

out this week.....

albums of the week

staff benda bilili : tres tres fort the latest phenomena to come out of the congo, staff benda bilili are a group of paraplegic street musicians who live in & around the grounds of the zoo in kinshasa. vincent kenis, the producer of the congotronics series, has captured their rough-edged essence simply by placing a dozen microphones around them as they performed outside the zoo & the results are truly captivating. rooted in the congolese tradition of rumba rock & the influence of 'rumble in the jungle'-era james brown, there's a wonderful warmth & an often ramshackle jollity to proceedings. 'sala mosala' & 'polio' are cases in point : the latter doesn't just sound as if it was recorded around a campfire - if the toads that can be heard croaking in the background are anything to go by, it actually was! while the lyrics confront its authors' circumstances, this album sounds anything but worthy. highly recommended. "one of the most extraordinary albums of the year - a gloriously uplifting set from surely the most disadvantaged musicians on the planet" - the guardian, "an instant classic" - telegraph. [crammed](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

the decemberists : the hazards of love the portland indie-rock quintet have surpassed themselves with this folk-rock opera, based on a 1964 anne briggs ep of the same name. this 17 track concept album plots an extravagant tale rooted in ancient language & imagery of a woman ravaged by her lover who is able to change his form between animal & man - oh yes! the result is musically & lyrically rich with elaborate orchestrations that explode like baroque fireworks. to help them create their colourful offering, the band are joined by lavender diamond's becky stark, my brightest diamond's shara worden, my morning jacket's jim james, robyn hitchcock & the spinanes' rebecca gates. "meloy's writing some of his simplest, most immediately affecting songs" 8/10 - dis, "this spellbinding work peaks & soars with all the warmth & wonder of some great romantic adventure, demanding & rewarding total immersion in its magical narrative" 4/5 - mojo. [rough trade](#)

mono : hymn to the immortal wind just in time for their 10-year anniversary, mono return with their 5th studio album, the absolutely massive 'hymn to the immortal wind'. after touring almost non-stop for 5 years, the band hibernated for over a year to focus solely on writing 'hymn...'. the music is naturally majestic, with mono's trademark wall of noise crashing beautifully against the largest chamber orchestra the band has ever enlisted. the instrumentation is vast, incorporating strings, flutes, organ, piano, glockenspiel & tympani into their standard facemelting set-up. its impact is immediately felt on the gorgeous 12-minute lead track 'ashes in the snow' - opening with guitar & glockenspiel, the song slowly introduces strings, keyboards & flute before morphing into an awesome symphony of distorted, soaring guitars & thunderous timpani drums. recorded to analog tape with long-time friend & producer steve albini, this is epic & cinematic contribution to an already classic catalogue from the japanese post-rock masters. [conspiracy](#)

condo fucks : fuckbook (yo la tengo) (cd/lp) in 1997, in the liner notes to 'i can hear the heart beating as one', yo la tengo included a phony catalog of matador releases. hot new releases in the catalogue included 'movin' in', a new album from a punk trio from connecticut named the condo fucks. now, a dozen years later, matador has released an actual condo fucks album. the threesome (credited as kid condo, georgia condo & james mcnew) tear through material from venerable 1960s & 1970s bands, although the condo fucks arrange everything with a sped-up tempo & a more muscular guitar part - covers of small faces, richard hell, beach boys, electric eels, troggs, slade & flaming groovies classics that sound like they were recorded in a single take, with the vocals fighting through a thick layer of fuzz. "even with times new viking, fucked up & sonic youth as labelmates (they) might be the single skronkiest band current signed to matador...an effortless blast" 8.3/10 - pitchfork. [matador](#)

brain donor (julian cope) : wasted fuzz excessive the long awaited follow-up to 2006's epic 'drain'd boner'. the 4th album from the former teardrop explodes frontman & his merry cohorts continues in those dark traditions of declaimed metallic poetry but extends further into works of epic construction & length. driven by no wave riffs & hoary proto-metal assaults, this donor record burns at both ends. here it hangs static & taut, whilst there it endures a rocket fired up its ass due to mister e's sudden & marvellous acceleration. the 7 songs pan out across over an hour of music & include julian cope's infamous stereo bass solo 'shadow of my corpse', previewed on his last tour. for those with a mind to listen to the far out, have it destroyed by the might of 'wasted fuzz excessive'. you know it makes sense...to somebody! [brain donor records](#)

v/a : a psychedelic guide to monsterism island a fun-filled musical journey co-ordinated by artist pete fowler, possibly best known for his artwork for the super furry animals. monsterism island has long been known as a musical cornucopia & an album full of esoteric musical treats makes perfect sense. this cd contains original compositions from some of the underground's most intrepid musical explorers. spanning monstrous rock fry ups, electronic exotica via psychedelic folk & spooky krautrock. features gruff rhys, jerry dammers, the ukulele orchestra of great britain, the future sound of london, beyond the wizards sleeve, luke vibert, cherrystones, circulus, belbury poly, the advisory circle & wolf people to name a few, who unleash their most creative tendencies to bring you the kind of music you would only hear on monsterism island. [lo recording](#)

love is all : a hundred things keep me up at night (cd / lp + free 7" while stocks last!) having risen from seemingly out of nowhere 3 years ago, the swedish 5-piece then disappeared in the pit of fate, hype, broken promises & seething expectations. now they return with a superb second dose of their fanciful anarcho charm which has matured, but they harness the same raw energy which initially captured our hearts. the squalling sax that wends its way through most of these tracks & josephine's joyful, yet solidly unsettled yelps temporarily bring to mind a more professional & spacious mika miko, but that similarity mostly traces back to a common debt owed to kleenex/liliput. the production keeps the hissy clatter & the cavernous reverb of their debut, with josephine olausson's vocals distorted & fuzzy & the drums & bass really driving the power. play it loud & revel in it's direct, punchy pop prowess. ace! 8.1/10 – [pitchfork](#). [whats your rupture?](#)

abe vigoda : revival (5 track ep) the frenetic new release from la's abe vigoda - part punk, part pop, part new wave, abe vigoda bring forth an entirely new sound that is both temptingly beautiful & melodically tropical. 'reviver' captures the boys honing in on their amazing musical direction & pretty much ditching the "tropical punk" sound that they have become known for. there is a dream-like ambience that seeps through entire songs, a beat that sucks the listener into their world & vocals that are underneath the music as much as they are on top of it. they cover both their own track, 'endless sleeper' (here it runs slower but shorter than on 'skeleton') & stevie nicks' 1983 hit 'wild heart' & the whole ep feels comfortably darker, sparser & more textured, revealing the direction we might expect them to go in with their next full length. *"it's disorienting, but charming, to hear their parts blend, settle, & separate over & over again"* 7.7/10 - [pitchfork](#). [bella union](#)

the rakes : klang (cd & lp) the band's 3rd album was recorded at planet roc studios in berlin & produced by chris zane (les savy fav, the walkmen, passion pit). the rakes decided they wanted to record in a fresh & exciting new environment, so they relocated to an industrial area in the old communist part of berlin. "the london music scene is so dull - it's like wading through a swamp of shit. we just wanted to be somewhere more inspiring," said rakes singer alan donohoe. "we packed our bags & moved here just like that. we love it". lyrically, they haven't strayed far from their usual topic of working life & nine to five mundanity but musically, this is a raw, energetic, playful, frantic album – the one that franz ferdinand could have made for their 3rd if they'd stuck to the post-punk & hadn't been seduced by dance grooves. *"thank f**k the real rakes are back...brilliantly back on track"* 7/10 – [nme](#). [v2 coop](#)

the reverend peyton's big damn band : the whole fam damnily this supposed "big damn band" is in fact comprised of just 3 members but they do indeed make a "big damn" sound! this act is comprised of fingerstyle guitarist reverend peyton, his wife & washboard player breezy peyton & drummer brother jayme peyton. they recorded their album at a church in bloomington, indiana, just down the road from where the band live. from the rowdy & rancorous opener 'can't pay the bill' to the melodic, slide-guitar-driven barnburner 'wal-mart killed the country store' & heartfelt fingerstyle ballad 'what's mine is yours,' the album is a timeless collection that defies age & era. a fabulous blues-rock workout for fans of everyone from the hold steady to nick cave/grinderman to charlie parr or seasick steve. *"featuring the burly, bearded reverend peyton on steel resonator guitar & guttural vocal bark – a sort of backwoods brian blessed –the band bring to their retro-fabricated rootsy americana an utterly gripping compulsion"* 4/5 – [independent](#). [sideonedummy](#)

pet shop boys : yes (standard or limited 2cd version with 8 page booklet) in the pop collaboration of the year, pet shop boys team up with producers xenomania for their new studio album. 'yes' is the 10th studio album by legendary british synth-pop duo who were recently bestowed with the "outstanding contribution to british music" award at the 2009 brit awards. this is a timely reminder of the pair's subtle influence on british pop music & it is a wondrous & sumptuous record packed with enough surprises that will please fans & newcomers alike. neil & chris co-wrote 3 of the 11 new tracks on the album with xenomania. the other tracks were written by tennant/lowe with a little assistance from tchaikovsky on 'all over the world'. the album was produced by brian higgins/xenomania. chris lowe comments : "this album is amazing & it was great working with xenomania!". neil tennant says : "it's a fantastic, wide-ranging, pop record". johnny marr plays guitar on several tracks & orchestral arrangements 2 tracks are by final fantasy's owen pallett. [parolophone](#)

