

o u t t h i s w e e k

albums of the week

tv on the radio : dear science this isn't the follow-up to the previous 2 awesome albums we were expecting from new york's avant garde standard bearers, but sometimes its good to have your expectations turned on their head. opener, 'halfway home', is vintage tvotr - a rich, speaker-swallowing canvas of careening beats, buzzing riffs & bloodletting vocals but things get strange from that point in. mirror balls spin for 'crying' & the michael jackson indebted 'golden age' & adebimpe attacks 'dancing choose' like a mic-wielding battle rapper. there are the glimmers of drum & bass ('shout me out'), drunken horn sections ('red dress') & carefully-plucked film score strings ('stork & owl') that spice up proceedings. 'dlz' delivers some of their most frightening & affecting music & 'stork & owl' is more muted with its skittering beats, wilting strings & gorgeous, multi-tracked harmonies. stormy, melancholic, menacing & yet so damn funky - totally loving it! [4ad](#)

lucky dragons : dream island laughing language the brainchild of l.a. savant luke fischbeck & collaborator sarah rara. this 22 tracker is apparently their 18th release but they appear to have been flying well below the radar until now. their sound is a percussive, minimal, rhythm based wooziness that pulls you into repetitive trance like loops with muttering mantras. the duo play recorders, clap hands & co-ordinate a kind of voodoo ceremony with unrelenting beats & steel drum / dulcimer type sounds that will have you writhing. the hummed or one-note singing creates a kind of glue that cements the songs outer body feel with a sense of euphoria. it sometimes shimmers, it sometimes sparkles & at other points it soothes, but throughout this is a thoroughly enjoyable listen. great stuff! [upset the rhythm](#)

rock / indie / post rock / americana

mogwai : the hawk is howling (ltd cd/dvd, standard cd, lp). the 6th album from the scottish post-rockers sees them return to a totally instrumental landscape, with many songs coming in at around the 8 minute mark. they are renowned for their instrumental, cosmic & mind melting tune-builders & if this is what made you fall in love with them, you'll be very happy with this offering. after the mixed feelings towards 'happy songs...' & 'mr.beast', the band deliver a completely solid album, doing what they do best & working again with producer andy miller, who recorded the highly acclaimed 'young team'. the bonus dvd features a film of the band & 2 videos of the 'batcat' single. the artwork (which is displayed in its full glory on the vinyl), is designed by aidan moffat. "a reassertion of mogwai's strengths" [4/5 - slant mag.](#) [wall of sound](#)

kings of leon : only by the night (cd) just how did these pixie-eared hairy siblings (& a cousin), initially tagged as 'the southern strokes', manage to creep up from being the reinventors of dixie-styled rock & roll, to being the huge stadium band that they are today, without anyone really noticing? the 4th album from the remarkably prolific followill boys is a bold & expansive sonic statement that is set to send the kings into the stratosphere & beyond. "here' is a big old stadium where people are holding up cigarette lighters they can't use any more & worshipping at the altar of hairy men making big, dumb rock'n'roll. i like it here. i'm staying" [5/5 - omm](#), "the kol aren't impersonating the greats, they're competing with them on an increasingly level playing field" [4/5 - uncut](#), "front-loaded with world-beaters" [7/10 - nme.](#) [sony](#)

high places : s/t the brooklyn duo have created a signature sound by using bass-heavy yet crisp beats, lilting vocal melodies & syncopated rhythmic lines performed on folk percussion instruments, guitar duets turned into treated samples & percussive lines created from the manipulation of household objects (including a tomato soup can & plastic bag). the songwriting is expansive & fluid, all the while managing to be concise (perhaps a bit too concise in fact, as the album clocks in at just over the 30 minute mark & it feels just too short for this little beauty). you'll hear shades of animal collective's experimental pop, elements of growing or black dice's mangled digital exotica & a decent helping of no wave-influenced primordial beat craft but these 2 are in a wonderful, intimate & warm world all of their own. come in, snuggle up & enjoy the wonderful, enveloping sounds & the sweetness of mary pearson's vocals. very highly recommended. [thrill jockey](#)

jenny lewis : acid tongue 2nd solo record from the stunning voice of rilo kiley. the femme fatale has never sounded so passionate & her songs never so hard-hitting & acerbic as on this aptly named album. she has developed her sound further, finding her feet on the dusty roads that lead to gritty americana & as such this album sits comfortably alongside the work of lucinda williams. also for fans of azure ray & joan as policewoman. the record features some of lewis' most steadfast collaborators : johnathan rice, farmer dave scher, jason boesel, jason lader & m ward. she also invited other friends into the fold including elvis costello for a duet, chris robinson (the black crowes), benji hughes, zoey deschanel (she & him) & many more. [rough trade](#)

cold war kids : loyalty to loyalty their highly anticipated 2nd album is an impressive & lushly textured follow-up to their critically acclaimed 'robbers & cowards'. it marks a huge musical progression for the long beach, california 4-piece & in the process, they have created an album which is being hailed in some circles as something of a masterpiece. it's a 13 track album brimming with the poignant, intimate narratives & brooding atmospherics they're famed for. nathan willets' bluesy howl still dominates proceedings & the band remain bleak, sparse & dark (both musically & lyrically), perhaps more so than before, resulting in an album that sounds like the raconteurs on downers. [mercury](#)

hauschka : ferndorf hauschka's 2nd album for fatcat's 130701 imprint offers a brilliant advance on 2007's 'room to expand'. where the previous album was comprised from mostly solo recordings of his 'prepared' piano, this album is far more expansive & fully-realised. many of the tracks also feature a string duo, recorded with overdubs from schirmer on cello & sabine baron on violin. there's additional assistance from bernhard voelz on trombone & the whole thing has a much bolder, more unrestrained approach that works exceptionally well. it's very pretty, completely engaging & really rather beautiful. will appeal to fans of john cage, arvo pärt, max richter, phillip glass, rachel's, yann tiersen, goldmund & sylvian chauveau. [fat cat](#)

abe vigoda : skeleton (uk cd release & lp) this amazing band are part of the rapidly growing l.a. underground scene that has spawned no age, mika miko & health & this irresistible album is a hectic ride that'll leave you out of breath trying to keep up with it. ace tropicalia rhythms, scratchy orange juice/fire engines inspired post-punk-iness, hypnotic drumwork, stabbing guitar parts & sheer exhilarating energy make for a direct, relentless, discordant, clanging & absolutely essential album. for fans of animal collective, el guincho, indian jewelry & vampire weekend. "4 spooky los angeles kids who can't stop going on about all the great fun they're having" 10/10 album of the month - vice, "like pavement wrestling with king sunny ade or a post-rock band doing disgraceful things to paul simon's graceland" - guardian. [bella union](#)

ladyhawke : s/t (special edition cd digipack with exclusive bonus track & digital content & limited heavyweight lp) debut album from modular's kiwi singer songwriter, pip brown. she delivers a debut album of seriously big tunes that marry the craft of songwriting with elements of vintage pop, electro & rock. she's clearly influenced by the melodramatic pop of the 80s from the likes of stevie nicks, kim wilde, cyndi lauper & co, but her sound, thankfully, isn't overly retro & instead sounds very much now. surely this is enough to call the legendary john hughes out of hibernation to make a breakfast club for the noughties! "it's fresh & up-to-the-minute...a near-perfect introduction to a huge new talent" 4/5 - guardian. [island](#)

