

out this week

album of the week

toumani diabaté : the mandé variations the highly anticipated new solo album from africa's most brilliant instrumentalist & king of the kora. on this album, diabaté delivers a moodier, more reflective & mature sound than we have heard from him previously, featuring interpretations of classic themes alongside groundbreaking improvised pieces. in departing from his collaborations with the likes of damon albarn, ali farka touré, salif keita, taj mahal & most recently bjork, this solo album gives us a chance to fully appreciate toumani's incredible musical ability & creativity in his own right. spectacular! *"a dazzling demonstration of the breadth & virtuosity of diabaté's playing & of the innovative tunings & tactics with which he expands the instrument's traditional range"* 4/5 – independent. [world circuit](#)

rock / indie / post rock / americana

los campesinos : hold on now youngster (limited) cardiff's 7 strong pop collective release their debut album of insanely catchy tunes where guitar & strings dance around each other in indie-pop heaven & urgent male/female vocals deliver the unusual lyrics at a rate that make these songs impossible to ignore. for fans of broken social scene or the gotteam or the band's biggest influences : pavement, sonic youth & talking heads *"their music embodies some the best elements of the past 30 years of indie music...a giddy, tuneful love note to individuality, pathos, smarts, silliness & everything else indie pop built its name on. ...this debut is unusually taut & polished, with hooks, crescendos, & clever turns of phrase"* 8.4/10 – [pitchfork](#). [wichita](#)

dirtbombs : we have you surrounded mick collins & his merry band of miscreants deliver their 4th full-length, jam-packed with more of their unbeatable soulful, detroit-style, fuzztone-fueled garage-punkpop-rock 'n' roll showing off a vast array of unexpected influences. in fact, the opening track has been acknowledged by collins as his tribute to mark e. smith & there are fantastic takes on songs by comic artist alan moore, portland stalwarts dead moon & labelmates sparks. that said, the originals here are what you really want to write home about. from the stooge-oid 'ever lovin' man' to the finger-poppin' 'indivisible' to the free-form psych jam of 'race to the bottom' to the euro-pop of 'la fin du monde,' they prove once again they are a rock 'n' roll force to be reckoned with. the dirtbombs are back!!!! hallelujah!! [in the red](#)

snorkel : glass darkly a south london-based collective whose members come from different corners of the alternative scene, bringing together the tactics of improvisation, electronica & sound art. propelled by the afro-kraut, jazz-dub leanings of drummer frank byng & the rhythms generated by cheap samplers & drum machines, snorkel revel in the joy of psychedelic repetition throwing in elastic interruptions on guitar, analogue & digital synthesisers, trombone, live samples & vocals. this is their debut album & it captures the spirit of the band's spontaneous performances & their rough-edged dark grooves. post-apocalyptic, edgy, turbulent & disturbing – this is compelling & utterly brilliant stuff for fans of everyone from polar bear & acoustic ladyland to holy fuck & battles or kranky's darker releases. highly recommended. [slowfoot](#)

evangelista : hello voyager carla bozulich's new band moniker which continues to comprise carla & tara as its nucleus & the album includes contributions from over a dozen montréal players, including most of thee silver mt. zion, chiefly on string arrangements. raw, beautifully ravaged, semi-improvised soundscapes still underpin carla's incantatory sung & spoken lyrics on the album's opening & closing tracks, but much of the rest of the record is more overtly composed. blistering nuggets like the snarling 'smooth jazz' & the desperate 'truth is dark like outer space' are the most rocking tunes she has put to tape since the demise of the geraldine fibbers (the alt-country band founded by carla), whilst 'the blue room' (a song she has been carrying around for years) is captured in a stunning arrangement with organ, violin, cello & contrebasse. [constellation](#)

