

out this week

album of the week

the week that was : s/t (cd & lp) while field music take a break, the core duo (brothers david & peter brewis) haven't hung up their instruments. david has been busying himself as the school of language (delivering one of the best albums of the year) & now it's the turn of his brother to show us what he's been up to. if you thought ambitious, experimental pop had died with the seclusion of artists like kate bush, peter gabriel & brian wilson, then you should embrace this album. it is immediately recognisable as a field music production but is darker & more expansive than either of their albums. that's not to say that pop hooks have been sacrificed though – this fused with the typically detailed arrangements & sense of drama makes the album a brain-shattering epic, straying far outside the conventions of most indie-guitar music. "one of the curveball lps of the summer" 8/10 – nme, "omnivorous visionary pop" 4/5 album of the month – mojo. [memphis industries](#)

rock / indie / post rock / americana

monkey (damon albarn & jamie hewlett) : journey to the west created by the team behind gorillaz, this new project is performed by european & chinese musicians & singers & is produced by mr.fingers-in-all-pies, damon albarn. the album is based on the opera 'monkey ; journey to the west' - it's lyrics are based on ancient chinese text, the vocals are in mandarin & it was recorded in london & beijing. this album bears no real relation to any of albarn's many musical outlets but he continues to prove himself to be one of the most exciting, original & innovative musicians of our time with this album. despite being 22 tracks long (many of which are short snippets of sound or tunes), the album is a truly mesmerising listen that almost transports you to a far away, mystical land. "as magical a piece of pop music as you're ever likely to hear" - the guardian, "satisfying & entertaining" - the independent, "instinctive, fascinating & enjoyable" – q. xl

stereolab : chemical chords (standard cd, special ltd japanese edition with 2 extra tracks & lp) the band's 11th album began life when tim gane started messing with "a series of about 70 tiny drum loops on top of improvised chord sequences using piano & vibraphone, building them up from there - later slowing the tracks down or speeding them up - a totally new way of doing songs for us". with typical prolificacy, the band laboured over the summer at their studio in france, helping transform these blueprints into 32 luminous new songs, with keyboardist / technician joe watson manning the mixing desk. half the new repertoire was selected for this album, which, for all the breathless spontaneity of its invention, is still taut & focused. "the ways in which the band have made these simple cells into a functioning organism is wonderful" 8/10 – drowned in sound. [4ad](#)

brett anderson : wilderness (upfront release exclusive to selected indies) the ex-suede mainman releases his 2nd solo effort. featuring a minimal set-up, with anderson playing piano & guitar, this feels like a clear new chapter in anderson's story. recorded & mixed in 7 days & featuring only voice, strings & piano, anderson is joined by cellist amy langley & borrows guest vocals from emmanuelle seigner on the song 'a different place'. it's a simple but haunting set of songs, detailing a love affair. the record displays all the heightened emotions of love & thus is joyous, bleak, euphoric & reflective, all in a very beautiful & quite understated way. a captivating set of modern ballads. [ba songs](#)

pivot : o soundtrack my heart (cd & lp) the aussie 3-piece present their 1st major release outside of oz. the nucleus of this band is their awesome live drumming & swirling around this focal point is a mass of sounds & instruments that draw from jazz, prog, post-punk, industrial, post-rock & pretty much everything in between. the battles comparisons are inevitable as they share a similar approach to composition & instrumentation (& are now label-mates too), but these guys are somewhat more ordered & are a little dryer in their technique. they elegantly blur the distinction between live instrumentation, heavy electronics & epic soundtrack music & fans of battles, errors, acoustic ladyland, autechre or their obvious influences (john michel-jarre & vangelis) ought to check them out. "a john carpenter soundtrack re-imagined by battles, this is the place where intricate & party collide" – nme, "would leave brian eno pretty gobsmacked" 7/10 – d.i.s. [warp](#)

sbach : s/t taking cues from the choppy spazz-math of hella & the 8 bit nintendo cacophony of the advantage, sbach's spencer seim utilizes the trademarks of his 2 musical ventures to create a new one which morphs into a kitschy, stoner rock fuelled archfiend chock full of bastardized jazz rhythms & chicken scratch electronica. with the grating jingles & chimes of an explosion at a pinball machine factory & the caffeinated scour of just about any song that features seim's vivid musical talent, sbach will fray the senses & leave you begging for more. top stuff! [suicide squeeze](#)