1990s : kicks the 2nd collection of knockout songs from the band that were originally comprised of two parts ex-yummy fur (where certain members of franz ferdinand also spawned from) - jamie mcmorrow (bass, crazy teeth) & jackie mcmorrow (vocals/guitar, crazier teeth) - to one part ex-v twin michael mcgaughrin (drums, monkees haircut). jamie has since left the band & been replaced by dino bardot on bass so the band is now solely led by the frenetic energy of jackie mcmorrow. 'kicks' features more sassy, infectious catchy songs about glasgow & girls, in the main, but also references mongolian warlords, bears, jan vennegoor of hesselink, baader-meinhoff & scientology. this collection of immediate, punky pop songs was recorded at edwyn collins' west heath yard studio in london & was produced by bernard butler. *"utterly brilliant"* – [guardian](#), *"dance floor filling rock n' roll"* – [time out](#). [rough trade](#)

christian naujoks : christian naujoks (cd & lp) gorgeous piano meets electronics brought to you by the dial label, one of germany's leading tastemakers thanks to groundbreaking releases from lawrence, pantha du prince & now the debut from christian naujoks. unlike dial's lynchpins however, naujoks doesn't make house or techno - he makes decidedly inward-looking music that's ill-equipped for the dancefloor but ideal for late night reflection & consolation. his debut is emotionally quite opaque, yet unmistakably lonely-sounding. the reference-points are clear : reichian minimalism, masters of piano atmospherics like ligeti, glass & satie & 'world of echo'-era arthur russell. one for fans of susumu yokota. [dial](#)

delta spirit : ode to sunshine the ex-noise racket founders shift to more rootsy territory with their new band, yielding impressive results. call it indie folk or anti-folk, there's no doubt about similarities to the violent femmes & especially the waterboys, both in the predominantly acoustic instrumentation & matt vasquez's vocals. the album was recorded in a cabin in julian, ca & perhaps the surroundings brought a raw, rootsy, almost basement tapes-styled feel to the stripped down songs & production. the southern california 5-piece's captivating debut is full of jangly pianos, rattling drums & scruffy acoustic guitars, making a thrilling ruckus. their diy ethic shines throughout, with songs honed razor-sharp over a year of non-stop touring across america. for fans of the cold war kids, gomez or dr.dog. "some songs are happy songs; some are sad, but the pure joy of melody shines through in every one" – filter, "an effortless, timeless & intoxicating brew" – amg. [rounder](#)

v/a : kitsuné tabloid by phoenix the parisian label kitsuné has given free reins to the boys of the band phoenix for an unlikely yet amazing compilation of rare tracks that have changed their lives. but don't be expecting to throw any dancefloor shapes to this selection, as phoenix pick choice pearls like the theatrical 'love theme from kiss' guitar opener, spazz-outs from psychedelic rockers the red crayola & the 13th floor elevators, the incredibly rare 'lady (falling in love)' by beach boy dennis wilson & lou reed's epic 'street hassle'. chock-full of brilliance, this is a very neat compilation indeed. [kitsune](#)

swan lake : enemy mine (cd/lp) one part destroyer, one part wolf parade & one part frog eyes, the canadian indie supergroup return with their sophomore album. swan lake are daniel bejar (destroyer, the new pornographers), spencer krug (wolf parade, sunset rubdown) & carey mercer (frog eyes) but make no mistake, this is not a supergroup throwing out records in their spare time. swan lake is a collection of three celebrated songwriter-mystics creating something greater than the sum of its parts. 'enemy mine' has a more stripped down & focused approach than their debut, they craft sparse, noisy rock that's both controlled & dangerously unbalanced. carey mercer's vocal delivery takes some adjusting of your ears to get to grips with but once you're latched on, the whole thing makes perfect sense. it's a challenging yet coherent listen that sits very comfortably on the excellent jagjaguwar roster. "delightful sunset-tinged freak folk" – nme. [jagjaguwar](#)

grammatics : grammatics debut from the critically acclaimed leeds band who have taken their time with their 1st album, having released their debut 7" in october 2007. with swooping string arrangements & dense layers of fizzing electronics supplementing guitar, cello, drums & bass & owen brinley's dramatic vocals in songs that rarely follow conventional verse-chorus-verse structure, this is a debut that suggests this lot could be destined for stardom. "you are looking at an album that is so rare, so well created & driven by people so talented, it is nothing short of perfect" 10/10 – audioscribbler, "an early contender for rock sound's album's of 2009" 8/10 – rock sound, "the blend of owen brinley's choirboy vocals & a raft of prog-tinged riffs is a source of promise, magic & drama" 4/5 – uncut, "done with such poise & craft you're left breathless" 4/5 – the fly, "a bold, ambitious & diverse collection of songs...frequently approaches bona fide genius" 8/10 – nme, "as complex, cerebral a debut lp as you'll hear all year" 8/10 – drowned in sound. [dance to the radio](#)

the balky mule : the length of the rail first proper release from sam jones (movietone / crescent / ex-third eye foundation / flying saucer attack). 'the length of the rail' was created over a period of 5 years - a true "bedroom recording", the entire album was written, played, recorded & mixed by sam jones himself. most of the songs grew out of a library of existing short sound-snippets sam built up from experimenting with old boot sale-find keyboards, analogue synths & scavenged electronic kit (arp axxe, casio sk1, rhythmatic analogue drum machine etc), guided by their inherent personalities & discovering what sounds could be coaxed from these manual-less & sometimes malfunctioning objects. beautifully balanced, intelligent & captivating, this organic mix of acoustic & electric instruments & neat electronic detail, the album may appeal to fans of uk outsiders like hood, the pastels, robert wyatt or syd barrett. [fat cat](#)

the death set : rad warehouses to bad neighborhoods (limited to 300 copies, exclusively available from indies & comes complete with a free the death set bandana!) this 22 track collection of the death set's first two eps recalls the brashest moments of their super deep, super brief back catalogue. fun, exhilarating & strangely life-affirming, this is one for all the death set initiated, uninitiated, completists, speed freaks & anyone who held little johnny siera up while he crowd surfed their heads. following over 200 live dates since last year's release of 'worldwide', the death set recount it all fondly with a revisit to where it all began. shouting & screaming over drumbox beats, serrated-edge guitar & keyboard hooks - this is one for bounding around the room uncontrollably! "a quixotic, perfect pop thrill" - the guardian, "loud, abrasive & sickly fun, black flag for a new generation" – artocker. [counter](#)

chris cornell : scream ex-soundgarden/audioslave vocalist chris cornell has always been eclectic & experimental & his new collaboration with super-producer timbaland (who calls their album "the best work i've done in my career") takes him into fresh new territory once again. this extraordinary big budget, dance-rock album is housed in a sleeve that sees him symbolically smashing up his guitar, demonstrating his move away from his rock comfort zone, into this unknown territory. tracks such as the title song 'scream' ripple with electro-synth & complex drum patterns that only timbaland could pull off, piloted by the powerful & unmistakable chris cornell vocal. these 2 have certainly re-written the modern musical rulebook & have produced a completely unexpected album that while it may alienate existing fans, is likely to find a whole new following amongst fans of gnarls barkley or kanye west. [polydor](#)

mastodon : crack the skye (cd/cd+dvd) the prog/sludge/stoner metal behemoths release their highly anticipated 4th album. one of the more notable new wave of american heavy metal acts, mastodon's innovative, lyrically astute blend of progressive metal, grindcore & hardcore has helped position the band as one of the pre-eminent metal acts of the early 21st century. recorded in their hometown of atlanta, ga with producer brendan o brien (ac/dc, pearl jam), 'crack the skye' takes you on an epic journey from start to finish - one that involves astral travel, wormholes & even rasputin. enjoy the ride! "colossal riffage & deft prog...their 4th album is easily their more ambitious....multi-part harmonies, whipcrack tempo-changes & moments of prodigious technical brilliance abound" 4/5 - [mojo](#). [reprise](#)

ak-momo : return to n.y. this is the sound of pop music getting its magical spirit of adventure back. sweden's ak momo are a duo comprising musical archaeologist mattias olsson & singer/lyricist/keyboardist anna karin von malmborg. based on a trove of arcane instrumental exotica, their music is gilded by some of the most magically bewitching vocals heard since alison goldfrapp first yodelled from 'felt mountain'. at the heart of that sound is the mellotron - the iconic, 1960s tape-based, proto-synthesiser most recently deployed by the likes of radiohead & portishead & which most famously graced the beatles' 'strawberry fields'. "wistful tunes with softly precise bass counter melodies" 4/5 - [the guardian](#), "disorientating & fascinating" 4/5 - [mojo](#), "broodingly seductive" - [metro](#). [peacefrog](#)