o'death : broken hymns, limbs & skins the new york quintet's 3rd album feels like a giddy junkyard hoedown, from the panicked fiddle screeches of opener 'low tide' to the celebratory gallop of closer 'lean-to'. at times it sounds morose or contemplative, but underneath the melancholy is a gospel fervour - bashed from paint buckets, banjos, guitars & anything else in kicking distance - that defines their sound. since 2007's excellent 'head home', the band have evolved the possessed americana-meets-gypsy-punk of recent years into a more urgent, unrelenting celebration of life, death & everything in between. for their musically diverse new offering, which o'death co-produced with alex newport (two gallants, the locust), they've recreated the unruly jubilation of their live shows in the studio. highly entertaining. [city slang](#)

the spinto band : moonwink their cheery brand of ear-bending psyched-up indiepop remains thoroughly untarnished on their 2nd offering & so we find ourselves back in their world of twisted melodies & drowsy, sun-dappled mini-dramas. 'summer grof' is the 1st single & much like the rest of the album, it delivers a bite-sized chunk of woozy, beat baroque'n'roll floating amongst the harmonies. the new recordings fortify their ability to interlace rich, textured guitars, unconventional orchestration & multiple-part vocal harmonies into exciting new avenues of indie-pop. the music is outlandish, kinetic & luminous, while still restrained in a way that pays homage to the classic pop song, bringing to mind a contemporary coagulum of bacharach, the beatles & bowie. "the spinto band stand apart from their peers...crammed full of melody" 7/10 - nme. [fierce panda](#)

absentee : victory shorts (cd/lp) doused with a liberal helping of johnny cash & the velvets, absentee make a welcome return with an album shot through with originality & humour & steeped in the rigours of romance. dan michaelson's deep gravelly baritone voice is reminiscent of magnetic fields' stephen merrit or leonard cohen & it is effectively juxtaposed with the sweetness of melinda bronstein's vocal delivery, vibraphone & melodica on these sing-a-long alt.folk / pure pop songs. "the kind of wonderful sound that recalls jonathan richman after he's hit rock bottom, lived as an alcohol-soaked tramp in a concrete jungle for a decade and somehow stumbled back into a recording studio to find it filled with endless jack daniels, a gold-plated recording contract and all his ex-girlfriends" 4/5 - music ohm. [memphis industries](#)

shoreline : time well spent the debut album from the brighton based 8-piece folk band, comprising members of the willkommen collective (the collective includes members of lightspeed champion's live band, the miserable rich & sons of noel & adrian). influenced by traditional english folk & more recent american folk revival acts, this should appeal to fans of espers, bonnie prince billy, iron & wine, pentangle & vashti bunyan alike. their take on folk melds together a mixture of new & more traditional influences - the band are informed by the instrumentation & arrangements found in trad-folk, with a line up featuring banjo, upright bass, cello, fiddle & harmony vocals but while the sound is quintessentially english, it is apparent that they share an affinity with the likes of american 'new weird folk' acts such as cocorosie & joanna newsom. [willkommen](#)

boduf songs : how shadows chase the balance the 2nd full length release from matthew sweet who employs the same formula as previously - one microphone, one acoustic guitar, a few random instruments, a couple of field recordings & a deft, understated touch with the mixing process. musically the album is akin to iron & wine, m ward or tunng but it's more sparse & haunting. if you listen closely you can hear small bits of rain hitting the window & cars sliding by on wet roads. the final result is one of the most unassuming & engaging recordings for ages. it is intimate, extremely personal & spectral in presence but it's not all taut introversion & overwhelming gloom - the additional instrumentation, especially the banjo & drums spice up affairs a little to keep you hooked throughout. gorgeous. [kranky records](#)

rolo tomassi : hysterics this is their first album proper, following the brilliant mini album that came out on 'holy roar' a year or so ago. their sonic pallet has expanded even more since then, sounding just as brutal as their early material, but with the addition of some very pretty, dare I say twee passages. they've always been reluctant to be pigeonholed, & with this they've remained completely indefinable. its all there...screamo, indie-pop, grindcore, math-rock & good ol' hardcore, throw it all in the mixer & stick one of the shrillest voices god ever created up in the front & there you have britain's best post-hardcore band. what's more, they're amazing live too, so get the album & see 'em live! [hassle](#)

james jackson toth : waiting in vain for several years, the tennessee-based toth has experimented with a folk-psychedelic rock hybrid, releasing numerous albums under many wooden wand variations but this is the 1st album that toth, long a cult figure, has released as a solo artist. here, he has conjured a mysterious, alluring world - his scenarios are intriguingly tawdry & his sounds tantalising, with layered, almost dreamlike harmonies, touches of blues, country & soul & the occasional flash of punk swagger. his straightforward, lo-key alt.country should appeal to fans of wilco, iron & wine or lambchop. "words & visions tumble out of toth with convincing spirit" - *uncut*, "toth may have scrapped his wizardly pseudonym, but he's still not short on magic" 4/5 - *gigwise*. [rykodisc](#)

v/a : well hung - funk rock eruptions from beneath communist hungary-vol 1

turns out that one of the products of communist hungary during the '70s was an amazing selection of psychedelic rock bands. who knew? well, clearly the folks at finders keepers have been in on this for a while, because they cottoned on to the alluring wigouts of sarolta zalatnay, reissuing her eponymous lp to glowing reviews, 25 years after its original release. it seems zalatnay was by no means a one-off. artists like kati kovacs & bands such as skorpios & piramis were all experimenting with adventurous, prog-tinged funk rock. you'll hear music that ranges from the protracted far-outness of omega's experimental epic 'to the knockabout', goodtime glam boogie of meteor & demjen ferenc's 'kivánj te is nekem szép, jó éjszakát'. [finders keepers](#)

zach hill : astrological straits/necromancer (2cd) the drummer for the north california noise-rock outfit hella releases his 1st solo album. considered one of the most innovative drummers of modern music, hill has crafted wonderfully twisted avant-pop but the centrepiece is, of course, his 8-armed drumming & highly intricate time changes & somehow, inside the din, there are plenty of catchy hooks hiding. he has enlisted a number of former recording partners & a number of new ones - contributors include !!!/lcd soundsystem's tyler pope, no age's benevento, prints' zac nelson, marnie stern, the flying littenbacher's jonathon hicshke, satori/rx bandit's steve borth, the advantage's robbie moncrief, them hills' dan elkan, les claypool, chino moreno, randy randall, dean spunt & hella bandmates carson mcwhirter & josh hill. completely inspired! [ipeccac records](#)

