

o u t t h i s w e e k

albums of the week

the acorn : glory hope mountain the remarkable musical project of rolf klausener & co. anchored by vivid songwriting & eclectic instrumentation, they produce a unique brand of experimental, popular folk music that effortlessly marries modern & traditional forms. these canadians are a quintessential bella union signing - sprawling instrumentation, euphoric melodies, intricate acoustic arrangements etc, but from the outset, it is clear that they have astonishing musical abilities & are a seriously tight band. their debut uk release is biographical - based on the life of rolf's mother. armed with heart-drums, gut-strings, ukuleles, marimbas & klausener's superlative songwriting, they have created an impressive musical document of her life. if midlake's new album has been too long coming for you, then this will definitely fill the hole. [bella union](#)

koen holtkamp : field rituals the 1st solo album to come from holtkamp, better known as one half of ambient duo mountains. based in brooklyn, he created the album slowly, taking in delicate field recordings & using them like faded photos to represent his distinct memories of the people & places. taking cues from the classic ambience of brian eno & fusing it with the instrumental subtlety of sweden's tape, each track feels entwined in the next & feels like a part of something much bigger. you've heard field recordings, synthesizers & guitars before but rarely have these instruments been injected with such a lightness of touch & with such a delicate open ear. a good comparison might be stars of the lid, but koen's music is more organic & more humble than the ex-texan duo. each listen reveals another layer so it'll reel you in again & again. [type](#)

deerhoof : offend maggie avant rock-pop of the very best kind as deerhoof follow up their hugely acclaimed modern classic, 'friend opportunity'. let's be honest - it would be nigh on impossible to produce an album in the same vein of the same astonishing quality that they achieved on their 2007 offering but they've had a bloody good stab at it & for the most part, have come up trumps. this is loose, funky & deliciously rough around the edges. ultimately, deerhoof is not about notes & rhythms, but about pure emotion - at times beautiful, at times brutal, but always disarming. "*the best band in the world*" - *pitchfork*, "*miraculous. one of the most original rock bands to have come along in the last decade*" - *the new york times*. sleeve design by japanese contemporary artist tomoo gokita. [atp](#)

rock / indie / post rock / americana

of montreal : skeletal lamping (cd in a super snazzy 32-panel fold-out/pop-up pack / double lp with download code) america's indie-pop experimentalists critical breakthrough, 'hissing fauna, are you the destroyer?' catapulted the band to the upper echelon of indie stardom. a year & a half later, they're back with their 9th album - a complicated & dense thrill ride of an album (far from skeletal in fact), again mixing up electronic psychedelia & 80s funk-pop. the lyrics are as sleazy, entertaining & tongue in cheek as ever & are set to a whole array of inventive, playful & sometimes overwhelming musical ingredients. packed with slinky grooves, it's unpredictable, completely unique & absolutely epic - everything we've come to expect from them, then. "*he has shifted the focus back to his wicked side*" 4/5 - *times*. [polyvinyl record co.](#)

peter broderick : home previously, peter has released the gorgeous mini-album, 'docile' (kning disc) comprised of solo piano music & his astonishing full length 'float' (type), of piano & string compositions. here, on his bella union debut, he builds on the soundscapes & vignettes of 'float' to create fully-fledged songs, somewhere between the worlds of traditional singer/songwriting & magical found sounds. from the moment the multi-tracked vocals on 'games' invite you into this most alluring of records, you know you're in the presence of something special & unique, as peter weaves truly captivating of harmonies. '& it's alright' draws you further in, gentle guitar arpeggios underpinning a gorgeous, graceful melody as peter's vocals caress his evocative words. a record of subtle, breathtaking beauty which reveals its magic gradually over the course of many listens. highly recommended for fans of bon iver, iron & wine, m.ward et al. [bella union](#)

herman dune : next year in zion (limited 2cd book version & lp) brothers david & neman herman dune deliver another set of charming & intricately constructed, warm & exuberant songs - think leonard cohen, jonathan richman & stephen malkmus with a twist. although for the dunes, true love is the salve for a world-weary cynic's psychic wounds, it's not all california sunshine & paeans to falling in love. even for a happy man, thunder clouds gather on the horizon & there's the lingering specter of loneliness, betrayal & a sad undercurrent. this work shows the parisian duo at their most lyrically & sonically robust with arrangements making as many nods to traditional jewish & eastern european instrumentation & ennio morricone's desert vistas, as they do to chuck berry & the velvet underground's controlled cacophony. [city slang](#)

james yuill : turning down water for air like many music lovers of his generation, james yuill has a passion for both the emotional songwriting & atmospheres of artists such as nick drake, radiohead & sufjan stevens & the visceral beats & dynamic rhythms of justice, chemical brothers & aphex twin. unlike anyone else, however, james has fused these seemingly disparate influences into a magical sound of his very own, combining tightly worked songwriting with some artfully executed beat science. a sonically challenging yet emotionally engaging album, sounding something like tunng if they went crazy on the electronics or daft punk hooking up with neil young! fans of jeremy warmsley, tunng or postal service are in for a treat. [moshi moshi](#)

vic chesnutt, elf power & the amorphous strums : dark developments this potentially daunting combo deliver an intriguing album which lives up to the expectation that the involvement of such esteemed players would imply. the elves' dexterity as a live band goads vic's vocal delivery to a menacing new muscularity, imbuing these songs with a sinister vibe not dissimilar to john cale's black classic 'fear' or the defeated low key soul-music of nick lowe's last few records. his songwriting retains its trademark literary bent, too & as he still woos you with his squelched, beautiful melodies, his sonic twists take an even stranger tack with the aid of the psych-pop veterans. we, of course, were hoping for 'north star deserter' part 2 but as that's not likely to happen, we'll happily settle for this outstanding effort. [orange twin](#)

f*cked up : the chemistry of common life the canadian punk provocateurs are known by bizarre aliases & play aggressive & incendiary music. straying far from the standard template of four-four punk stomp, they incorporate extended instrumental workouts, unusual arrangements & lengthy experimental passages, along with the furious guitars & ranting vocals. expansive stuff that merges elements of hardcore songwriting with up to 70 tracks of guitars, organs, winds & vocals, (including 18 guitars on 'no epiphany!'). the music remains iconoclastic & startling throughout, with pink eyes' vocals front & centre. guest musicians include gorgeous female voices such as brooklyn's vivian girls & toronto's katie stelmanis. though they remain punks at heart, they have created a great, weird, heavy record that stubbornly sticks in your brain. [matador](#)

grails : doomsdayer's holiday grails return with their darkest, heaviest record yet, delivering on the promises made by their previous albums. taking equal pride in smoky psychedelics & mountain-ascending riffs, we also find their already-broad palette continually expanding with 70s european film noir & cosmic free jazz explorations to compliment the middle eastern psychedelic folk-metal the group is known for. devoted students of the past, they have transcended their genre to become an inspiring influence for future celestial explorers. fans of earth, sunn o))) & black mountain should check this post-haste. *"terrifying quantities of doom & gloom, scorching desert winds, transcendental contemplation under a blanket of stars, startlingly calm prettiness"* – gigwise, *"perhaps the band's strongest statement yet"* – dusted. [temporary residence ltd](#)

gregory & the hawk : moenie & kitchi 'gregory' is not a man & as far as we can tell, there's no sign of a bird of prey in the band either. however, there is a rather gifted vocalist by the name of meredith godreau at the fore & as she seems to be capable of providing everything she needs for her musical project (she's a guitarist, songwriter, pianist, violist & violinist), she plays solo but in this instance, the set up was somewhat different. although her regular cohorts mike mcguire & susan ambrose accompany her (along with some other guests), many of the instruments were played by the album's producer, adam pierce (mice parade), with most vocals & guitars recorded simultaneously in just one take. her beautifully delicate, hook-laden songs are likely to appeal to fans of mazy star, silje nes, marissa nadler or alela diane. [fat cat](#)

