

o u t t h i s w e e k

album of the week

the low anthem : oh my god charlie darwin (standard cd or very limited edition hand painted sleeve cd) the low anthem hale from rhode island & like fleet foxes before them, have immersed themselves in american folk traditions but their brand of americana casts its net wider than that of their peers, drawing on gospel & country blues too, yet possessed of a similar alchemy. the opener is the perfect introduction - singer ben knox miller has a falsetto as sublime as bon iver's justin vernon & he's backed by the barest arrangement of guitar & cooed harmonies. it knocks you back & makes you pay attention. however, knox miller is a bit of a jekyll & hyde - winsome & lovelorn isn't his only voice...he can change up several gears all at once & his raucous bluesy side reveals itself, baring comparison with tom waits' strangled holler. recorded across 10 sleepless days & nights, hundreds of live takes & many bottles of bourbon, they have created something that is both delicate & hugely evocative. "solemnly beautiful music" - rolling stone. [bella union](#)

clubroot : clubroot a st. alban's resident, clubroot cut his teeth in the early part of this decade with material bearing a likeness to the futurist ideals of drum & bass producers like optical, ed rush & nico. as dubstep began to develop its own musical language, its emerging low end sonic tropes & freedom from rhythmic clutter acted as the catalyst for clubroot. on his epic debut album we encounter massive bass vistas, intricate garage-influenced spiralling beats, evocative melodic narratives that unwind to reveal surges of liquid colour & a sense of stately beauty rarely encountered in electronic music. these 10 tracks make up an audio landscape that sounds like the perfect hybrid of burial & kryptic minds, taking the mood driven atmospheres & quicksilver slink of burial & alloying it to dynamic basslines & intricately produced rhythm structures. an essential wobbly purchase for fans of burial & highly recommended by us residents. [lodubs](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

wilco : wilco (the album) wilco's 7th studio album sees their leader, jeff tweedy, appear to lay some of his demons to rest or at least address them with a great deal more humour. it is perhaps their most upbeat album since 'summerteeth', even though tweedy's lyrical preoccupations remain his depression, lost love & his addictions, there is a wry humour at work & it is leavened by some bright arrangements. at the heart of this record, as all others, is tweedy's state of mind & this time round he seems very much at peace & ready to face those demons head on. occasionally he seems rattled & the music follows suit, as on the fantastic 'bull black nova' with its krautrock beat & paintstripping guitar from nels cline. tweedy remains an intense character but is perhaps more charming than ever before with these often unabashedly pop arrangements. "with the magnificent wilco (the album), wilco reach the peak of its powers" 5/5 - the independent. [nonesuch](#)

la roux : la roux (cd/lp) apparently, despite all the press photos being of the striking redhead elly jackson, la roux are in fact a band rather than a solo act, comprised of elly & her partner in their 80's synth-pop revival, ben langmaid. with influences ranging from prince to blondie to eurythmics to heaven 17, la roux is electro pop for the 21st century. elly's dynamic combination of vulnerable emotive lyrics combined with snaking off-kilter synths & killer hooks have become their trademark sound. opening with a string of sassy tunes - the massive single 'in for the kill', buzzing 'tigerlily', the synth-heavy 'quicksand' & the slick & fiery 'bulletproof' - it's apparent that la roux have colour, class & confidence in spades. "launching into the album with 'in for the kill' does exactly what the song title promises : kicking off an attack of irresistible tunes & arresting production" - clash, "their debut album is toploaded with scintillating three minute synth gems which re-imagine the greatest hits of the '80s with aplomb" - mojo. [polydor](#)