vessels : white fields and open devices the 5-piece leeds based experimental rockers have been building their reputation through word of mouth demos, diy singles & an incendiary live set. their long-awaited debut forges together their influences of post-rock, math-rock, electronica & indie into a disparate but cohesive mix. this is a refined, crafted set of whispered songs & delicately strong post-rock instrumentals in the vein of 65daysofstatic, mogwai or explosions but it's far from formulaic (as so much post-rock is these days). "the delicateness of don caballero, the euphoric hope of 65daysofstatic, the expanse of godspeed, the restraint, the joy, the craft & just that little something extra that all of their own" album of the week – organ, "both unique & alluring" 8/10 – drowned in sound, "a quite brilliant work of art" 8/10 - nme. [cuckundoo](#)

bowerbirds : hymns for a dark horse the band's debut album is now released for the first time in the uk with 2 bonus tracks, brought to you by the same label that looks after the mighty phosphorescent. their finely indie-folk brings to mind devendra banhart & vetiver, but it's less concerned with psychedelia than melody. these beautiful, timeless songs sound something like a gypsy-influenced sufjan stevens – they are the early morning sunshine to bon iver's cold winter evenings. these mesmerizing, rich, modest songs comprised of acoustic guitar, high, meandering vocals & cutting violin manage to be both hypnotically pretty & a little bit weird - characteristics of the very best kind of americana music. for fans of any of the aforementioned, m.ward or lavender diamond. *"only once every 10 years or so does one hear a new band this good, this bursting with ideas, this audibly in love with music...it is beyond stunning"* - john danielle, the mountain goats. [dead oceans](#)

port o'brien : all we could do was sing taking the us by storm & catching the attention of everyone from m.ward to frank black, the sea-faring californians have been, ahem, making waves since their 2007 compilation of previously self-released songs made them a pitchfork favourite. lush string arrangements, raw electric guitar, percussive banjo, pots + pans, a tight rhythm section, group chants – what more could you want? with the group harmonies of arcade fire or my latest novel, the indie-cred of modest mouse, the pop sensibilities of bright eyes & a bunch of memorable, melodic songs, this is definitely a winner! *"jagged, intelligent indie-folk songs"* – spin, *"the sense of exuberance at the sheer joy of being alive...a debut album of group chants & lush melodies"* – the guardian, *"contemplative acoustic & melodically stomping indie folk...a beguiling debut"* - metro. [city slang](#)

the dandy warhols : earth o the dandy warhols the band make a rockin' return to form with their 6th album. pulling together the diverse sounds & influences that have always characterized their music, it's quintessential dandys, full of the dry vigour they're renowned for. from the some girls-era rolling stones-meets-talking heads 'welcome to the third world', to the campy 'mis amigos', to the psychedelic rock of 'beast of all saints', the album is a pleasure of a ride that allows you to fully settle into it while still keeping you on your toes. no, they're not cool. no, they're not big & clever. no, we're not meant to like them. but then there's just something about them that is so strangely likeable & something about them just works. *"retaining their strength (great hooks), while abolishing their great weakness (sounding contrived)...the dandy's most satisfying start-to-finish listen yet"* 7/10 – nme. [beat the world/ words fair](#)

jaguar love : take me to the sea like the phoenix rising from the ashes, this alternative supergroup is formed from members of 2 disbanded greats - ex blood brothers guitarist cody votolato & singer johnny whitney, alongside jay clark from pretty girls make graves (once guitarist & now drummer, multi-instrumentalist & producer). votolato's crazed japanese electric 12-string guitar parts remain as intricate & beefheart-esque as ever, but whitney has turned his screaming, evil smurf-like vocals into pure bolan-esque glam. the result? an alternative pop music - powerful, edgy & totally unique. *"whitney wants to pour you an absinthe-&bonemeal cocktail & engage in some earlobe frottage. perhaps you should join him"* 7/10 – nme. [matador](#)

jeff hanson : madam owl the 3rd album from the soprano voiced seattle folkster. once you tune into his voice (& accept that it is in fact a him singing), it becomes clear that this is an album of meticulous pop & masterful songwriting. the bare acoustic prettiness of his debut 'son' & the handcrafted pop-cleverness of 'jeff hanson' are still present but the sounds have been developed here even further. often in the past his voice has filled the void left by what were comparatively sparse arrangements but here, a bent towards the baroque allows jeff's voice to find its harmonious place in an ensemble of timeless instruments. like its predecessors, this record contains a set of pop-music symphonies, every one of which feels like it could be a single. true folk-based acoustic music - contemporary without getting caught up in any unnecessary trends. [kill rock stars](#)