the autumn defense : s/t the 3rd album by the multi-instrumentalists john stirratt & pat sansone of wilco. their simon & garfunkel/bread influenced soft-rock is warm & delightful. they reconvened with their rhythm section of the last 6 years : drummer greg wieczorek & producer/ session man brad jones, as well as other autumn defense regulars like pedal steel player john pirruccello & horn player steve tyska. the album is the culmination & continuation of what the band has reached for in the last 2 records, from the philly-soul of 'feel you now', to the baroque 'estate remains', the bossa 'city bells' to the classic southern california sound of 'we would never die' (featuring wilco's nels cline). *"breezy reference points include nick drake, csn, bread, big star & the essence of love, steely dan & a dozen others...fascinating & clever"* 4/5 – [mojo](#), *"gorgeous...as warm & welcome as the late summer sun"* 4/5 – [q](#), *"never less than utterly gorgeous"* – [word](#). [broken horse](#)

mia doi todd : gea the 7th album from the singer-songwriter-guitarist-poet-painter-dancer. this is her most intuitive & primal collection of music yet, filled with incredible passion & sensitivity, revealing the depths of her emotions, visions & lyrical heart. the album opens with guitar & harmonium, accompanied by andres renteria on hand drums & prolific chicago-based bassist joshua abrams (sam prekop, prefuse 73). broken, surviving, searching & hopeful, todd sings & chants. the songs each follow suit beautifully, featuring woodwind, brass & string arrangements by talented multi-instrumentalist/composer atwood- ferguson. otherworldly magic.

angel (ilpo väisänen, hildur guðnadóttir & dirk dresselhaus): kalmukia (comes in a deluxe special booklet designed by ilpo väisänen) angel is ilpo väisänen (pan sonic), hildur guðnadóttir (lost in hildurness) & dirk dresselhaus (schneider tm). this is a vast epic, sprawling through guitar riffs, dark drones, digital noise oscillations & haunting strings, spanning deep electronic canyons overlooked by a melancholic grey sky. all the musicians delicately play off each other, creating a mesmerising work that sounds like nothing they have done before, yet still retaining the audio signatures they have become known for. an incredibly powerful work for fans of alexander tucker, eyvind kang, fennesz. brilliantly murky stuff. [editions mego](#)

scary mansion : every joke is half the truth the massachusetts-bred 26 year old leah hayes (whose vocals feature on tv on the radio's track 'snakes & martyrs') attended art school in new york before moving to france where she played in a band called satans fingers, collaborating with david ivar from herman dune. growing up playing piano & guitar, hayes also took up the thunderstick, an appalachian instrument similar in tone to the banjo. for this band, hayes hooks up with ben shapiro (the fugue) on drums & bradley banks (with whom hayes plays in francophile band la laque) on bass & the resulting tracks alternate between sparse intimate tones & near claustrophobic layers of feedback, all with an attention to the needs of the songs. an eerie but compelling debut - move over chan marshall, this girl's ready to claim your crown! [zum](#)

madam : in case of emergency (limited) the project of raven haired hustler sukie smith. madam conjure a magical & dangerous world of lost highways, dying love, whiskey-soaked mistakes & cigarette-smoke philosophy. inventive yet familiar, stamping all over 3-chord banality, they project a musical honesty & fragility against a stunning visionary backdrop of lynchian dreams & shattered americana. beautiful, twisted, maudlin, atmospheric, widescreen vignettes. for fans of feist, joan as a policewoman & cat power. "stunning" – [guardian](#), "the voice is sultry & dangerous with a hint of vulnerability & skewed glamour" – [sunday mail](#). [reveal](#)

correcto : s/t following on from 2 strikingly fresh & jagged singles, the glasgow 4-piece present their debut. danny saunders is the driving force who writes & sings, known throughout glasgow for various roles in bands throughout the years. he began playing with richard wright, the accomplished artist who makes terrifyingly detailed paintings & works on paper, which feature on the correcto record sleeves. paul thomson from franz ferdinand soon joined danny & richard, using his break from franz as an opportunity to play & record alongside his old friends from back in the yummy fur days. the band soon became complete with the addition of patrick doyle of fellow glasgow band the royal we & more recently of hot new glasgow band sexy kids. punchy, sing-along anthems with sounds reminiscent of the buzzcocks, kinks, the fall & the ramones. [domino](#)

tau emerald : travellers two a delicious full length recording from the duo of philly's tara burke (fursaxa) & oxford's sharron kraus. together they create an ethereal record of dark-folk magic. the duo were due to travel to finland together for a week but missed the flight, so instead they decided to spend the week recording together & this is the result. the time was spent out in the fields, visiting burial mounds & then coming back to sharron's home studio to work. they had played previously together & done some recording but this is the first time an album was conceived. an essential purchase for psych-folk fans. [important](#)