those dancing days : in our space hero suits (cd & lp) the swedish teenage sensations & all girl 5-piece deliver their frenzied debut. when asked what influenced the record rebecka rolfart responded "i would say it is influenced by life & pretty boys". theirs is a sound that sits somewhere between blondie, no doubt & the pipettes, flitting between classic scandi-pop with a northern soul flavour & americanised pop-rock with swirling synth melodies & rippling drums accompanying linnea jönsson's robust, husky voice. *"throughout the album, prancing, synth staccato leads the way as linnea jönsson's vocals flutter around - in turns tremulous & forceful but never shrill"* – bbc, *"catchier than a cold"* – the independent, *"an intoxicating whoosh of blondie & the cocteau twins"* – guardian guide, *"infectiously gleeful"* – time out. [wichita](#)

mirror mirror : the society for the advancement of inflammatory consciousness

these brooklynites are centred around the chief songwriters david riley & ryan lucero (guitarist in telepathe) & their debut is a schizophrenic series of lush & complex compositions, blending folky sing-alongs, sinister rock songs, cult lullabies, robotic choral pieces & meditative interludes. they dabble in 70's psychedelia & prog but this lot really hit the spot. you'll hear choice analogue synth arpeggios on 'love is the law', while the library lp-style miniature 'second gate' evokes eerie soundscapes. there's still plenty of room for a bit of pink floyd-style eccentricity on 'don coyote's confession' for example, where the vocal harmonies are stacked up brilliantly & vintage keys are used in a broadcast/stereolab type fashion. highly recommended. [cochon records](#)

crystal antlers : crystal antlers ep the long beach california band formed in 2006 & at the time, 3 members were allegedly working as chimney sweeps! getting dirty by day & by night, these guys have spun a sophisticated brand of '70s style retro garage aesthetics with a prog-like grasp on complex instrumentation. this ep was recorded with the mars volta's ikey owens on the heels of two 7" singles, representing a substantial 20-something minute chunk of sound from the band. looking forward to hearing much more from this lot! *"merging psych, garage, lo-fi, prog & countless other influences, the group easily maintains consistency despite a complete inability to be pinned to any specific movement or trend"* – pitchfork, *"like bratty young brothers of comets on fire - i.e. totally hotwired & fried psychedelic punks"* – uncut. [touch & go](#)

keane : perfect symmetry (standard cd or deluxe cd/dvd) one of this decade's most loved bands return with album no.3. bold & colourful, the album is bright & upbeat but with a slightly moody undertone with lyrics that reference suicide, revealing a band that have been through some serious life experiences (although vocalist tom chaplin's battle with drugs & booze have had no visible ageing effects on baby-face!), that have taken the sheen off their pretty pop. their trademark easy-on-the-ear melodies & chord sequences remain in fact but they've also taken some chances with their sound, experimenting with synthesizers & more aggressive beats. deluxe edition contains a dvd with demos of every track on the album, 3 videos & more. [island](#)

st. just vigilantes : pastor of oaks, shepherd of stones debut from little sparta's alan boyd & jonathan twilight orr. with typical static caravan-style leanings, electronics & terrestrial instruments come together, blending songs with tone poems & wide-eyed melodies. the result is at once beguiling & compelling, combining folksy guitar plucking, skittering strings, distant vocals & glockenspiel chimes whilst demonstrating a strong grasp on electronic production techniques. contemporary alt.folk & skewed pop with a dusty, medieval atmosphere that should appeal to you jewelled antler-types as well as fans of early tunng or devendra banhart. "brilliant & frightening....a confusing heap of sound experiments & delicate melodies, each flitting past each other, weaving shapes to complete the song" 4/5 – subba-cultcha. [transparent face/static caravan](#)

bohren & der club of gore : dolores (cd & double lp) new album from the cult european band who have been described as "sigur ros meets twin peaks" but there's something darker at work here which should also make this superb album appeal to fans of doom-rock merchants earth, om & sunno))), as well as their post-rock contemporaries. it moves at a late night pace evoking scenes of dingy smoke filled bars & dark, sleazy alleys. their sound merges badalamenti-style jazz, doom metal & david lynch soundtrack atmospherics to stunning effect - it's spacious, menacing, enveloping, heavy & hypnotic & comes highly recommended. "a mesmerising 60 minute journey into that sh*t that lurks beneath the surface, confusing, confounding & oddly uplifting all at once. a wonderful album" – boomkat, "incredible" - mike patton. [pias](#)

eugene mcguinness : s/t his eagerly awaited debut, following 2007's much loved mini album. 12 utterly charming pop tracks, which skip between boundaries with gleeful abandon & an acidic sense of humour. unlike many of his contemporaries, eugene manages to transcend his obvious across-the-years influences (the beatles, elliot smith, the kinks, pete doherty) & create something that's truly fresh, enjoyable & memorable. "a precious, shimmering talent" – mojo, "the best albums, like this, leave you wanting more" - nme. [domino](#)

ray lamontagne : gossip in the grain one of the most distinctive voices in music, the lauded singer-songwriter & brit award nominee releases his much-anticipated 3rd album. recorded with returning producer, ethan johns (ryan adams/kings of leon) & touching upon a range of styles & musical settings (spanning pastoral folk, railroad blues, front porch country & plangent balladry), this album proves to be his most creative & emotionally expansive collection to date. whereas lamontagne's 2 previous albums were largely solo affairs, with johns serving as multi-tasking instrumentalist, 'gossip in the grain' sees him joined by members of his touring band, bassist jennifer condos (adams, teddy thompson) & guitarist/steel player eric heywood (son volt, pretenders), with johns handling drum duties. [14th floor](#)

the ettes : look at life again soon drawing inspiration from the white stripes, the rolling stones, the ramones & nancy sinatra, this nyc trio describe their unique sound as beat punk. this blues punk gem has been created by jem on bass with his garage rock roots, paired with poni's powerful punk rock beats, fused with coco's guitar hooks & 60's country vocals. it's difficult to imagine why you would need to make room in your collection for another blues rock record but this lot really hit the spot & deliver a record that you'll want to come back to again & again. recorded at london's famous toerag studios, it has a fab vintage feel which fuses 60s bubblegum pop with garage rock to great effect. definitely one for fans of the kills, wanda jackson, the black keys, the cramps, the dirtbombs & all the aforementioned. highly recommended. [take root](#)

jim white : a funny little cross to bear brand new mini-album from the legendary performer. these songs feature white's music both as part of a pared-down band setup & with jim as a solo artist. in either setup the delivery is very much geared towards intimacy, yielding some truly wonderful results. in delivering these 6 brand new tracks in live settings, we get to share in some of jim's infamous storytelling (sadly lacking on the studio albums) which makes his live shows truly captivating & entertaining. the highlight of the album is his tad-blasphemous, biblical referencing, 'jim 3:16', which allows him to settle a score with sleepy la beef & contains the classic line "a beer is just a church where they serve beer". hallelujah! [luaka bop](#)

upcdownc : embers an epic instrumental outing from one of the uk's most popular & respected post rock bands..with 2 drummers. here, the band have taken what they have mastered in post rock & integrated doom & desert rock influences. their work tends to inhabit the more in vogue, mathsy territories of the post-rock spectrum, whilst giving props to explosions in the sky, mogwai & other such reliable genre staples. this is big meaty stuff made up of refreshing but subtle electronics, fast/slow building dramatics, grandiose drum movements & neo classical flourishes. for fans of the aforementioned, grails, russian circles etc. [tap 'n' tin](#)

sam forrest : down the hillside (limited, available in selected shops only) the debut solo album from the nine black alps' frontman, comes as a bit of a surprise to those who know him for his rock output. this is a completely stripped back, acoustic affair which most recalls elliot smith. with the exception of backing vocals courtesy of singer-songwriter hayley hutchinson & drums by alan leach, all of the instruments were played & recorded by sam. he delves into the realm of singer-songwriters from the late 60s & early 70s, with tracks such as 'river bed' featuring the pastoral lyrical imagery resonant of laurel canyon era neil young whereas songs like 'in my picture' feature complex fingerpicking that echoes the blues maverick john fahey. [desert mine music](#)