bookhouse boys : s/t debut album from london's alternative surf rockers - a crashing 9-piece orchestra of mariachi brass, duelling drums, surf guitar & girl-boy vocals. the dark old style crooner vocals recall richard hawley or edwyn collins, sounding like you would imagine stuart staples would sound if he could really "sing". musically, it's a meeting of ennio morricone's 'the good the bad & the ugly' with the tremelo guitar of chris isaak, nick cave's dark vs.light song structures & hawaiian surf tunes. essential for fans or richard hawley. *"the bookhouse boys couldn't be more exciting"* – guardian, *"in a time of neurotic fringe cowering cool they are a revolution"* – flux, *"striking the epic balance of euphoria & gloom...definitely unique"*. [black records](#)

hey colossus : happy birthday from headlong infusions of psychedelic rock to the limitless furrows of doom, the london avant-metallers have constructed an all conquering citadel of experimental disrepair. the album is a rampaging fire-cloud of superstoked riffs & ever mounting walls of feedback, a rough house collection of battering new songs driven at sweltering pace by a band with a fearless momentum. they have distilled the most ferocious & uncompromising elements of the heaviest strands of rock music & dispense an album of bracing kraut-ish repetitions, low-end grind, high speed thrash, syrupy psychedelia, pulverised oscillations & sludge-athons, at vicious volume. for fans of boris, bardo pond, isis, shit & shine, acid mothers temple & other such psych-metal behemoths. [riot season](#)

hamfatter : what part of hamfatter do you not understand? well, we all know the story don't we? the cambridge band appeared on dragons den & astonishingly, in a week when they rejected the non-slip travel cushion, they received backing from the millionaire peter jones, winning funding of £75,000 to produce their 5th album. now it's time to make up your own mind. is this the most expensive cd peter jones has ever bought or has he got himself a new 'reggae reggae sauce' on his hands? *"hamfatter are as refreshing as a lemon sorbet in the kalahari desert"* - hi-fi news, *"gleefully bounding indie pop"* – metro. [hamfatter ltd](#)

gotye : like drawing blood belgium's gotye (pronounced gaultier - like jean paul) is a one-man fusion machine - a beck-style sample magpie who has won a plethora of prestigious awards in his adopted home of australia. the self-released album has won both the australian equivalent of the mercury music award (the amp) & a brit award (the aria for best male artist), in 2007. this eclectic album offers up everything from beta-band style orchestral gems, tales of heartache, melodies of stadium-sized proportions, brass samples, his own motown-esque vocal harmonies, super-catchy tunes, echoed snares, rim shots, reggae horns & much more besides - all chucked into his tasty stew. "belgian-australian singer-songwriter-sampler coming on like beck fronting the avalanches" - the guardian, "gotye a musical magpie from australia whose eclectic tastes make mark ronson look blinkered" - the independent. [lucky number](#)

jackie leven : lovers at the gun club the new studio album from the prolific ex-doll by doll demiurge includes guest vocals from the ever-menacing johnny dowd on 2 tracks. these classy country-folk-blues songs are embellished with accordion, synth, jazz-touches, harmonica, fingerpicking & electric sitar & are likely to appeal to fans of calexico or lambchop. "one of britain's' most underrated singer-songwriters" - mojo, "this is leven at his inspired best" - daily mirror, "a stunning creative burst. it blends country, blues & folk into a glorious, sand-blasted examination of the human condition" 4.5/5 - the sun, "the prolific jackie leven is on top form on this latest album, whose don quixote-derived title encapsulates the core of anxiety & regret at the heart of the melancholy ruminations" - independent. [cooking vinyl](#)

the splendour : the best way to make money the brighton boys release their debut album, care of kasabian's producer dan swift. they achieve an edgy psychotic sound chock full of angular guitars that contrast with the languid vocals. there are ska influences a-plenty & the result lies somewhere between the kaiser chiefs, madness & their hometown peers, the kooks. "these lads come hurtling out the starting gates brandishing guitar pop jammed with melody & zest...spikily euphoric" - q, "sounding like a brit-pop strokes with angular electric guitar & tinny laidback vocals...the splendour are being hailed as the new kaiser chiefs - but first impressions suggest they're better than that" - noisemakesenemies.co.uk. [tiny clan](#)