let's wrestle : in the court of the wrestling let's following the glorious gold single 'let's wrestle' & the ep 'in loving memory of...', marc riley favourites let's wrestle return with their debut album, recorded in a whirlwind under the only ukulele shop in europe. these 16 tracks whiz by in a blur of ramshackle playing & vim & vigour. you get the impression that in all their enthusiasm they just wanted to get these songs down on tape before they forgot how to play them. for fans of pete & the pirates. "...at the centre of this band beats a heart of pure unadulterated scuzzy art-pop genius" - nme, "like the buzzcocks running down the street with their pants round their ankles.. brilliant, addictive, hopelessly lovely & endlessly fascinating." - drownedinsound, "'i won't lie to you' is so life affirming shambolic, it sounds like they actually split up, realise they can't live without each other & decide to make another go of it somewhere in the middle." - uncut. [stolen recordings](#)

franz nicolay : major general franz nicolay of the hold steady (yes the guy with the tash) releases his 1st solo album. franz steps up to the spotlight with a melodramatic grab-bag of full-throated songs & stories - shamelessly strident, stentorian & more than a little sentimental. imagine jacques brel or scott walker rocking out to thin lizzy with the e-street band in support & you'll be on the right track. the album runs the gamut from cabaret stylings to hold steady-esque rockers. the 'major general' band includes brian viglione (dresden dolls), yula be'eri (ex-world/inferno), & jared scott (demander). other guests include peter hess (balkan beat box) & lyrics on 2 songs by jack terricloth (world/inferno). "'major general' hits some massive highs & nary a single crushing low... eclectic & ambitious but unshowy" 7.3/10 - pitchfork, "all hail the hold steady's franz nicolay...he has come into his own" - q. [decar](#)

nouvelle vague : 3 (cd, ltd cd, lp) the french band that conquered the world with bossa nova covers of punk & new wave classics, return in time for summer with their 3rd album (their 4th if you include the one done under their hollywood mon amour pseudonym). not wishing to tinker with their winning formula, 'nv3' picks up where 'bande a part' left off but this time the concept behind the album was to perform duets with the original singers. so, you'll encounter depeche mode's martin gore singing 'master & servant' with nv's leading lady melanie pain; ian mcculloch of echo & the bunnymen duetting with melanie on 'all my colours'; marina celeste performing 'our lips are sealed' with terry hall of the specials & funboy three (a go-go's track penned by hall); & magazine's 'parade' sung by barry adamson & nv's nadeah miranda. the magic of nouvelle vague lies in their ability to take the songs that you adore & make you fall in love with them all over again. "a stroke of genius" - telegraph, "an inspired collection of potent songs...a cult gem" - guardian. [peacefrog](#)

tenniscoats : temporacha this gorgeous & rather peculiar album is built upon an unusual collaborative process between tenniscoats & room40 label boss lawrence english. prompted by the japanese duo having played on some of english's new, field recording-based material. this album is based on recordings of tenniscoats songs in a variety of unlikely locales in japan, ranging from parks & rivers to busier urban environments. the result is these 7 exquisite, spacious miniatures. essentially live recordings, the playing works around & with the sounds of the recording space - tunnel reverb & passing traffic, rocks tossed into the river. even with all of that going on & saya's vocals less to the fore, it still feels powerfully tenniscoats - their wonder & energy let loose in the wild. [room40](#)

the rational academy : swans australia's psychedelic avant-pop collective return with their sophomore full-length. with 'swans', they continue to deconstruct pop with a record that typifies their unique brand of richly textured song. combining their trademarked harmonic richness with a shimmering blur of post-everything sonics, this record is alive with luminous psychedelic anthems, acidic space-dirges & deeply considered pop experimentation. 'swans' also sees the academy working closely with producer & arranger, lawrence english, normally known for his electroacoustic & field recordings. the collective take the fundamentals of the guitar band format & somehow organically expand upon that framework, incorporating the modernity of the electronic avant-garde without you even noticing you're listening to something a little awkward & experimental. recommended for fans of rafter, grouper or tenniscoats. [someone good / room 40](#)

