

out this week

album of the week

portishead : third (cd/lp/box set with vinyl, 12", usb & ltd print & free sticker) the absolutely incredible return of bristol's finest, after a ridiculous 10 year break. still, if that's what it takes to put out an album that is of pure genius quality, then we're more than happy to wait. the massive single 'machine gun' is just a taster of the mind-blowing aural experience that this album provides – there's everything from prog rock, free jazz, techno, industrial, folk & funk thrown into their twisted magic cauldron, all held together by beth's astonishing, haunting vocals. the pace & mood is perfectly measured, moving effortlessly through relentless beats, eerie & sparse instrumentation, straightforward folk, chugging krautrock, epic crescendos..... a devastatingly edgy, daring & vital album – everything you could possibly hope it could be & so much more! [island](#)

rock / indie / post rock / americana

tindersticks : the hungry saw 7th album from the legendary sinister brits & their 1st in 5 years. the newly stripped-down band sound not only hungry but lean & thrilled, returning to the lo-fi seediness of their earlier material. the grand melancholy & gentle humour are still abundantly present but there's a renewed energy, an appetite for spontaneity. frontman stuart staples is on top form vocally & lyrically & the music is raw, tense, dark & beautifully orchestrated in an almost burt bacharach style. highly recommended for fans of nick cave, mark lanegan or lambchop. "flawless" 4/5 – [mojo](#), "as dark & mysterious as before" 4/5 – [q](#), "satisfyingly spooky again" 7/10 – [nme](#). [beggars](#)

the fall : imperial wax solvent mark e smith & co.'s 27th studio album! the ever-consistent band have returned to an entirely british line-up after american musicians dominated the previous 'reformation post tlc' record. in keeping with smith's now-legendary demeanour, the factory-like production of this release sees the whole band share writing credits. the songs themselves retain the same gloomy & sarcastic rhetoric (including a cover of 'strange town' by the groundhogs) & are mark e. smith through & through - bitter, sardonic & ruthlessly entertaining. "just when you think the fall must finally fail its mot, he tinkers around beneath the bonnet, slams it shut with a shower of rust & off it trundles again" 4/5 – [the independent](#). [castle](#)

cajun dance party : the colourful life back when the band first appeared in late 2005, the hype grapevine was a vociferous, over-excited beast – the 5 multi-instrumentalists joined forces for a school battle of the bands & wrote their debut single, the soaring, crashing 'the next untouchable' in their first rehearsal, attracting an a&r scramble within weeks. these 9 tracks elevate the band out of the exciting but limiting confines of the new band explosion & into the stratosphere. guitarist robbie stern's music & arrangements propel vocalist daniel blumburg's feel-like-fire lyrics & melodies with a hyperkinetic blast. mind-boggling musical joy for fans of good shoes or the maccabees. "skittering, light-headed charm, with sleek but subtle strings buoying the riffing guitars, it sets just the right mood of elevated optimism" 4/5 – [the independent](#). [xl](#)

langhorne slim : s/t 13 new tracks from our favourite foot-stomper, produced by drummer malachi delorenzo & josh ritter's keyboardist/producer sam kassirer, who also contributed piano, organ & accordion. the incomparable langhorne began his musical career in brooklyn, signing with narnack records & releasing his first ep, 'electric love letter' in 2004. the brilliant band-oriented full-length, 'when the sun's gone down' followed in 2005. in 2006, he signed with v2 records & released the 'engine ep'. this album serves up another hearty slice of his spell-binding witty, old-timey alt-country-blues. "damn near perfect" – [rolling stone](#). [kemado](#)

gregor samsa : rest in their 3rd full-length album in 7 years, gregor samsa take a new approach to composition, both in process & instrumentation. the result is 9 pieces composed over e-mail during the course of a year by key members in new york, chicago, boston, dc & richmond, va. they expand on their affinity for minimal, classical instrumentation mixed with mangled & manipulated sound through integration of new instruments such as the celesta, clarinet, classical voice & vibraphone. along with these new sounds, guitar has been almost entirely replaced by piano, recorded on a rare bösendorfer once owned by philip glass. this is a blissful offering that will appeal to fans of tape, amiina, sigur ros or hauschka. [own records](#)

tickley feather : s/t the fab self-titled debut by philadelphia's annie sachs - a collection of late night path-finding sounds, gingerly home recorded over the last 4 years using budget electronics, demonstrating meticulous instrumentation & an other worldly view from afar. there is a certain child-like quality that revels in its simplicity & reverb drenched vocals that create a soundtrack to staring at the sun for too long & filling in the blanks that the blind spots cover up. short & sharp tunes invite you inside the minimal world on show, so step inside. "...like a casio-sponsored ariel pink." – [boomkat](#). [paw tracks](#)

deus : vantage point seemingly a straight rock album, it unfolds itself gradually to expose shades of prog rock, imaginative poppy song writing, shifting tempos & layered vocals with guests such as karin dreijer andersson from the knife & guy garvey of elbow. a confident release that strides boldly into the realms of art-rock legend status. "possibly the album that will take deus out of the leftfield & plant them in the mainstream, where they'll set a standard other bands will have to struggle to match" – [bbc](#). [v2](#)

howling rain : magnificent fiend 2nd album from the classic rockers & the first to be issued under a joint agreement between producer rick rubin's american label & san francisco-based indie birdman records. the frontman, ethan miller, was previously in the searing psychedelic marvel that is/was comets on fire. here, miller has drafted in 2 members of drunk horse to help out with the fuller band sound - something akin to the 70s rock of the allman brothers or the grateful dead. "sheer unalloyed joy...even in the subtlest moments, he still has this grappling, full-blooded exuberance....a tremendous record" - uncut. [birdman](#)