die! die! die! : promises promises the nomadic trio, originally from new zealand, bring to mind the spirit & sounds of black flag, the pixies, the wipers, wire & les savy fav 7. by all accounts, they deliver an unfiltered & powerful stage show, which is certainly suggested through the vitriol & energy on display here. they embody a punk rock vitality without the aid of gimmicks or pretence – cathartic & direct. "punk spirit, matured musicianship, clever & diverse songwriting" 8/10 – pop matters. [saf records](#)

v/a : late night tales - arctic monkeys contains an exclusive cover version by matt holders (arctic monkeys) of livin' joy's 'dreamer' & a exclusive spoken word piece written & narrated by alex turner. compiled by drummer matt holders, with a little help from alex, this collection blends us & uk hip hop, dirty rock & roll, electro & soul, to create a soundtrack of what you might hear at their winding down after a night out. starting off with the cinematic 'connexion' by goblin, it runs through to roots manuva & dj format, classic proto punk from the stooges & johnny & the hurricanes, while the finale is saved for the rapture's epic 'olio'. [azuli](#)

robin guthrie : 3:19 - bande originale du film guthrie's talent should need no introduction. as co-founder & guitarist of cocteau twins & producer of bands like lush & chapterhouse, he has created some of the most beautiful music of recent times & is widely regarded as a musical visionary. his latest soundtrack is for the spanish cult hit film '3:19'. it features all the trademark guthrie, ethereal soundscapes you'd expect. this time, however, robin has added piano, some lush strings & sound effects to communicate the film's mood. rich, emotive, layered & treated – his work creates distinctive landscapes, both sonic & visual, that have become his trademark throughout his recorded work & his live performance. [rocketgirl](#)

annuals : such fun (import, 2cd) the raleigh, nc-based expansive indie rock 6-piece release their sophomore album. band leader adam baker wrote, arranged & co-produced the album along with handling guitars, keyboards, percussion & lead vocals & you sure can't say the guy lacks vision - from the laid-back semi-ska of 'hardwood floor', the shred-tastic guitar heroics of 'hot night hounds' & the crunchy 70's-style rock of 'talking' to the psychedelic drift of 'hair don't grow', the country-accented melody of 'always do' & the massed choral splendour of 'springtime', baker never passes up an opportunity to pull something new out of his bag of tricks & his bandmates invariably rise to the challenge. [canvasback](#)

john mellencamp : life death love & freedom (cd & hd audio) the indiana balladeer describes this album as a collection of "modern electric folk songs". with backing from his well respected touring band, these 14 tracks were recorded with the legendary t-bone burnett behind the boards, which mellencamp cites as "key to finding the soul of each song". this is an incredibly warm & engaging set of contemporary songs that will undoubtedly appeal to fans of springsteen & dylan but really ought to earn him a whole new fan base too as, far from losing his edge with age & going all mor, he seems to be digging deeper into his country-blues roots, getting edgier & more challenging. great stuff. comes with a bonus high definition audio version in the new code format, playable on dvd players. "bleak but brilliant" 4/5 – uncut. [concord](#)

myra davis : cities & girls canadian spoken word artist myra davis is back with a fresh collection of witty stories. as with their 'miasma' trilogy, davis' stories have been set to music by the magical gudrun gut, as well as beate bartel & the team of danielle de picciotto & alexander hacke (einsturzende neubauten), who provide the musical accompaniment on 2 tracks. the backing tracks help illustrate davis lyrics, melding musical constructions with crowd noises & field recordings that tie in directly with the subject matter, as is the case on 'hanoi' & the dark, pulsating 'qatar'. it's a really interesting project both lyrically & musically, staying on the right side of 'arty' when it could so easily have been pretentious or awkward. the results call to mind the experimental work of agf, the blow & barbara morgenstern. recommended. [moabit](#)

the rapture : k7 tapes (cd & lp) keen connoisseurs of house music, hip-hop & electronica, the rapture have recorded with the dfa soundsystem, dangermouse & timbaland. this impeccably cool 4-piece from nyc helped pioneer the dance-punk scenes & no wave renaissance. 'tapes' is a treasure trove of rare grooves & cult classics spanning 3 decades, from the late 1970s to 2008. it is a testament to the rapture's all-embracing musical tastes that 'tapes' features superstars like ghostface killah, armand van helden, richie havens, as well as underground cult heroes (martin circus, vaughan mason) & the cutting-edge electronica from the rising stars of today & tomorrow (syclops, dj mujava). the rapture have raided their record collections & produced a rich, deep, wide-ranging feast of simply fantastic music - smart, funny & funky. deserves a rapturous reception! [k7](#)

v/a : living bridge (2cd) a 25 song collection of new & unreleased songs by bands who have previously recorded at the rare book room studio in brooklyn, new york. includes tracks from deerhunter, silver jews, black dice, avey tare (animal collective), telepathe, palms, tara jane o'neil & more. these are not out-takes - all the songs but one (the silver jews' 'self ignition') were recorded for the exclusive purpose of this collection. bands who had previously recorded here were asked if they would record one song of their choice, meant to be part of a collection highlighting the varying types of music which are the jumping-off point for the label. they were also given free reign to experiment & try a new approach for this one of a kind record. [rare book room records](#)

cranes : s/t the long-awaited new studio album from the uk indie darlings, whose creative output has spanned over 15 years & (with this latest addition), 9 studio albums. the celestial atmospheric rock & metaphysical minimalist electronics, combined with the inimitable sound of alison shaw's childlike vocals & jim shaw's uniquely inventive compositions, make this instantly recognisable as a cranes record. the compositions take in everything from krautrock & folk, to intricate, almost extra-terrestrial soundscapes & david lynch-esque melodies. "producing music in the new millennium which is as vibrant & inventive as anything they have ever done. majestic music for the movie in your mind" - uncut, "ever enthralling" - time out. [dadaphonic](#)

rtx : ji got live ratx jennifer from royal trux struts her stuff loud & proud on the band's 3rd album. ji got live ratx isn't a live album, but it is a very live studio album & jennifer herrera's pipes are smoking. the songs feature flashy virtuoso drums, full-wave synth sweeps & shred guitar that will knock you off your chair & leave you slobbering for more. skyscraping power chords & huge hooks a plenty. [drag city](#)

the liftmen : s/t this bristol band first knocked on twisted nerve's door in 2005, making their label debut on the pocket sized 'now is the winter of our discount tents' compilation. recorded with portishead's jim barr & featuring guest vocals courtesy of tammy payne (jukes), their full length debut is in keeping with the label's singular minded policy of 'releasing music that you wouldn't hear elsewhere'. the band are not only quite unlike anything else around at the moment but quite bizarre even by twisted nerve standards. the atonal strumming of 'belly can' combines garage rock frivolousness with new wave abrasion & the whole album seems to be laced with a woozy preoccupation with the absurd. intriguing stuff. [twisted nerve](#)

funeral for a friend : memory & humanity (standard cd or cd/dvd) the highly successful welsh rockers return with their 4th album, exactly 5 years to the day that their debut hit the shelves. 13 new tracks that draw fire from the muscular intensity of their earlier material & meld it seamlessly to the melodic intelligence of latter albums. "after the relative disappointment of 2007's classic rock-orientated concept album, tales don't tell themselves, f4af are back with riffs so big, you'll see emo starjumps all the way back to the horizon" - *thrash hits*, "a masterpiece an album of truly perfect rock" 10/10 - *the musicmagazine*. [join us](#)

attic lights : friday night lights 5 likely lads from glasgow, produced & managed by one francis macdonald from teenage fanclub. likened to the song writing genius of rem, the frazzled cosmic brilliance of the flaming lips, with the spirit of the beach boys, the album includes a collaboration with bjorn yttling from peter, bjorn & john & a guitar courtesy of belle & sebastian. as is the tradition with scottish bands, they have garnered much respect from their fellow jocks, being remixed by the vaselines (first new studio output for 20 years), camera obscura & mogwai. "spellbinding" - *the fly*, "a hugely infectious debut" 4/5 - *uncut*, 4/5 - *mojo*, "rapturous melodic joy" 4/5 - *the guardian*, "blasphemous trash" - *the free church of scotland*. [island](#)