warner e. hodes : centerline after years of blazing a trail with country rockers jason & the scorchers, this is hodes' debut album. his trusty fender telecaster must be well worn by now but the axeman can still pump the decibels. good ol' out & out rockin' remains the order of the day, with large dollops of bluesy picks & riffs, though he can conjure a smart ballad too. thrusting 'gimme gimme' has shades of early rolling stones r&b textured by raucous riffs & high-octane chorus. the formula continues with fun-fuelled 'whole lotta fun', a thumping southern rocker punctuated by wailing bluesy solos & chuck berry riffs. chucking in a steady mid-paced ballad, merle haggard's 'branded man' is a welcome respite from the blood & thunder & shows that hodes can mix & match it. [jerkin' crocus](#)

ben weaver : the ax in the oak recorded in chicago, but the writing took place in berlin, where weaver bunked in a 4th floor courtyard apartment for several weeks during 2007. his approach to songwriting is not your typical verse-chorus-verse arrangements, but rather little song-stories about birds, phone booths, empty parking lots, strangers in the checkout line, plastic bags stuck in trees & other things that may go unnoticed in life's overstuffed wunderkammer. his mood is double-edged - darkness & melancholy always live in close proximity to a romantically hopeful & redeeming view of the human condition. recorded with renowned producer brian deck (modest mouse, iron & wine). "country-rooted americana full of weary determination & aphoristic clarity" - new york times, "like a hillbilly leonard cohen" - mojo. [bloodshot](#)

xavier rudd : dark shades of blue the aussie singer-songwriter/one-man band/didgeridoo virtuoso describes his new album as a balance of darkness & light. produced by rudd & mixed by joe barresi (tool, qotsa), this record finds rudd at his most assertive, heavy & psychedelic. dusky & cool, the disc's guitar-driven jams expand on a sound only hinted at on previous releases, as distortion often supplants the pretty jangly guitars heard on earlier work. for years audiences have swooned & swayed to the dark throb of his live shows, the pulsing low-end of the australian didgeridoo & the biting drone of his slide guitar, 'dark shades of blue' finally captures that visceral presence, with his guitar & vocals at their most heavy & psychedelic. the album also features the playing of drummer/percussionist dave toley, now a staple of rudd's live show. [anti/epitaph](#)

boris : smile (now available on a european exclusive, limited edition double grey vinyl in silver foil-printed gatefold sleeve with 2 bonus tracks not on the cd & 2 different mixes!). the japanese stoner-sludge stalwarts' 14th studio album, 'smile', is a typically extreme collection of monster riffs, distortion and the odd moment epic sonic exploration. while the distortion & noise is a constant focus, there are far-reaching musical contrasts throughout. opening track 'flower sun rain' (a cover of a song by japanese rock band pyg) is one of the most melodic & stately songs the band has recorded so far, while lead single 'statement' is pure energetic grunge rock complete with wailing guitar solos. featuring contributions from regular collaborator stephen o'malley from fellow drone absurdists sunno))) , 'smile' is as varied a record as they have released to date. [southern lord](#)

the stairs : who is this is one of the great-lost bands of the early 90s who, along with the la's, influenced, a whole new generation of musicians including the coral & the zutons. they released little, apart from a few singles - one of these being the legendary 'weed bus' & the classic debut 'mexican r'n'b'.....until now! this is the previously unreleased 2nd album recorded in 1992/3 & it proves to be heady mixture of psychedelia, motown, rock, soul & r'n'b. "sounding like the who and the pretty things on a coach trip to amsterdam" 4/5 - uncut, "their blues roar & back to mono frenzy lives on" 4/5 - mojo. [viper](#)

gang of four the band's 3rd & 4th albums - this is the first time both albums have ever been released in the uk digitally & on cd! in the late 70s, gang of four designed a new type of danceable rock music. their 'damaged goods ep' (1978) helped usher in the postpunk era while their debut lp 'entertainment!' (1979) remains one of the period's trailblazing releases. with subsequent albums 'solid gold' (1981), 'songs of the free' (1982) & 'hard' (1983), they refined the idea that politicised rock'n'roll could be mischievous & melodic, accessible yet exciting.