v/a : brazilika mixed by andy votel the champion of obscure psych-folk-prog-hiphop-jazz-trash-kraut-fuzz-tropicalia & funk unearths a vast array of weird & wonderful musical stories. expertly squeezed, segued & sequenced together, votel's rapid fire journey ventures into both the fondly remembered tropicalia period & a period less well known, characterised by obscure acid rock, freak folk & other mutations of musica popular brasileira. includes os brazões, novos baianos, tim maia & more. a top notch compilation. [far out](#)

low low low la la la love love love : ends of june the band's 2nd outing boasts 12 new, intimate tracks saturated in the same undeniable warmth & familiarity offered on their debut. self-recorded & produced in their bedroom studio, the album showcases their progressive & deft grasp on acoustic songwriting, loosely described as lo-fi alternative bedroom folk. these songs beckon to be taken in again & again. having performed at the 2007 greenman festival, the band will be recording their 3rd album with adem on production duties. for fans of vetiver, songs:ohia or elliot smith. "a genuinely terrific album" -all music guide, "tender harmonies glimmer & tremble throughout this bedroom-studio gem" - crawdaddy. [other electricities](#)

the pack a.d. : tintype holding the torch high in today's garage rock revival, the vancouver female duo of becky black & maya miller, strike with their debut - a raw, hell-torn, blues-rock swagger that is equally contemplative & unflinching. this hard hitting duo blend traditional blues & rock, with the focus on rhythm guitar, solid drum lines & singing straight from the gut. with their full sound, they are at times haunting & at others, irresistibly foot stomping. black's voice has the feel of a hot whiskey soaked night. miller's drums fill out a restrained, yet loose sound. loud & edgy blues rock for fans of the kills, the black keys & the white stripes. [mint](#)

times new viking : rip it off the trio of drummer/vocalist adam elliot, keyboardist/vocalist beth murphy & guitar virtuoso jared phillips, make super lo-fi thrashy arty tunes with melodies buried under screeds of noise. there's a touch of early pavement but with mid-western energy. these lo-fi songs are loaded with plenty of fuzzy distortion & shouty boy/girl vocals to keep indie-pop & noise fans alike happy. "every chord, every note, every yelped vocal, every grizzled & treble-tearing tone is one of sheer exuberance" 8.4/10-pitchfork. [matador](#)

david karsten daniels : fear of flying a north carolina-based songwriter with a background of diverse musical experiences. as with all his recordings, this was self-recorded at home, aided & augmented by an array of like-minded, mutually supportive musicians from the chapel hill based bu hanan collective (of which he is a founding member). his voice & guitar are always the foundational elements but can be fleshed out by up to 19 musicians & as many instruments. there is a rawness prevalent here that differentiates this album from its predecessor, but david's natural affinity towards pop music shines through. for fans of vetiver, iron & wine, adem & will oldham. [fat cat](#)

styrofoam : a thousand words the first full uk album release by the antwerp based musician arne van petegem (aka styrofoam) sees him take a completely different direction to the laptop folktronica we know him for. here, the combination of vocals, guitars, synthesizers & other electronic programming results in a unique 'emotronica' hybrid on many songs, not unlike a more uptempo take on the postal service. the album is produced by wax ltd (aka wally gagel & xandy barry), who combine both indie rock & mainstream pop roots as the producers of belly/tanya donnelly, seabodh, folk implosion & eels as well as jessica simpson. guest vocalists include jim adkins (jimmy eat world), josh rouse & blake hazard (the submarines). [netwerk](#)

matt & kim : s/t a girl/boy duo from brooklyn, commonly described as the 'happiest couple in indiepop'. with matt on keys & kim on drums, they make one hell of a high energy racket & have been thrilling audiences worldwide since 2005. one originally from vermont, the other hailing from rhode island, they are now signed to hip norwegian label telle records. they make ebullient, primary-coloured pop pandemonium with casio keyboards, occasionally cure-esque, shouty vocals & crashing drums. each track is a sweaty, dancey, messy, crowd-surfing-fuelled sing-along. for fans of the golteam, slow club, cajun dance party. [telle records](#)

rubies : explode from the center an extremely well connected female duo based in san francisco. lead singer simone rubi not only designed the artwork for feist's critically acclaimed album 'the reminder' but also provides backing vocals on the album (& in return, feist appears on this album). their music has been described as bedroom disco crossed with danceable folk & comparisons can be drawn with both kings of convenience & whitest boy alive which is perhaps no coincidence as eirik glambeck bøe (koc) provides guest vocals on their debut. devendra banhart has been known to guest on guitar at their live shows. [telle records](#)

guy gelem : works the debut offering from the 26 year old london based producer. intricate guitar work beautifully complimented by long, gentle cello strokes placed upon simple electronic beats provide the basis for the album. it's a simple basis but it works so well. the result is an ultra melodic & haunting piece of work. hints of fridge & tortoise surface now & again, but in no way does it taint the originality of this album. there are also touches of eastern european folk which can be found on the wonderful track 'village'. guy's minimalist approach is refreshing - the 9 tracks clock in at just over 30 mins, leaving you wanting more. [split femur](#)

petter & the pix : easily tricked acoustic, string laden pop formed from a mixture of swedish & icelandic musicians. the album consists mainly of a curious blend of jangling guitar pop with touches of electronics but there are more diverse moments. for example, 'nevermind' is a concoction of symphonic sweep around a reggae-based rhythm track that feels like it's been dipped in molasses. the band came about when petter was introduced to president bongo from gusgus who summoned his people : gunnar orn tynes aka illi vill from múm, samuel j. samuelsson, urdur hakondottir from gusgus & thorsteinn einarsson. [gung ho](#)