the kits : primitive tales hailing from melbourne, australia but now residing in london, the band draw comparisons with the saints, gang of four & the sonics. they're a garage rock'n'roll band at heart, taking the stomp & grit of the 50s & 60s & giving it the injection of eternal youth through relentless guitar hooks & snarling vocals. the album was recorded over various sessions at gizzard studios & toe rag studios, together with a few songs off their previous ep 'this is your lung'. for fans of the black lips. "it's the real deal people. not shiny or big budget...the tracks smack of authenticity" - *artrocker*, "there's nothing in their sound that suggests they've recently listened to a record made this decade & that simply adds to their charm" *kerrang*. [dirty water records](#)

aqualung : words & music (import) a mature work whose content & sonic colours echo the great pop music of the 70s, most notably dennis wilson, whose seminal recording 'pacific ocean blue' was a major influence on hales. the material moves from the lush introspection & rich harmonies of 'everything changed' to the irreverent emitt rhodes meets harry nilsson lilt of 'mr. universe', the baroque grandeur of 'when i finally get my own place' & the plaintive 'arrivals'. it also includes an inspired cover of paul simon's 'slip sliding away'. like rufus wainwright or sondre lerche, matt hales has a lightness of touch, a sense of humour & a warmth that prevent his songs from falling into the banal singer/songwriter world & being totally forgettable. [verve](#)

death sentence-panda! : insects awaken a trio of noise delinquents from san francisco, featuring members of crack, we are rock, t.i.t.s, murder murder & total shutdown. this is their 2nd release through upset the rhythm & here they add a cartoonish sense of drama to their trad bay area post-punk sound, using nothing more than a flute, a pitchshifted clarinet, a drum kit & a lot of hollering. mixed by philip manley (trans am, oneida, golden). arise & awaken all who thirst for the sweet nectar of discontent! [upset the rhythm](#)

babel : crooked timber a bristolian sextet of percussion, cello, violin, guitars & voice. 2007's mini-album introduction 'pearl street raga', saw critical acclaim for babel's fiercely idiosyncratic folk'n'roll. amid aching melody & beat driven string arrangements, singer danny coughlan's delivers hard learnt lessons of a hedonistic past, new age spirituality, love, lust & even a modern murder ballad. "bristolian sextet babel are a very splendid thing, a cross between led zep iii, rufus wainright & midlake" 4/5 - *sunday telegraph*. [people tree](#)

this town needs guns : animals oxford's darling buds of the thriving indie scene deliver a collection of songs written since the release of 2007's acclaimed split ep with cats & cats & cats, which featured their celebrated track, '26 is dancier than 4'. ignoring the lure of special effects & studio wizardry, this is a pure, stripped down affair, allowing the songwriting to shine through. "music rarely sounds this accessible while also begging to be carefully dissected. you'll only find more beautiful quiriness" - *absolute punk*, "they skilfully blend pavement guitars with moving atmospherics to great chillout effect" - *planet sound*. [big scary monsters](#)

v/a : be true to your school (a fortuna pop sampler) 25 smash hits from the vaults of fortuna pop! includes tracks by bearsuit, comet gain, the lucksmiths, sodastream, fanfarlo, the butterflies of love, airport girl, milky wimpshake, the aisers set, cannonball jane & many more & all for a fiver! fortuna pop! is an independent uk record label responsible for a whole shed-load of great releases. strictly a one man operation, the label has been run from bedrooms & kitchen tables in spare time. there is no single fortuna pop! sound, just an ear for a good tune. this is a compilation of the label's finest moments to date. [fortuna pop](#)

ralfe band : attic thieves 12 richly varied songs & instrumentals which range from the personal to the eerily comic. 'attic thieves' was created by oly ralfe & his music brother andrew mitchell. oly sings, plays upright piano, organ, accordion & spanish guitar. mitchell provides beatnik drums, scattershot percussion, electric guitar & arrangements borne from a love of great rhythm masters, from django reinhardt to the ramones. other brigands contributing include garo nahoulakian on electric guitar, double bassist ben nicholls, joe bennett on violin & trumpet & rowland prytherch on mandolin, bass & wayward trombone. [loose](#)

it's a musical : the music makes me sick the debut full-length release from the swedish/german duo of ella blyt & robert kretzschmar. this is charming indie pop without guitars, pulling together the influences of stereolab & st. etienne & producing twinkly, lo-fi simplicity with interwoven harmonies. trumpets, vibraphones, canonical choirs, piano, organ make up the sound of their upbeat pop & it should appeal to fans of morr music's output (the go find, seabear, bobby & blumm etc). [morr music](#)

martin rev : les nymphes as the lone instrumentalist in the legendary duo suicide, rev's pulsing hissing keyboards continue to challenge & inspire generations of underground music fans. while remaining active in suicide, martin rev is busy as a solo producer & performer. 'les nymphes' is his 7th solo album, released almost 3 decades since his self-titled debut album in 1980. this release is made up of springy electronics, the serene plink-plonk of a piano, breathy vocal echoes, dubby & near tropical vibes & dreamy melodies. [file 13](#)

shelleyan orphan : we have everything we need their name pays homage to the poet percy bysshe shelley, as his work is what brought caroline crawley & jem taylor together, forming the band in 1983. combining their love of all musical genres the duo created an unusual blend of pop on their debut 'helleborine', utilising a full range of classical instruments. their influences were anything from joy division to sparks, barry white & delius & these ebbed & flowed through their ethereal & pulsating sound. yet above all, this is a vocal band & these are their 1st new recordings in 17 years. this blends strings, woodwind & the unusual, with the rhythms of boris williams (the cure) & charlie jones (goldfrapp, robert plant). [one little indian](#)

serena-maneesh : s-m backwards (2cd) norway's serena-maneesh release a double album of early material, most of which was released as 2 eps prior to the self titled debut album, 'zuruck' & 'fixations', both on honeymilk, covering the time 1999-2003. due to the fact that the label didn't have distribution, the material sadly never got released outside of norway. in addition to the original ep material, this double album also contains new re-wrappings/mixes, videos & much more - over 80 minutes of material in all & a tasty appetiser to tide us over till the new album finally lands. [smalltown supersound](#)

lords : everyone is people the nottingham band's 2nd album, mixes up the unpredictability (& under-appreciated tenderness) of captain beefheart, the unashamed blow-out jams of thin lizzy & the mc5 & the slinky grooves of zz top & the meters into something entirely their own. "if the jesus lizard had tackled blues legend robert johnson it may have sounded something like this oddball collection" - metal hammer. [gringo](#)

charlie pickett : bar band americanus – the best of a band that, for a variety of reasons, fell through the cracks in the 80s & never got the recognition they deserved. 20 plus years on, bloodshot are aiming to rectify that with this compilation. their influences are easy to spot - old bloozers like son house & howlin' wolf, rockers like the yardbirds & velvet underground. it's also easy, in retrospect, to draw the lines between charlie pickett & green on red, the gun club, a more hillbilly dream syndicate & a more art damaged jason & the scorchers. "charlie whipped up a bad voodoo vibe of heroin rock & midnight blues. these guys were one of the undiscovered giants of the late 80s" - peter buck, r.e.m. [bloodshot](#)

swerve-driver : ejector seat reservation / mezcal head / raise originally released on creation records in the mid 90s, these 3 great albums have been expanded into deluxe packages. each album has been re-mastered & includes 4 rare bonus tracks & additional liner notes from the band. [sony](#)

prurient : cocaine death since the inception of both prurient & the hospital productions label, cassette releases have been an essential format for the communication & participation in the industrial/noise culture. for prurient, these cassette releases contain some of the most visceral & beloved works in their catalogue & this is a compilation of 3 of their finest hospital cassette releases, as well as 2 unreleased tracks. for the 1st time, listeners of all levels can revel in their abstract longing & tension. for the diehards, there's the 2 unreleased tracks. this cd shows the power & depth of prurient in the cassette world (& now, beyond). [hospital](#)