the notorious hi-fi killers : which side are you on? the debut album by the south east london 3-piece. the trio's distinctive take on loud, throttling noise rock blended with manic psychedelia takes you on a journey through ferocious 4-track blasts, analogue tape space rock & intuitive heavy blues. this is the sound of a primal rock & roll band at their most uncompromising & dirtiest. from the one & a half minute biker-punk anthem of 'queen o' fuck', through the fuzzed up blues of the freddie king classic 'going down', to the 18 minutes of psychedelic bliss of 'near the final destination' which crumbles into a mantra of noise, drones & horns, with the added assistance of alexander tucker, duke garwood & members of part chimp. [rocket launch](#)

v/a : the garden of forking paths (compiled by james blackshaw) compositions were recorded specially for this beautifully assembled collection by chieko mori (japanese composer & koto virtuoso), jozef van wissem (lute player/ composer from the netherlands) & helena espsvall (swedish cellist & improviser from espers), as well as blackshaw himself. each of them has a unique & unorthodox approach to writing & performing, which challenges & embraces their respective instrument's musical roots, be they in eastern, western, traditional or classical forms. "my wish was to put together a compilation of experimental music for solo stringed instruments, with little to no overdubs, that would hold up as a thoughtful & engaging experience, much as i would if i were recording & sequencing an album myself" – james blackshaw. [important](#)

girl in a coma : both before i'm gone new album from the texan 3 piece who have recently been on tour with morrissey. causing a storm in the us & picking up rave reviews from media & fans alike, the band are now ready to conquer the uk! fronted by the powerful force of bjork/pasty cline influenced nina diaz, they deliver a sound that mixes the smiths, the pixies & the yeah yeah yeahs. [blackheart](#)

robert pollard : superman was a rocker released on his own label, this mini-album (13 songs, 30 minutes) finds pollard using recording methods he hasn't engaged in since his time in guided by voices. he recently went through a bunch of old cassette tapes & found some great, never-used instrumentals & he decided to go into the studio & put vocals & melodies over them. the music spans a 20+ year period, so in essence, this is an album 20 years in the making & due to the span of time & body of work from which the clips were accessed, many of the classic guided by voices alumni appear on this album : tobin sprout, mitch mitchell, kevin fennell, doug gillard, nate farley. the most fun pollard album in years. [happy jack rock](#)

psycho and the birds : we've moved back in mid-2006, robert pollard released 2 psycho and the birds albums. the first, the full-length 'all that is holy', was followed by the ep 'check your zoo'. the concept surrounding the moniker is that pollard writes songs & records them on his infamous boombox (into which every song he has written since the early 90s has been sung) & sends them off to producer/multi-instrumentalist/visionary todd tobias, who adds bands worth of music. this time around they totally nail the process & the result is an album of undeniable likeability & pop goodness. a perfect combo of playful lyrics & flawless arrangement makes it hard to imagine that one entire half of the song was recorded on an \$27 boombox. [happy jack rock](#)

suishou no fune : prayer for chibi (2cd) originating in tokyo's fertile psychedelic scene, the group ventured out from japan & took every opportunity to play across the united states & europe. during one of these trips in 2007, the crucial duo of pirako & kurenai went into a recording studio for a few days & laid down these massive new tracks. with more than 2 hours of music, the group finally stretches out & lets their music flow like it never has before. much about suishou no fune has had to do with volume, but this new set of duets adds forays into starker songwriting & a languid serenity. [holy mountain](#)

talk : reset start again the debut album from the shrewsbury 4-piece, previously called telex. the band's sound now has a different dynamic - it has become more electronic & more eclectic. meticulously placing beats, glitches & bleeps they have strived with this record to really combine both the digital world with organic soundscapes & traditional song based structures - layer upon layer have been recorded to produce a subtle yet full sound to the songs. "epic melancholic soul laid bare melded to the dramatic intricacies of sigur ros & the intense bleakness of radiohead at their emotive best...genius!" - *subba cultcha*. [fortune & glory](#)