client : command (2cd import. limited first edition comes with a bonus disc) the queens of electronic cool are back! the stylish ladies (including kate holmes, formerly of frazier chorus & technique & wife of alan mcgee & sarah blackwood, lead singer of dubstar) are plunging us headlong into an addictive maelstrom of groovy minimal disco, mingled with the coolness of new wave & an unerring pop sensibility. compared to the big scale cinemascope-sound of 'heartland', 'command' is a raw & straightforward production dominated by analog synthesizers & minimal electro arrangements with full, club-friendly beats. bare bone dance tracks such as 'believe in you' or 'satisfaction' breathe the foggy air of trendy clubs, the sinister 'don't run' is a gripping little sonic angst scenario & songs like 'can you feel' are perfect pop tunes. alternating between girlish innocence & femme fatale, their new record is one for fans of metric, ladytron, robots in disguise or goldfrapp. [out of line](#)

julie feeney : pages julie first made her mark on the music scene by winning ireland's equivalent of the mercury prize with her debut album. she has made a huge & ambitious leap forward with 'pages'. julie does not believe in doing things by half measures - this girl from galway sings, composes & produces the songs here. she even conducted the top-flight full orchestra which performed them all in one epic 6 hour recording session at the irish chamber orchestra studio in limerick. the result is a collection of songs performed with stirring, spellbinding elegance, yet delivered with a strange, almost whimsical sense of fun. amid the swirling yet delicate orchestral backdrops, julie sings in a haunting, lilting voice of truths distilled from deep thoughts & often veers left-field towards the likes of stina nordenstam, laurie anderson & joanna newsom. [mittens](#)

yoñlu : a society in which no tear is shed is inconceivably mediocre 16 year-old vinicius gageiro marques lived in southwest brazil & soaked up the sounds of tropicalia & bossa nova alongside his tastes for western pop & rock. equal parts caetano veloso, elliot smith & nick drake, these recordings magpie approach to music display a sophistication & poise well beyond his years. they may have never seen the light of day were it for the tragic circumstances - marques took his own life shortly before his 17th birthday & his father found these recordings while sorting through his possessions. yoñlu is a disc that should have been a post card, but transformed itself into a testament. it's a showcase of sound & poetry of the kisses that vinicius never gave, the dreams he never realized, the anguishes he couldn't get over. "this is music that pulls on the heartstrings, tickles the ears, heightens the senses, & challenges conceptions" - [crawdaddy](#). [luaka bop](#)

chicks on speed : cutting the edge (2cd) for the uninitiated, chicks on speed are a group who met while studying at the munich art academy in the late 1990s & they are credited as pioneers for blurring the lines between fashion, music & art - they're a band, a clothing label, a record label, a design team, curators & writers. their 5th album features collaborations with whomadewho, mark stewart, kathi glas, anat ben-david, fred schneider, gerhardt potuznik & many more. the songs range from self-referencing pieces full of insider information & irony to 60's bubble gum pop, b52's-ish outings & kraftwerk-y experiments. "it could be argued that chicks on speed are a more vital & important cultural entity than, say, lcd soundsystem. on this opus, they've embraced pop more readily & successfully than before...the sustained momentum of this album is impressive" - the wire, "their most adventurous & diverse yet. this time, the familiar diy grrrl-punk disco-trash & no wave skronking come with extra helpings of humour, melody & polished pop" 4/5 - uncut. [chicks on speed](#)

robin guthrie : angel falls ep a new 4 track ep from the ex-cocteau twins guitarist & composer. these tracks are uplifting, summery, opulent, dreamlike, exquisite, moving – with guthrie quietly coaxing beauty out of layers of echoes & always inventive soundscaping. if you're not already familiar with guthrie's work & you're a fan of m83 or ulrich schnauss, his atmospheric, hypnotic guitar-based instrumentals should definitely do the trick for you. [rocketgirl](#)

cat empire : live on earth (2cd) this is the australian band's 1st live album & collects recordings from across the world. at the fans' request the band have cherry picked tracks from their own archive of live recordings dating back to 2001 & it showcases their formidable live prowess & reflects their ever expanding sound with reinterpreted classics beside more faithful performances. [blue wrasse](#)