the real tuesday weld : the london book of the dead (special indies only very limited edition hard-bound 40 page colour book version featuring extraordinary commissioned collages by the artist catherine anyango) this is stephen coates (aka clerkenwell kid)'s 1st conventional album in the uk since the critical hit 'i lucifer'. the album is an extraordinary sonic collage of electronic rhythms, spoken word, bluegrass, violins, woodwind, subtle electronica, period opera, jazz-age samples & harmonised crooner vocals. the unique combination of old shellac sounds, vintage radio transmissions & glitchy electronics provide a setting for lyrical concerns of life, love, dreams & death. "despite the album's sombre tone, coates evokes the bristling vibrancy of life... powerfully evocative & affecting" 5/5 – independent. [antique beat](#)

grouper & inca ore : split cd the sound liz harris projects on her records under the moniker grouper sounds deceptively simple, but her truly emotional output is made up of layers of vocals processed again & again through loop delays & chains of effects that create gorgeous whirlpools of chants, guitar drones & tape noise, all full of something unique, pure & powerfully beautiful. the kind of magic harris manages to inject into her recordings is something eva saelens knows about quite well. as inca ore, she has also sung & produced music with a touch of wilderness & witchery. liz & eva compiled 20 minutes of unreleased material each on both sides of a c40 recorded at home, now re-released on cd with remastered sound. yummy! [acuarela](#)

v/a : las vegas grind part 1 31 tracks of downright disgusting swingin' tunes - you will not be disappointed. from the label that brought you the ace jungle exotica series comes a whole new strand of releases, this time themed around the sort of beat music you'd hear (or at least imagine to hear) in a 1950s strip club. it's all very camp & more often than not, highly entertaining. [strip](#)

dave clark five : the hits before the rolling stones, the dave clark five were seen as being the beatles' most serious rivals. with their hit 'glad all over' knocking 'i want to hold your hand' off the number 1 spot. their own unique brand of music sold in excess of 100,000,000 records! they were the first english group to tour the united states, spearheading the british invasion. during their 1st 2 years in the us, they scored no less than 15 consecutive top 20 hits, more than anyone except the beatles. this definitive cd contains all their hits. [umtv](#)

harold budd / clive wright : a song for lost blossoms a new record of ambient melody & transcendental mood portals from minimalist/modernist master harold budd & friend guitarist/composer /producer clive wright. they met as residents of the beautiful & remote southern california desert community of joshua tree. with only just a little imagination one can easily hear the influence of the southern california desert environment - the sounds of its stark beauty, serene quiet & otherworldly presence. no doubt an inspirational environment for budd & wright to create music of such ambience & beauty. [darla](#)

stomu yamashta : go a master percussionist who fuses his talents with jazz, electronic & classical music to create an ambient form all of his own. he studied jazz & has toured & played with the chicago chamber orchestra & the rock group, come to the edge. this is the 1st ever cd release of an album originally released in 1976. it is perhaps his finest achievement & features collaborators steve winwood & michael shrieve, along with artists such as klaus schulze & ex-traffic & future can bassist rosko gee. [esoteric recordings](#)

stomu yamashta : floating music this, his 1st island album, was recorded with the band come to the edge & gains its first european cd release with this reissue. 'poker dice' & 'one way' were first used by nicholas roeg in the soundtrack of the david bowie film 'the man who fell to earth'. [esoteric recordings](#)

stomu yamashta : the man from the east originally released in 1973 for island, this was the soundtrack to a fascinating theatre-piece yamashta presented in paris & london in 1972. [esoteric recordings](#)

graham nash : songs for beginners (cd/dvd) when it was first released in 1971, the legendary singer-songwriter's emotionally charged solo debut came on the heels of a temporary split with his csn band-mates, david crosby & stephen stills & a permanent break with his then love, joni mitchell. the album was a hit & introduced the now classic songs 'military madness', 'we can change the world' & 'chicago'. this upgrade of nash's early masterpiece presents the original album in remastered stereo on the cd plus a dvd-a featuring a high resolution 5.1 surround sound mix as well as a new interview with the artist, lyrics, photos & more. [rhino](#)

dance/electronica

nitin sawhney : london underground considered one of the most influential & versatile musicians/producers on the scene today, the songwriter, dj, multi-instrumentalist, orchestral composer & cultural pioneer has enlisted a host of guests including ojos brujo, natty, paul mccartney, imogen heap, anoushka shankar & more, some of which make stronger contributions than others (you'll probably want to skip over the work of sir beatle!). as the title would suggest, it's all about our capital city & what nitin feels about it in the wake of 7/7. the sleeve has been compiled from the specially contributed artwork of anthony gormley - reason enough to own this alone! "uplifting & wonderful" - *marie claire*, 4/5-omm, "beautiful" 4/5 - *musicohm*. [cooking vinyl](#)

asian dub foundation : punkara this album sounds like unbridled, off the hook bhangra meets unbridled off the hook thrash proto-punk & it features guest vocals from iggy pop & eugene hutz from gogol bordello, plus al rumjen, adf's new lead singer who was previously with king prawn. they've stormed back with an album in which everything about them onstage - their raucousness, the smiles on their faces as they kick out - shines through on record. it's epitomised in a cover of 'no fun', a collaboration with iggy pop himself, who when they played a festival together told them they were the best group he'd seen in 30 years & when he played their demo in his car got so excited he copped a speeding ticket. on fine form! [naïve](#)

the tough alliance : a new chance the gothenburg outfit drop their 3rd album for the modular label. this is irresistible synthpop at its finest, brimming with hooks galore, all wrapped up in an insanely infectious jovial vibe. you don't have to necessarily admit to it, but if you silently nod your head along in admiration to the guilty pleasure of 80's new wave sounds like bronski beat, nik kershaw & howard jones then you'll most likely enjoy this swedish pop gem. "one of the few electronic albums this year that manages to avoid all geographic & stylistic clichés while in the mean time producing a very satisfying album" - *popmatters*. [modular](#)

sunken foal : fallen arches the output of one duncan murphy from dublin. on this, his debut for ace electronic label planet mu, de-tuned acoustic guitar, gentle piano, light electronics, muted beats & occasional vocals are combined to produce an album that lurches between summery pastoralism & queasy claustrophobia - often in the same song. certainly, this is the most un-planet mu release to date, with elements that will be familiar to fans of animal collective & fennesz, as well as the slightly boss-eyed sound of matt elliot's recent work. a refreshing listen & good to see the label treading new musical pastures. a top tip! [planet mu](#)

crazy p : stop space return the crazy p are back to rock a few more discerning dancefloors with this their 4th album. 'stop space return' captures the sound of a band at their peak effortlessly blending their influences of classic nyc house, disco & 80's pop influences (the blockheads, the police, talking heads). never ones to be swayed by latest trends, they've stuck to their guns & let the world catch up with their undeniably disco sound & have unintentionally found themselves as part of the recent renaissance that has crossed the atlantic from new york city & now sit alongside hercules & love affair & escort as a band that can more than cut it live. upbeat, future-retro disco as it should be done! [2020 vision](#)

belleruche : the express the trio have risen to the challenge & built on their distinctive handmade hip hop soul style to create an impressive follow-up to their debut 'turntable soul music'. it's easy to get overwhelmed by the quantity of releases this homegrown label puts out, but this is one that any fan of the band or label is going to want for sure. kathrin deboer's inimitable smokey, seductive vocals carry you throughout & the laid back soul & hip hop vibes are given a welcome lift with ricky fabulous's raw, bluesy guitar contributions & dj modest's subtle turntable trickery. the vocal intonation recalls early moloko, the laid back vibes are reminiscent of morcheeba, the folkier tracks could draw comparisons to beth gibbons but as an overall listen, this feels fresh, beautifully atmospheric & very rewarding. it's a good'un. [tru thoughts](#)