le remo amps : tear it open new album from explosive glasgow 4 piece featuring marc beatty of brakes, produced by andy miller (mogwai, sons & daughters, scout niblett). with rumours of violent band disarray & near death behind them, 'tear it open' blends their own unique brand of sun soaked scottish indie with some hell-raising ramshackle country. it's perhaps a yearning for the sun that doesn't always shine in their hometown of glasgow but just one spin of 'tear it open' is enough to know that this is a chunk of fun capable of warming the cockles & stirring the soul of even the most miserable bugger. [drift](#)

mongrel : better than heavy / better than dub (2cd) star-studded indie urban collective including reverend & the makers shoutsman jon mcclure, drew babyshambles, an ex-arctic monkey & a host of uk mcs. their politically driven debut embraces a wide spectrum of genres with rap, rock, hip-hop, dub, digital synchronising & reggae, all delivered with conviction. rapper lowkey, from poisonous poets along with kyza, skinnyman, doc brown & many more, add a heavy hip hop element to the indie-rock contributions of the other four members. this 2cd version comes with a bonus album of dubs from the legendary adrian sherwood from on-u sound system & artwork from the much in demand insect. [wall of sound](#)

papa roach : metamorphosis the multi-platinum grammy-nominated papa roach return to tear things up, unleashing a new album which conjures a vicious, vibrant intensity that is raw, relevant & ready to rock. the 6th album from the nu-metal survivors, as suggested by the title, sees the band's sound continuing its ongoing transformation from downtuned, misanthropic rap-metal to colourful, melodic pop-rock filled with positivity. fans should not despair however, as the band still rocks as hard as ever. produced by jay baumgardner (pod, helmet), who helmed their breakthrough album 'infest', it includes the singles 'american whore' & the anthemic 'lifeline'. [polydor](#)

pixel : the drive jon egeskov's third album is meant to be the soundtrack to his imaginary journey by car across the u.s.a., a road movie encoded in the track list. with warm & deep guitar amplifier hiss & feedback in connection with floating rhythms, he creates very organic sound patterns. using a basic palette of miniscule percussive elements & delicately manipulated amplifier hiss, egeskov evokes images of deserts, chemical warfare plants, rugged landscapes, rocket takeoffs & hectic suburban night life. he instills a sense of gentle motion, sounding out dream-like engine noise that propels the listener down whatever shady lane they're prepared to venture down. the floating hum & crinkled analogue warmth of pixel's sound shifts around in a subtle, noir-ish fashion that is remarkably ear pleasing. [raster-noton](#)

now, now every children : cars cacie dalager (vocals, guitar) & brad hale (drums) from blaine, minnesota. their lo-fi recordings combined with the heartbreaking vocals, have already earned the duo considerable attention & acclaim. their first full-length presents re-recordings of 3 singles from their 2 eps plus 7 brand new tracks. with the dial tuned firmly to lo-fi, the album toys with quiet but efficient percussion & wandering guitar & keyboard lines. their airy moods are guided by dalager's dreamy confessions, which breathe through a voice that sounds as though it's spent the day lost in a crowd or staring wistfully out a window. it's soft but not without character & a kind of sensitive detachment. top stuff. "delivers minus the bear sound with tegan & sara presentation. even the slowest songs - the ones that take a minute or two to take off - are accompanied by a beat that you can feel in your chest & keeps you pressing the accelerator" - [riff](#). [tapete](#)

my cat is an alien & enore zaffiri : through the magnifying glass of tomorrow (cd/dvd) a cross-format release that combines a 2 part improvised session on the cd with a couple of films housed on the dvd : the first, 'light_earth_blue_silver' is by roberto opalio, soundtracked by my cat is an alien, while the 2nd is billed as a "video painting" by zaffiri. clandestine auteurs the opalio brothers, aka my cat is an alien, have deftly sprinkled our solar system with their beautifully fragile, arcane soundscapes via their own opax label, as well as multimedia collaborations with vanguards such as sonic youth, text of light, jim o'rouke, jackie-o motherfucker & many more. enore zaffiri, one of the pioneers of radical italian electronic music, is 80 years old & has been a reclusive artist for decades. after meeting maurizio & roberto, he decided to set up a collaborative project with them. this cd & dvd release running over 2 hours, is the haunting result from the gathering of these fellow musical cosmonauts. [touch & go](#)

heartless bastards : the mountain 'the mountain' delivers the swamped-up rock howl that fans have come to love from the critically acclaimed heartless bastards, but it also weaves in an adventurous sonic evolution, expanding their 3-piece rock palate by adding pedal steel, mandolin, banjo & strings, all in support of erika wannerstrom's transcendent voice that rolling stone once described as "channelling all the swagger & spit of a young robert plant". *"a small-town band who are ready to show the big city no mercy" - rolling stone, "what we've got is a hard, gnarled voice singing simple-seeming melodies that feel archetypal rather than ordinary, which is no easier to explain than it is to do"- the village voice.* [fat possum](#)

state broadcasters : the ship & the iceberg the glasgow 6-piece mix a unique lyricism with eclectic instrumentation including clarsach, piano, banjo, cello, double bass & trombone. the sound perfectly encapsulates the broad influences of each band member. from the smiths to sufjan stevens, ancient traditional folk to modern composers like yann tiersen, the 11 song collection captures the essence of these myriad influences to create an original sound that all sounds undeniably scottish. backed by a traditional folk ensemble, the record flows from slow, lovelorn balladry to jangly - but still melancholic - pop. [electric honey](#)

stylus : listen, time passes the 8th album from the welsh experimental artist dafydd morgan. the album is the 1st on his own stylus recording company & it pieces together the missing links between some of the albums, with some excellent re-mixes included, bringing the stylus story up to date. the 16 tracks on this album include the dylan thomas trilogy of tracks 'wooden milk parts 1 to 3', 2 radio sessions & several lost recordings. *"the sounds are alternately affecting & strangely menacing, with the original narration preying to a series of viral sonic disturbances. it sounds torn between being an affectionate nod to morgan's own heritage & a playful deconstruction of it"* - [the wire](#). [stylus recording company](#)

stylus & nathan swenson : last night before the colour a collaboration between stylus (welsh left-field musician dafydd morgan) & west country artist nathan swenson, whose influences include robert rauschenberg & diego velázquez. the music of stylus has in many reviews been likened to that created by popul vuh who provided many a soundtrack to the films of werner herzog. *"i was introduced to the work of nathan swenson by my label manager. he suggested & came up with the idea that i write some music whilst studying this one piece of art. i agreed. what do i see in the painting. it evokes feelings to me of desolation & isolation. it has been an intriguing & challenging project. i have never met nathan swenson. there is no need to. i think all i have to say to him is here, in the music"* - dafydd morgan. [stylus recording company](#)

ben lee : the rebirth of venus even before the launch of his solo career, lee came to attention in his early teens as a member of the sydney band noise addict. following the band's demise in the mid-90s, he began issuing a string of acclaimed solo albums while taking part in several side projects, including the bens. this is essentially a collection of sunny pop & singsong folk - lee wears his open heart on his sleeve he certainly has a way with an ingratiating hook. *"the man known for home-spun sing-alongs retains his catchy strumming & perfect blend of sweet & funny musings"* -[paste](#). [new west](#)

d'agostino/foxx/jansen : a secret life an instrumental album by three pioneers of this genre, john foxx, steve jansen & steve d'agostino. having met during their live performance in brighton with harold budd back in may 2005, john invited steve jansen (ex-japan) to record tam-tams (gongs) for a potential collaborative release. the dark tones of the tam-tams created a bed for atmospheric & acoustic piano work to be added. due to various other commitments the release seemed to be shelved until steve d'agostino (single cycle reorder) took it upon himself to complete the work. [metamatic](#)

vile imbeciles : jennifer/tramp + death jazz the brightonian experimental stompers. their self-proclaimed 'junk funk' & 'death jazz' band was formed in 2005 by andy huxley (formerly the guitarist of the eighties matchbox b-line disaster), with james hair (late of neils children) on lead bass guitar & now with new drummer evan reinhold & guitarist caz rospigliosi. the 2 main tracks here, 'jennifer' & 'tramp' (taken from last year's acclaimed 'queenie was a blonde' long player) are evidence of their reining in the scrambled time signatures & crepuscular bass of their debut album. these tracks are backed up with 30 minutes & 4 seconds of skulduggery in the form of the mini album, 'death jazz', which sees them giving full & glorious reign to their avant-garde instincts & desire to confound the meagre delineations of genre. think tom waits' experimental leanings coupled to the kind of intelligent, lurid stomping off found on the ipecac label. [tea vee eye](#)