the faint : facination the omaha quintet's 5th album, is the 1st to be written, recorded, produced & released entirely on their own. it draws on many defining facets of their sound, while remaining completely different from anything else they've put out. todd's voice sounds less human than ever, the bass lines are more mangled, keyboards spiral & squeal out of control, electronic pings & stabs invade the melodies & the lyrical anxiety & disdain of previous albums pervades almost every song. propulsive electro-pop of sliding, siren-call guitars, ambient noise, stuttering beats, nervous rhythms & keyboards that sound like flailing voices. amazingly, they sound as relevant today as when they 1st hit the scene, so if you've dismissed or forgotten about them, now's a good time to rediscover nu-rave's predecessors. [worlds fair](#)

the late greats : life without balloons in their own words, this album was influenced by : "the surroundings of a seaside town, dead friends, hating the city & what it does to your girlfriend, hopeful musings about a better life with better people & of course, love". eastbourne is the unlikely outpost & home to these alt-rockers. intelligent, intense, chaotic & fragile - the 4-piece have quietly bided their time over the last 12 months, writing their debut (in between epic bouts of table tennis) thus honing their sound. this is a record indebted to the band's love of lo-fi us indie/alt-rock (sonic youth, pixies, pavement) but stamped with a truly provincial, english delivery. the band's dual lead vocalists max arnold & ryan griffiths have the uncanny knack of making the most melancholic of melodies sound uplifting & life affirming. [izumi records](#)

future islands : wave like home a post-wave dance band from north carolina - now residing in the fertile music capital of baltimore. future islands play a terse yet passionate music wrought from a stripped back palette. gerrit welmer's cartwheeling synthesizer melodies tumble across the austere wilderness of william cashio's post punk bass pulse, driven ever forward by eric murillo's ecstatic feel for rhythm. perhaps the most striking aspect of the band's sound, however, takes shape in the form of sam herring's distinctive guttural vocal, delivered like glenn danzig if he ever found himself in a shakespearian tragedy. this energetic outfit sound like a dan deacon take on tv on the radio or billy idol being played at triple speed & as such they deliver a fascinating but not-too-serious album of dark no-wave & garage rock goodness. [upset the rhythm](#)

nisennenmondai : tori/neji this is the japanese instrumental girl trio's 1st international release. with song titles such as this heat, sonic youth & pop group, you can understand which musical territory they come from & if you add black flag, dna, neu! & pere ubu, you're pretty close to the nisennenmondai sound. it's raw & repetitive with (post) punk instrumentals, wild grooves & no wave/disco vibes. this album contains the 2 eps tori & neji & the sleeve has been designed by the renowned norwegian artist/designer kim hiorthoy. highly recommended for fans of battles, oneida or ooioo. "with walls of distortion & a pummeling rhythmic backbone that fluctuates between krautrock's repetition & free-rock calamity, bassist zai, guitarist ma-chan & drummer hime have formed an unassuming juggernaut" - *dazed & confused*. [smalltown supersound](#)

pumajaw : curiosity box pinkie maclure & ex-loop member john wills combine pinkie's unique, multi-octave voice with looped guitar, mandolin, samples, concertina & hypnotic rhythms. their seductive sound stretches from psychedelic pop through sultry folk songs to eerie, cacophonous, trance-inducing laments. this is the scottish duos 5th album & it features guest appearances from alasdair roberts & james yorkston. completely mesmerising & highly recommended for fans of everyone from espers to six organs of admittance & psych-folk or current 93. *"links loop's ethereal guitar wash of sound with trance-like folk, held together by pinkie's disarmingly seductive voice"* 4/5 – uncut, *"a weird & wonderful flight of fancy to a seductively mysterious destination"* - time out, *"outstanding"* – mojo, *"potent musical chemistry"* – wire. [fire records](#)

bromheads jacket : on the brain having disappeared to deepest darkest sheffield to self record their 2nd album, the acclaimed band return with an even bigger, badder, scuzzier sound than ever. they have built on the raw live power of their experiences from the 'dits...' era & have tipped over the edge into the realms of the simmering, stomping fervour. 'on the brain' is a darker, hairier beast than its predecessor with squelching organ sounds, iggy-level energy bursts & tunes-a-plenty. this album clearly demonstrates that they have a lot more to offer than most of the arctic monkeys sound-alikes. [marquis cha cha](#)

mr.david viner : among the rumours & the rye mr david viner's 3rd album has been produced by ed harcourt & features guest vocalist jaymay. although several tracks have been enhanced with strings, banjo & horns, viner is generally at his best when he's stripped back, raw & uncovered. *"white stripes fans looking for quality after-hours music need look no further"* - the observer, *"viner might yet wake up one morning & find himself a star"* – nme, *"a great collection of troubadour antics...[his] writing is on fine form here, with beautiful songs like 'go home' & 'lavender' somehow taking fingerpicked, acoustic guitar-based music into a territory you couldn't reasonably brand as folk – boomkat.* [loose](#)

liz durrett : outside our gates the athens, georgia resident's 3rd album is produced & arranged by eric bachmann (archers of loaf, crooked fingers, azure ray) & now, her once spare, acoustic downbeats have been supplanted by a more textured & diverse orchestra of sounds. a virtual cacophony of instruments are here, including (but not limited to) tiny nylon-string guitars, backwards electric feedback loops, pizzicato violins, plucky cellos, upright bass, wurlitzers, accordions, grand space pianos & marching drums. bachmann's score somehow harmonizes these elements seamlessly to provide the perfect setting for durrett's near dream-state writings & softly unsettling voice. contributors include vic chesnutt & brian causey (man or astro-man?) amongst others. highly recommended for fans of cat power, marissa nadler & beth orton. [warm](#)

don chambers & goat : zebulon produced by patterson hood (drive-by truckers) & engineered by andy baker (the glands, japancakes, crooked fingers), chambers dusty old americana references the likes of springsteen, tom waits, mark lanegan & townes van zandt but the overall effect is more one of a bon jovi soundtrack to lou diamond phillips & emilio estevez riding off on their horses, in a blaze of glory, having saved the girl. additional performances are provided by the fab liz durrett on 3 tracks, which serve as album highlights. *"don chambers & goat dispenses with gimmickry, but its lyrics & arrangements are well prepared for a level field...it marks chambers as a dukes-up purveyor of eerie sincerity"* - flagpole. [warm](#)

david vandervelde : waiting for the sunrise returning with a sound that breezes in from decades back, this is the sound of the am pop radio template. whereas vandervelde played all instruments on his 1st album, a capable band has been assembled to saunter through the material here, including jay benet, a former member of wilco. the band sounds full, but vandervelde's strongpoint is definitely his voice. unique in its higher-register reedy quality, it winds up being surprisingly strong. rootsy guitars & layered vocals filter through a soft-focus 70's porch sittin' haze that should appeal to fans of midlake. *"a blissful alt-country album where the hammond organ swells and pulses like it's being tickled by al kooper"* – q. [secretly canadian](#)

parenthetical girls : entanglements the portland, oregon outfit have traded in their small-screen sincerity for a bold & blustering technicolour - a lush, longing & lusty celluloid schmaltz. an orchestral song-cycle of grand sonic ambition, this is an 11 song, linear narrative of ascendancy, adolescent sexuality, quantum mechanics, consent and other moral ambiguities - all set to an elaborately orchestrated olio of modern classical & timeworn, traditional american pop forms borrowing string-swept sentimentality from the likes of van dyke parks, scott walker, jack nitzsche & burt bacharach. for fans of richard swift. [tomlab](#)