larytta : difficult fun guy meldem & christian pahud's debut is packed with lyrical modern pop music & quirky, electronic beats. the album encompasses a wide range of inspirations from modern pop/soul to electro/techno, garnished with inspired dashes of african music (they've clearly been listening to 'congotronics'), hip hop & r&b. weird electronic beats, dark rhythms, catchy melodies, hypnotic voices, guitar loops, radio-friendly choruses, keyboards & crazy home-made noises all come together to sound like a refreshing mixture (if a slightly disparate one) of hot chip, metronomy & jamie lidell. "this is entirely danceable music that simultaneously needles the brain & makes you scratch your head & wonder what in the hell is going on." – xlr8r, "if you are looking for something truly original, this band definitely fits the bill" – urb. [creaked](#)

pulshar : brotherhood (limited 2cd with bonus disc featuring 11 exclusive remixes & versions of all tracks of the album) hypnotic & deep soundscapes, bass patterns full of soul & sensuality, contemporary ambient-dub of the very highest order! this is highly addictive from the very 1st listen. the barcelona duo are influenced by hip hop & blues, dub reggae, detroit & berlin low end techno & psychedelic rock, demonstrating exquisite taste playing with loops & samplers, creating distinctive catchy melodic rhythms. this passionate debut collects 10 outstanding tracks that combine deep soul & classy old-school dub techniques with space-tech elements & a warm dose of the lower frequencies of dubstep's sonic milieu. modern dub with a touch of detroit-tech & a nod of gratitude to basic channel & studio one. for fans of kode9, disrupt, pinch & rhythm & sound. [phonobox](#)

gelka : less is more budapest ain't really a place you'd acquaint with balearic-style chill out music but gelka defy all expectations delivering an album of laidback, slo-mo, jazz-flecked beats with sultry vocal spots from budapest-based ghanaese singer sena, plus ricky ranking & ella may. it all sounds a bit 1990's nightmares on wax-ish, which would make sense as it's on dj e.a.s.e.'s (n.o.w.'s main man) new label. if you're after some coffee table garb a la morcheeba, café del mar etc, then this is for you. "consistent & confidently assembled, one of these growers that stick in the mind long after the music has stopped"- the milk factory. [wax on](#)

v/a : fabriclive42 – freqnasty born in fiji & raised in new zealand, this breakbeat pioneer has a boundary breaking sensibility that transcends through his music, from his scene-shaking classics like 'boomin back atcha' & 'move back', to his remixes of pop icons like fatboy slim, kelis & krs one. bridging the gap between the most current scenes in london's bass culture, freq nasty rumbles with underground thunder on this set - a staggering showcase of some of the rawest breaks-led beats around. he's imaginatively arranged a flowing, tightly-connected blend of freq-y tracks. with the bass heavy stomp of l-vis 1990's uk take on baltimore house, the blistering shatter of trg & several of his own storming productions, including his santogold hit 'creator', the mix is a terror to bassbins worldwide. buckle up! [fabric](#)

the chap : builders brew the weirdy pop-improv-disco-rock collective are back to grate & delight in equal measures with this mini album, offering up some remixes from the likes of joakim, electroware & thee more shallows as well as a couple of covers & some new chap standards. standout track here is 'proper rock', which appears in all its radio edited glory, what a single!!! certainly a nice stop gap, but if unfamiliar with the chap then best start with their recent 'mega breakfast' album. 'fractured & jerky, but smoothly enticing at the same time' – the wire, 'the chap give birth to freakish dadaist disco babies' - nme [lo recordings](#)

oh astro : champions of wonder married duo jane dowe & hank hofler have bought themselves a fader & they're damn well gonna use it – to death! both are rooted firmly in experimental music but with this project they continue to offer odd interpretations of popular forms. they take club music, children's songs, pop/rock 'classics' (sufjan stevens, fujiya & miyagi, electronic, lily allen, jim o'rourke, ratatat, lionel richie, hot chip & more) & strip them back, mix them up & fragment them in a kinda weird minimal mash up style. presumably, in getting their daughter (ella) to rework the vocals, they avoid potential legality issues? "highly addictive, seizure inducing" mvremix, "a massive recommendation!" - boomkat. [illegal art](#)

chase & status : more than a lot one of those crossover dance albums that could, potentially, be massive. although they come from a drum n' bass background, which is certainly apparent on this their debut, they also cover hip hop, breaks & electro, roping in guests such as kano, takura & plan b along the way. probably best comparable to the early output of pendulum, this is one big, fearsome dancefloor monster. "a dynamic album truly understands how people listen to music in 2008" – drowned in sound. [ram records](#)

v/a : the unabombers - electric chair saved my life the unabombers' final volume in their 'electric chair' compilation series celebrating 13 years of music & the end of their legendary manchester club 'electric chair'. throughout its 13 year history 'electric chair' became the worst kept secret in clubland, a night that consistently played host to some of the biggest djs in the world, including laurent garnier, joe clausell, francois kevorkian, carl craig, danny krivit, greg wilson & andrew weatherall. features tracks from shut up & dance, fluke, human league, sinnamon, nasty dolls, faze action, electric south, isolee & many more. [tirk](#)

los updates : first if you please advanced latin micro-mechanics from the chilean techno supergroup. a skilled fusion of slinky latin shuffle rhythms inherited from jorge gonzales' mexican heritage, mixed with pedigree minimal production & darkly sleazed vocals. 'my soulmate & i' rides some chewy villalobos synth bass with an 80's soul flavour, while the electronic frustration of 'sexual madness' fuses vladislav delay/luomo style groove spaces with deeply funky chicago bassline vibes. sweet & sexy upper class dancefloor minimalism that fans of villalobos, luomo or luciano wanting some home listening, need in their lives. [cadenza](#)

yage : the woodlands of old released under the alias of yage, this is the future sound of london hiding in the shadows. their dark side takes an outing here on this rather special album where psychedelia, jazz & world music collide. it is an electronica record foremost but it employs more traditional drums & percussion (ex-propellerheads member will white contributes drums), along with a number of ethnic sounding instruments. yage describes the album as, "from the deserts of the middle east to the rain forests of brazil. odd rhythms, eerie melodies. like you have just entered a hashish bar in morocco". it's an epic, murky & haunting record that sounds like something that could easily have been released on mike patton's ipecac label. [jumpin' & pumpin'](#)

the future sound of london : by any other name what the heck is going on in the fsol's studios? seriously, there's been an album more or less every week from these dance visionaries, which is making me wonder if perhaps their machines have got the better of them & like hal, have trapped them in some kind of sinister electronic music generator. well, whatever the reason, this is a collection of early, unreleased pre-fsol work that the guys have been revisiting in their studio of late. it's an interesting compilation that showcases the innovation & early style of a now legendary partnership in the making. [jumpin' & pumpin'](#)

fax : yo recuerdo considered as one of mexico's most versatile electronic music producers, rubén tamayo started recording electronic music as fax in early 2000. this, his 6th release, forges a path through pastoral, atmospheric slowtempo electronica, treading close to the worlds of guthrie, budd & biosphere. warmly treated guitars, hazy synths & swathes of rounded reverberating sound combine to make the tracks here feel like the hours just prior to & surrounding sunrise. evoking the shoegaziness of schnauss at times & the soundscapes of murcof (who, incidentally, mastered the album) at others, this is a promising record that definitely deserves further investigation. [static discos](#)

v/a : secretsundaze vol 2 - giles smith & james priestley smith & priestly have seemingly taken over the word 'house' in london with their secretsundaze parties of late. this is the 2nd instalment of their well received & well selected mix cd series, capitalising on the success of the night & their in demand deck handling skills. giles smith's selection draws for the deeper end of the detroit house pool with cuts from urban force, claro intellecto, motorbass & more, whilst james priestly goes for the deeper disco house strut with tracks from holy ghost, lindstrom, afefe iku & robert owens. good, solid, classy house! [secretsundaze](#)