the telescopes : untitled second the telescopes were among the most innovative & challenging yet successful artists in creation records' "middle period", a leading part of the wave of sonic experimenters who included spacemen 3, my bloody valentine, spectrum & spiritualized. towards the end of their time with creation, they made their most fully realized album yet, '#', which for reasons too obscure to go into, was barely released & barely promoted. a bit of a tragedy really - it's hard to believe listening to this album that it is not an acknowledged classic yet. *"the songs are built on acoustic guitars, then the tricked-out electric guitars are laid on top & garnished with bongos, organs, pianos & all sorts of classic instruments. stephen lawrie's vocals are restrained & semi-emotional & female backing vocals add a touch of sweetness that might otherwise be missing from the record, as the overall atmosphere is very moody & introspective"* - [amg](#). [bomp! records](#)

acid mothers temple & the melting p : cometary orbital drive (limited edition) french only release, featuring the 70 minute long 'cometary orbital drive' suite consisting of 4 parts : a) light my fire ball (tsuyama, kawabata, shimura) b) planet billions of light-years away (kawabata) c) circular system 7777777 (kawabata) d) milky way star (kawabata). an intergalactic cosmic psychedelic space journey. [bambalam / cs](#)

dredd foole & ed yazijian : that lonesome road between hurt & soul dredd foole (dan ireton) & ed yazijian met while wandering the shadowy corners of the boston 80's post-punk scene. ed was playing in such avant-rock combos as high risk group & 7 or 8 wormhearts (& the original pre-lp cul de sac). dan had just dissolved dredd foole & the din, tired of rock as a form & the extraordinary loudness of the group. he wanted a chance to do some real singing. ed was feeling a need for something more subtle & embraced the idea of actually being able to hear what he played. they set out to turn the world onto the largely acoustic folk & free improv stew they had cooked up but the world wasn't ready for them. now, finally, ed & dan have reconnected & this is the record they always threatened to make. some improvisations are built on dan's songs played in a totally unfettered manner. one is based on a tune by j. mascis & some were recorded as they were created. long talked about, long awaited, years in the making & finally here! **bo' weavil**

harappian night recordings : the glorious gongs of hainuwele upon hearing harappian night recordings it is common for people to assume that it is a collage of field-recordings from a varied cast of inhabitants from the non-industrialised parts of the world. such is the rich depth, vitality & authenticity of the recordings. the music & sounds however are created entirely by one man, dr syed kamran ali. he has such an instinctive feel for putting seemingly incongruous sounds together & such audacious irreverence in utilising any instrument or object from around the globe he can lay his hands on that what he creates is unique. the real miracle, however, is that his attention-defecit scatter-gun one-take approach so often works. it's an anarchic buzz of ideas constantly usurping each other. duelling ouds, whirling mizmars, screeching jouhikkos, tapping finger harps, rumbling monosynths, groaning harmoniums.....& you can dance to it, tuareg style! **bo' weevil**

genesis : the lamb lies down on broadway (remastered with new stereo mixes of all tracks, beautifully packaged in a cd version of the original vinyl artwork) it was only a matter of time before genesis attempted a full-fledged concept album & 1974's 'the lamb lies down on broadway' was a massive rock opera : the winding, wielding story of a puerto rican hustler named rael making his way in new york city. the story the story is impenetrable, but that doesn't mean that the album is as well - it's a forceful, imaginative piece of work that showcases the original line up at its peak. the 1st part is a tight collection of 10 pop-oriented rock songs & the 2nd part is largely devoted to instrumentals of nightmarish landscapes. with brian eno adding extra colouring on occasion, they shine as a group on the impressionistic 2nd half. *"a considerable, lasting achievement & it's little wonder that peter gabriel had to leave the band after this record : they had gone as far as they could go together & could never top this extraordinary album"* 5/5 - amg. **virgin**

genesis : foxtrot (remastered with new stereo mixes of all tracks, beautifully packaged in a cd version of the original vinyl artwork) 'foxtrot' is where genesis began to pull all of its varied inspirations into a cohesive sound - which doesn't necessarily mean that the album is streamlined, for this is a group that always was grandiose even when they were cohesive, or even when they rocked, which they truly do for the first time here. there's might & majesty here proving that genesis had grown muscle without abandoning the whimsy. certainly, they've rarely sounded as fantastical or odd as they do on the epic 22-minute closer 'supper's ready', that remains one of the group's signature moments. it ebbs, flows, teases & taunts, see-sawing between coiled instrumental attacks & delicate pastoral fairy tales. *"this is the rare art-rock album that excels at both the art & the rock, & it's a pinnacle of the genre (& decade) because of it"* 5/5 - amg. **virgin**

genesis : selling england by the pound (remastered with new stereo mixes of all tracks, beautifully packaged in a cd version of the original vinyl artwork) genesis proved that they could rock on 'foxtrot' but on its follow-up they didn't follow this route - they returned to the english eccentricity of their first records, which wasn't so much a retreat as a consolidation of powers. they didn't sacrifice their newfound immediacy, they instead married it to their eccentricity, finding ways to infuse it into the delicate whimsy that's been their calling card since the beginning. this, combined with many overt literary allusions - the tolkeinisms of the title of 'the battle of epping forest' being the most apparent - gives the album a storybook quality. it plays as a collection of short stories, fables & fairy tales & it is also a rock record, which makes it quite extraordinary as a collection, but also as a set of individual songs. *"their arguable high-water mark"* 5/5 - amg. **virgin**

genesis : nursery cryme (remastered with new stereo mixes of all tracks, beautifully packaged in a cd version of the original vinyl artwork) if genesis truly established themselves as progressive rockers on 'trespass', 'nursery cryme' is where their signature persona was unveiled : true english eccentrics, one part lewis carroll & one part syd barrett, creating a fanciful world that emphasized the band's instrumental prowess as much as peter gabriel's theatricality. which isn't to say that all of 'nursery cryme' works. there are times when the whimsy is overwhelming, just as there are periods when there's too much instrumental indulgence, yet there's a charm to this indulgence, since the group is letting itself run wild. even if they've yet to find the furthest reaches of their imagination, part of the charm is hearing them test out its limits. *"these are the songs that showed what genesis could do, & they still stand as pinnacles of what the band could achieve"* 4/5 - amg. **virgin**

john martyn : may you never - the very best of john martyn, who died in january 2009, was one of the uk's most respected singer-songwriters. born iain david mcgeachy in 1948 he changed his name to john martyn when he took his first tentative steps in the folk clubs of glasgow & london in the mid 1960s. he soon came to the attention of chris blackwell at island records who signed him to the island label in 1967. this 15 track collection of john's best loved songs includes 'may you never', 'solid air', 'over the hill', 'couldn't love you more' & his own unique covers of 'singin' in the rain' & 'over the rainbow'. the perfect introduction for the uninitiated. **island**

radiohead : pablo honey (standard collector's edition or 2 cd special edition with bonus dvd) ignore the perceived rock critic wisdom that this album somehow "doesn't count" & actually listen to it & you'll find that all the later-radiohead lyrical themes & attempts to break out of the straitjacket of "acceptable" sounds for rock bands, are already here on their debut album. any album containing both the twisted outsider lyrics & guitar crunches of 'creep' as well as 'bends' precursor 'anyone can play guitar' is a must have. this reissue contains all the early b-sides as well as the legendary 'drill' ep; the dvd version adds early videos, their first top of the pops performance (dig that crazy hair) & the 1st half of the '94 astoria show. [parlophone](#)

radiohead : the bends (standard collector's edition or 2 cd special edition with bonus dvd) probably the finest of the radiohead "guitar" albums with johnny greenwood in full effect, combining far greater musical ambition & adventurousness with the most singalong numbers of their career. it's still the album they come back to most in their live set & their most cohesive album to date. not a weak moment, from 'planet telex' through the title track, right through to 'my iron lung' & all the way to 'street spirit'. this reissue has all the b-sides, mostly worthy of inclusion on a proper album of their own, plus a 1994 bbc session. the dvd version adds the promos, the 2nd half of the '94 astoria show & 9 further tracks from dutch & uk tv. [parlophone](#)

radiohead : ok computer (standard collector's edition or 2 cd special edition with bonus dvd) the "greatest album of all time" according to an infamous q readers' poll. it might not be quite that good but it certainly ratchets up the angst, the ambition (& the prog) to bursting point. now comes with a bonus disc containing all the equally good b-sides. the dvd version adds the promos plus live tracks from 'later'. [parlophone](#)

v/a : texas fever-collector's choice vol.1 rare gems of 40's & 50's hillbilly boogie & rockabilly. welcome to the first of el toro's releases in their new "collectors choice" series, where they will be making available a large collection of rare 1950's recorded material, many of which are only to be found on scarce 45s, 78s & acetates. comes with an 8 page booklet with interesting notes & rare pictures. [el toro](#)

v/a : campus boogie-collector's choice vol.2 rare gems of 40's & 50's hillbilly boogie & rockabilly. welcome to volume 2 of el toro's "collectors choice" series, where they once again make available more exciting & obscure sounds of 1950s rockabilly & hillbilly bop for the discerning listener. 12 page booklet with interesting notes & rare pictures. label shots from each one of the releases featured. [el toro](#)