the dead science : villianaire the seattle-based band have created a majestic, ornate and soaring collection of post-punk avant-pop on this, their 4th full-length & their 1st for constellation. a brilliant song cycle driven by layers of sam mickens' vibrato- laden voice, dark lyricism & sterling guitar work. bassist (acoustic and electric) jherek bischoff & drummer nick tamburro anchor the tunes with endlessly inventive polyrhythmic suppleness. together the trio unleash a truly unique sound, with a controlled and commanding fury. the songs range from epic orchestral pop to sinister jazz-rock to weary, soul-bleached balladry. big, theatrical prog rock that veers between muse, mars volta, the associates & my life story in musical terms. [constellation](#)

roses kings castles : roses kings castles musician & dj adam ficek is most commonly known to the general public for his day-job as drummer in babyshambles. what many people don't know is that he is a blistering artistic talent in his own right. roses kings castles is the moniker under which adam performs & records his own unique catalogue of quixotic, chiming, & blissfully astute acoustic pop songs. lost somewhere between belle & sebastian's pastoral warmth & the hallucinatory 6-string invocations of syd barrett, a typical track is buoyed by the finest elements of classic british songwriting; by turns wry, beautiful & bizarre. [sycamore club](#)

neva dinova : you may already be dreaming the band's 3rd full-length is their 1st for saddle creek & it's a perfect fit. this omaha band have been stalwarts of the nebraskan scene & have released a joint ep with bright eyes. they deliver melancholic masterpieces with counter-balanced melodies & poetic lyricism & in jake bellows, you have the perfect whiskey fuelled frontman - a forlorn voice both lamenting & accusing. the record was recorded in omaha amidst many troubles - jake found himself in a 'barroom tussle' which led to the complete blowout of his left eardrum. fortunately, he recovered & was able to complete the recording after re-working many of the songs. from the spacious guitar washes of 'a man & his dream' to the sweeping, dusty strength of 'clouds', this is the band's most fluid & realized effort to date. [saddle creek](#)

suki ewers: kind of hazy the former member of opal & keyboardist/guitarist/bassist with mazy star releases her beautiful solo album. after performing for several years with anemone, a band once touted as the missing link in the country music/dream pop connection, suki spent the last couple of years in the studio working with joe kennedy on a set of 9 songs. the result is hazy, bittersweet pop in the vein of galaxie 500 & felt. the songs are at once dreamy & enigmatic yet immediately accessible. suki manages to evoke much of the same delicately pretty gloominess as opal while adding her own serenely melodic warmth. *"a female-fronted the clientele with a slightly more american brand of melancholy"* -filter magazine. [mind expansion](#)

winter journey : this is the sound of the winter journey (limited) the winter journey are anthony braithwaite & suzy mangion, a gentle duo from manchester, who create gorgeous homemade music. their album is a perfect 11 songs of vintage warmth & homely welcomes, musically drawing us through their land of pastoral finger picked guitar, village hall harmonies, magical zither minimalism & even a touch of tap dancing. anthony has written all of the songs & wears his influences with pride - mccartney melodies, serge gainsbourg, elliot smith ballads, beach boy harmonies, carter family, even a little krautrock. the 1st 500 copies are packaged in a hand made, hand stamped & numbered sleeves. [timbreland](#)

jackson browne : time the conqueror over the course of more than 3 decades, browne has written & performed some of the most literate & moving songs in popular music. with classic albums including 'late for the sky', 'the pretender', 'running on empty' & 'for everyman' & songs like 'doctor my eyes', 'rock me on the water' & 'lives in the balance', he has defined a genre of songwriting that is charged with honesty, emotion & personal politics. jackson's artistry was recognised with his 2004 induction into the rock & roll hall of fame. this is browne's 1st studio release in 6 years & it's been recorded with his long-time band, kevin mccormick (bass), mark goldenberg (guitars), mauricio 'fritz' lewak (drums) & jeff young (keyboards & backing vocals). this album adds 2 members to the band, vocalists chavonne morris & alethea mills. [innerhythmic](#)

boz boorer : miss pearl one hell of an album featuring full-throttle rockabilly classics such as jimmy wages' unreleased sun classic 'miss pearl' from whence the album title comes, to a blistering assault on hank mizell's 'jungle rock' featuring backing vocals by none other than adam ant. boz boorer has been musical director & co-writer for & with morrissey from 91 to the present day & has played on his solo albums. [vibrant](#)

the maybes? : promise the debut album from hotly tipped liverpool 5-piece. it was produced by famed producer head who has previously worked with pj harvey & massive attack. a fiery explosion of emotionally driven power pop that delivers the band's character & energy. *"massive classic pop (like beach boys covering the who) it'll give you the same thrill as when you first heard oasis or arctic monkeys. the best new rock band around"* - news of the world. [xtra mile](#)

gentleman jesse & his men : s/t the atlanta power-pop 4-piece are intent on delivering hooky tunes & infectious choruses with some stellar harmonizing inbetween. they are incredibly nostalgic in their approach but instead of employing a formula in which an overwhelming degree of varying styles clash within a comforting power-pop aroma, they opt to bring back what made the genre so great in the first place. traditional punk & garage-rock are the main forces at work here, making comparisons to the early workings of power-pop greats exploding hearts somewhat unavoidable. *"the most ridiculously great garage pop band to emerge in the last half-decade & their new album will probably break your heart & blow your mind - or other body parts. ready your bowels, hype machine!"* - david greenwald / rawkblog [douche master](#)

porn & merzbow : and the devil makes three the debut release for truth cult, a new imprint curated by southern records. this is also the first time porn & merzbow have collaborated on a project together. porn is the demented child of tim moss who fronted the cult band ritual device. in the stellar company of melvins' stalwart dale crover (on drums) & omnipresent uber-producer billy anderson (on bass), this is a 'power trio' in the truest sense of the phrase. collaborating across the album's 12 tracks, the fearless japanese noise demigod masami akita (aka merzbow) layers scree & grafts gristle onto their already dense muscular creations - this is a marriage made in blake's heaven & hell - their 2 uniquely singular approaches blending seamlessly to create a portentous hybrid beast of no equal. [truth cult](#)

dartz! : the sad history of the village of almerique returning after a brief break following the release of 'this is my ship' last year, teesside trio dartz! step back to the fold with their politely-sized new mini-album, 'the sad history of the village of almerique'. the 8 tracks were recorded in an derelict warehouse in the glamorous stockton-on-tees. dartz! mix post-punk guitar licks with danceable beats earning them comparisons to the likes of the futureheads, the dismemberment plan and dischord records' q and not u. *"if i can find a tattoo parlour with the public liability insurance to tattoo the word dartz! on my heart, then i'm willing, and game"* - nme. [xtra mile](#)

wreckless eric & amy rigby : s/t debut album from the stiff stalwart & his wife, american singer-songwriter amy rigby. eric released the legendary 'whole wide world' back in 1977 & since then he has made countless albums in different guises, moving between bubblegum pop, grunge, psychedelic & techno but always remaining true to the diy spirit of his early stiff days. here he presents 11 brand new songs recorded & self-produced in their french home studio, including the lead single 'here comes my ship', the mott the hoople referencing 'another drive in saturday' & the johnny cash cover 'i still miss someone'. a beautifully raw & touching album of vocal harmonies, crackling, buzzing atmospheres & upbeat/downbeat lyrics. [stiff](#)

