. without them, the way they looked & more particularly wilko johnson's staccato, slashing guitar style, the best of the punk bands couldn't have happened. joe strummer, paul weller & particularly, the gang of four's andy gill, all took his sound & stage moves. i was too young to see the original line up, as wilko left way back in 1977. there's still a line up doing the rounds with no original members but if you get the chance, go & see wilko instead. even in his sixties, he's lost none of his power & energy. [grand](#)

### natasha



#### **the knife with mt.sims & planningtorock : tomorrow, in a year**

so after the awesomeness 2007's 'silent shout' & karin nipping off to create the darkly elaborate fever ray project, it was highly unlikely the knife were going to return with a run-of-the-mill album. but a 90 minute collaborative opera soundtrack based on darwin's 'origin of species'? seriously? i imagined i'd be putting this in the "oh well, you can't win 'em all" pile. seems i should have kept the faith though. i knew very little about planningtorock until catching her inspiring performance at the great escape but was an instant convert, so this collaboration should have been an exciting prospect regardless. it turns out that 'tomorrow, in a year' is everything i could have wanted & so much more - late 70's/early 80's kate bush instrumentation & vocal operatics, hildur guddnadottir's deeply affecting cello, harsh electronic minimalism & plenty of haunting space & atmospherics. as it says on the extensive album biography, "closed headphones & open mind are strongly recommended". [rabid records](#)



#### **fool's gold : fool's gold**

no, it's not real, authentic african musoc & yes, i could listen to the real deal instead.....but i don't want to, sam "kuti" telford - alright?! i want to listen to the unavoidably infectious tunes that these apparent l.a. shysters have so brilliantly created. while vampire weekend's 'contra' will no doubt prove to be one of 2010's most enduring albums, it's got a few duffers on it (& bloody autotune!) & although yeasayer made one of the most incredible debuts of recent times, their new 80s synth pop extravaganza has left me cold...but then this lot came along & saved the afro-pop day, from the very 1st high-life guitar twang of 'surprise hotel', to the here we go magic-a-like 'nadine', the lolloping ease of 'ha dvash', the brass workout quantic would kill for on 'night dancing' & the sing-a-long joy of 'the world is all there is', it's an absolute delight that puts a big cheesy grin on my face. [iamsound records](#)

## m a t t



### oneohtrix point never : rifts

somehow this managed to totally pass me by last year & it was only when the wire put it in their end of year list that i figured it was worth checking out. turns out that these are some of the best synth soundscapes i've ever heard - & this 2 cd collection serves as the perfect overview of his work to date. i'm always so impressed by artists that manage to look to the past & the future at the same time & oneohtrix manages this like no one else. his soundscapes musically conjure up the obvious reference points of old german masters such as cluster, tangerine dream etc but the overall affect of his work hits you so much harder than any of these - images of an imagined future of cold, desolate space wastelands is a vibe i think everyone will agree with. read ballard whilst listening to this - you will not be disappointed. [no fun](#)



### xeno & oaklander : sentinelle

with the success of cold cave at the end of last year & the immanent release of two stunning compilations of early minimal electronic music ('the minimal wave tapes' & 'cold waves & minimal electronics vol. 1') 2010 looks set to be the year for the revival of the genre & what better way to set things off than with this brand new romantic minimal killer from xeno & oaklander. sentinelle is an album of beautifully melancholic yet eerily cold & aggressive synth-wave pop that harks back to the sound of old minimal faves such as absolute body control & omd. this wonderfully walks the line between the weird & accessible unlike anything i've heard in a long time. you need. [weird records](#)

## s a m



### v/a : nigeria afrobeat special

the 4<sup>th</sup> instalment in the nigeria special series is a corker. it leads off with fela kuti's ferocious 1971 single "who're you" which planted a seed across nigeria. although tony allen's beat & fela's musical & political ideals formed the foundation of afrobeat those seeds flowered in many different ways & miles cleret has once again compiled an impeccable selection of tracks that explore afrobeat in a number of ways. whichever way it was played, from bongos ikwue's heavily percussive take on the sound to segun bucknor's jazzier interpretation (that shares much in common with the spiritual jazz coming out of the u.s. at the time), it was & still is a heady brew, one that continues to reverberate today. highly recommended. [soundway](#)