graffon primary : eon these rising stars of the new wave of antipodean synth pop vanguard name kraftwerk & georgio moroder amongst their influences but their sound lies nearer to a muscular human league, joshua garden's vocals often being a dead ringer for phil oakey's. less bombastic than the presets, they lace together intricate wordplay & an irresistible syncopated 808 bounce, towering synth riffs & lyrics like a chilling future-echo. it's grandiose & has a sense of a dystopian human-esque future but it's not all political invective & grim. 'heart in space' & the album closer 'dimension of tears' explore the idea of death, the afterlife & ultimately, a sense of togetherness, revealing a beating human heart under all those korgs. [resolution](#)

apostle of hustle : eats darkness apostle of hustle is andrew whiteman (lead guitarist of broken social scene), bassist julian brown (feist) & dean stone on drums. together they create a sound that is thought-provoking & fuelled by a raw, explosive energy. with 'eats darkness' they take a few more left turns than their previous efforts. based on the notion that the greatest art is often drawn from the darkest of experiences (consuming darkness to expel light), the band delivers an unconventional body of work that embraces latin, particularly cuban rhythms, cascading indie rock guitars & occasional percolating electronics. [arts & crafts](#)

amber asylum : bitter river led by multi-instrumentalist/producer kris force (whose immense repertoire includes collaborations with such influential acts as neurosis & swans, along with penning reputable music for video games, television & films), amber asylum are one of the most influential & respected acts within the neo-classical/dark ambient genre in its 10-plus years existence. their distinct brand of musical delicacy, immersed within chilling romantic mire & brooding comforting darkness, is a reflection of meticulously constructed odes, layered seamlessly through such instruments as violin, viola, cello, guitar, bass, percussion & kris force's incredibly alluring voice. this is one of the band's most devastating, subtle & dark albums to date - one that conjures cinematic structures & paints powerful sonic portraits of vast lonely landscapes. for fans of everyone from arvo part, angelo badalamenti & craig armstrong to coil & bohren & der club of gore. [profound lore](#)

v/a : pocketknife & cousin cole - tambourine dream cousin cole & pocketknife have created a mix album consisting entirely of folk & indie remixes that they lovingly put together themselves. on paper, this might sound like a nightmare—two brooklyn dudes who spin house, disco, baltimore club & rap taking their scalpels to classic & indie folk songs that your parents might have even listened to. after hearing the mix, you'll realize that these guys have an uncanny amount of restraint & an acute ability not often found in the remix world. the collection on tambourine dream runs the gamut from beefed-up edits to remixes treated more like additional arrangements to existing songs – it has become a cult album in the process. this special edition of tambourine dream comes with a bonus unmixed disc that features 5 of the remixes in their full length splendour. [tambourine dream](#)

the lovers : pardon my french so, you probably know a little about the lovers (fred de fred & marion benoist) by now. you know...all that stuff about how fred spent 2 decades as the definitive rock'n'roll gypsy - running raves in russia, putting on "voodoo shows" in haiti & being chased out of moscow by kalashnikov toting-local mafia. how the delectable marion - from the basque country, naturellement - worked as a bunny girl in nyc & ended up in san francisco, chasing a dream to become a jazz singer. how they met on 9/11, moved to sheffield & became friends with the local alumni (all seeing eye, richard hawley) & had a song ('la degustation') written for them by jarvis cocker. now they're back with their 2nd album. the tunes are bigger, the lyrics more risque - when they're cheeky, they're irresistible - when they're steamy, you'll be wondering why all pop isn't this smart & sassy. "a record so seedy it would make serge gainsbourg blush" – nme. [tummy touch](#)

modular : fantasias de un robot psicodelico modular is an argentine duo formed in 2000 by mariana badaracco & pablo dahy. the group's affinity for analog synthesizers, 60s science-fiction aesthetic, lounge & an imaginative mix of melancholic psychedelia have made them stand out as unique in a scene accustomed to more rock-oriented bands. they've been compared to the likes of stereolab, os mutantas, broadcast & the high llamas. maybe stereolab is the closest comparison as laetitia sadier & tim gane both share a passion for analog, for bossanova harmonies, for circular melodies & the elegance of great orchestral arrangements. however, modular brings a special colourful, sunnier version of the pop universe, incorporating majestic orchestral arrangements, as well as precious phrasing & mariana's sweetly peculiar voice. [elefant](#)