charlie feathers : can't hardly stand it! (2cd) the complete 50's recordings of the king of rockabilly. feathers started out at the legendary sun studio in 1954 writing songs for elvis presley before launching his own faultless recording career on sun, meteor, king & other labels. this double cd set gathers together all his prime 1950's recordings, including all his known demos, alternative takes & even the tracks which feature charlie as a session musician on guitar & spoons! *"rockabilly - hey man, they can say what they want about the blues, but blues is in rockabilly, bluegrass is in rockabilly, country is in rockabilly. when you hear it, you hear it all, jack! that's the reason i say it's the beginning & the end of music"* - charlie feathers. [el toro](#)

dance/electronica

clark : growls garden (limited ep: cd/12") warp's enfant terrible returns with another devastating slice of dirty gritty electronic music. follow up to last year's 'turning dragon', his most upbeat record to date, 'growls garden' ups the ante once again as clark launches another digital assault on the dance floor. this ep revisits the dark hues of 'empty the bones of you' or 'body riddle', cutting some fine body-jerking grooves & harsh beats along the way. the title track is also the first to carry the man's voice, albeit heavily twisted & processed. a true warp stalwart in the great tradition of aphex, autechre or squarepusher, clark delivers another mighty blow with this new effort. whether this is in any way shape or form representative of his next album is anybody's guess, but growls garden has too much to offer for it to matter at all. *"clark has forged his best record ever. this is the sound of clark having fun & it's the best dance music we've heard in 2009"* - clash. [warp](#)

whomadewho : the plot (cd/lp) danish trio who made who manipulate embellished bass lines & seamless electronics into classy pop the likes of hot chip, late of the pier & mr.oizo drool over. copenhagen's finest skeleton-suited gents have delivered on their earlier promise of 2005's self-titled debut. 'out the door' was a prime example of a tiny budget stretched to alarming lengths & layered with synth & falsetto vocals, culminating in dancefloor destiny. this album carries on where that left off, with most tracks gleaming with the polish of modern music, yet the rough pop edges are left in tunes such as the horror film-like 'trickster' & flamenco-inspired 'i lost my voice'. those in need of a soulwax-esque fix need look no further. *"an unashamedly bright, poppy blend of disco, techno, elo-style pomp-rock, punk-funk & psychedelia"* - fact, *"focused & brilliant"* - i-d. [gomma](#)

snd : atavism 4th album on the ever reliable raster notion label from electronic experimentalists snd. the sound they make is an oblique & utterly unparalleled variant of minimalism, a kind of oddly shaped integration of academic concepts guided by a strict aesthetic methodology coupled with an almost alien, funk-up intuition. listening to an snd record can throw you into sonically unsettling terrain one minute, before dragging you into misshaped, involuntary rhythmic moves the next. in a cycle of exposition & development, materials are slowly drawn through processes of compression & expansion, inversion & reversal, atomization & consolidation, to return shaped into new orders - a process of sonic origami. *"a work of incomparable wonder...a huge recommendation"* - boomkat. [raster-noton](#)

royksopp : junior (cd/lp) norwegian lords of the quirky dance royksopp return with another album of, well, quirky dance music. it's certainly business as usual, as they craft a catchy, pop-laden dancefloor hybrid using electro synths & chunky beats along with plenty of guest vocals including contributions from robyn, karin dreijer-andersson (the knife), lykke li & anelli drecker. it's catchy, bleepy, melodic, but still just a little left of centre. nice to have them back! *"they're still making some of the most exciting, accessible electronic music around"* – idj, *"properly, actually, 9/10 sort of brilliant"* – popjustice. [wall of sound](#)

v/a : soul jazz records singles 2008-2009 it's sometimes easy to forget that the mighty soul jazz label aren't only about unearthing & reissuing superb music of the past, but also releasing a healthy amount of new fodder, so much so, in fact, that they've spread it over 2 discs & also included a bonus mix. concentrating as ever on the very best in new, forward thinking electronic music, be it glitchy house, baile funk, italo-disco, or dubstep, this ace compilation rounds up the likes of pinch, kode 9, tayo, secondo, digital mystkz, warrior queen, subway & heaps more. absolutely essential! *"huge comp, huge label, respect!"* – boomkat. [soul jazz](#)

radio kijada : new sounds from black peru a new collaborative project between gotan project member christoph h.muller & peruvian percussionist rodolfo munoz ramirez. musically, it's about reinterpreting a rural tradition with the tools of modern technology, fusing art brut & digital loops to jump from the past straight into the future, bringing afro-peruvian music to the world's attention & interpreting it in a new way. the album was written & recorded in muller & ramirez's native lands, france & peru respectively, always fed by the concept of digging up the collective memories going back to the spanish colonizers arriving on the pacific coast of south america. radiokijada revisits this history, not to create something for a museum display, but linking it to the present by adding an electronic touch. fans of gotan project & other things of that ilk will find much to love here. [wrasse](#)

luke vibert : rhythm luke vibert goes back to his hip hop roots with his new offering for the tokyo based label, sound of speed. with many classic releases on such seminal labels as ninja tune, warp, rephlex, rising high, mo wax & others under an array of aliases (wagon christ, kerrier district, plug), there is no need to introduce the man! on his latest album, luke returns to his roots & explores wonky instrumental hip hop beats, using samples from soul, jazz & reggae, perfect for all beat junkies, head nodders & of course straight-up vibert fans. with the current trend for all things beat science, his latest production should hit the spot. [sound of speed](#)

point 7 : what? (cd & lp) few labels are so staunchly a part of idm's history as toytronic & if any label was likely to stick to its guns & keep to its original mission statement, it would surely be this one. sure enough, point 7's new album is resolutely & defiantly loyal to the sort of tuneful, sonically inventive beat-driven electronica that virtually no one else seems to be making nowadays. tracks like 'bit loop eddie' remind you of how magnificently scrunched up these beats can sound, & more idm joy comes from 'remember now' which oddly, is a tad like a bitcrushed j.s. bach fugue. certainly one of the most complete toytronic releases to date & hearing this sound again in such a brilliantly crafted & wonderfully extended form is sheer bliss. for those after a classic electronix fix, purchase without hesitation. [toytronic](#)

keyboard choir : mizen head to gascanane sound bit of a weirdy avant garde affair this, from oxford's keyboard choir. this is multilayered, textural & highly dynamic electronic music that never sits still in one place for too long. moments of ambient bliss, like the short, minute long 'depths in meters no.1' sit uncomfortably alongside frenetic & discordant pieces of music like 'legal boards' & the ethereal, organ-laced 'in this situation, thinking won't help!', with its dj shadow-esque hip-hop samples & fractious drums. closing track 'electrical unity' is the perfect introduction to this beguiling debut, starting, as it does, with cotton-wool bleeps & beats before culminating in a crescendo of machine-generated noise. this is an unpredictable, joyously experimental & ultimately rewarding listen! *"bubbling, analogue, bubble bath synths; resonating passages of lo-fidelity; symphonic splendour; & prog rock song titles"* – stool pigeon. [brainlove](#)

dj graham b : no room for chairs regarded by many as a pioneer on the dutch music scene, dj graham b moved to amsterdam in the late 80s & helped kick start the house scene there. as one half of jazz juice, he has notched up some of the biggest selling singles on the freestyle label & has carved a niche for his own style of electronic infused samba & latin music - winning over fans such as gilles peterson, mr scruff & annie mac along the way. with his latest full length release, his always eclectic sound-scapes are widened further as brazilian beats, funky organ loops, drum & bass & dj scratching all feature as well as the sultry, soulful vocals of saralee vos on the down tempo groove that is 'down down'. the spirit of jamaican music pioneers the skatalites haunts the latino/ska mash up of 'sao paulo skank'. this album should prompt well shone loafers to hit dance floors as heads nod & fingers snap in time to this irresistible audio assault! [freestyle records](#)

oberman knocks : 13th smallest released on andrea parker's new aperture imprint, set up to release conceptual experimental works, 13th smallest is the debut album from nigel truswell, who has previously recorded as alkin engineering & wg machines releasing music on static caravan, unlabel & october man recordings amongst others. like an ice-cold autechre starved of natural light & oxygen, oberman knocks dispenses incredibly dense & suffocating soundscapes, where sounds are shredded & pulverised, beats constantly falter or freeze in mid-loop & occasional shards of human voice get caught in the complex set of mechanical cogs that maintain this machine alive. using relatively primitive technology, including basic music software, a minidisc recorder & a cheap mic, oberman's music is haunting, eerie & basically dark as hell. scary listening for braver souls than i. *"its dark seismic beats & claustrophobic soundscapes may disconcert, but nigel truswell has certainly created with this 1st album a strong & memorable piece"* 4.7/5 - the milk factory. [aperture](#)

radio trip : music heads a cheeky little side project from israeli all conquering funk band the apples. radiotrip is the studio project of 2 of their founder members mixmonster & schoolmaster. this is classic cut n' paste, turntablist fare that's chock full of dusty breaks, funk hooks & psychedelic samples. much like the work of cut chemist, dj format, & the early ninja tune sound this is a fun journey into vinyl culture with hundreds of records from various countries & eras twisted & manipulated into one blossoming, cheerful trip. one for breaks lovers everywhere! [jalapeno records](#)