our broken garden : lost sailor ep in the summer of 2006 anna broendsted found a hidden paradise & with her friends, she moved into an old abandoned village school & began to write the songs for the ep. a collection of gentle, well crafted songs with a maritime theme pulling them together. her songwriting isn't especially novel, though her whispery voice is instantly adorable & those winsome string arrangements are easy to fall for, sounding especially wonderful on the melancholy pop hooks of 'the blinding' & the dramatic chamber music of 'ashes', which has a hint of susanna & the magical orchestra about it. [bella union](#)

dead air : s/t debut mini-album from new york's rainy orteca of joan as police woman, who has worked with antony & the johnsons, sarah silverman, lloyd cole, joan osbourne, hal wilner & hole. deftly diffused between atmospheric filmic ballads & sonorous electronica, this is a profoundly startling collection of abstract digital diorama & wanton storytelling from another time & place, cloaked with an impressive voice. [reveal](#)

gary lucas vs. the dark poets : beyond the pale the acclaimed american guitarist who has played & collaborated with beefheart, jeff buckley, lou reed, john cale, nick cave, patti smith & iggy pop goes head to head with the eccentric british electronica producer james r. hunter's group - 1 of the most original cutting edge underground electronic acts around, who've been compared to cabaret voltaire. "an exhilarating "judgement at midnight" incorporating swirling national steel guitar phrases over a synth drone bed pockmarked with found-sound fragments; "breath of bones", a delicate tangle of guitar tendrils & "ted's theme", a lovely sequenced samba-shuffle burnished with glinting guitar" 4/5 - the independent. [some bizarre](#)

balmorhea : rivers arms from the contented isolation of 'the winter' to the hazy heat & hopeful longing of 'san solomon', their music captures the indescribable feelings of living & growing in texas. mirroring the vast texas skies, their music is imbued with a visceral weight & endless space. for fans of eluvium, rachels, sigur ros, max richter. "it's such a breath of fresh air to hear the unassuming acoustic sounds of balmorhea" - silent ballet, "short miracles of acoustic instruments & carefully interwoven field recordings, which will take you back to warm & yellowed pictures" -tokafi.com. [western vinyl](#)

the heavy circles : s/t new studio album from edie brickell & harper simon with contributions from sean lennon, martha wainwright, joan as police woman, money mark, cibo matto & many more. simon & brickell have written & collaborated casually during their many years of friendship - brickell is married to harper's father, paul simon. they shine a new light on brickell's vocals & lyrics - stylishly different from her critically acclaimed time with her solo projects & the new bohemians. [dynamite child](#)

thalia zedek : liars & prayers a force on the independent musical landscape for over 20 years, dating back to her days in come, live skull & uzi. her voice has been her calling card & her songwriting shows great depth & a pervading melancholic, bittersweet tone. the use of unusual instrumentation such as viola to compliment her guitar work gives her songs a rich texture & reveals delicately crafted layers. with her new 5-piece band a much fuller sound is achieved, creating possibly the masterwork of her thus far impressive career. "nothing draws as much blood as the work of this songwriter, one of the most painfully honest & brilliant anywhere" - time out new york. [thrill jockey](#)

stephen o'malley : salt (v.v.limited) this is the audio component created for 'bleed', the initial collaboration between sculptor banks violette & musician stephen o'malley, the first of 5 between the 2 artists. a quite moderate audio setup created some of the ongoing themes between the audio & physical work; sound pressure in relation to insubstantial mass, standing wave play, sense of space created by air pressure & modifications of said space in relation to physical sculptural work. long playback loops of acoustic guitar & bass sine wave sparsely moved to the ear on its own, but was designed to instead suggest modulation & border to the viewer/listener through their movement around & in relation to the work itself. hmmmmm.... [ideal](#)

hello, blue roses : the portrait is finished & i have failed to capture your beauty... the sweetheart duo of dan bejar (destroyer, swan lake, new pornographers) & sydney vermont (visual artist, former toronto children's choir kid singer) deliver their infectious 14 track self titled debut. it folds the last few decades of pop music together, drawing on everything from an unabashed love of 80s aor (prefab sprout & kate bush) to the cheery mysticism of young scotland (orange juice & felt) to prime aquarian age femme folk of the 60s & 70s. from málaga, spain's balmy mediterranean winter - where the songs first started getting demoed - to the rainy vancouver climes where the album was recorded, the songs maintain the unencumbered, free & easy spirit in which they first took root resulting in a timeless pop sound. [locust](#)

ben nash : the seventh goodbye the debut full-length album from 23 year old ben nash. it garners repeat listens, a collage of so many layers, patterns & textures so as to be as dazzling as the plumage of the finest peacock in paradise. musical elements as diverse as folk, raga, eastern percussion, drone, prog & noise collide & coalesce as the album unfolds, with each of the 8 tracks providing new twists & turns, with never an element out of place. for fans of ben chasney, jack rose, voice of the seven woods. [aurora borealis](#)