tahiti 80 : activity center blue this parisian pop duo were part of the original new wave of gallic pop stars that included air, daft punk & phoenix. they aren't ashamed to say they love pop music & perhaps phoenix are their easiest comparison. contagious & breezy hooks go down smoothly & their love of 70's am radio & the beatles' effortless pop are clear for all to see - modern pop that aspires to nothing more than catchy, singalong moments & there's no shame in that. [wrasse](#)

harold budd & clive wright : candylon a new collaborative effort from harold budd ("the godfather of ambient music") & clive wright (a founding member of the platinum selling pop/rock band cock robin). 'candylon' is a contrast to their previous collaboration ('a song for lost blossoms'), in that it is more thoughtful & structured. however, it still constantly surprises with a fresh collage of sounds & moods. budd & wright use new colours to paint these soundscapes : harp, strings & even drums. if 'a song for lost blossoms' reminds listeners familiar with harold budd's previous works of his collaboration with brian eno, then 'candylon' may serve as a continuation of the spirit of 'avalon sutra' - warm, glistening, meditative & alive. [darla](#)

el dog : the lamps of terrahead this debut album from glasgow four-piece el dog is straight down the line indie rock that has its eyes on the heavens. the band cite numerous films & computer games, as well as great albums, amongst their influences but judging by this record's epic emotional tug, snow patrol are held highly in their esteem. deciding to work with iain cook (aereogramme), the band navigate an epic emotional range with a sureness of touch, from the explosive, heartfelt opener, to the tenderness of the instrumental passages in 'rebecca's spine', from the dramatic twists & turns in the coda of '-00-' to the shimmering, heart-stopping beauty of the piano-led 'ha ha nae joy'. [lo-five](#)

lenka : lenka this is the self-titled debut album from australian actress turned singer lenka, who first came to prominence as a member of the brilliant decoder ring. now as a solo artist, this album sees her expressing her creativity through quirky pop songs with bittersweet melodies, which recall artists such as feist & jenny lewis but with poppier, less worldly lyrics. music to accompany a phone ad with balloons floating across a cloudless blue sky with a pretty girl in a floaty dress skipping through the meadows in her bare feet. "regina spektor-inspired vocals, dappled with strings & joie de vivre whistling" - [entertainment weekly](#). [columbia](#)

tim chad & sherry : mono love this talented band is made up of members of silver jays & lambchop & combine rock & roll, soft country, r&b & soul. tc&s has been described as hall & oates meets the talking heads! their innovative lounge rock act walks a fine line between satire & genuine emotion. tim chad, the self proclaimed "original singer/songwriter from nashville", belts out country styled love songs. "first they made my head swim. then they took my breath away, before finally knocking me off my feet. but instead of suing them for damages, i was begging them for more" - [marvin bunch](#). [2000 records](#)

the smiths : singles box (limited) a cd version of the highly popular 'singles box' - a clamshell card box containing the first 10 uk-issued singles in original picture sleeves, featuring the original 12" single tracklistings, apart from the first single 'hand in glove', which appears in its mega-rare 'negative' sleeve. 2 singles are exclusive to this box set : the rare francois kevorkian-mixed 'new york' 12" version of 'this charming man', which had a limited issue in december 1983 & the german import-only 12" version of 'barbarism begins at home' from 1985. the box is completed with a poster featuring the single artworks. all the singles utilise newly re-mastered audio by frank arkwright overseen by johnny marr & feature many non-album tracks, including the hard to find b-side live bbc tracks recorded at the oxford apollo in 1985. a must have item for any fan. [rhino](#)

flipper : they came, they saw & they conquered....well, sort of. never topping the charts, nor possessing a huge following, san francisco's flipper, even in the 90s alt-rock sweepstakes, would still be considered a fringe act but they have become something of a lost treasure over the years, so now domino re-release their 4 remastered studio albums with new liner notes from nirvana bassist krist novoselic, melvins' king buzzo & henry rollins. [domino](#)