remano eszildn : r-tracks planet mu brings you the debut album from the reclusive remano eszildn. scottish-born remano currently resides in bristol although there is no sign of any dubstep, wonky, bassline or sub bass action on this release. instead, soft gentle synths & warm pads bounce away over plucky tight beats whilst fast arpeggiated leads rush you through the various compositions. remano's music has the power of taking machine rhythms to new emotive levels, with the attention to detail luring the listener back for repeated listens. great electronic music with a nostalgic edge, this is the classic sound of planet mu we've come to know & love. one for fans of ceephax, boards of canada & mu-ziq. [planet mu](#)

v/ a : jazz bizniz 4 as with previous volumes of the successful series, all tracks are culled from independent labels & most have never been released in europe before. 'jazz bizniz 4' has all the hallmarks of previous volumes, which have become an essential purchase for anyone remotely interested in the roots of what is now flippantly referred to as 'nu jazz'. the album covers a wide spectrum of styles, from soul/jazz, modal & funk to african, latin & even soul & disco sounds. the emphasis is on raw, live performances that have stood the test of time. whether the tracks were recorded in the 1960s, 70s, 80s, 90s or in the 2000s (all these decades are represented here), they all have that distinctive "jazz bizniz" flavour. [counterpoint records](#)

dusty : keep it raw for his debut, the jazz & milk label founder has invited several jazz musicians into the studio including the great voice of carla vallet, a jazz singer with multicultural background who has already worked with artists like mondo grosso & dj krush. this is an eclectic & melodic record throughout, with a perfect amalgamation of live musicians & modern productions calling to mind the early quantic output. using a wide range of musical styles like funk, jazz, afro & latin, dusty has created a unique sound & this record should appeal to fans of the tru thoughts label or mr.scruff. [jazz & milk](#)

max essa : continental drift uk born but currently based in japan, max essa delivers 'continental drift' - the culmination of 3 years of production at bear funk towers. the album includes the highlights from max's previous 12"s on the label & a host of other disco delights. using live drums, guitars & bass coupled with layers of glossy keys, the record delivers his trademark beautifully produced, slick disco sound. tracks such as 'slo-mo sapien', 'dead acrobat' & 'back to the beach' showcase the laidback, slo-mo disco side of max's sound & elsewhere, melodic groovers conjure up visions of sunsets, sweeping vistas & long lazy days. take a trip down highway 101 with your tour guide, mr max essa. *"a really decent album, far superior to most of the slow-mo house crap around at the moment"* - padded cell. [bearfunk](#)

hip hop

doom (mf doom) : born into this (cd/lp) fiendish rap super villain mf doom (aka daniel dumile) returns, this time commanding all to drop the 'mf' & instead refer to him simply as doom. linking with a small group of past collaborators including ghostface killah, raekwon the chef, the late j dilla & kurious jorge, this is doom's 1st solo set since 2004's critically acclaimed 'mm..food'. this record features some of doom's brightest & brilliant rhyme skills & production ever & really does sound like his most definitive album, encapsulating but surpassing all of his previous work & influences under various monikers. extra vocals come from fellow 'character rap' specialist raekwon, with slug, tony starks & kurious making supporting appearances but you know it's all about doom's inimitable sense of flow, timing & ruminations on subject matters far removed from your average mc's curriculum. the production is great too, with plenty of old film samples & dusty breaks underpinning doom's twisted flows. essential! [lex](#)

illa j / jay dee : yancey boys - instrumentals the heads have made a demand. the standard vocal version of 'yancey boys' is not enough to satisfy their thirst for jay dee beats. they said an instrumental version has to be released & luckily, delicious vinyl is willing to supply the material to fill this request. john "illa j" yancey, younger brother of late, great genius producer james yancey (aka jay dee, j dilla), recently released his debut album. rhyming & singing over a treasure trove of previously untouched jay dee gems, the project represents both a full-circle collaboration & a whole new beginning in the story of the musically exceptional yancey brothers. *"anyone who loves jay dee's music is going to flip out when they hear what illa j's been laying down. for over a decade these beats have been waiting in the vault for this moment. i really believe jay dee would be proud of what his brother is doing"* - michael ross. [delicious vinyl](#)

b-real (of cypress hill) : smoke n mirrors the official solo debut by cypress hill frontman b-real, a latin rapper of mexican & afro-cuban heritage, raised in south central los angeles, ca. he infuses his debut with a lot of the same dark atmospheric & ghetto rhymes that helped his group to success in the 1990s & he also brings his group's trademark musical flexibility to 'smoke n mirrors', mixing up gangsta rap, spanish guitar & reggae into the musical jams & tight beats. produced by dj quik, fredwreck, scoop deville & b-real the album features contributions from snoop dogg, damian marley, buckshot, sean price, xzibit, sen dog of cypress hill, along with production from dj quick, fredwreck, scoop deville & b-real himself. [modulor](#)

kenny dope & keb darge : kay dee volume 2 a great collection of underground deep funk & proto-disco/funk expertly picked n' mixed by 2 heavyweight djs on the scene, kenny dope & keb darge. this time round, dope & darge focus heavily on the late 70s underground soul sound, with some of the best & rarest tunes in this style out for the 1st time. artists here include willie johnson, rickey calloway, 7 miles per hour band, gary davis & more, with many of the tracks being cleaned up & re-edited by mr dope. essential listening for avid funk fans everywhere. [traffic entertainment](#)

jazz † & miracle : who got the beats? jazz † has been an active dj & producer on the uk hip hop scene for many years now, both independently & as part of the diversion tactics crew. his turntablist skills can't be ignored either, as a previous winner of the lauded 'itf' title & supporting & dj'ing with the likes of rodney p, kashmere, souls of mischief & j zone. this mix cd follows up jazz's debut lp 'all city kings' which dropped in 2008 & features exclusive remixes, unreleased music from blade & boot productions plus some serious turntable skills. weighing in at 59 minutes, with 37 tracks containing over 50 beats, 'who got the beats' is true school underground hip hop. [boombox](#)

soul

kinny : idle forest of chit chat former classically trained opera singer kinny returns with a solo album for brighton's own tru thoughts label. this time she's hooked up other producers on the label to deliver a satisfyingly diverse collection of modern soul at its finest, from the live motownish funk soul of the quantic soul orchestra through to nostalgia 77's modern jazziness & not forgetting the catchy, soulful electronica of tm juke & souldrop to unforscene's rich soundscapes & sophisticated soul/pop from hint & diesler, all of which compliment kinny's sassy charm perfectly. fans of alice russell, jill scott & all things tru thoughts should check this out. "*this girl deserves mainstream success, watch out for her, bang on!!*" – blues & soul. [tru thoughts](#)

ayo : gravity at last this 2nd collection of songs by ayo (joy olasunmibo ogunmakin) continues to deliver the quality songwriting demonstrated on her critically acclaimed debut 'joyful'. ayo's supple, hushed but powerful voice calls to mind the likes of erykah badu or corinne bailey rae, with the stripped back feel & largely acoustic production lending the songs an immediate intimacy. however, 'gravity at last' is more complex than it might initially appear. rather than following the current obsession with reggae folk, ayo opted for a more luxurious & orchestrated album. 'this album is more rhythm-based, even if the voice & the guitar are kept at the forefront,' explains the singer. from the african heat of 'i am not afraid,' the aching blues of 'maybe', the intense ballad 'better days', & to the gospel-style of 'thank you', ayo has widely-broadened her range of influences & sounds all the better for it. [wrasse](#)

jazz / contemporary

elan mehler : the after suite this achingly beautiful, elegant album is only the 2nd from brooklyn-based pianist & composer elan mehler. a dreamy, spacious, alternating current of poignancy & joy, mehler's writing & playing has changed not at all over these 2 albums, though he's expanded his band's lineup, this time adding drums which give the music a stronger pulse & more obvious jazz provenance than was apparent on his debut, which had some enthusiasts reaching for classical analogies. here, mehler's delicately rhapsodic piano playing is as much concerned with collective performance as it is with soloing, which is shared with saxophonist jeremy viner. a beautiful record that deserves to take mehler's reputation further still. "*disorientating & fascinating*" 4/5 - [mojo](#), "*albums this special come along only rarely*" – all about jazz. [brownswood](#)

joe mcphree / paal nilssen-love : tomorrow came today free-jazz legend joe mcphree teams up with respected scandinavian percussionist paal nilssen-love for his 4th sax/drums duet album. there is great respect & mutual encouragement between the players here, as already testified by the 1st track, on which mcphree blows a very mournful slow tune, which incites nilssen-love to accentuate with little cymbal sounds, or the opposite, double the tempo for some high energy playing without creating a conflict. the 2nd track starts with high energy drumming, inviting mcphree for improvising with the same intensity & he does that by playing highly rhythmic bursts of sounds circling around the same tonal center, meeting the drums halfway, almost letting go of the sax as a lyrical instrument. these improvisations were recorded straight to tape in an analog studio, which perfectly captures the atmosphere & warmth, creating a very intimate feeling, as if both artists were playing next to you. free, creative, open & disciplined. [smalltown superjazz](#)