radar bros. : auditorium the los angeles outfit comprised of jim putnam (guitar, vocals), senon gaius williams (bass), jeff palmer (guitar, keyboards) & steve goodfriend (drums) with album number 5. their complex yet wistful melodies evoke the more melancholic side of the american consciousness. while they may very well bask in the hazy, lazy glow of the warm california sun, these songs are truly universal - filled with longing & desire, equal parts hope & despair. an astonishingly engaging & confident recording which may well appeal to fans of willy mason. [chemikal underground](#)

theoretical girls : theoretical record (1978-1981) over the last few years a great deal of attention has been paid to the nyc no-wave scene of the late 70s. there have been books, movies & quite a few reissues/issues of classic & essential music. theoretical girls were *the* no-wave band : raw, abrasive, angular, passionate & loud. at the heart of the theoretical girls, was jeffrey lohn, an artist, composer, writer, teacher & plumber. during the genesis of the no-wave scene, he hosted late night concerts in his soho loft, where artists like tim wright, laurie anderson & nina candl would gather & perform music. it was out of this nascent scene that he formed the theoretical girls. this release collects over an hour of jeffrey lohn's material. now, for the first time in decades, his songs & sound will get the credit they are due. [acute](#)

glenn branca : the ascension with recent shows at the roundhouse, appearances at atp & from being heavily featured in black dog publishing's 'no wave' book, interest in glenn branca is on the up again. that famous guitar sound, dissonant, jarring, clanging, ringing, chiming, heavenly, beautiful, which first appeared in the static & the theoretical girls, would be used by sonic youth in more accessible manners to influence a new generation of alternative rockers. this release marks its domestic debut on cd & to celebrate, they've added lots of extras - a remaster by weasel walter, a short but intense video clip of glenn performing live in 1978, & lee ranaldo has also supplied liner notes that give a fascinating insight on his work with branca & on the overall social & artistic atmosphere of downtown new york city in the early 80s. [acute](#)

glenn branca : lesson no. 1 perhaps branca's most accessible piece of his early period. a concise yet extended statement of forward motion, guitar motives repeating in a manner recalling the minimalism of philip glass, but unlike glass, with a maximist approach to sonic density & bombast. upon its initial release as the first record on the influential 99 records (liquid liquid, esg, et.al.), lesson no. 1 was paired with 'dissonance', a more daring experiment that explodes sonic dissonance with rock & roll energy. for this reissue, acute records has added 'bad smells' (featuring sonic youth's lee ranaldo & thurston moore), composed as a dance piece for choreographer twyla tharp in 1982. also included is an 18 minute quicktime video of 'symphony #5', recorded in 1984, at what was to become the legendary new york city venue, the kitchen. [acute](#)

the prefects : amateur wankers why doesn't anyone remember the prefects? some remember the band they became, the nightingales, who on rough trade & cherry red records, blazed trails similar to the fall & mekons. but england's the prefects, leaving few artifacts, are the great coulda-shoulda been post-punk band of the late '70s. rubbing shoulders with wire, joy division, the slits & the clash, they garnered critical acclaim for both their terse & witty punk outbursts & their intense art/post-punk experiments. acute records presents for the first time ever their complete studio recordings plus 2 live tracks for the definitive collection. with this long overdue reissue, their place among the most significant uk bands of the post-punk era will be restored. [acute](#)

gary numan & tubeway army : replicas redux - expanded 2008 tour edition (2cd) to celebrate numan's 30th year in music & his 50th birthday, this pioneering electronic album has been lovingly reissued. the new redux reissue features for the first time a complete earlier version of the 'replicas' album recorded in 1978/79, along with the original b-sides & further out-takes - 27 tracks across 2 cds. "numan's influence on electronic music is unparalleled" - nme, "numan is still as vital as ever" - kerrang. [beggars](#)

rocket from the crypt : r.i.p (cd & dvd) this is the legendary group's last ever live show recorded in san diego halloween 2005. the cd contains 20 live tracks, many of which available in uk for the first time. the dvd contains the full 26 track live set, the first ever rocket from the crypt dvd release. original band members of rftc have also been or are in the groups hot snakes, superchunk, angels & airwaves & drive like jehu. [vagrant](#)