katjonband : s/t new album from jon langford (mekons, waco bros, three johns) & katherina ex (the ex) continues the 2 decade long collaboration between the 2 bands. langford has dubbed it a "death industrial album" but this ain't nurse with wound either. the punk roots of kat & jon definitely shine through on these catchy but ascerbic songs of love & politics. shards of metallic guitar weave their way around kat's inventive rhythm patterns while both share vocal duties. bone bare, blood boiling anthems sure to hook & rile. [carrot top](#)

bitcrush : shimmer & fade (limited) reissued & remastered since its initial download-only release in 2005, bitcrush's shimmer & fade finds n5md label owner mike cadoo blending electronic production techniques & digitally modelled drum patterns with shoegazing vocals & a songwriting approach that channels more conventional rock music. cadoo is in his element building up epic walls of digital noise & artificial intelligence-era beats on lengthy pieces like 'the missing' or 'waiting for something', although he's similarly adept at the slightly less plugin-soaked 'when swallowing becomes difficult', which is possibly the closest this album comes to conventional songwriting. [n5md](#)

paul hawkins & thee awkward silences : we are not other people paul is a bristol-born, london-based outsider singer-songwriter whose darkly humorous tales of rejection alienation & despair have drawn favourable comparisons to the likes of tom waits, nick cave & daniel johnston. 2 years ago, he formed thee awkward silences, with current & ex members of death in vegas, dot allison, david cronenberg's wife & the beat maras as a means to articulate his storytelling style of songwriting & make it louder. under the excellent production supervision of drummer & death in vegas member ian button, the full colourful scope of paul's songs are realised, often juxtaposing occasional lyrical bleakness with pop perfection. "an ace antifolk superstar" - time out, "blues-stomping, alcohol fuelled bitter despair" 8/10 - drowned in sound. [jesus factory](#)

boston spaceships : brown submarine despite some subtle prog flourishes & acoustic strums, brown submarines is a pop punk album, made by & for kids who've worn out the grooves on their cheap trick, alice cooper, wire & dbs records. while robert pollard has stretched out post-gbv, experimenting on each of his diverse & unique solo records, boston spaceships rock hard, have fun & drink miller lite. without undue hyperbole, pollard is penning fantastic pop songs in a style no longer fashionable - perhaps never fashionable. makes no difference - on 'brown submarine', pollard's charged up & sings his arse off. [guided by voices, inc.](#)

josh rouse : the best of the rykodisc years the 1st ever compilation from the acclaimed singer-songwriter, spanning 7 years & featuring 32 songs on 2 cds - favourites, rarities & unreleased gems. nebraska-born rouse started out on rykodisc where he released 5 albums & 2 eps of literate & engaging guitar pop, which garnered him both critical raves & a devoted following. this collection distils the essence of what rouse calls his "first stage". years & musical styles may separate these songs, but ultimately they are linked through the warmth of rouse's voice, the conversational ease of his singing & his unfailing melodic gift. [rhino](#)

dave edmunds : the many sides of dave edmunds - the greatest hits the definitive collection of a career that spans 4 decades. a true rock'n'roll purist, edmunds has never strayed far from the original rock n' roll sound of the 50s. his career began in the 60s as lead guitarist for the band love sculpture, before going solo in 1968. by the mid 70s edmunds' solo career had began to branch out into the formation of the band rockpile. throughout the 80s edmunds mainly focused on producing other peoples music, but returned to the forefront in 1994 with the album 'plugged in'. this retrospective captures the remarkable sound & career of one of rock 'n' roll's most enduring & popular cult stars. comes in a snazzy sleeve too! [umtv](#)

v/a : one:18 an 18 track sampler of new & previously unreleased songs from the local label. featuring acoustic beauty & extreme-noise-bass-fuzz featuring from (amongst others) jonquil, sons of noel & adrian, revenge of shinobi, everyone to the anderson, who owns death tv & more. [toy soldier records](#)

spherical objects : post & parcel/elliptical optimism the 1st ever reissues of the cult manchester band, active between 1978 & 81 & the core group on the highly collectible object music label. formed by singer, songwriter & dj steve solamar in 1978, they produced a unique brand of what early champion paul morley termed 'existentialist psychedelia'. their 1st album, 'past & parcel', appeared in 1978 & predated releases on other manchester post-punk labels such as factory. the 2nd album, 'elliptical optimism', was released in 1979. both the band & label packed up in 1981, after solamar resolved a lifelong contradiction by becoming a woman. since then his music has languished in undeserved obscurity. [boutique](#)

spherical objects : further ellipses/no mans land their 3rd album, 'further ellipses', appeared in 1980 & featured a new, short-lived line-up of the group. the 4th & final album, 'no mans land', was released in 1981. the artist formerly known as steve solamar is alive & well & lives a happy spiritual & musical life. [boutique](#)

the pretty things : come see me - the very best of... a comprehensive 25 track best of that covers the band's initial decade, from the r&b influenced garage sound through to their psychedelic & rock period. includes classic hits 'don't bring me down', 'defecting grey' & 'honey, i need.' [shout factory](#)

philip glass : glass box: a nonesuch retrospective (10 cd boxset with 192 page booklet) cd1) music in contrary motion, music with changing parts, music in similar motion ; cd2) music in twelve parts, parts vii-x, cd3) einstein on the beach, 9 selections, cd4) glassworks/analog: orange mountain music archive, étoile polaire, dressed like an egg, mad rush for organ, cd5) satyagraha, act i-iii, cd6) koyaanisqatsi, 6 selections; powaqqatsi, 8 selections, cd7) string quartets nos 2, 4, 5; études for piano nos 2, 3, 5, 9, cd8) selections from the civil wars, symphony no 5, akhnaten, hydrogen jukebox, cd9) symphonies nos 3 & 8, cd10) filmworks. this nicely packaged retrospective surveys 4 decades of work by glass, from his earliest solo pieces to his world-renowned operas to his oscar-nominated film scores. an essential wish list addition. [nonesuch](#)

casiotone for the painfully alone : town topic previously released as a 7", this cd version of the 'town topic' ep takes in a total of 15 tracks - that's 10 more than the 7", although 4 of these are ringtone versions. the ep is the soundtrack to the video artist & photographer laurel nakadate's debut feature film, 'stay the same never change'. laurel commissioned cftpa's owen ashworth to provide all of the music for the film, right down to the character's ring tones. it consists of 13 short instrumental pieces, book-ended by the 2 vocal tracks that were recorded specifically for the film : 'ice cream truck' & 'green cotton sweater (version)'. [tomlab](#)