es : saateenkaarisuudelma (previously a double vinyl only) the album from fonal boss, sami sänpäkkilä (aka es), whose music ranges from the breathy vocals/violins & guitar of the title track & the uplifting saxophone drenched charm of 'harmonia, rakkautta' to the dense piano led 'pianokaari'. what is so irresistible about es is his ability to make what might at first seem like difficult music (finnish psychedelia?) sound so effortlessly engaging. there is a loveliness, a breathless warmth to these recordings, a homely quality. *"sänpäkkilä has achieved what can only be described as musical perfection...this is highly, highly essential!"* – 10/10 - foxy digitalis, *"the most profoundly psychedelic mesmerism to come out of the scene to date"* - the wire, *"this album is pure ; it cleaned the cobwebs right out of my musty brain"* – stylus magazine. fonal

tom carter & christian kiefer : from the great american songbook this 2nd collaboration between charalambides' tom carter & christian kiefer comes housed in a lovely fold-out sleeve housing thick card inserts with liner notes for each song, as penned by some of the avant-folk royalty these 2 are prone to hanging around with. wooden wand, sharron kraus, glenn jones, tetuzi akiyama & tony conrad are among the writers who pay tribute not only to tom & christian, but their source material - all of which comes from american traditional folk songs now in the public domain. as you'd probably expect, these 2 aren't always prone to sticking closely to their original texts & familiar standards like 'camptown races' are given a fairly liberal overhaul. highly recommended. [preservation](#)

torche : meanderthal the band's 2nd official full-length & follow-up to last year's 6 song mini-epic 'in return'. the latest & greatest bomb-string stoner pop/thunder rock/doom pop classic from torche mastermind steve brooks & his fellow hook heroes. a sweet, catchy, huge riff colossus! [hydra head](#)

mindless self indulgence : if 15 songs of addictive & manic mixtures of snarly (& sometimes hilarious) punk rock attitude, heavy riffs & driving electronic music. *"the album really shines...while they've forayed into a more produced sound, they still retain the sound, the attitude & the fun that sums up mindless self indulgence"* 4/5 – sputnik music. [the end](#)

nadja : desire in uneasiness an album of new material from the canadian dreamsludge weavers. 5 colossal jams of eternally-fuzzy, ethereal dirge that is powered by the interlocking bass guitars of leah buckareff & aidan baker, setting loose a wave of monstrous grinding bass riffs amidst a fog of beautiful, swirling electronic effects. this is the first album to feature a live drummer in place of the drum machine programming. the organic drumming takes the music into new realms of spacious jazzy exploration, dubby rhythms & cavernous psychedelia (whilst delivering some of their most grooving, crushing hypno-bliss yet). [crucial blast](#)

the cute lepers : can't stand modern music the debut album is a very poppy-punk mix of influences from mod, power pop & new wave. formed by steve e nix & kicks from the briefs, originally the idea for the band was that it was to be something equally influenced by first wave punk, mod-revival, power pop & a retarded reverence for johnny thunders... oh yeah, with occasional hints of doo-wop, oldie rock'n'roll & a load of female back-up vocals. after a west coast tour & sold out 7" s, here's their debut. [damaged goods](#)

steve wynn : crossing dragon bridge the founder of the highly influential dream syndicate / a vital innovator within the l.a. paisley underground movement / songwriter & guitarist, releases his first solo album since 2001, after several years of recording & extensive touring with his band the miracle 3. the record was recorded in ljubljana with chris eckman of the walkabouts (who also plays & sings on the record). [blue rose](#)

hungover stuntmen : blame the bbc humble & unassuming, hungover stuntmen are 4 geordie lads who have taken the newcastle music scene by storm. armed with their custom rickenbackers, telecasters, rock n roll riffs & heavenly harmonies they've already headlined ibiza rocks, supported the kooks, the futureheads, the subways, get cape. wear cape.fly, jools holland & even shared the stage with the modfather himself - paul weller, who was such a fan that he invited them back twice! *"brilliant"* – the sun, *"watch out for these boys"* – sunday mirror, *"everybody's raving about them & quite rightly so"* - bbc 6 music. [pebble beach](#)

a.a. bondy : american hearts dark singer songwriter in the vein of steve earle, hank 3, nick cave etc. *"an unfolding tableau of hell on earth as seen by a weary set of eyes & described by a troubadour's guitar & an obsessive mastery of form & musical history"* – pitchfork, *"that guy is so fuckin kurt cobain, it's not even funny"* – dave grohl in rolling stone. [fat possum](#)

winston tong : in a manner of speaking - (best of winston tong) a collection of outstanding tracks by the songwriter & performance artist best known as frontman of the group tuxedomoon. recorded between 1982 & 1990, including five tracks from winston's acclaimed 1985 solo album 'theoretically chinese'. featuring a stellar cast of guest musicians including jah wobble, steven morris, simon topping & dave formula. also includes rare compilation & dance remixes. [itm](#)

isis : holy tears a celebratory release of the song 'holy tears' from the absence of truth album to commemorate their 10th anniversary. it features the melvins & lustmord remix of 'not in rivers but in drops', a live version & the video shot by dominic hailstone (warp films). [ipeccac](#)

half man half biscuit : csi: ambleside nigel blackwell has been around since the mid-80's & has gained many a fan over that time. there are no surprises here but if you're a fan of the biscuity ones amusing social commentary stylings, for example *'...there's a man with a mullet going mad with a mallet in millets...'* on 'national shite day' & guitar strummings you won't be disappointed. [probe plus](#)

madonna : hard candy madge has obviously got a bit of a sweet tooth & either has a secret ambition of opening a lovely sweet shop for kids for the latter days of her life or it's a euphemism for something a little bit more risqué & judging from her past i don't think half a pound of sherbert lemons will be on her mind. as always collaborations flavour the record, this time the upbeat dance floor hip hop happenings of timbaland, justin timberlake, pharrell williams of the neptunes & nate "danja" hills provide the production for madonna to be...well, madonna, with plenty of occasions to shake your booty. "a tough, nuggety confection offering plenty for listeners to get their teeth into" – guardian. [warner bros](#)