i am robot & proud : uphill city the moniker of toronto native shaw-han liem who creates hypnotic, beguiling electronic pop music. syncopated multi-instrumental rhythms & playful, repetitive multi-dimensional melodies - just the elixir your head needs. he mixes acoustic instrumentation (piano, guitar & drums) seamlessly with his electronic keyboard sounds & percussive elements. it's a simple but lovely sound that gives you the feeling of flying fast & free through a heavenly modern green world of pop, beauty & sunshine. your brain chemicals are sure to be balanced after the first minute into the title track. [darla](#)

m.i.a : kala - expanded edition (2cd) what with her 'paper planes' single being virtually inescapable on the ol' wireless at the moment, now seems as good a time as any to re-issue the fantastic 2nd album from m.i.a, expanded here with a bonus disc of new previously unreleased tracks, plus a very flashy, do-your-eyes-in sleeve. if you missed her uniquely brash rave, soca/world-influenced mash up first time around, what are you waiting for? 'm.i.a at her most masterful' - the observer, 'defiantly brilliant' - daily telegraph [xl](#)

d radio : d radio remixed as a follow up to the self-titled album, these remixes attempt to put a different spin on the melodic electronica stylings of the source material, with the likes of piano magic, port royal, populous & manual all offering their services. the results are very pleasing indeed with manual evoking tides-era arovane with the brilliant 'a life alive' & morr music graduate populous supplying more melodic, glitchy warmth being 2 particular highlights. a top collection of accessible electronics. [distraction records](#)

hip hop

sway : the signature (cd & dvd) sway, one of the leading lights on the uk hip hop scene, delivers the follow up to his mercury nominated debut 'this is my demo'. with such big-hitters involved (including vocal contributions from lemar & production by akon & kanye west), it seems inevitable that this album is going to put sway's particular brand of hip-hop grime onto the wider stage. whether that's breaking america or a-listed on kiss, there's no question that the name is going to be much more widely known sometime soon. "sway's wit & charm on the signature lp bears out the promise of his 2006 debut" - the independent. [dcypha](#)

josh martinez : the world famous sex buffet josh martinez mixes doo-wop, psych, dance moves, & hi-kicks with all of the joy & freshness of golden-era hip hop. his use of harmony & humour has long brought him accolades from non-traditional sources, but there has always been substance underneath the syrup. an abiding love for both the people & their stories oozes from every pore of this opus. in a world where rap is bloated by its appetite for bling & violence, this is a refreshingly upbeat & humorous hip hop album that fans of ugly duckling & people under the stairs should check. [camobear](#)

roll deep : return of the big money sound the east london collective that still features wiley, have grown immensely musically, mastering their very own uk urban sound. the grime/garage/r'n'b maestro's have experimented with new sounds on this album, strides purposefully over everything from dance, house, hip hop, electro, ska & even an acoustic track. of course, they have not forgotten their grime roots with some big bass bangers on the album as well. 12 tracks of addictive, partying goodness. *"this sees the crew focus on molesting genres on their own terms, accessorising them with sharp energy & the same sense of confident, cheeky fun that glittered so hard on 'wearing my rolex'"* – plan b. [roll deep](#)

the gigantics : die already reason & count draven of grayskul/oldominion, with their debut which features the voices of over 50 of the most influential & talented people in independent hip hop today. far from a compilation, this album pulls disparate artists from their respective groups & weaves them together into a dream team. among the many outstanding individuals appearing here are aesop rock, murs, mr. lif (def jux), swollen members, eligh (of living legends), pigeon john (quannum), p.o.s. (rhymesayers), sol.illaquists of sound, josh martinez & awol one. though this is primarily a hip hop album, their production takes you through alternative, metal, punk, pop, electronic, street & club, providing a record that will satisfy all. [camobear](#)

soul/funk

amp fiddler / sly & robbie : inspiration information (cd & lp) a new series from strut, which brings together current artists & producers with their musical heroes for a mouth-watering one-off collaboration. the series kicks off with detroit soul maverick amp fiddler in a head-to-head with reggae legends, sly dunbar & robbie shakespeare. the result is a confident, laid back set that brings a whole new twist to amp's trademark vocal style with sly building innovative digital & live rhythms, robbie underpinning the tracks with solid bass foundations & original generation guests "sticky" thompson (percussion) & dalton browne (guitar) adding plenty of colour. back in detroit, amp knitted together the finishing touches, adding extra keys & backing vocals. one for fans of john legend, jamie lidell or even michael franti. smooov! [strut](#)

trio valore : return of the iron monkey a new funk supergroup, of sorts, formed by drummer steve white (style council/paul weller) with bassist damon michella (ocean colour scene) & seamus beaghen (session player for iggy pop, morrissey, tom jones). the grooves are mighty tight, with 12 cuts full of floorshaking hammond grooves, heavy deep funk & super dancefloor mod jazz. chuck in a few covers along the way (amy winehouse, jimi hendrix & the rolling stones) & the result is one proper retro-styled funk album that anyone with a penchant for gritty, dancefloor hip-shakers should make a beeline for. *"mad, raw garage-funk with hints of jtq. it doesn't take itself too seriously & is keen that we all have a raucous time"* – mixmag. [record kicks](#)

drawbar : flight of the tempest a quirky funk project from these hastings residents, consisting of simon ham (bass, vocals & production) & jo brooks (hammond organ & various keyboards), alongside a select collective of musicians, vocalists & a scratch dj. heavily influenced by library & soundtrack composers of the 60s & 70s & the classic soul/jazz combos of that era, drawbar adopt a modernist approach to this tradition. combining vintage sounds & instrumentation with samples & top notch production into a genre defying melange of musical styles, from hip hop, funk & jazz to soundtracks, exotica & beyond. [counterpoint records](#)

blues

v/a : highlights from the history of rhythm & blues (the pre-war years 1925-1942)

the history of rhythm & blues series of cds investigates the accidental synthesis of jazz, gospel, blues, ragtime, latin, country & pop into a definable form of black music, which in turn would influence pretty well all popular music from the 1950s to the present. originally presented in a fabulous 4cd boxset, it has now been condensed into a single disc version, containing 25 of the most representative tracks. this indispensable, bargain priced collection features tracks from blind willie johnson, jimmie rodgers, bessie smith, robert johnson, tampa red, big bill broonzy, t-bone walker & loads more. [rhythm & blues](#)

jazz

carol kidd : dreamsville the return of a uk jazz legend. kidd is well known for her impeccable phrasing & delivery & for her innate ability to breathe fresh life into jazz standards. this release showcases american songbook favourites & previously unrecorded original songs. her performances of gershwin, rogers & hart, irving berlin & henry mancini classics see her deliver a masterclass in interpretation & shows why she is considered 'a singer's singer'. she has also co-written 2 new tracks with guitarist nigel clark. [linn records](#)

azymuth : butterfly this release displays the mighty band's timeless ability to push the boundaries of jazz infused electronic music with a pioneering selection of new tracks that will appeal not only to the hardcore azymuth fanbase but also to new fans of jazz & electronic music. they're one of the few combos who never get stale, no matter how long they keep on grooving! titled after the herbie hancock classic 'butterfly', it's put together with a sublime quality that really stretches back to the best styles of the 70s fusion generation. the true legends of rio's music scene, even 3 decades after their debut during the swinging '70s. [far out](#)

nina simone : a single woman the reissue of nina's last studio album, with 7 previously unreleased tracks, including prince's 'sign of the times', marley's 'no woman no cry' & dylan's 'times are a changin''. [wcj](#)

chick corea / hiromi : duet (2cd) a live recording of the legendary jazz pianist, chick corea & hiromi uehara who 1st mesmerized the jazz community with her 2003 telarc debut, 'another mind'. recorded at blue note, tokyo in 2007, this is an amazing concert – a collaboration between 2 artists who are fans of each other & who clearly enjoyed performing together so, from the outset, their breathtaking interaction sparkles. [concord](#)