: songs of the free the band's 3rd album & 1st to feature sara lee following original bassist dave allen's departure in 1981, was the closest they'd come to conventional pop, thanks to mike howlett's crashing but crisp, shiny production & guitarist andy gill & singer jon king's increasing ability to sugar their bitter messages with candy-coated melodies. there's even, in the falklands-anticipating 'i love a man in uniform', a near-hit single - only a ban by the bbc prevented this clubland favourite from charting higher. elsewhere, on 'call me up' & the joseph conrad-referencing 'we live as we dream, alone', gof continue to fuse feedback & funk to startling effect.

: hard hard may seem ironically titled in retrospect, given its concessions to the softer dance-pop styles of the period, but there are some great songs amid the then-de rigueur soulful female backing vocals, clinical machine beats & slapback bass. despite the production sheen, 'i fled' moves with the urgency of old, 'a man with a good car' is a squealing delight, while 'silver lining' thrills with its dub spaces & funk echoes. and if 'it don't matter' sounds like a period piece, it's worth remembering that gof were the original socialist funksters, enabling the likes of wham! & heaven 17 to exist. [emi](#)

robyn hitchcock & the egyptians : luminous groove (5cd) the 2nd in a series of retrospective box sets. in 1985 robyn's newest group the egyptians, with ex-soft boys andy metcalfe & morris windsor plus keyboardist roger jackson, marked the next stage in the career of one of popular music's most original creators. 'fegmania!' is a return to band format, showcasing the new outfit through sonic tapestries around hitchcock's signature skittered melodies & private lyrics. on 'element of light', the egyptians glide between regal pop & driving psychedelia. 'gotta let this hen out!' captures a blazing live set from london's marquee club in early 1985. all 3 albums contain new, exclusive bonus tracks. the 2 exclusive bonus discs feature previously unreleased studio recordings, including the final 1994 sessions & a cd of unheard live material. [yep roc](#)

robyn hitchcock & the egyptians : fegmania! a return to band format, showcasing new band the egyptians through thick sonic tapestries wrapped around his signature skittered melodies & private lyrics. this was the first album by the egyptians & it's a departure from robyn's more stripped down work on 'i often dream of trains'. the album also features period bonus tracks hand-picked by hitchcock that do not appear on the original album. [yep roc](#)

robyn hitchcock & the egyptians : element of light here, the egyptians glide between regal pop & driving psychedelia, resulting in the most deliberate & nuanced college rock records of the decade. 'element of light' & other egyptians records from this period are widely credited with introducing hitchcock to american audiences & remain some of the most significant releases in the career of one of music's great explorers. the album also includes bonus tracks curated by robyn himself that do not appear on the original version of the album. [yep roc](#)

robyn hitchcock & the egyptians : gotta let this hen out! a blazing live set by the egyptians from london's marquee club in early 1985. the band blasts through new & old hitchcock classics, effortlessly blending the show into what amounts to a live best of collection & reminding fans that robyn's legend is built as much on loud guitars as it is on eerie metaphors & jagged melodies. the album also includes bonus live tracks from a 1989 performance at the ritz, new york city. [yep roc](#)

performing ferret band : no one told us one of d.i.y.'s iconic bands are given a comprehensive retrospective, including the lion's share of their all-but entirely vanished lp, which music / historian / journo / d.i.y.-enthusiast johan kugelberg pronounced "the most seminal lp to come out of diy...fantastic over-enthusiastic juvenilia of an almost supernatural beauty." these guys were the very epitome of musical slackhandedness, with the drumming being especially of note for its heroic naiffness. fortunately this is all part of what the diy ethic was about & the raw, complete lack of finesse in these performances make them all the more enchanting. there's a touch of the fall & the tv personalities, a little garage & beat, hints of the rhythm-propelled sounds of the monochromes or beefheart but their response to d.i.y. was all their own. [messthetics](#)

dry rib : whose last trickle dry rib were a band like no other - one of a small handful of d.i.y./postpunk-era groups that clearly would have come up with the same sound whether punk had happened or not. things only got cooler/odder/more idiosyncratic as rob vasey's audio insurgency progressed...ed ball of o level (& later the times & teenage film stars) saw dry rib first in late 1977 & one year later signed them to his new clockwork label. he writes, "dry rib were a late '70s 3-piece group of some indefinable power...rob vasey's guitar style of blurred chord stylings coupled with continuous tremolo arm pre-empted my bloody valentine (or anyone else) by the best part of a decade" (edward ball, 2007). there's much more of ed's account in his liner notes, along with every surviving dry rib photo, lyrics & the usual daunting ephemera. [messthetics](#)