the tall ships : paint lines on your glasses look up at the stars & play them as

notes candidate for album title of the week? the tall ships' compositions tend toward linear movement, relating to the simplicity of codeine, while the more complex moments articulate a breadth comparable to rodan. intricate riffage, some choice drumming & mid-range bass create the backdrop for an expressive singing style. features steve kuhn, formerly of two outstanding bands, glendale & cole & darren zentek [kerosene 454, channels] is featured in several tracks on drums. [minority](#)

company : old baby, a songwriting collective & rock band rooted in folk, punk, country, & psychedelic traditions. brought together by a shared commitment to writing songs that don't "pussyfoot around", to borrow dylan's phrase. adam davison, david janik, stephanie rabins & christopher teret formed company in 2001. a rich, layered work, evocative guitars, dynamic rhythms, uplifting harmonies, & lyrics by turns incisive & insightful, interweave to create a homespun sound that is as striking as it is familiar. "folk rock is the label closest to company's sound, but their rock references are more clash, joy division, & meat puppets than '60s california" - [index magazine](#). [jag jaguar / brah](#)

wild billy childish & the blackhands : live in the netherlands (reissue) recorded live on one microphone on tour in holland in may 1993. billy childish, having heard the blue fields express, wanted his own broken down engine of a group & put out the word, rattling the pots & pans, a man who didn't normally drum, a trumpet player nursing several stitches from having a glass thrust into his face, a singer on her lunch break from selling fruit & veg & an awol accordion player. for those of us who like our music – as well our bread - stone ground & cut thick with the crusts. [damaged goods](#)

ben waters : hurricane ben waters is an extraordinarily gifted blues/boogie/rock 'n' roll pianist. whilst barely in his early '20s, he played with the likes of mick jagger & pete townshend. his natural rocking exuberance combined with richard hymas's sensitive (& sometimes controversial) lyrics has given a new slant to the boogie genre. "half the secret of boogie woogie is not making things too fast, & ben really understands that. i saw him years ago & i thought he was great so ended up playing with him. he really is a great talent & someone to look out for." - [jools holland](#) – [mojo hypertension](#)

love : forever changes - collector's edition (2cd) the 3rd & final album by the original line-up, produced by co-founder/frontman arthur lee & bruce botnick (the doors), & released by elektra in early '68. rhino's new two-disc collector's edition revisits this all-time classic, remastered & building on its mind-expanding brilliance with over an hour of previously unreleased & rare bonus material, including an alternate mix of the entire album. "elegant armageddon" – [rolling stone](#). [rhino](#)

peter sarstedt : the lost album thought lost over the years, this album has been rediscovered. the 12 tracks were never released & it was only by chance that the album's producer came across some safety master tapes buried in his loft. the tapes have been restored & are being released with a bonus track of a previously unheard version of his platinum selling song 'where do you go to (my lovely)'. [singer](#)

abc : traffic abc are back with a brand new album with 12 brand new songs. the band keep the mood & feel of their heyday whilst maintaining a contemporary sound. fry says of the new album, "it's a cosmopolitan record & it's about today - about the journeys people are making today, country to country, internet traffic, human traffic, moving from the past to the present to the future." [borough music](#)

dance / electronica

jamie lidell : jim a stunning modern soul masterpiece. there is no doubt that this guy can sing & indeed he sings his heart out on this, his 3rd & most mainstream album. it roots itself firmly in piano/hammond led r & b, helped along by the tinkling of the ivories of gonzales. ballads such as 'all i wanna do' give a nod to stax & atlantic recording artists for some insightful reflection. upbeat dance numbers such as 'hurricane' will get you heading toward the dancefloor. "...a soulman stripped down to the testifyin' bone..." – 4/5 [guardian](#). [warp](#)

midfield general : general disarray (2cd) skint records founder damian harris features contributions from noel fielding, xavier from justice & dave from soulwax. seeking inspiration (& in a bid to rejuvenate his passion for music), he moved to paris & hooked up with justice & ed banger (he was the executive producer for justice's d.a.n.c.e), the 2nd album finally took shape. an exciting collage of production skills & a varied set of vocal collaborations, the album manages to contain leftfield pop, hip hop, cinematic epics, house, techno & soul, taking in paris, tokyo, moscow, new york & whitstable along the way. [skint](#)

meat beat manifesto : autoimmune new full length from seminal industrial band led by sound sculptor & producer extraordinaire jack dangers. mbm is continually evolving - it's 10th album pushes musical boundaries further than it has before, creating a successful work of addictive beats taken from the templates of dub, hip-hop, industrial, breakbeat & more. "every record is different", jack explains, "& in this record i focused on what i like to do versus what other people like me to do: beats, bass & distortion". [planet mu](#)

v/a : soma coma vol.2 it might surprise non-aficionados that in amongst the house, techno & dancefloor destroyers that soma is famed for, they have always released plenty of deep, laid-back electronic, organic tracks, even verging on ambient at times. last year the label put some of this rich archive together for the first time & 'soma coma' was born. this album will soothe & relax you as it takes you on an emotional trip, a joyous & uplifting yet sometimes dark & melancholic journey. features tracks from envoy, vector lovers, slam, alex smoke, the black dog, sidewinder, butch cassidy sound system & more. [soma](#)