dance/electonica

goldfrapp : seventh tree (standard or limited cd + dvd) their 4th studio album sees the electronic duo return to the more ethereal feel of their astonishing debut 'felt mountain', as opposed the glitter glamour electro-pop of 'black cherry' & 'supernature'. here they use elements of folk & ambient music & display influence from gallic stars such air & serge gainsbourg. most of the album is built around delicate acoustic guitar picking, with antique electronic keyboards & layered vocal harmonies, all resulting in a warm, delicate, irresistible album. it shimmers & shines with the warmth of a hazy summer, an electric whirlpool of sound over which alison's glistening voice soars. "a delicious treat" 5/5 – omm, 4/5 – guardian. [mute](#)

sebastien tellier : sexuality tellier's seminal new studio album. a stunning musical statement & his most commercial album to date, it combines all the elements of his deeply emotive french individualism with a new melodic pop sensibility that is instantly accessible. produced by guy manuel de homem-christo (daft punk), this beautiful album is tellier's musical statement of intent for lovemaking : emotional, hypnotic & oozing with sensuality. with blissfully understated vocals, conveying a barely suppressed passion, tellier comes on like a modern day serge gainsbourg. the album touches on everything from disco & modern classical, to 80's inspired pop & electro. 'sexuality' is a clear development for a truly exceptional talent, whose highly personal & intimate style has allowed him to become the very exponent of french cool. [lucky number](#)

agf : words are missing berlin-based antye greie is a vocalist, software musician, producer, label-owner, e-poet & is one-half of laub. with this, her 4th solo album, she leaves words behind, instead using voice, beats & drones to create a huge palette of unique sounds. all the electronic clicks 'n' cuts of berlin are present but there's a lot more going on here that makes this album a warm & enchanting affair - soundscapes are procured from a throaty rattle, tones are extracted & thick percussive sounds are forced into being, yet we never lose the sense of the voice. highly recommended. [agf production](#)

thomas brinkmann : when horses die one of the best known movers & shakers in cologne's electronica/minimal techno scene returns with the follow up to his critically acclaimed album 'klick /revolution'. fans of his previous work should take note however as there is no techno on the album! instead, the source of inspiration is a strange mix between depeche mode, suicide, joy division, old tuxedo moon & brian eno. the veteran technoid prankster created these tracks mainly with the use of a piano, distorted guitars, bass & drums. it all makes for a rather splendid album but there'll be no head nodding here. [max ernst](#)

the orb : the dream the orb virtually invented the electronic genre ambient house, resurrecting slower, more soulful rhythms & providing a soundtrack for early-morning ravers once the clubs closed their doors. now they invite you to join them to sit back, relax, & drift into 'the dream'. marking a long-awaited reunion between eternal mainstay dr alex paterson & lifelong friend & original inter-galactic conspirator youth, this album sees a return to the original spirit which spawned their first 2 classic albums & features dreadzone's tim bran as well as contributions from steve hillage, andy kane & eric walker [liquid sounds/butterfly](#)

sascha funke : mango funke's 2nd album for the berlin label & it's the most mature music sascha has ever made. there's a considerable depth to this album & a production style that's come on leaps & bounds since the early days. his confident grip on melody can be heard not only in the album's accomplished techno cuts, but in the more subdued electronica & ambient workouts too. the acoustic guitar & organ treatments of 'summer rain' provide an especially clear example, but undoubtedly funke's at his finest with a 4/4 beat behind him, delivering warm, precise outings like 'take a chance with me' & the cinematic 'feather'. [bpitch control](#)

chris joss : teraphonic overdubs amidst a whirlwind of vintage funk & psychedelic retro-futurisms, the international producer / instrumentalist extraordinaire returns with a brand new collection of technicoloured grooves. joss adds some new surprises to his trademark blaxploitation soundscapes, painting the musical canvas with broad strokes of lush, multi-layered instrumentation. string arrangements, woodblock & cowbell rhythms, flutes & sitars & even a marimba & harpsichord play alongside classic wah-wah guitars, elastic basslines & dusty organ riffs for a kaleidoscopic sonic odyssey not to be missed. [18th street lounge](#)