: album – generic flipper if great rock & roll is supposed to be about breaking the rules, then flipper's still-astonishing debut confirms their status as one of the great rock bands of their day. this record captures a band who not only refused to obey the accepted guidelines of rock & roll, they didn't even bother to pay much attention to their own rules. about the only accepted rule of rock that seems to mean anything to flipper is that music isn't worth playing if it doesn't have passion ; every noisy moment of this record sounds like flipper were willing to live & die for this music. here they play noise rock with none of the pretension that later bands brought to the form, proving that music doesn't have to be fast to be punk (a lesson that gave the melvins a reason to live), creating a funny, harrowing & surprisingly engaging masterwork that profoundly influenced dozens of later bands without sounding any less individual 2 decades later.

: gone fishin' 'gone fishin' drew flipper's devious, malevolent noise into tighter focus, scraping away the haze of distorted atmospherics to emphasise the muscular post-punk beast that lurked beneath. after the glow of the 'generic' album, 'gone fishin'' may sound like a bit of a disappointment primarily due to the cleaned up (for flipper anyway) sound but that shouldn't stop you from enjoying this record. not as confrontational nor as gloriously unhinged, 'gone fishin'' still has moments that will poleaxe you with their power. check the amazing 'sacrifice', which rivals & maybe even betters some of the tracks on 'generic'.

: public flipper ltd (2cd) a double album of live performances recorded across america from 1980-85. titled in sly response to public image limited, who had seemingly purloined 'generic''s iconic sleeve design for their own 'album' (released earlier that year), 'public flipper limited' is notable not least for containing a rare recording, from washington dc's hardcore mecca the 9:30 club, of flipper's only "punk" song, the feral blank blast of 'brainwash' which, at 30 or so seconds, lasts almost as long as bruce loose's introductory spiel. essential for born-again flipperphiles - the sound is messy & grimy but that enhances the experience.

: sex bomb baby comprises the singles as well as some of the best recorded moments from the band.

crime & the city solution : the adversary (reissue) despite roots dating back as far as 1978, crime & the city solution did not truly emerge until 1984, coming to life in the wake of the dissolution of the seminal birthday party. the group was led by the evocative singer/songwriter simon bonney, an aussie native who led a series of bands under the verbose crime name throughout the late 70s & early 80s. the line up of the band has included ex-birthday party members mick harvey & roland s.howard (& his brother harry), swell maps' epic soundtracks & einsturzen neubauten's alexander hacke. this final release from the band begins with 'the adversary', a track recorded for the wim wenders film 'until the end of the world' & the rest of the record is live material recorded in paris in 1990. an essential reissue for fans & if you missed them first time round & are a fan of nick cave, barry adamson or mark lanegan, you may well want to check them out now. [mute](#)

monte cazazza : the worst of (reissue) this could be the only album that begins with a warning from a professional psychiatrist who informs listeners that monte cazazza is "disturbed" & his music "worthless, a sonic mess". the former might well be true but the latter certainly isn't. from his earliest experiments with tape recording in 1978 onward, cazazza, one of industrial culture's most colourful figures (it was he who originally coined the term "industrial music") revealed a grasp of structure & drama that was all too often lacking in the music of his peers. this compilation includes his earliest singles for the industrial label ('candy man' & 'first/last'), the ridiculously rare new wave masterpiece 'sex is no emergency' & a selection of previously unreleased gems, including 'rabid rats', 'mary bell' (throbbing gristle's cosey fanni tutti guests on vocals) & 'kick that habit man'. an essential document of an important movement in underground popular culture. [mute](#)

the balanescu quartet : possessed (reissue) although there are 3 original compositions featured here, the majority of 'possessed' is made up of string quartet remakes of kraftwerk songs. given that the precision of the german electronic band's songs bear no small resemblance to baroque classicism, the balanescu quartet needs to do little to make their covers work than to play them straight. [mute](#)