### field music : field music (measure)

when the brewis brothers announced they were going on hiatus shortly after 'tones of town', i thought that was it, that they were done. thankfully they regrouped under different names : school of language & the week that was, with one or the other taking the reigns & released 2 sublime records in 2008. but still, it was a happy day when they announced they were doing another field music album & what a bonus...a double lp! they have taken all the familiar sounds of past field music & then stretched them gently into new shapes but they have made sure not to lose their knack for sweet harmonies or meticulous attention to detail. it rewards endless repeat listening & i have been wearing it out since we got sent a copy. fantastic stuff. [memphis industries](#)

## j a m e s



### four tet : there is love in you

keiran hebden is on an absolute roll at the moment. his last collaborative album with jazz drummer steve reid ('nyc') was the pair's best yet, his single with burial was one of last year's personal highlights & now he returns with this new utterly lovely solo album. from beginning to end this record's all about softly pulsing 4/4 beats, over which hebden weaves a beguiling web of melody made up of wordless cut-up vocals, whirring synths & electronics. it's identifiable four tet but with a fresh approach, showing hebden to be an artist who's still pushing things forward. if you enjoyed the streamlined, melodic techno feel of his 'ringer' ep then you'll love this. [domino](#)



### richard skelton : landings

utilising bowed-string as his main instrument of choice, richard skelton crafts a haunting, mournful sound that spans neo-classical, post rock & ambient. the music on 'landings' is mysterious, emotive & beautiful, its rural feel no doubt inspired by the dramatic landscape in which he resides. what really makes this record special is the deep atmosphere it imbues, using large reverbs & field recordings in the mix to transport the listener straight to the dark rolling hills & woods that surround him. magical stuff from the ever-reliable type label. [type](#)

## d a n i e l



### the strange boys : be brave

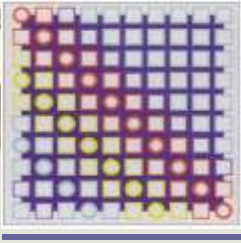
(out 22/2/10, 'be brave' 7" single out now) whilst the strange boys debut 'the strange boys & girls club' was pretty great, there was a bit of a feeling that they hadn't fully nailed their sound down, occasionally slipping into overly familiar black lips esque territory. this follow up however, is a different beast. the overall sound is much swamplier, with its murky sleazy lurch evoking long, messy nights somewhere in the deep south. the title track & first single is a perfect example of their bringing together of catchy garage-punk, traditional rock n'roll & swamp fuelled country-blues. the use of instruments such as a saxophone on the aforementioned title track (to surprisingly great effect!) demonstrates how they are progressing as a band, gradually developing a sound that is theirs alone. [rough trade](#)



### veronica falls : found love in a graveyard 7"

veronica falls sit somewhere between the pains of being pure at heart's euphoric pop hooks & crystal stilt's darker, moody introspections. they are armed with duelling boy-girl vocals & jangling guitars. & are creating utterly captivating dreamy indie-pop with bleak undercurrents. anyone who caught them supporting vivian girls at the freebutt a few weeks ago will have just as high hopes as i do for the lp due to follow this single in a few months. [captured tracks](#)

## j o h n



**bass clef : may the bridges i burn light the way**

this album arrived just a little too late to make it onto my end of year list, but is definitely deserving of an honourable mention as a bit of a hidden gem amongst the many great dance releases of last year. most often pigeonholed as a dubstep artist, this album proclaims bass clef as more of a one man carnival - for the most part this is fantastic party music, combining big wobbly basslines with african/latin-esque rhythms, heaps of wide-ranging percussion & the 'clef's own jazzy trombone skills to create a string of guaranteed dancefloor-fillers, whilst the last third of the album demonstrates a darker more introspective side akin to his (also superb) previous album "a smile is a curve that never straightens". definitely an artist that deserves more attention, this is a highly recommended listen! [blank tapes](#)