dance/electronica

thievery corporation : radio retaliation along with long-time microphone co-conspirators like sleepy wonder, loulou & notch the outernational dj, the production duo are joined on their 5th album by a new cast of musical collaborators including nigeria's afro-beat heir femi kuti, brazilian star vocalist & guitarist seu jorge, indian sitar virtuoso anushka shankar, slovakian chanteuse & violinist jana andevska & washington dc's own godfather of go-go chuck brown. with an uncompromising socio-political agenda & richly layered production touching upon the eclectic sounds of jamaica, latin america, africa, asia & the middle east, this is another fine addition to their catalogue that really should have ben released at the beginning of summer so it could have soundtracked those lazy, hazy sunny afternoons (the few of them that there were). [18th st lounge](#)

t.raumschmiere : i tank u marco haas finally releases 'i tank u', which completes the series that started out on mute records ('radio blackout' & 'blitzkrieg pop'). an altogether darker & punkier album than previous efforts, dropping the chugalong anthems in favour of scuzzy electro punk. electronica & techno are jammed into a terrific rock record that features deichkind, puppetmastaz, warren suicide, deus' tim vanhamel & more. a great exploration of the dark side of the berlin club scene. [shitkatapult](#)

hatchback : colours of the sun after the runaway success of last years milky disco compilation, lo recordings voyage ever deeper into the cosmic galaxy with the debut album release by californian producer hatchback. anyone for californian cosmic krautrock disco? spanning neu like motorik grooves, sunny disco moves, epic ambient journeys that rival vangelis or klaus schulze for sheer electronic deepness & downtempo funk head noddies with kraftwerk keyboards, this album can make it seem like summer anytime of the year. hatchback is samuel milton grawe, californian native and best buddy with sorcerer aka dan judd whose 'surfing at midnight' was one of the summer tunes of last year. you'll also find sorcerer adding his delicious guitar licks to a couple of tracks on this album. [lo recordings](#)

iacopo carreras : from bed to couch if you thought berlin's lan muzic was a minimal label, think again - this is a wildly inventive amalgam of house, techno, breakbeats & experimental electronics. the album mixes up moody club techno tracks with cuts more suited to trippy sofa sessions & autechre-like injections. acidic sequences, muscular basslines, ragged hi-hats, storm-tossed hand drums, delicate piano arpeggios - fans of everyone from apparat to koze could do themselves a favour checking this out. [lan](#)

pan/tone : skip the foreplay from the kompakt stable of labels comes the first new pan/tone album for 5 years. pan/tone, aka sheldon thompson, has recently released material as gringo grinder, sid lerock etc on labels like sender, sub static & onitor. for this new album, he has put together a set of quirky tech house bouncers that serve as a satisfying home listening techno experience. it's a no-nonsense affair that travels through electro ('makers mark'), acoustic-based minimal ('shame'), two lone swordsmen-esque dread techno ('lost highways'), starch-white techno pop ('clean getaway') & more during its 12 tracks. [cereal killers](#)

fatboy slim : you've come a long way baby 10th anniversary

commemorative edition (2cd) has it really been 10 years since this breakthrough dance album was released? blimey, that makes us all feel so old! in 1998 norman cook unleashed his 2nd monster album on an unsuspecting public & this brought the then-underground phenomenon that was big beat, into the public consciousness. the album became the 3rd best selling dance album of all time in the uk & spawned hit after hit including 'the rockafeller skank', 'gangster tripping', 'right here right now' & 'praise you'. now comes a special commemorative edition, packaged in a very nice hard back sleeve. features a bonus disc with 10 rarities & b sides - many tracks on cd for the 1st time. an essential purchase/re-purchase. [skint](#)

v/a : best seven selections 3 sonar kollektiv present the future sound of dub & reggae. daniel w. best is berlin's godfather of soul, dub & reggae. 10 years after the first tune released on best seven, he's still on his quest to dig up forgotten roots-reggae pearls from all over the world. featuring well known & upcoming artists such as sisters, ladi6, jah seal & dynamics, as well as works by members of the best seven family such as kabuki, frost & wagner, sygaire, haaksman + haaksman & tracks by famous artists such as toska, reclouse, joe dukie of fat freddy's drop & the black seeds, this is a quality collection. [sonar kollektiv](#)

v/a : this is dj's choice vol 1- compiled by soulinus & pun debuting as selectors on volume one are the swiss gents soulinus & pun. the collection is a diary that bears witness to what soulinus & pun are all about : b-boy breaks, sleazy funk & soul plus influences from latin to jazz & afro & sometimes even electronica. with nothing less than 7 previously unreleased quality tracks, this is a must have collection for every breaks addict! features tracks from dusty, the jazzinvaders, flevans, keno1, quantic & loads more. [unique](#)

armand van helden : you don't know - very best of (2cd) the ultimate avh collection. this limited edition 2cd set contains a 2nd disc packed with his greatest remixes. avh is truly a house & remix legend & this album brings this all together on one ultimate collection. [umtv](#)

hip hop

large professor : main source as a founding member of the revered new york hip-hop group main source, large professor put out a hip-hop classic straight out of the gate. since then, extra p's sound has given you nas's 'it ain't hard to tell', tribe's 'keep it rollin'' & nearly all of kool g rap & dj polo's 'wanted: dead or alive' among others. his productions in the mid-90s defined the term "boom bap", which is exactly what to expect with his first lp in over 3 years. on this, his 2nd full length album, he has enlisted legendary emcees jeru the damaja, lil' dap, big noyd, az & styles p to deliver a lesson in hip-hop purity. no skits. no songs based around dances. no forced collaborations. just beats, rhymes & life. [gold dust](#)

soul/funk

lizzy parks : raise the roof parks' debut album on tru thoughts is a euphoric, original & unforgettable introduction to one of the most talented & distinctive singers of the moment. deftly produced by ben 'nostalgia 77' lamdin & with rich, dramatic orchestration from riaan vosloo of the acclaimed nostalgia 77 octet, the album embodies her fresh & modern personal twist on the singer-songwriter tradition, encompassing elements of various styles from retro jazz & boogie soul to ambient experimental music. [tru thoughts](#)

jazz

adriano adewale group : sementes a rich chemistry of cultural influences is at work in this keenly awaited debut. rooted in the musical traditions of nigeria, angola & brazil & infused with contemporary european classical & jazz styles, this is a colourful cocktail of infectious funky rhythms & intimate soulful ballads peppered with free-jazz improvisation. 'sementes' is the work of percussionist & composer adewale who steps out of his side-man role with the likes of antonio forcione, monica vasconcelos & modeste hughes to front his own outstanding international ensemble. features afro-brazilian adriano adewale on percussion & vocals, australian nathan riki thomson on double bass & flutes, kadialy kouyate from senegal on kora & vocals & fellow brazilian marcelo andrade on sax, flutes & rabeca amongst others. [sugue records](#)

john abercrombie/ralph towner : sargasso sea an early ecm masterpiece from 2 american guitar legends, both of whom continue to record for the label over 30 years later. 'sargasso sea' explores both the acoustic & electric realms. "with towner on guitars & piano, the music is impressionistic & pastel shaded but more sinewy than its surface suggests" – rough guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