kid creole : going places – the august darnell years 1976-1983 under his 'real' name, august darnell, kid creole had developed his feel for unusual music fusions & intelligent, acerbic life stories since 1974, through a series of projects as a prolific writer, musician & producer. that very year darnell masterminded machine's disco anthem 'there but for the grace of god' before becoming the in-house producer for ze records in new york. darnell created kid creole in 1980 & alongside his 3 female singers, the coconuts, began honing his alter ego. with today's djs & artists consistently championing & sampling his early work, this exclusive strut release covers 1976 to 1983 & features rare extended versions & album tracks released on cd for the first time. it's solid stuff all throughout & includes highlights such as 'sunshowers' which was sampled by m.i.a. [strut](#)

christopher d ashley : cruel romantics drawing on classic reference points (italo disco, depeche mode, talking heads) but with a fresh sound that is very much his own, ashley's music is understated but incredibly melodic. throughout 2007, ashley was championed by renowned producer keith tenniswood (radioactive man / two lone swordsmen) who has since joined ashley's 4-piece live band. his genre-blending sound will appeal to both dance & indie fans. [sunday best](#)

v/a : defected presents charles webster (3cd) a heady mix of balearic soul, intoxicating vocals & deep grooves permeate the air - a sumptuous soundscape, ideal for late-night chilling or an afternoon kick back. cd1 shows us a typical club set from mr webster featuring tracks from moody man, kings of tomorrow, rosie gaines & deep south. cd2 is a personal soundtrack to how charles would chill out after a gig, with balearic vibed beats from d'angelo, kate bush, black sabbath & brian eno. cd3 is an essential of any fan featuring 9 unreleased tracks. [defected](#)

hip hop

clutchy hopkins : walking backwards (2cd) no one knows who clutchy hopkins is. if you find out, perhaps you could let us know more about the mysterious trickster, folklore guru & marvellous musician. sounds like the crackly soundtrack to a vintage spaghetti western crossed with a 70s porno - rickety breaks n'beats & busted keyboard sounds pop out against lush strings, while guitars & mandolins strum alongside old-school synthesizers. some tunes are hypnotic & build around a droning rumble or relentless chords while others are driving. it's an eerie blend of dusty-bar blues, mariachi soul & hard times funk. label-mate darondo is on one track, while shawn lee & todd simon (connie price & the lions) also help out. disc 2 includes confessionals, interviews & archived footage of mr hopkins, from various sources & anonymously mailed packages. [ubiquity](#)

eliot lipp : the outside eliot lipp continues his impressive retooling of analog infused electro-funk with his latest full-length. techno & hip-hop in their earliest, formative stages have inspired eliot throughout his career & form the common thread running through the album. slick analogue synth work & tight drum programming abound, as eliot deconstructs his influences to create something that is both recognizable & completely futuristic. he combines hip hop influenced drum programming with vintage synthesizer sounds found in the cutting edge electronic music of the 70's. [mush](#)

kano : mc no.1 the prince of grime is back with a mixtape of 15 tracks of street raps. no longer yoked to the 679 deal, kano sounds palpably delighted to be shorn of the warners shaped shackles. back in the game with this new album of material which sees kano spit over beats from the likes of lil' wayne, timbaland & soulja boy. [self released](#)

connie price & the keystones : tell me something (2cd) a change of direction from connie price & the keystones, takes them deeper. connie price & the keystones was conceived as a recording project for music written solely by dan ubick (whose recording credits include breakestra & madlib's sound directions). a revolving cast of characters from the incestuous & bustling los angeles music scene add flavour, including members of orgone, plantlife, breakestra, beck, dj-z-trip, cake, david holmes & macy gray, as well as a marquee-filling list of quality mcs : the legendary big daddy kane, percee p, wildchild from the lootpack, ohmega watts, soup from jurassic 5, blood of abraham, mykah 9 from freestyle fellowship & project blowed, plus vocalist aloe blacc provide lyrics 'n' rhymes. disc 2 features instrumental versions of all the tracks. [ubiquity](#)

jammer : are you dumb volume 3 jammer presents the 3rd title in his always highly anticipated 'are you dumb' mixtape series & has gathered a premiership of contemporary uk underground talent around him for the duration. blending a dizzying array of heavy riddims, the mood is eclectic futuristic throughout - this is the true new british music. features dizzee rascal, skepta, chronik, bless beats, benga & more. [neckle records](#)

soul/funk

otis redding : otis blue - collector's edition (2cd) though otis redding's career was cut tragically short by a plane crash, his legacy & recordings are inestimably large. intense, raw & emotional, his sound defines golden era southern soul. redding's 3rd album, is considered his first masterpiece featuring a trio of songs by sam cooke, redding's idol, who had passed away shortly before 'otis blue' was made. it also features his version of 'respect' - a song he wrote, but that's an aretha signature - his great cover of '(i can't get no) satisfaction' & other classic tracks. this landmark work is presented in both mono & stereo versions, along with rare & previously unreleased bonus gems. [rhino](#)

eric lau : new territories eric lau is a london-based producer who has been busy making musical waves for others (lupe fiasco, dudley perkins, georgia anne muldrow, guilty simpson) whilst honing his neo soul/hip hop sound. his slick & edgy productions have turned the ears of gilles peterson, appearing on his brownwood bubblers release. "there are many young artists on the record & our roots are from around the world," explains lau. "even though we are from different backgrounds we approached the album with the same mindset & all want to help each other get to where we want to be. this record is a new territory for us as a group of artists, & i hope that it is, in turn, a refreshing listen." [ubiquity](#)