circus : circus released in 1969, the eponymous album by circus was one of the first progressive rock releases on the transatlantic label, until that time primarily known as a leading folk & folk rock imprint. circus featured saxophonist & flautist mel collins (later to join king crimson & camel), along with ian jeff (guitar, vocals), kirk riddle (bass) & chris burrows (drums). an excellent jazz influenced progressive work, the album features a notable cover of lennon & mccartney's 'norwegian wood' (a highly desirable collectors' item among progressive rock aficionados). this reissue has been re-mastered from the original master tapes. [esoteric](#)

procol harum : a salty dog this album, the group's 3rd, was where they showed just how far their talents extended across the musical landscape, from blues to r&b to classical rock. in contrast to their hastily recorded debut, or its successor, done to stretch their performance & composition range, 'a salty dog' was recorded in a reasonable amount of time, giving the band a chance to fully develop their ideas. the title track is one of the finest songs ever to come from procol harum & one of the best pieces of progressive rock ever heard & a very succinct example at that, at under five minutes running time. the 6 bonus cuts featured on this release include 4 towering, previously unreleased live recordings that are certain to excite their fans. [salvo](#)

procol harum : home the group's hardest-rocking classic album is, beyond some superb vocalizing by gary brooker, principally a showcase for robin trower's high-powered guitar & a rock-hard rhythm section, with b.j. wilson only a little less animated than ginger baker on some of the music. the band had a split personality by this time, juxtaposing straight-ahead rock & roll numbers like 'still there'll be more' & the elvis presley-influenced 'whisky train', with darker, more dramatic pieces like 'nothing that i didn't know' & 'barnyard story'. chris copping doubles on organ (replacing matthew fisher) but the overall sound is that of a leaner procol harum, all except for the ambitious 'whaling stories'. the remastered version features 2 instrumental bonus tracks (one of which has never been heard before) which are good examples of the band's recording process, illustrating how they laid down the tracks before vocals, solos etc were added. [salvo](#)

black sabbath : black sabbath (deluxe edition) (2cd) released on friday the 13th february 1970 by vertigo records, black sabbath, the band's debut album, pioneered & for a long time defined heavy metal. it comprises of lengthy songs & suite-like pieces where riffs pound away. there isn't much variety in tempo or mood but the sabbath's slowed down, murky guitar rock bludgeons you in a hallucinatory fashion & revels in it's own dazed, druggy state of consciousness. this template is still being used today, albeit twisted & contorted by many contemporary acts. this deluxe 2-cd edition comes re-mastered with a bonus disc of unreleased material, new notes by david wells & a booklet full of rare photos & memorabilia. [sanctuary](#)

black sabbath : master of reality (deluxe edition) (2cd) the band's 3rd album, originally released in 1971. on 'master of reality', sabbath still were fresh & had a seemingly endless supply of crushingly heavy riffs to bludgeon their audiences into sweet, willing oblivion. tony iommi keeps the album afloat with a series of slow, loud riffs, the best of which – 'sweet leaf' & 'children of the grave' among them - rank among his finest playing. 'master of reality' is the last time they delivered a consistent album & its influence can be heard throughout the generations of heavy metal & stoner rock bands that followed. this deluxe 2-cd edition comes re-mastered with a bonus disc of unreleased material, new notes by david wells & a booklet full of rare photos & memorabilia. "taken in tandem with the more consistent paranoid, master of reality forms the core of sabbath's canon" 5/5 – [amg](#). [sanctuary](#)

cluster : grosses wasser originally released in 1979, this kraut classic gets a much needed reissue. 'großes wasser' was cluster's 5th album as a duo. new technology was deployed with an exactness designed to refine their sophisticated & fully developed musical ideas. more than ever before in cluster's history, acoustic elements can be heard, with the dulcet tones of the paragon's steinway grand piano taking centre stage. electric bass, guitar, percussion & voice are all embraced. the best of the proper cluster lps recorded between their various eno collaborations of the late 70s & early 80s, 'grosses wasser' comprises 6 tracks of slowly building electronics. while the dark-sounding tracks 'avanti' & 'prothese' sound like a fusion of tangerine dream & disco, others including 'isodea' & 'manchmal' recall the early days of cluster 71. [bureau b](#)