kelpie : ex-aquarium it has been a lengthy hiatus since kelpie's last offering : 2004's acclaimed 'sea inside body' (described by the wire "one of the most engrossing listens in recent electronic music"). on this release, there's an increase in the instrumentation with mckeown himself getting behind the drum kit to beat out the rhythm as his new wave of sonic mutations emerge triumphantly from the whitewater. 'shipwreck glue' oozes & gripes like a writhing monster amidst a din of cowbells & ping pong staccatos. 'whirlwound' swaggers & swells like a rhythmic ocean overture, 'bread machine bred' sounds like a whirring automaton making strange manoeuvres in the deep. [dc recordings](#)

ryoji ikeda : 1000 fragments reissue of ikeda's incredible 1995 debut, originally released on his own label, cci recordings. the album shows a different side to this influential & accomplished contemporary minimalist. an indispensable & beautiful object of desire. for fans of alva noto or pan sonic. [raster noton](#)

raz mesinai's badawi : unit of resistance this is the first time that the multi-dimensional producer/musician raz mesinai has incorporated both his personas into one project – he's released a heap of records as either badawi or as raz mesinai. he is considered an integral member of nyc's academy of underground dj's & founded the influential duo sub dub with john ward. includes mixes by dj spooky, kode 9, dj rupture, filastine, kreng & more. "a musical master & a force to be reckoned with" - global rhythm. [roir](#)

nickodemus : endangered species remixed nickodemus' explosive debut album gets the remix treatment from some of the underground's finest. the infectious groove is firmly set with raeo's head-nodding glitch-hop take on the previously brief & delicate 'endangered species' opening the album, followed by zeb's honey sweet reggae rework of the quantic aided 'mi swing es tropical', featured in its original latin-flavoured form in the recent ipod / itunes ad. also included in this superb collection is a jazz house remix of the classic 'crazy stranger' by thievery corporation & an exclusive bonus remix of the non-album track 'gibraltar' by sabo & zeb. [18th street lounge](#)

barry lynn (boxcutter) : balancing lakes after last 2007's sublime 'glyphic' album, boxcutter reverts to his given name for a journey through his extensive back catalogue of material. these are tracks that date from the period 2002-2005 (up to the time he wrote his classic first album 'oneiric'). this release feels like a coherent album, not simply a collection of tracks. there's an early interest in uk garage apparent in the 2-steppy breaks of 'london' & minimal techno is explored in 'liti'. elsewhere the gorgeous blissful amen jungle of 'loving dub' to the jazzy horns & otherworldly melodies of 'new orleans' show a man at the top of his game even before his debut release. [planet mu](#)

daft punk : alive recorded live at berg, paris in june 2007, 'alive' captures the enigmatic daft punk in all their glory. this being the first live recording of the duo, the setlist comprises of all their popular material. classics such as 'da funk', 'around the world, 'burnin', 'harder, better, faster, stronger' are all aired & duly given a unique twist & a tweak for the live show. this is exhilarating & essential listening for fans & newcomers alike, the sound of the stalwarts of modern dance at the top of their game. [virgin](#)

pomassl : spare parts the new album from the sonic laboratory of the austrian based musician is the latest example of his interest in deconstructing musical structure. he retains his distinctive style, but with much more mature arranged elements & carefully structured sections compared to his earlier output. dabbling & blurring experimental & advanced pop, he explores his arsenal of armaments you'll hear both digital sound & obscure analogue electronics under the microscope, with soviet-built signal generators & customised synthesizers thrown in amongst contemporary, cutting edge processing techniques. [raster noton](#)

hip hop

dj shadow : essential mix a live bbc radio broadcast from the genius instrumental hip-hopster, showcasing his endless random rap crates blended with breaks & exclusive freestyles. his early projects were all-over-the-map mini-masterpieces, combining elements of funk, rock, hip hop, ambient, jazz, soul & much more besides. he cited early rap pioneers as influences on his sample-based sound, further claiming that "lyrics ...were confining, too specific". if you liked 'funky skunk' then this is for you. [bung-hole](#)

rob swift : dust to dust swift continues his relentless pursuit of fresh directions, expanding his palette into the stratosphere. this album pays homage to the b-boy movement of the 1970s, bringing you back to what he regards as the purest form of hip hop. [domination](#)