**throats : throats**

having cut their teeth touring with the likes of gallows & rolo tomassi, throats are creating quite a name for themselves on the uk hardcore scene. after a couple of limited vinyl releases they have released this rather fantastic ep that does a good job of capturing the energy of their live show. this is hardcore as it should be, focussing less on trendy haircuts & sing-along choruses & more on making fast, scathing, brutal music. comparisons to the legendary converge are irresistible, as throats also work in the area of larynx-destroying vocals, machinegun-like kick drum flurries & fast, heavy riffage. great in it's own right, this ep also delivers a lot of promise for an inevitable future full-length release. this is one that should be checked out by any fans of the afore-mentioned converge, botch or beecher, great stuff for those who like a bit of uncomfortable listening.... [holy roar](#)

**simon**



**v/a : pop ambient 2010**

ambient has become a slightly derisive term in recent years, a reputation acquired by the seemingly infinite releases of chill out compilations for dinner parties all featuring the same safe & predictable tracks (you know the culprits!). however ambient wasn't always a byword for blandness or unengaging background listening though; the early 90s produced some beautiful pioneering music by the likes of global communication, aphex twin & the orb, who feature on this album. curated by kompakt's wolfgang voigt, the pop ambient series, of which this is the 10th instalment, showcase a selection of music from artists at the top of their game. pop ambient 2010 eschews beats & bass to create a beautifully minimalist eno-esque sound over the course of its 13 tracks. the orb's 'glen coe' sets astral twinkles on top of a low, blinking bass line before being shot through with dashes of bright tremolo light, while the haunting sound of jürgen paape's 864m makes you want to close your eyes & fall in to a deep long sleep, even though the track is under five minutes long, you get the urge to play it over & over again. both icily cool & calmly warming, this is a perfect soundtrack for these cold, staying in days. [kompakt](#)



**aphex twin : selected ambient works 85 -92**

richard james redefined techno as a sound not just for the clubs but also for the home, & his true genius was further cemented in this beautiful compilation originally released late in 1992. peruse the spaced out journey of hypnotic instrumentals, psychedelic ambience & lovely laced melodies that owe more of a debt to jazz & classical traditions than the abrupt, brutal dance music of the time (of which, james was a leading exponent of). the album begins with the ethereal female coos & soft breakbeats of 'xtal', & flawlessly segues into the muted thump & crisp pitter-patter of 'tha' a track instilled with echos of distant conversation. diffusive synth chords rush through each song, from the congested aural space of the aptly-titled 'hedphelym' to the bass-heavy 'ageispolis'. most striking is james' pop sensibility, apparent in the compact momentum of 'pulsewidth' & the infectious 'ptolemy'. chiefly influenced by post-classical composers like philip glass, kraftwerk & brian eno, james created a stunning collection of minimalist music. [r&s](#)

**liv**



**quasi : american gong**

being a die-hard sleater-kinney fan, i've always kept an eye out for their various other projects & though s-k are no more, quasi more than fill the gap that was left behind. consisting of portland, oregon natives sam coombes, janet weiss (sleater-kinney, the jicks) & joanna bolme (the jicks, calamity jane), quasi began in '93 & american gong marks their eighth release. it's indie in its purest sense; a typical guitar, drums & bass set-up with soaring boy-girl harmonies, psych jam-outs & feel-good, rich melodies than run through each track. definitely one to check out for fans of pavement, early lemonheads, seabadoh & all those other lovable 90s guitar bands. [kill rock stars](#)



**wetdog : frauhaus!**

wetdog's second release snuck out late in '09 so may not have caught your eye during the mad gift-buying season, but frauhaus! is definitely worth returning to. following 22-track debut 'enterprise reversal', the london-based female trio have continued to make their erratic, helter-skelter no-wave, but this time have opted for fewer tracks & a greater noise & structure. bold, at times aggressive & constantly wrestling with melody versus experimentation, no two songs sound the same, each pulling at various genres; a heady combination of indie rhythms, tribal drumming, b-movie theatrics, creepy keys & disjointed shouts. capturing the raw energy & power of their live shows, this is an album that deserves a second look. [angular](#)

**also on the resident stereo : the besnard lakes : are the roaring night.....errors : come down with me.....archie bronson outfit : coconut.....liars : sisterworld..... broken bells : broken bells.....eluvium : similies.....the bundles : the bundles..... autechre : oversteps.....blood red shoes : fire like this.....**