jim o'rouke : long night (2 cd) while we're waiting for new material from the modern experimentalist, here's some more archived work to keep us going. this 2.5 hour drone piece, split across 2 discs, is a fairly intimidating prospect. recorded in 1990, this was composed around the time of his graduation from music school & like so many of the recordings to be recently exhumed from the long-gone days of his academic career, it might at first seem glacial, inert, or even sterile to anyone familiar with his later output, but those already versed in the language of o'rouke's primal, minimalist electronic works will recognise this one as being among the finest of all those reissued to date. unearthed, remastered & now released for the first time, its ageless qualities shine as brightly (or darkly in fact) as ever. [drag city](#)

dance/electronic

v/a : kompakt total 9 (2cd) it's kompakt's 15th anniversary & to celebrate, the crew have put together one of the best & most diverse collections of music the label has ever released. the label's big names are out in force, with all the main players cropping up - some of whom offer exclusive material, namely supermayer, thomas fehlmann, jorg 'the modernist' burger & dj koze. in addition to all that, there's a stellar selection of highlights from the past 12 months of kompakt's musical output & fan favourites from matias aguayo, partial arts aka ewan pearson & al usher, kaito, gui boratto & more. *"crammed with high calibre techno, you know what you're getting into with these compilations & you certainly know you're not going to be disappointed - they do after all survey a year in the life of one of dance music's most iconic institutions"* - boomkat. [kompakt](#)

gas / wolfgang voigt : s/t (limited book & cd) following the incredible 4 cd boxset which we residents can't get enough of, voigt's acclaimed gas project reveals its visual side in this gorgeous 128 page art book showcasing prints of his visual work. the images in the book are the perfect accompaniment to the electronic ambient music he creates but the music here is something very special too. dating back to 1989, every single track on this record has never been released previously, but far from an odds-&-sods collection, this is a perfect reminder of the peerlessness of voigt in the ambient world. treat yourself - you deserve it! *"more than anyone since eno with the exception of aphex twin, wolfgang voigt was able to re-imagine how ambient music could transform space"* 9.2/10 - pitchfork, *"a benchmark in electronic music"* 5/5 - uncut. [raster-noton](#)

v/a : the art of acid - mixed by justin robertson (2cd) to celebrate 20 years of acid house, harmless release this magnificent compilation which highlights those epic acid house moments with a dj mix by justin robertson. renowned as one of dance music's most inspiring producers & djs, robertson has influenced countless acts over the years with his lauded lion rock & revtone production guises & his eclectic dj sets. here, he pays homage to all those that influenced & inspired him in his formative years on the dancefloor of the hacienda during the nascent days of the acid house scene. cd2 is an exclusive set of bonus re-edits of classic house tracks rubbed down by a veritable who's who of dance music new & old, including boys noize, plump djs, 808 state, laurent garnier, rub'n'tug & justin himself. a blistering tribute to the last great cultural revolution of the 20th century. *"squiggly mixture of minor & major acid tracks from the late 80s"* 4/5 - uncut. [harmless](#)

hip hop

michael franti & spearhead : all rebel rockers (cd+dvd) listening to the latest output from michael franti & spearhead it is clear that they have realised their ultimate vision through the production team of sly & robbie. it's easy to imagine the tracks from this album blasting from a classic soundsystem on the streets of trenchtown. the result is a joyous update of classic rebel dance music. from the opening dub influences of 'rude boys back in town' to the intoxicating groove of 'soundsystem' & the international flavoured soul workout of 'high low' featuring zap mama's marie daulne, this record is a rockin' celebration of consciousness. *"a perfect marriage of artist, attitude, style & producer, franti immersing himself in languid reggae grooves...warm, welcoming & propulsive...surely an all-time high"* - independent. [anti/ epitaph](#)

dusk & blackdown : margins music the debut album from london-based production duo dan frampton & martin clark. as enthralling as it is diverse, the album takes you beyond what can be defined as simply grime or dubstep - it further pushes their pioneering vision of the genre. it's something of a travelogue through the 2008 london musical underground zeitgeist - exploring the city's people, diversity & the aspects of harmony & tension found within the inner city. martin clark, aka blackdown, has already reached a global audience as the foremost scribe & tastemaker for dubstep & grime, on his award winning blog, his rinse fm show & in his essential monthly column for pitchfork. features guest appearances from heavyweight grime emcees trim, target & durty goodz. *"if you consider yourself to be a connoisseur of the finer end of the grime/dubstep spectrum this comes very highly recommended"* - boomkat. [keysound](#)