raoul sinier (formerly 'ra') : huge samurai radish ep an appetizer to his 3rd studio album. the 7 regular tracks are built on stuttering, stumbling, creaking, crunching, gnashing, grating & gritting beats pounding over the drums & the triumphantly immobile melodies & harmonies. sinier also lends the knife to friends for remixes of the title track : la caution, vast aire (of cannibal ox), wisp, datach'i & lynx & ram add 5 spicy remixes. tasty & highly addictive - bizarre music for bizarre moods. [ad noiseam](#)

soul/funk

v/a : the complete motown singles vol 9 : 1969 the newest instalment of the award-winning series swings into 1969. this incredible year is captured in 148 songs from 42 artists on motown's many labels across the 6 cds. highlights include edwin starr's 'twenty-five miles' ; 'someday we'll be together' by diana ross & the supremes - that line-up's finale & the final no. 1 hit of the decade ; gladys knight & the pips' 'friendship train' & the jackson 5's still-amazing 'i want you back'. as always, it is lavishly packaged in a full colour book with load of pictures & writings from the motown archives. [um3/island](#)

jazz

chick corea & gary burton : the new crystal silence (2cd) when pianist corea & vibraphonist burton collaborated on 'crystal silence' (ecm, 1973), neither thought the record would have wide appeal, yet it's gone on to become not only a classic for the label, but for both artists. this set documents performances in australia, norway & the canary islands & the duo revisit material from 'crystal silence' through to their most recent 5th recording, 'native sense' (1997), in addition to a new corea tune & 3 standards. disc 2 finds the duet on their own & in top form. amidst the stunning virtuosity, empathic interaction & subtle nuances is an almost mischievous playfulness - this may be serious music, but these 2 are clearly having fun. [concord](#)

ketil bjørnstad/terje rypdal : life in leipzig the 2 norwegian hook up for a rare & possibly unique duo combination of electric guitar & acoustic piano - in an exciting live album recorded before an enthusiastic audience in leipzig's opera house. this strongly melodic, often rocking cd marks the return to ecm after a decade for cultural polymath bjørnstad. [ecm](#)

nik bärtsch's ronin : holon the eagerly anticipated 2nd ecm album from swiss pianist-composer nik bärtsch & his committed young 'zen-funk' band ronin, whose label debut 'stoa' received rave reviews across the board in 2006. holon, again features "ritual groove music" that "throbs with a pulsating dynamism" (observer music monthly) but it's developed thanks to the band's growing confidence & also to ecm's glowing sound-mix. [ecm](#)

misha alperin : her first dance the ukrainian pianist returns with another gorgeous trio record for ecm, this time with fellow member of the moscow art trio, horn player arkady shilkloper & german cellist anja lechner of the rosamunde quartet. the solos, duos & trios in a programme of many moods feature fascinating, profoundly melodic music with lyricism & dazzling technical skills in abundance. [ecm](#)

matana roberts : the chicago project this is matana's homage to her home town & features compositions & conceptual material composed by matana & interpreted by close friends in the form of bassist josh abrams (town & country, prefuse 73), guitarist jeff parker (tortoise, chicago underground trio) & drummer frank rosaly. the album was produced & engineered respectively by pianist vijay iyer & tortoise's john mcentire & features a very special guest saxophonist fred anderson. an expert improviser, matana's playing can be heard on recordings as disparate as godspeed you! black emperor's yanqui uxo, daniel givens' 'day clear' & 'first dark', & 'golden pollen' by savath & savalas amongst others. [central control](#)

blues

north mississippi allstars : hernando with their 5th studio album, the allstars attempt to break free from their hill country origins & tap into the american blues that has served as the foundation for classic rock. the threesome doesn't quite shake free of their signature sound & it's unlikely they ever will. this album reveals the north mississippi allstars to be exemplary students of the american blues & where their past efforts owe debts of honour to the delta bluesmen of the past, 'hernando' serves as a tip of the hat to the blues purveyed by john lee hooker, buddy guy & muddy waters. [songs of the south](#)