country

lucinda williams : little honey the 9th album from the 3-time grammy winner is her most eclectic, in a career that began in 1978. the album features guest vocalists elvis costello, matthew sweet, suzanna hoffs, jim lauderdale, tim easton & charlie louvin. somewhere between the last album & this one, she's gone & fallen in love with her manager, so there's some unaccustomed cheerfulness here, but in places she sounds like she's had a seriously heavy night out, has caned all her smokes & is singing from the bottom of a very large empty bottle. 'tears with joy' sounds like jenny lewis' 'rise up with fists' gets the blues, the wonderfully raw 'honey bee' draws from the same sticky pot that fueled grinderman (just add the words 'lets' fly to mars' & you're almost there) & the costello duet 'jailhouse tears' is like george & tammy or shane & kirsty having a slanging match after the aforementioned night on the town. "a heartening & humble album" 5/5 – uncut. [mercury](#)

alan tyler & the lost sons of littlefield : lonesome cowboys the original camden cowboy & his band follow the success of their critically-acclaimed 2007 debut (q mag named it one of the top 5 roots albums of the year). proving that you don't need to go to nashville to master the genre, this was recorded & mixed by bass player chris clarke in his north london reservoir studios. tyler's "marlboros & molasses" vocals are accompanied by guests hannah elton-wall of redlands palomino company on backing vocals, tim kent on banjo & david barbenel on cello. the result is an album that combines rootsy songs with traditional, rockin' & modern alt-country & the occasional west coast californian vibe. [hanky panky](#)

otis gibbs : grandpa walked a picketline gibbs' latest album serves as a reminder that he is, above all else, a damn fine songwriter. it was produced & mixed by chris stamey, engineered by legendary motown engineer, bob olhsson & was recorded in nashville, tennessee with an impressive list of players including, al perkins, don dixon, tim easton & will rigby. "in troubadour otis gibbs, we may have found america's contemporary billy bragg. not since late a&m period phil ochs have we heard such a distinctly american blending of the personal & the political" - harp magazine. [wanamaker](#)

tom russell : veteran's day – the tom russell anthology (2cd) features 37 hand-picked tracks from the man himself, including 2 previously unreleased recordings & collaborations with dave alvin, shawn colvin, nanci griffith, jimmie dale gilmore & more. crossing many genres (e.g. americana, folk, tex-mex, & country), the legendary singer-songwriter has had an amazing career spanning over 3 decades. he has had his songs recorded by icons such as johnny cash, nanci griffith, guy clark, dave alvin & k.d. lang. [shout factory](#)

folk

linda perhacs : parallelograms – the definitive edition combining fragile & beautifully melodic acid folk with perfectly-rendered electronic effects, this remarkable album consists of what its creator describes as 'visual music'. first released in 1970, it has become one of the most legendary & well-loved recordings of its time. it's presented here with 8 bonus tracks (including 1 previously unheard out-take), making it the most definitive edition of this timeless classic ever released. essential! "the unquestioned queen of the hill of female psychedelic albums... a masterpiece" – the acid archives, "still utterly staggering" – mojo. [sunbeam](#)

v/a : in the pines - tar heel folk songs & fiddle tunes - old-time music of north

carolina 1926-1936 north carolina, the 'tar heel state', has a proud heritage of traditional music & this cd anthology offers compelling proof - 24 rare tracks, 1st recorded between 1926-1936, a decade of inspired musical achievement. you'll hear old-time fiddle & banjo tunes, folk songs & murder ballads, gospel hymns, mountain blues & railroad songs, all performed by the state's top musical talent. most tracks are reissued here for the first time on cd & the music is digitally remastered for brightness & clarity. highly recommended. [old hat](#)

world

buena vista social club : buena vista social club at carnegie hall (2cd) the 2nd album from the legendary group is the recording of their one-off, sold out concert at new york's historic carnegie hall. this amazing concert was the climax of the wim wenders documentary & the last time the original band would ever perform together. produced by ry cooder, this features brilliant & unrepeatable performances by legends including ibrahim ferrer, compay segundo, ruben gonzález, eliades ochoa, omara portuondo, cachaito lópez & guajiro mirabal. until now, apart from the moments seen in wim wenders' film, the music from that magical, memorable night has only ever been heard by the lucky few who were privileged to be there. [world circuit](#)

seun kuti & fela's egypt 80 : many things the 1st full album from fela kuti's youngest son features 7 dynamic performances from one of the world's great bands. egypt 80 was fela's last group & seun has been a member of it for most of his life. now seun kuti moves to centre stage & on listening to this outing, you can hear that he is more than ready to inherit one of the world's most vibrant & influential outfits. the perfect melding of guitars, horns, rhythm section, voices, highlife, funk, yoruba & upfront politics. "i want to make afrobeat for my generation. instead of 'get up & fight,' it's going to be 'get up & think!'" – seun kuti. [totoutard](#)

dub colossus : in a town called addis this project is the vision of dub colossus/dubulah, aka nick page, who started his music career with michael riley (steel pulse) & in 1990, formed trans-global underground with tim whelan & hammid man-tu, then later formed temple of sound with neil sparkes. this debut combines the sounds of the golden years of ethiopian beats & jazz, with the dub reggae styles of early 70s reggae groups like the abyssinians & mighty diamonds, alongside a hint of sun ra! dub meets dreamy blues, hypnotic grooves, jazz piano & driving funk brass, bringing together some of ethiopia's finest performers to help out. this is a unique attempt to mix traditional east african music with experimental reggae sounds - an audio journey & a discovery of one of the most alluring, funky & seductive genres of african music. [real world](#)

group inerane : guitars from agadez (music of niger) the cd reissue of the 2nd sublime frequencies vinyl release (the lp sold out almost immediately upon release). this is the sound of the tuareg guitar revolution sweeping across the sahara desert & inspired by the rebel musicians that started this music as a political weapon used to communicate from the libyan refugee camps in the 1980s & 1990s. spearheaded by the enigmatic guitar hero bibi ahmed, these 10 tracks are a combination of amplified roots rock, blues & folk in the local tuareg styles, at times entering into full-on electric guitar psychedelia. [sublime frequencies](#)

d v d

talk talk : live at montreux 1986 one of the most innovative & original british bands of the 80s. 1986 was the band's only appearance at montreux & caught them at the height of their success. with a set list packed with hit singles & mark hollis' charismatic performance, they delivered an outstanding concert that draws a great response from the packed swiss crowd. the 1st ever talk talk dvd to be released. [eagle vision](#)

vinyl

lovers : think [wichita](#)

pixies : bossa nova (180 gm vinyl) [4ad](#)

pixies : trompe le monde (180 gm vinyl) [4ad](#)

polar bear : s/t limited double vinyl pressing, in gatefold sleeve with a copy of the cd. [tin angel records](#)

m a g s

plan b : issue 38 – october 2008 gang gang dance, high places, diplo, david toop & f*cked up.....

the word : issue 69 [elbow](#), [john peel](#), [eno & byrne](#) & free cd...

clash : issue 31 [oasis](#), [led zep](#), [tv on the radio](#), [kaiser chiefs](#), [cold war kids](#), [stephen stills](#) & free cd...

s i n g l e s

single of the week

the count & sinden : hardcore girls ep 12". [domino](#)

shred yr face tour (los campesinos! / no age / times new viking) : split 7" [super](#) limited 7" only available to indie coalition stores.

kotchy : she made it easy / bruce fleetwood 7". [civil music](#)

mgmt : kids cd. [columbia](#)

m.i.a. : paper planes 7" & cd. [xl](#)

the decemberists : always the bridesmaid vol 1 very limited 7". [rough trade](#)

lowline : sound of music 7". [1234](#)

liquid liquid : remixes 2 x limited 12". [domino](#)

wild beasts : brave bulging buoyant clairvoyants 7". [domino](#)

the ting tings : be the one cd & 7". [columbia](#)

css : move 7". [warner bros](#)

gemists feat. mike patton : lost weekend 12". [ninja](#)

petals on a wet black bough : turn the car around 7". [everyone label](#)

high places : vision's the first.../namer limited 7". [upset the rhythm](#)

the kooks : sway 2 x 7" & cd. [virgin](#)

snow patrol : take back the city 2 x 7". [polydor](#)

das wanderlust : puzzles 7". [don't tell dare](#)