soul/funk

v/a : calypsoul 70 - caribbean soul 1969-1979 a celebration of the magnificent array of crossover calypso, reggae, latin, afro & soul styles that emerged, often from small studio & label stables, during the 70s. taking us on a non-stop island-hop, duncan brooker (the man behind strut's 'nigeria 70' selections) puts together a compilation that digs deep into trinidad's steel pan & marching band archives, adds a sprinkling of latin dynamite, touches on island links with africa & afrobeat & to finish, it adds in a strong helping of fascinating soul & disco fusions from short-lived island bands. a valuable selection for diggers & the perfect funky tropical summer soundtrack. [strut](#)

andre williams & the new orleans hellhounds : can you deal with it? this is some heavy punk-soul, brothers & sisters. andre's in firm voice, from his sly, come-hither leer on 'hear ya dance' to his guttural & guttery yowl on 'never had a problem', to the downright tuff throw down on 'if you leave me'. the hellhounds, with their fat horns, fuzzed out guitars & crack rhythm section, provide backing with all the subtlety of a bike chain beatdown. add to the mix the ninth ward mad scientist virtuoso oddball genius quintron on organ & this band lays down a serious base coat of soulful wallop befitting the legacy of andre. you have been warned, oh seekers of the rock, that this record has more grind in it than a 3 am cup of diner coffee! [bloodshot](#)

funkadelic : hardcore jollies masterminded by the larger-than-life character we mortals on planet earth know as george clinton, funkadelic was a key element of his highly influential p-funk empire. 'hardcore jollies', the group's first album for a major label, was released on warners in 1976. combining elements of funk & psychedelia with rock, it is dedicated to "the guitar players of the world". in addition to the hit singles 'comin' round the mountain' & 'smokey', the album also features a remake of their early classic 'cosmic slop'. [charly](#)

jazz

ken vandermark/ paal nilssen-love : seven the 3rd album by oslo's paal nilssen-love & chicago's ken vandermark. compared to the 2 previous albums the duo has, if possible, become even more powerful & groovy. this is free jazz with roots in both the american & the european tradition - in other words, warm, groovy, melodic & funky at the same time as it is raw, wild & energetic. 'seven' is the pure art of spontaneous music. independent underground jazz at its very best & a free jazz masterpiece. in this duo, vandermark & nilssen-love use free improvisation as a means to explore all levels of dynamics, density, rhythm, timbre, form & tonality. the results of their work are experienced as intense, exhilarating & boundary breaking. raw music with brutal beauty! [smalltown supersound](#)

arun ghosh : northern namaste the debut offering from the clarinetist is a conflagration of many influences & inspirations, from hindustani classical traditions through coltrane-esque spirituality & on to uk club culture. ghosh has assembled a superlative cast of musicians including dr das (asian dub foundation), idris rahman (soothsayers, zoe rahman) & aref durvesh (nitin sawnhey, susheela rahman). using the spirit & language of jazz, with the sounds & styles of hip-hop, indian classical & folk, western classical, rock, pop & avantgarde, arun's music is full of lyrical melodies & searching harmonies, down to earth directness & psychedelic ambient introspection. a kaleidoscope of sounds & emotions. "jazz seen through the prism of british-asian culture...the most auspicious debut to come my way in ages" 4/5 - jazzwise. [camoci](#)

john zorn / george lewis / bill frisell : news for lulu (limited edition) at long last the most sought after album in the john zorn canon is available again! first released on lp in 1987 & then on cd in 1994, this has become highly collectable & worth a small fortune. now hatology finally releases a newly re-mastered 2nd edition on cd, with 1 extra live track added. the album is zorn's tribute to 4 of his hard-bop heroes & the blue note spirit of the 60s - kenny dorham, sonny clark, hank mobley & freddie redd. of course, ever the maverick, zorn eschews many of the more obvious selections & opts for lesser-known tracks. the musicians - zorn on alto, george lewis on trombone & bill frisell on guitar - romp through the 21 tracks with a playful sense of abandon born from confidence & commitment. [hatology](#)