country

punch brothers : punch a band comprising the most sought-after musicians from the cutting edge of bluegrass & folk. the quintet was brought together by former nickel creek star chris thile & joining him are chris eldridge (a member of the infamous stringdusters), bassist greg garrison, banjo player noam pikelny (who also appears on kd lang's 'watershed') & fiddle player gabe witcher (who has featured on the soundtracks of babel & brokeback mountain). at the heart of this group's debut is thile's most formidable work yet: 'the blind leaving the blind', a long-form, 4-movement piece that combines the rigor of classical composition, the improvisatory excitement of jazz & the gather-round-the-mic intimacy of a traditional bluegrass session. "can anyone, anywhere, play anything any better than chris thile plays the mandolin? (clue: they can't)" - word. [nonesuch](#)

world

velha guarda da portela : tudo azul the fascinating result of brazilian superstar marisa monte's quest to uncover a treasure-trove of samba music. these 22 songs are a compelling tale of old & young musicians working together to chronicle the music of velha guarda da portela, one of rio's most famous samba schools. special guests include paulinho da viola, marisa monte, zeca pagodinho, moreno veloso & jaques morelembaum & the 4 bonus tracks feature lyrics translated into english by arto lindsay. [red circle music](#)

reggae

joe higgs : life of contradiction without doubt, one of the most seminal reggae records of all time. higgs is mostly known as a mentor to bob marley & the wailers, the iconic figure who honed not only the group's vocal harmonies but also marley's guitar playing skills. his voice has a deep gruffness that should certainly appeal to peter Tosh fans, although it's tempered by a less militant stance & a likeable, old-fashioned, vaguely dennis brown-like quality. this was his first full-length album & as with many of the wailers' sets, this one contains several covers of his own hits from the 60s, the biggest & best-known being the evocative classic 'there's a reward'. [pressure sounds](#)

soundtracks

my blueberry nights - music from the motion picture the first-ever english film by the internationally acclaimed director wong kar wai, is a romantic drama set as an american road movie starring norah jones in her acting debut, along with a stellar cast featuring jude law, david strathairn, rachel weisz & natalie portman. the soundtrack album is an impressive collection featuring a wide swath of american music both new & old. features cat power, otis redding, ruth brown, mavis staples, amos lee, cassandra wilson, norah jones & instrumental selections from the score by ry cooder. [blue note](#)

singles

(further info on singles is included on the sleeves instore)

single of the week

ray rumours / francois : mr bear / swimmer split 7". very limited. too pure

lykke li : little bit limited 7" moshi moshi singles club

team waterpolo : letting go limited 7" moshi moshi singles club

cribs : i'm a realist 7" wichita

duffy : mercy cd & 7" polydor

the young knives : up all night 2 x 7" transgressive

kotki dwa : robin's clogs limited orange 7" with poster. only available in selected shops. mily records

vincent vincent and the villains : pretty girl cd & 7" emi

nina nastasia : what she doesn't know limited 7" fat cat

xx teens : how to reduce the chances of being a terror victim cd & 7" emi

thom yorke : and it rained all night limited 12". xl

band of horses : no one's going to love you 7" sub pop

the raveonettes : you want the candy limited 7" fierce panda

the boggs : arm in arm 7"+12" one little indian

the king blues : mr music man limited 7" island

the lines : domino effect limited 7" weekender

vancouver : obvious 7" mint

les savy fav : patty lee limited 7" wichita

dave cloud & the gospel of power : you don't need sex limited 7". fire records

f*cked up : year of the pig 12" vice

wild billy childish : who do you think you are kidding mr hitler? 7" damaged goods

the blackout : it's hightide baby! limited 7" fierce panda

mv & ee : old black joe limited 7" great pop supplement

franko : neko 77 limited 7" great pop supplement

martina topley-bird : carnies v.limited 7".

grand national : animal sounds 7" sunday best

siriusmo : diskoding 12" boys noize

gary numan & tubeway army : are friends electric/down in the park picture 7"
beggars

soft shoulder : 2 song v.limited 7" gilgongo

get crucial : planes / planes [infants remix] limited 7" ramp

baltic fleet : black lounge/3 dollar dress limited 7" blow up

r.e.m. : supernatural superserious cd warner bros

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