bass desires (marc johnson/bill frisell/john scotland/peter erskine) : bass desires the debut of bass desires – one of ecm's most successful if short-lived bands – the album is a true collaborative effort from 4 outstanding musical thinkers/leaders. "highly influential album, still sounding fresh thanks to frisell's & scotland's pleasingly contrasting styles & featuring the leader on electric bass. a highlight is a ringingly positive version of coltrane's 'resolution' from a love supreme" – rough guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

paul bley : open to love a startling original solo piano masterpiece from paul bley, one of the early architects of the nascent ecm label. it covers the deeply original music of carla bley & annette peacock. "one of bley's finest-ever performances" – penguin guide to jazz, "this is one of the most influential solo piano recordings in jazz history...bley's most mature & visionary work" – all music guide. [ecm touchstone](#)

chick corea with miroslav vitous & roy haynes : trio music, live in europe one of the premier piano trios in the history of jazz, this live recording captures the tremendous interplay of the group. "chick corea's acoustic piano work with the bassist miroslav vitous and the drummer roy haynes brings out the mystical & lyrical side of the many-sided keyboardist" – new york times, "corea is a pianist of remarkable range & energy" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

dave holland quartet : extensions steve coleman, kevin eubanks & 'smitty' smith shine in dave holland's presence on a recording named 'album of the year' in the downbeat critic's poll, 1989. "holland teams up with some of the younger guard of the jazz scene who all prove their worth in the setting" – music hound jazz: the essential album guide, "extensions is a brilliant album that moves carefully from mood to mood" – new york times. [ecm touchstone](#)

jack dejohette : special edition the debut of one of the signature bands of the late 1970s/early 1980s, this was 'album of the year' in the downbeat 1980 reader's poll & features 2 classic john coltrane compositions – 'central park west' & 'india'. "a deft album with much variety & style" – rough guide to jazz, "murray sounds wonderful & arthur blythe is playing out of his skin" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

bill frisell band : lookout for hope the first & most stimulating of frisell's bands, 'lookout for hope' introduced a new group sound - from the influence of jim hall to rock to nashville. "certainly one of the strongest things he has done. much of the credit has to go to the combination of driscoll & baron, a dream team for a player of frisell's sensibilities" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

keith jarrett : facing you jarrett's 1st ever solo recording (1972) & an absolute landmark with its new improvisational language. "facing you was a studio album, mostly of short pieces & its brilliance, glowing sonorities & emotional resonances stunned the public" – rough guide to jazz, "keith jarrett's first album of piano solos & to many listeners, his best" – new york times. [ecm touchstone](#)

gary burton quintet (with pat metheny) : dreams so real a deeply lyrical album showcasing the compositions of carla bley. features rising star pat metheny during his brief, vital stint with gary burton. "their blend of country softness makes for interesting listening" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

keith jarrett / gary peacock / jack dejohnette : standards live the 1st live recording of this remarkable trio features 'standards' repertoire, much of which would become the trio's staples. "the whole concert is exceptional & 'too young to go steady' is one of the most perfect & exultant trio performances in jazz...jarrett plays a superlatively swinging & ecstatically emotional solo" – rough guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

charles lloyd quartet : the call a deep, ruminative album by tenor saxophonist charles lloyd's working quartet of the time. lloyd has stated that 'the call' evokes the spirits of ellington greats harry carney & johnny hodes. "this is a group to match the line-up of the 1960s, a perfectly balanced combination of power & delicacy & fronted by a man who is once again at the top of his considerable powers" – penguin guide to jazz, "a masterly session & lloyd plays as well as i have ever heard him" – gramophone. [ecm touchstone](#)

pat metheny group : american garage the 2nd recording of the pat metheny group, this album was captured at a time when the band was headed for stardom. "metheny's popularity jumped to a much higher level in 1979 with his record american garage" – new york times, "the metheny group albums settled the guitarists' music into the niche from which he is still basically working : light, easily digested settings that let him play long, meticulous solos which often work up a surprising intensity" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

oregon : s/t the ecm debut of this "world music-&-beyond" improvisational collective, the album heralded a major musical shift for the group – from acoustic to electric. the eponymously titled album was the penultimate group recording with sitar master, collin walcott, before his untimely death. "clearly the group-sound benefited enormously from ecm's state-of-the-art production" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

tomasz stanko : balladyna the polish trumpeter's powerful debut as a leader (1976) presents a more aggressive & abstract side to his playing. "balladyna was his breakthrough album, a very personal statement given a high production gloss by ecm" – penguin guide to jazz, "stanko plays with unusual urgency & fire...[his] fat, pliable tone & abstract ideas [create] hard-swinging european jazz" - amazon.com. [ecm touchstone](#)

john surman : private city perhaps the most important solo recording of master musician john surman's large ecm catalogue, this is a deeply personal solo statement that had its origins as a 1987 score written for sadler's wells royal ballet. "surman puts intensity & colour into his introspective & often sparse explorations" – all music guide, "surman's most considered achievement to date" – the times. [ecm touchstone](#)

ralph towner with jan garbarek / eberhard weber / jon christensen : solstice an early & label-defining classic in both sound & style, folk, jazz & classical musics are seamlessly blended into an original whole. "garbarek, weber & christensen.... are ideally suited to towner's music in terms of their sonorities, active rhythms & sculpted phrasing. the romantic 'drifting petals' also shows that towner isn't afraid to wear his heart on his sleeve" – rough guide to jazz, "sumptuously beautiful sound" –amazon. [ecm touchstone](#)

collin walcott : cloud dance walcott's debut as leader demonstrates his prowess of the sitar & tabla. this tight, lyrical album by an all-star group is a must-have for fans of oregon & world music. "a superb album" – rough guide to jazz, "has a freshness & originality that sustain its appeal. 'prancing', just for tablas & double bass, is one of the most exciting performances in the ecm catalogue" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

kenny wheeler with keith jarrett / dave holland / jack dejohnette : gnu high wheeler's stunning debut for ecm features an all-star cast & is one of the finest trumpet-led, jazz quartet recordings of all time. "a superb & unusually sympathetic quartet" – amazon, "one of the classic albums of the 1970s. 3 glorious long compositions by wheeler, superb solos from him & jarrett, & a superlative rhythm section" – rough guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

norma winstone with john taylor / tony coe : somewhere called home this vocal masterpiece was winstone's ecm debut as leader. "she is not just an essential singer, but a singer of essentials" – jazztimes, "a singer of brilliant virtuosity & flexibility...this is an excellent set of performances with sensitive accompaniment by john taylor & pithy interjections by tony coe" – rough guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

paul motian with keith jarrett / charlie haden : conception vessel motian's superb & characteristically eclectic debut as a leader (1973) contains 2 powerful duets with an abstract-leaning keith jarrett & fine contributions by unheralded guitarist sam brown, violinist leroy jenkins & bassist charlie haden. "startling when it 1st appeared...has retained its freshness & vigour. a small classic...the leader is seldom far from the centre of things, but as ever he plays with grace & composure" – penguin guide to jazz. [ecm touchstone](#)