peter brotzmann / paal nilssen-love : sweetsweat new album featuring the godfather of european free-jazz, peter brotzmann, alongside highly rated scandinavian percussionist paal nilssen-love. brotzmann moved into free playing in the early 60's, one of the 1st european saxophonists to do so, playing with unyielding conviction, he blows with relentless, brutal passion; an honest & innovative voice during a time of despair, devoid of creative respect & sensitivity. he has since become a godfather-figure to more than one generation of free-jazz explorers. this album was recorded live at sting jazzklubb in stavanger, norway, during the maijazz festival in 2006 & sees the dynamic partnership of brotzmann & nilssen-love forging a musical partnership of rare & beautiful balance. [smalltown superjazz](#)

wynton marsalis : he & she as the title to wynton marsalis' 5th blue note release indicates, 'he & she' is about that eternally compelling & most elemental of subjects: the relationship between a man & a woman. the pulitzer prize-winning composer, trumpeter, & band leader, however, hasn't merely crafted a love story, but a life story - a bittersweet rumination about the evanescence of life as well as the elusiveness of romance. time is very much at the heart here, the swift passage of time over the course of one's life, the mood-altering shifts of time within the duration of a song. it's an ambitious effort, combining spoken word & music, & marsalis has given his quintet some formidable charts. the album is tempered with flashes of humour & plenty of swing. there's ease & elegance & more than a little wisdom in these grooves. [blue note](#)

blues

v/a : the roots of paul mccartney paul mccartney has never been a stranger to the cover version. cutting his teeth on the classics of r'n'b & rock 'n' roll during the beatles' legendary residency at the star club in hamburg, he's constantly played the music of buddy holly, carl perkins & many more, dipping deep into their songbooks to uncover some true gems. this cd collects 24 of these classic tracks including hits from elvis, ricky nelson, gene vincent & more. [snapper](#)

v/a : the roots of john lennon always a little bit more raunchy & rock 'n' roll than his songwriting partner paul mccartney, john lennon's choice of music, from his own record collection through to the songs he nabbed to sing in the beatles & the tracks he picked for the excellent 'rock 'n' roll' album of 1975 explain much about the man & his love of primal rock music. artists here include little richard, carl perkins, eddie cochran, bo diddley, fats domino & more. [snapper](#)

v/a : the roots of gram parsons gram parsons' influence on the byrds, the rolling stones & the 1990's alternative country scene is the stuff of legend. from his early '60s solo demos through to his glorious solo albums & his recordings with emmylou harris, he created a cosmic country sound that has inspired the generations who followed to reach back to the simple music of the appalachian mountains & deeper into america's folk tradition. this collection features the artists who influenced him most, including the likes of hank williams, porter wagoner, johnny cash, larry williams, the louvin brothers & more. [snapper](#)

v/a : the roots of the beatles the 2 years the beatles spent playing covers in clubs on the reeperbahn in hamburg, germany taught them the basics of their beloved music & that immersion in all things rock 'n' roll & r'n'b made them the most prolific hitmakers ever. these 23 songs illustrate just where they got it from, with appearances from elvis presley, little richard, buddy holly, fats domino, carl perkins & more. [snapper](#)

v/a : the roots of janis joplin the explosive highs & desperate lows of iconic '60s singer janis joplin are reflected on this essential collection of classic american music that traces her career from the texan coffee bar scene of 1962 to her lonely hotel room in 1970, linking the rootsy '20s & '30s jazz & blues scenes with the primal scream of rock 'n' roll. the collection was compiled by dave henderson (mojo), who also provides the sleeve notes & features tracks from bo diddley, moon dog, nina simone, bessie smith & more. [snapper](#)

v/a : the roots of led zeppelin (3 cd & dvd) it's 40 years since led zeppelin exploded onto the musical world & changed the landscape forever. their music was a blend of all that was great & exciting that had come before them & this set covers the whole spectrum from blues to country to rock 'n' roll & r&b, with artists including lonnie donegan, elvis presley, gene vincent, leadbelly, chuck berry, robert johnson, little richard & a whole lot more. also included is the dvd 'talkin' led zeppelin' which talks about the band & its roots & contains interviews with charles shaar murray, nigel williamson, sid griffin & the curator of sun studios in memphis, as well as delta historian robert birdsong. this set is not only essential to fans of led zeppelin & roots music but also to those who are interested in the development of modern music as a whole. [proper](#)

leadbelly : the definitive leadbelly – 60th anniversary edition (3cd & dvd) commemorating the 60th anniversary of leadbelly's death, this compilation contains many rare & previously unheard leadbelly performances, as well as classic songs that influenced everyone from bob dylan to nirvana. includes a booklet with extensive notes & rare & unseen photographs as well as leadbelly's fbi rapsheet issued by j. edgar hoover himself. the accompanying dvd 'talkin' leadbelly' includes footage from the march of time newsreel from 1935 & leadbelly performing three songs in colour from 1944. this set serves as the most rounded collection yet dedicated to one of the most important artists to have ever committed sound to wax. [proper](#)

country

gram parsons & the flying burrito brothers : archive vol 1 live at the avalon

ballroom 69 (2cd) this 2-cd, 27 track, pristine live recording from the avalon ballroom was discovered in the grateful dead vaults & has never before been made available to the public. gram parsons & the flying burrito brothers opened for the grateful in april 1969 at the avalon ballroom in san francisco. these shows were recorded by legendary sound engineer bear (owsley stanley) straight from the sound board & are some of the highest quality gram parsons live material ever available. rarities here include gram's unique choice of mainly country standards, which are not on any other official gram parsons recording. "reveals the burrito brothers' considerable musical chemistry while providing a useful historical document of the nights they turned the avalon into a rowdy roadhouse" – pitchfork. [amoeba](#)

amy speace : the killer in me hotly tipped americana-rock artist who draws comparisons to roseanne cash, lucinda williams & neko case. this, her sophomore album, is a collection of alt-country gems, all a little dark around the edges, & features a couple of duets with rock icon ian hunter. the songs here are very personal, but also speak to the uncertainty & longing for hope, resulting in an album that builds a coherent unit through a wonderful balance of pop, rock & blues, ballads & up-tempo numbers. [wildflower](#)

wes charlton : world on fire this 24-year old, singer/songwriter integrates his american roots with modern themes to create a heartfelt & at times haunting vision of relationships, the struggle to find yourself & a world on fire. his acclaimed debut album, 'american bittersweet' garnered international critical acclaim, awards from the international & john lennon songwriting competition & charlton has since been snapped up & signed to judy collins' wildflower label. musically this record is never stale & even gets adventurous when mixing banjo with electric guitar &, despite charlton's relatively tender age, 'world on fire' is evocative of more established songwriters such as ryan adams, suggesting bigger things for this young chap. [wildflower](#)

f o l k

tim hardin : painted head digitally remastered version of tim hardin's 'painted head' album, originally released in 1973. this is a very different album for hardin, but it is much better than most would have thought. there are no original songs here, but the song selection is so esoteric that the listener doesn't notice much. backed by a crack team of british musicians, hardin works his loose magic on such cuts as jesse winchester's 'yankee lw', badfinger's 'perfection' & randy newman's 'i'll be home'. this record undoubtedly shows that hardin was trying to reel in his excesses & give his career some much-needed discipline. [bgo](#)

v/a : the little red box of protest songs (3cd & dvd) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first american protest song book, 'the little red song book' & pete seegers' 90th birthday, this collection traces the roots of protest song in the us from the first half of the last century up to the 50s, illustrating how the stage was set for the folk protest giants of the 60s such as bob dylan & phil ochs. featuring classic performances by pete seeger, woody guthrie, josh white, leadbelly, the almanac singers, the weavers & many more. includes booklet with extensive notes & a dvd 'talkin' protest; pete & woody' that contains interviews with pete seeger, arlo guthrie, nora guthrie, larry cohn, john cohen & more. although the songs on this collection are from a by gone era the messages they convey & the struggles they highlight are still scarily relevant in today's world & remind us of a time when people thought music really could make a difference to people's lives & attitudes. [proper](#)

leo abrahams : the grape & the grain rumour has it that brian eno strolled into a record store & caught sight of leo abrahams having a strum on a new guitar - & lamented the edge's comparatively oafish axemanship. rumours such as these are often a distraction that smothers new artists in a spurious veneer of credibility, but leo abrahams' talent is difficult to dismiss. this, his 3rd album, sees abrahams explore instrumental english folk music blended with soundtrack & modern classical traditions in a collection of tender & melodic pieces, featuring mainly guitar, but with added instrumentation, including a hurdy gurdy which he learnt to play specially for this record. the result is a beguiling, understated affair that perfectly showcases abrahams' skill as both a musician & composer. [just music](#)

w o r l d

v/a : rough guide to afrobeat revival (2cd) the rough guide series continues with this worthy new addition which focuses on afrobeat, the funk african dance groove that was invented & developed largely in the late 1960s & early '70s in lagos, nigeria by fela kuti & tony allen. over the course of 3 decades, these 2 geniuses & the many members of the orchestras they employed developed a hypnotic & militant groove that utilized elements of african-american music like jazz, r&b, funk & gospel, & combined them with highlife, afro-cuban & indigenous african music. this compilation features music from tony allen, as well as antibalas, chicago afrobeat project & akoya afrobeat ensemble & is accompanied by a bonus disc by kokolo, the band that came out of the early period of new york's modern afrobeat revival scene. [rough guides](#)