paul motian trio 2000 + two : live at the village vanguard vol 2 the american-turkish-armenian drummer is one of the most fascinating jazz artists today. motian was a member of the legendary bill evans trio & has played with paul bley, keith jarrett, charlie haden, lennie tristiano, tony scott & coleman hawkins & more. he even appeared with billie holiday & thelonious monk in his youth. from the late 70s, motian has mainly formed his own groups: from the excitement of the paul motian trio with bill frisell & joe lovano to the electric bebop band (with 2 electric guitar players) & the trio 2000 + one (with chris potter on sax & larry grenadier on bass & one of motian's favourite musicians, masabumi kikuchi on piano). mat maneri joins that trio for this album, the 2nd volume from motian's residency at the famous new york club in 2006. [winter & winter](#)

pandelis karayorgis : betwixt over the course of 20 years & approximately that many recordings, the greek musician pandelis karayorgis has established himself as one of the singular & significant pianists of his generation. one of his trademarks has been to examine & illuminate the irregular edges of the jazz piano repertoire, as he does here on compositions by monk, shorter, ellington, sun ra & others, plus 3 original pieces. 'betwixt' is a wonderfully refreshing take on the long jazz tradition of the fender rhodes. nate mcbride (bass) & curtis newton (drums) sound like they are thoroughly enjoying themselves in providing the rhythmic foil to the intrepid organic meanderings in this is a rather unusual organ trio. [hatology](#)

cassandra wilson : lovely long considered one of the finest singers in the jazz world, wilson's new album is a tour de force of emotion, technique, interpretation & style as she brings her considerable powers to this collection of classic songs. once again she has gathered a band of shining talent, featuring jason moran on piano with guitarist marvin sewell & lonnie plaxico on bass - a band that is so good together that cassandra sat in the producer's chair & let the songs speak for themselves. featuring incredible interpretations of classics like 'black orpheus', 'caravan', & 'the very thought of you', cassandra is one of the few singers that can genuinely re-invent a song that we all think we know & breathe new emotional life into it. the standout track has to be the stunning funky, soulful, brooding 'st. james infirmary' which has become a staple of her live set. [emi](#)

world

mariza : terra 7 years ago a beautiful singer with a powerful, heart-rending voice burst onto the scene & her live performances have become legendary. with her 3 studio albums so far, mariza has explored the roots of fado whilst at the same time bringing on new songwriters, adding new elements to the old music. here, mariza has again moved the form forward. with musicians from england, spain, cuba & brazil, she has discovered a genuinely new sound that has its roots in fado but which is now so much more open & outward looking than before. current fans will love the passion & power that are her hallmarks, but there will be new fans aplenty that love the uplifting nature of the new direction. [emi](#)

v/a : rio blues samba - the music & dance synonymous with brazil. a rhythm & a means of social commentary with direct links, as with american blues, back to the days of slavery. this collection looks back at some great & gritty sambas of the 70s, courtesy of martinho da vila, grupo raca, alcione, bezerra da silva, zéze motta, roberto ribeiro, aparecida, clementina de jesus, micro, dona yvonne lara & joao nogueira. [iris music](#)

mag s

the clash : issue 29 – september 2008 [primal scream](#), [n.e.r.d.](#), [acid house special](#), a free cd...

wire : september 2008 [experimental music & radical politics with the multinational audio activists ultra-red](#), [london dubstep duo dusk + blackdown](#), [daniel johnston & jad fair](#), [allora & calzadilla](#), [trevor watts & more](#).

singles

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

single of the week

peggy sue & the pictures : the body parts e.p. double 7". [broken sound](#)

broken records : slow parade v.limited 7". [label fandango](#)

lcd soundsystem : big ideas 12". [dfa](#)

richard walters : brittle bones 7". [kartel](#)

thomas tantrum : work it 7". [sindy stroker](#)

magistrates : make this work limited 7". [swf](#)

pull in emergency : follow limited 7". [mute irregulars](#)

the automatic : steve mcqueen 2 x 7". [polydor](#)

mgmt : electric feel limited 12". [sony](#)

the all new adventures of us : 45 forever v. limited 7". [one little indian](#)

cut off your hands : expectations 7". [sixsevernine](#)

data. select. party. : no girls allowed 7". [small town](#)

volcano! : africa just limited 7". [the leaf label](#)

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