country

old crow medicine show : tennessee pusher their 3rd album has been produced by don was (bob dylan, rolling stones), who describes the band as "the clash of bluegrass music" & "the smartest & finest purveyors of american music to come down the pike in decades." the album itself offers a virtual american road trip, populated with characters that span a century of the south. ocms continue to create their special blend of american roots, rock, blues & country music & the album also features 2 distinguished session musicians in drummer jim keltner (john lennon, neil young, brian wilson) & organ player benmont tench (tom petty). "what's important is the interaction of their fiddle, banjo and harmonica work, their easy harmonies, and the sheer quality of the writing" 4/5 - guardian. [netwerk](#)

dan tyminski : wheels known for his role as vocalist/multi-instrumentalist with alison krauss & union station & as the featured vocalist on the hit version of 'man of constant sorrow' from 'o brother, where art thou?', his 2nd solo album introduces the dan tyminski band featuring adam steffey on mandolin (formerly of akus & mountain heart), ron stewart on banjo (jd. crowe & the new south, longview, the lynn morris band), barry bales on bass (akus) & justin mores on fiddle (newfound road). combining a sophisticated, modern sound with his hallmark, searing intensity, this is a powerful set of songs dealing with conflict, transition, heartbreak & the lessons of life, delivered with timeless soul from one of the great voices of contemporary bluegrass. [decca](#)

folk

bellowhead : matachin (deluxe version in hardback book format with extra artwork & 32 page booklet) this is a magnificently murky & rum-sodden collection of 11 traditional & original songs from an 11 piece band who defy easy categorization. there are no whimsical maidens or gentle stories of love gone wrong. instead you'll get dragged along on an exhilarating journey filled with cholera, whiskey, the high-seas & the cold war. often described as a folk big band, the bellowhead collective are much more than that. blending folk, rock, ska, jazz, soul & world music influences with dashes of english music hall & cabaret, between them, they play more than 20 instruments, 6 of them sing & their arrangements are very impressive indeed. "the sound of 44 limbs in pursuit of countless more possibilities" - the times. [navigator](#)

trees : the garden of jane delawney the band's 1970 cult acid-folk debut album gets the lavish re-issue treatment – an extensive package with original 9 track album plus 4 bonus tracks, a detailed booklet with unseen photos & new liner notes. the british folk act were compared to fairport convention & this album is divided between traditional folk covers ('the great silkie' is the best) & tobias boshell originals. it remains a fine album on par with fairport convention, pentangle & steeleye span albums of the era. the title track is the standout - an atypically light piece for acoustic guitar & harpsichord with a beautifully haunting melody. [sony](#)

jim moray : sweet england moray's phenomenal debut earned him the "album of the year" accolade at the 2003 bbc folk awards & now it has been reissued at mid-price. "the most significant development in english folk since fairport convention's 'liege & lief'" – uncut, "irritatingly young, handsome & talented, jim moray is the poster boy of what will probably become known as nu folk" - the independent. [niag](#)

jim moray : s/t moray's 2006 follow-up to 'sweet england' is an even more radical & mesmerising interpretation of english folk, now available at mid-price. "a word-of-mouth sensation...the biggest leap forward in folk for 30 years" - daily telegraph, "the most significant musician since bob dylan to decide that the folk idiom is the perfect vehicle for his musical adventures & experiments" - sydney morning herald. [niag](#)

jim moray : sprig of thyme a 3 track single featuring the previously unreleased title track. [niag](#)

world

seprewa kasa : s/t this new recording by 3 leading ghanaiian musicians features the seprewa , an ancient stringed instrument, closely related to the kora, that was loved by kings & workers alike. due to the popularity of the electric guitar in west africa, the seprewa, known as "the soul of highlife", lost its place in ghanaiian culture. now, thanks to the 3 musicians on this album, the instrument has been firmly placed in the spotlight as they perform the songs that play at weddings, funerals & other occasions. [riverboat](#)

akim el sikameya : introducing akim el sikameya akim seamlessly blends european & algerian influences in his music & has mesmerized audiences worldwide with his unique singing voice unusual fiddle-playing technique. drawing from arab-andalusian tradition, combined with jazz, latin & gypsy music, akim speaks out against religious fundamentalism & narrates daring tales of love. [introducing](#)

reggae

tenor saw meets nitty gritty : s/t seminal dancehall rockers inna showdown style with their classic 1985 set 'powerhouse presents tenor saw & nitty gritty', given a full buffed reissue with a bonus 8 tracks of all time dancehall killers from tenor's 'ring the alarm' to nitty's 'hog in a minty'. before they both passed away prematurely, nitty & tenor were major exponents of the waterhouse singing style, originated from the likes of michael rose, don carlos & junior reid, a particularly mellifluous style that countered the bold synthetic bass of the emergent digital style that had taken control of the island. this collection pays tribute to 2 unique voices whose music lives on in dancehall legend. [vp](#)

v/a : linval thompson - 12" rulers the 12" inch rulers' series concentrates on those classic 12" singles that greensleeves have released over the years & that record collectors remember so fondly & of which, many have never appeared on cd. this release concentrates on the works of legendary producer & singer linval thompson. featuring full-length 12" mixes from artists like eek-a-mouse, barrington levy, earl sixteen, al campbell, freddie mcgregor amongst others, these tracks were recorded at channel one with king tubby, backed by the roots radics & engineered & mixed by scientist & soldgie. the booklet contains extensive sleeve notes, an exclusive interview, rare photos & previously unseen images of the featured artists. [greensleeves](#)

johnny osbourne : most wanted the new instalment of this successful series comes from johnny osbourne, which puts the superb singer under the spotlight with a collection of essential tracks from the greensleeves vaults includes full-length extended versions of tracks previously only available on 12" such 'fally ranking', 'back off', 'trouble maker' & 'trickster' appearing on cd here for the first time. produced by prince / king jammy, linval thompson & gussie clarke, all tracks are culled from the early to mid 80s when the sound was transcending into digital. the booklet contains liner notes & unseen archive photographs. [greensleeves](#)

vinyl

mary hampton : my mother's children (deluxe limited edition lp with bonus cd) [navigator](#)

calexico : carried to dust (very limited) [city slang](#)

radiohead : amnesiac (double lp) [emi american vinyl](#)

the beach boys : pet sounds [emi american vinyl](#)

mags

word : october 2008 philip norman on lennon, wim wenders, mike skinner, grateful dead, neil tennant...

singles

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

single of the week

telepathe : devil's trident v. ltd 7", only available in selected shops. [merok](#)

micachu : golden phone 7". [accidental](#)

micah p. hinson & red empire orchestra : we won't have to be lonesome 7". full time hobby

white lies : death 2 x 7" & cd. [polydor](#)

isobel campbell & mark lanegan : come on over (turn me on) 7". v2

holly golightly & the brokeoffs : my 45 / getting high for jesus ltd 7". [damaged goods](#)

the aliens : magic man 7". [pet rock](#)

vera fang : vera fang ep limited 7". [army of bad luck](#)

this city : we move v.limited 7". [alcopop](#)

sportsday megaphone : i think it's love limited 7". [sunday best](#)

joan as police woman : holiday 7" picture disc. [reveal](#)

zombie zombie : dog walker 12". [versatile](#)

hot chip : hold on / touch too much remixes 2 x 12". [emi](#)

polly scattergood : i hate the way limited 10". [emi](#)

pre-orders

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"s 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.

ordering service

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

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