jazz/contemporary/avant garde

miles davis : lift to the scaffold / jazz track includes the complete original album 'jazz track' & music for louis malle's 1957 film "ascenseur pour l'echafaud" ('lift to the scaffold') - first issued on a 10" french lp which appears here in its entirety. miles' improvisations perfectly fit the dark atmosphere of the film - superbly backed by barney wilen, rené urtregre, pierre michelot & kenny clarke. 'jazz track' also features tracks from an amazing 1958 session by the miles davis sextet including cannonball adderley, john coltrane, bill evans, paul chambers & jimmy cobb. [jazz beat](#)

buddy miles express : expressway to your skull maybe best known as the drummer in hendrix's band of gypsies & voice of the california raisins, he was first recruited by mike bloomfield out of wilson pickett's backup band & joined the electric flag.. the electric flag shorted out after the 1st album but miles would later recall it as "the best band i ever played in". for his debut he kept the horn section & formed the buddy miles express & recorded this classic album with elements of blood, sweat & tears, psychedelic, funk, blues, jazz & world overtones to boot. [mercury](#)

mary lou williams : a grand night for swinging this live session from 1976 is an even greater treasure for the presence of the great roy haynes & ronnie boykins as the rhythm section. 'a grand night for swinging' is an apt title, as the trio swing like crazy through a set of mostly standards & to cap it all, we get a short interview with mary lou. the recording was made during a long engagement at a hotel night club in buffalo, with the musicians relaxed & the audience jumping. [highnote](#)

evan parker : conic sections soprano saxophone solos recorded in 1989 in the holywell music room, oxford. it's pretty advanced stuff. this guy is a master of his craft & even though the listening can be demanding, the rewards will speak for themselves. [psi](#)

john surman/howard moody : rain on the window saxophonist john surman, one of ecm's most admired musicians delivers an album of intimate duets with organist howard moody that moves the music forward while also speaking of roots. melody & lyricism (hallmarks of all surman's work) are celebrated in this mixture of original compositions, improvisations & traditional folk songs. [ecm](#)

dans les arbres (inc. christian wallumrød) : s/t this new improvising norwegian-french collective of radical sound-makers includes acclaimed pianist christian wallumrød. a fresh slant on european improvising is provided by acoustic music that frequently sounds electronic, with something archaic, ritualistic & consistently intriguing about it. [ecm](#)

marilyn crispell : vignettes the first ecm solo album from the highly regarded american pianist & an important addition to the ranks of classic solo piano discs on the label. this poetic, lyrical & intimate album - a remarkably pure musical journey - features original compositions by crispell, free playing & pieces by friends jayna nelson & arve henriksen. [ecm](#)

folk

lau : live lau is a formidable union of 3 of the finest innovative exponents of modern traditional music. their explosive live performances have been generating a major buzz, taking a new approach to the folk scene by writing much of their own material, creating complex & melodic compositions which change as the emphasis shifts between their 3 instruments; moody or frantic accordion interwoven with driving fiddle & guitar. "combined sense of musical style, adventure & fun makes them one of the most exciting new acts in recent years" - [the telegraph](#). [navigator](#)

the waifs : sundirtwater motherhood led to a hiatus since their last record, thus the waifs had no shortage of great material to choose from here & the threesome, who share songwriting duties, dug deep into their love of roots music to great effect. tracks move from smokey country, to a more jazz tinged edge but ever evident is the consistent energy of the vocals. [jarrah](#)

jackie oates : the violet hour the bbc radio 2 folk awards nominee's new album features great performances by a host of friends & musicians. "full of shirley collins intonations, her voice is persuasively rustic & style distinctly english" - the telegraph, "very, very special indeed" - mike harding, radio 2. [chudleigh roots](#)

robin & barry dransfield : popular to contrary belief this was the dransfields' first traditional album together for 6 years. on this album, they brought back the simple approach to interpreting traditional songs & these recordings continue to influence the folk revival & to set the standards for honest & straightforward performance of traditional song. includes many rare out-takes & session recordings. [free reed](#)

john kirkpatrick : going spare john kirkpatrick's (steeleye span, umps & dumps) late 70s lp, sprinkled with folk rock & even punk-folk classics, turned the heads of folk fans & introduced to the wider world the mysterious punk trio the pork dukes. features extra tracks from john's 1980 dingles single. [free reed](#)

peter bellamy : the ballads of peter bellamy - big, broadside & barrack room a tribute to peter's memory with rare & unavailable tracks from the labels for whom he worked during his long career. this stunning selection of 17 grand ballads is a fitting celebration of his genius. the coppers & the watersons guest. [free reed](#)

country

hayes carll : trouble in mind this hard-working texan troubadour comes out guns a blazing on the country rock scene. this is his 2nd album & comes together like bob dylan circa 'another side of...' & townes van zandt. his 1st 'little rock' became the first self-released album to reach #1 on the americana music chart. [lost highway](#)

tom t hall : in search of a song somewhat of a country classic, hall is widely regarded by the likes of johnny cash, whiskeytown & joe henry. critic ert christgau puts it best when he says "like [woody] guthrie's [hall's] observations & presentation are direct & unpretentious in a way that can't be faked or even imitated-- he has a few things to say, he says them, & that's that." viewing himself as a song writer over a performer the quality of his talent can be heard in 'the year clayton delaney died', a tribute to his guitar-playing (& drinking) mentor. [mercury](#)

the flying burrito bros : the flying burrito bros / last of the red hot burritos this top value 2-for-1 cd includes 2 rare bonus tracks : 'here tonight' with ex-byrd gene clark plus the original 45rpm version of 'tried so hard', which has never been issued on cd before. features colour booklet, informative liner notes & superb quality audio. [raven](#)