17 hippies : el dorado 14 years after they began as an elaborate hobby, this berlin troupe has matured into something special; an orchestral phantasmagoria that slides between balkan rhythms, french chanson, weimar cabaret &, well, whatever arrives on their radar. this 3rd studio album mixes cheery instrumentals & pogues-ish singalongs with a clutch of outstanding songs. 'adieu' (sung in german) is brushed with marlene dietrich angst, while the cadent 'solitaire' & the jaunty title cut sound in search of a nouvelle vague movie. great fun. "*postmodern ramblings, with horns & strings mixed with unpretentious, multilingual vocals, are conducted in just the right inquisitive spirit*" - sunday times. [hipster](#)

joyce : visions of dawn (the paris 1976 project) the original 'lost' brazilian acid-folk album recorded in paris in 1976 & now rescued & set free after 33 years by far out recordings. 'visions of dawn' is a stunning, previously unreleased project by 3 brazilian music legends. led by the sharp lyrics & gorgeous, expressive voice & guitar of joyce the trio is completed by the expert musicianship of her close friends nana vasconcelos (percussion) & mauricio maestro (electric bass, vocals, guitar & producer) who were both crucial in creating this masterpiece. these beautiful, hazy & understated recordings offer a unique chance to sit in on the original jamming sessions of tracks that later became brazilian cult classics. a legendary lost treasure that encapsulates the special freedom & beauty of joyce, nana & mauricio's music. [far out](#)

v/a : rough guide to tango (2cd) born in the shady bordellos & swinging clubs of buenos aires, tango has become one of the world's best loved dance styles. this compilation is the perfect introduction for armchair & dance-floor fans alike, featuring artists such as daniel melingo, horacia molina, la camorra & tango siempre. this package is accompanied by a bonus disc from buenos aires-based carlos libedinsky, the acclaimed advocate of tango electronico. [rough guide](#)

reggae

gideon jah rubbaal & the revolutionaries : love rasta/richman reggae retro drop an album of collectable & much sought after roots tracks from gideon jah rubbaal & the revolutionaries. these tracks were originally recorded at channel one & released in 1978 / 79, with 'love rasta' becoming a massive reggae chart hit both in jamaica & the uk. [reggae retro](#)

v/a : soul jazz records presents 300% / 400% dynamite! (cd/lp) soul jazz are re-issuing the classic & utterly essential dynamite! series. this was the series that brought reggae to a whole new generation of music lovers, now available once again in its original deluxe slipcase format (& double heavyweight vinyl). featuring definitive reggae classics in all its styles (ska, rocksteady, dancehall, dub & roots) the dynamite series brings them all together in super-deluxe sound. these albums feature literally anyone who is anyone in reggae – augustus pablo, lee perry, jackie mittoo, tenor saw, wayne smith, prince buster, althea & donna, u roy, dennis alcapone, johnny osbourne, toots & the maytals & king tubby, amongst others. totally unmissable! “an utterly compelling series” – guardian, “a seminal series of reggae compilations” – echoes. [soul jazz](#)

vinyl

sore eros : second chants sore eros, brainchild of robert robinson, is the one-man palindrome offering a new lp on the small but uncompromising shdwply records. he tosses his hat into the newly-crowded realm of insular bedroom rock with 'second chants', an ambitious release that tactfully mixes sober tinkering with rushes of buoyant space waltz manoeuvres to arrive at sweet, sweet catharsis. robinson was an occasional player in ariel pink's band & sometimes you can hear the paw tracks influence through the phasing & tape warps, but this album is much more concerned with perfecting tone colour than burying pop gems under lo-fi contortions. dreamy, hazy, reflective reverb-drenched psych indie goodness via connecticut that is reminiscent of early animal collective, atlas sound & our sleepless forest. [shdwply records](#)

daniel a.i.u. higgs : hymnprovisations for banjo (limited to 500) daniel arcus incus ululat higgs is a musician & artist from baltimore, on whose behalf superlatives are destined to fail. it's not that his artistic output - spanning 3 decades, numerous albums, books of poetry & collections of drawings – simply eludes classification, it defies it. higgs is known primarily for his work as the sole lyricist & frontman of the band lungfish, a 4-piece dedicated to charting the evolution of all species, known & unknown. in recent years, he has released a number of solo outings that can only be described as the ultimate in isolation, worlds away from the hypnotic, communal rock of his band. this was recorded in paris & mainland orkney island in late 2007 & consists of magic banjo tunes, an old decaying piano & rain. higgs has a unique presence in these songs, even though it's instrumental music, creating experimental folk music that is truly honest, pure & deep. [ideal](#)

sian alice group : remix lp an ep of remixes taken from their brilliant '59:59' album. with tracks named after the remixers, alexis taylor (hot chip) takes 59.59 opener 'as the morning light' & focuses on the silky qualities of sian ahern's voice, collaborating with band member & multi-instrumentalist rupert clervaux to create another take on the torch song qualities of this stunning track. brian degraw (gang gang dance) uses painstaking drum programming & soaring electronics to turn 'murder' into a warped house monster. lastly spring heel jack take on 'way down to heaven', turning out a minimalist scenario that sounds something like terry riley jamming with the velvet underground. “if an award is given for most ambitious band of the year, sian alice group will no doubt be in the running to take the prize” - exclaim! [the social registry](#)

i.u.d. : the proper sex new project from lizzi bougatsos (gang gang dance), who teams up with sadie laska (growing, extreme violence) to produce a downright brutal industrial beast that's sure to fog the glasses of experimental music nerds & provide the catalyst for many a record store argument. put the boredoms, einstürzende neubauten, meat beat manifesto, front 242 & some black metal tropes in a blender & then serve chilled at a party hosted by hyper-feminist vampires & you're getting close to the sound on this one. like gang gang dance, these rhythms get firmly lodged in yer head - it's just that this journey might be a descent into the inferno rather than up to the heavens. “minimal, pounding, contagious noise-music” – artforum, “doesn't sound like anything else out there...certainly something to be celebrated” – anp quarterly. [the social registry](#)

health : health/disco [lovepump united](#)

shadow dancer : golden traxe [boysnoize records](#)

dvd

bonobo : live at koko everyone's favourite laidback monkey shows that his popular brand of late night recliner fare can transfer equally well to the live arena, as this excellent live performance attests. featuring drums, keys, guitar, samples, saxophones, a 3-piece string section & simon 'bonobo' green himself on bass, this is a very special performance & must have for any fans. [ninja tune](#)

the who : maximum r&b live (2 discs) the most sought after collection of the who's greatest live performances, spanning 30 years of their frenzied peak, re-issued with previously unreleased material. the main feature has been re-edited with 3 bonus performances & additional interviews, plus the package now includes a bonus disc of the entire never-before-seen concert from rockpalast, germany, 1981. presented for the first time in digital 5.1 surround sound & restored visual clarity. [umc](#)

m a g s

mojo : may 2009 - issue 186 john & yoko, antony hegarty, yeah yeah yeahs, free covermount cd...

s i n g l e s

single of the week

sleepy sun : new age limited 10" . [atp](#)

dananananaykroyd : black wax limited 7". [best before](#)

the gaslight anthem : great expectations limited 7". [sideonedummy](#)

the kills : black balloon 10". [domino](#)

monsieur jeffrey evans & his southern aces : lord, keep me sanctified extremely ltd 7" series. [fat possum](#)

magic arm : bootsy bootsy 10". [switchflicker](#)

royksopp vs holy fuck : happy up here limited 7". [wall of sound](#)

bonobo : between the lines / recurring remixes 10". [ninja tune](#)

martyn / 2562 : yet / kontrol limited 12". [tectonic](#)

post war years : whole world on its head / flames like tinder limited 7". [chess club](#)

future of the left : the hope that house built 7". [4ad](#)

arthur delaney : darling / dance of fools limited 7". [young & lost club](#)

ex lovers : photobooth / weightless limited 7". [young & lost club](#)

planet earth : bergman movies / big babies limited 7". [young & lost club](#)

white lies : farewell to the fairground 7", coloured 7" & cd. [polydor](#)

noisettes : don't upset the rhythm 7" picture disc & cd. [mercury](#)

sparks : lighten up morrissey 7" . [lil beethoven](#)

peter, bjorn & john : nothing to worry about 7". [wichita recordings](#)

little man tate : i am alive limited 7". [skint records](#)

p r e - o r d e r s

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

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