world

melingo : maldito tango the stunning new album by (daniel) melingo, released on the label which is overseen by eduardo makaroff of the gotan project, but with melingo, any gotan comparison stops there. the 50 year old argentinean, tango singer-songwriter has a rich, expressive singing voice, steeped in the traditions of the golden age but with his own outrageous, individual approach : full of the sad, poetic, funny, intense, exotic, fascinating style that tango can exude, yet with his own irreverent craziness & mockery woven in. there is a beautiful madness to his tango - anything could happen ! [manana](#)

el hadj n'diaye : gééj a remarkable talent & one who has earned a reputation as a maverick; as singer, songwriter, actor, author & ngo director (for enda - promoting the arts in senegal). this bold new album, 7 years since his last, is a triumph. rooted in mbalax but international in aspect, n'diaye's sound is unique. emotionally wrought & charged with a brooding intensity, these 12 tracks will leave a deep impression on listeners, even those who do not understand wolof - the expressiveness of his voice speaks volumes. "from its most tender whisper to its most anguished gut cry, n'diaye's voice is a marvel, without" - banning eyre. [marabi](#)

les tambours de brazza : brazza (cd/dvd) created in 1991 by drummer & songwriter emile biayenda, the congolese band les tambours de brazza blend tradition & modernity, playing ngoma drums alongside drum kits, bass, guitars & other modern instruments. these 'drums of brazzaville' resound with the rhythms of the various ethnic groups that make up the congo region. the percussive art is as visual as it is audio, a factor clear to marabi as they treat us to over 3 hours of les tambours highly energetic stage show. [marabi](#)

gabi lunca : sounds from a bygone age vol.5 volume five in the critically lauded series sounds from a bygone age, which does for romanian classic music of the 60s & 70s, what ethiopiennes did for ethiopia. rapidly becoming one of the best collections of historical recordings in the world music market. [asphalt tango](#)

trio joubran : randana a re-release of the palestinian oud trio's 1st album, previously on the fairplay label. the joubran brothers have received a lot of excellent press reviews & are now establishing themselves as a major presence in the arabic music & world music scenes. they have even supported massive attack at the brixton academy. "wistful & brooding, yet always ravishingly tasteful" 5/5 - songlines. [randana](#)

etran finatawa : desert crossroads among the grasslands of the sahel & the shifting dunes of the sahara desert, 2 legendary nomadic peoples, the wodaabe & tuareg, are joined together in the raunchy guitars & haunting voices of etran finatawa. as the winds of change cast uncertainty over their nomadic lifestyle, both cultures are at a crossroads. etran finatawa reflect on their roots, with a nostalgia & warmth that mirrors the majesty of their desert home. definitely one for fans of finariwen. [riverboat](#)

karamelo santo : antena pachamama manu chao fans may already be familiar with the hottest punk collective coming out of argentina today. influenced by the sounds & politics of mano negra (chao's previous rock band), bob marley & the clash - karamelo santo mix punk, rock, ska & reggae with bolero, cumbia & paso doble, reflecting the energetic & urban rhythm of buenos aires, where the band are now based. [k industria](#)

d v d

wedding present : an evening with (dvd) the highly regarded leeds band, recorded live in november 2005 at shepherds bush empire & featuring 7 of their 21 hit singles. [dream catcher](#)

m a g s

nude : issue 13 – spring 2008 jeffrey lewis, barry adamson, billy childish, graphics & hip lit.....

uncut : june 2008 david bowie, john lennon, band of horses, karen dalton, joy division, flaming lips.....

mojo : june 2008 paul weller, slash, prince buster, dolly parton, bobby bland.....

showpony new magazine featuring music, photos, art.....

s i n g l e s

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

single of the week

school of seven bells : silent grips limited gold 7" [suicide squeeze](#)

alexander tucker : custom made 2 x limited 7" [atp](#)

mystery jets : hideaway (switch remix) 12" [sixsevenine](#)

pop levi : never never love 7" [counter](#)

grand national : by the time i get home... 7" [sunday best](#)

4 or 5 magicians : change the record / ideal man ltd 7" [diy records](#)

pete & the pirates : she doesn't belong to me ltd hand numbered 7" [stolen](#)

shout out louds : tonight i have to leave it limited 7" [weekender](#)

white rabbits : while we go dancing limited 7" [fierce panda](#)

dans le sac vs. scroobius pip : look for the woman 7" [sunday best](#)

who owns death tv : cathode / mary x 7" [who owns death tv](#)

delays : hooray 2x7" [polydor](#)

streetlife djs : gunn crime limited 12" [kitsune](#)

uncut : dark horse ep 7". [cheap date](#)

hadouken! : declaration of war cd [atlantic](#)

the black ghosts : i want nothing 12" [southern fried](#)

wave pictures : strange fruit for david limited 7" [moshi moshi](#)

autokratz : pardon garcon (rework) 12" [kitsune](#)

crisis : consequences cd & picture 7" [parlophone](#)

cats in paris : foxes/terrapins v. limited 7" [akoustik anarchy](#)

p r e - o r d e r s

we are very happy to take pre-orders for any titles that you would like to have reserved when they are released. we can usually do this for you from a few weeks prior to release onwards. this can be especially useful for limited edition albums or 7" which tend to disappear quickly or cd singles which we don't always stock in great quantity. it also means that you will be able to have any freebies that come with the album / single (posters, stickers, badges etc) reserved for you too.

o r d e r i n g s e r v i c e

although we 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 happy to order it in for you. also, we will rarely stock albums on vinyl but again, anything available on vinyl can easily be ordered in for you at no extra cost.

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