the ex : 30 - 30 years of the ex a compilation of the best the ex songs from all the releases from their 30 year history. playing a hybrid of punk to advance their liberal socialist agenda (serving as the rough equivalent of a dutch crass), the ex put out reams of records & propaganda during the 80s - each released on a different dutch label - but in the 90s began to embrace industrial forms of percussion & improvisation more in line with einstürzende neubauten & test dept. [ex](#)

steely dan :very best of... what can you say about steely dan that hasn't already been said? they all but defied rock & roll conventions. essentially the dan were a vehicle for the songwriting of walter becker & donald fagen. they gradually changed from a performing band to a studio project & with the assistance of producer gary katz they hired a rotating crackpot team of session musicians to record their songs. their sophisticated & distinctive sound - a combination of jazz, traditional pop, blues, & r&b - helped define the soundtrack of the seventies. [umtv](#)

v/a : chartbusters usa - sunshine pop ace's popular 'chartbusters usa' series is back, after a short break, with the first of several 'themed' volumes highlighting specific aspects of mid-late 60s american popular music. 'sunshine pop' focuses on the up-tempo, upbeat style exemplified by the likes of the mamas & the papas, the turtles & the 5th dimension: the perfect soundtrack for summer. despite the fact that many of these records were hits in both the us & the uk, many of them have never been issued on cd before, although all of the tracks are staples of us oldies radio. copious sleeve notes & a wealth of label shots & related ephemera enhance a splendid listening experience. get out the sun lounger, pour yourself a pimms, plug in your ipod & enjoy some instant sunshine courtesy of ace. [ace](#)

v/a : land of 1000 dances - all twistin' edition 2009 will mark the 50th anniversary of the release of hank ballard's 'the twist', the b-side which launched one of the biggest worldwide dance crazes of all time. to celebrate the dance that got the whole world out of their armchairs & gyrating across the floor, ace has devoted a whole cd in its occasional 'land of 1000 dances' series to the unique phenomenon that was & forever will be the twist. the inevitable ace mixture of high-profile hits & downright obscurities line up side by side in an attempt to get everyone twistin' the night away, just like we did half a century ago. almost all of these tracks (& indeed many of the artists) are making their first appearance on ace in this compilation. [ace](#)

the rationals : think rational! this punchy quartet from ann arbor ruled michigan during the mid-1960s with a blend of rootsy garage & exciting blue-eyed soul. the handful of records they cut have become totems of cool to garage fanciers the world over. one of the most eagerly awaited of all 1960s rock anthologies, 'think rational' collects together for the first time the incomparable sides the rationals cut under the auspices of their manager & mentor, the enigmatic hugh 'jeep' holland. from early brit-influenced rockers like 'look what you're doing to me baby' & 'feelin' lost', through garage soul like 'hold on baby' & their big hits 'respect' & 'i need you', to psychedelically-tinged items like 'sunset', this 2cd compilation covers the group's entire output between 1965 & 1968. in addition to all the singles, we hear the rare promo cut for a detroit men's clothing store, as well as tracks from their 1968 fan club lp (two known test pressings) & many unissued goodies. manna from heaven to anyone interested in vintage detroit, or the best 1960s rock, full stop. [big beat](#)

dance/electronica

moby : wait for me (cd & white lp) a resolutely diy effort from the bald headed, vegan, advert-hogging electronic musician, richard melville hall. his 9th album was recorded in his home studio, he drew the artwork with a sharpie, asked his friends to record the vocals ("working with friends is almost always nicer than working with rock stars"), asked friend jessica dimmock to take the press photos & then released it on his own label. his friend ken thomas (sigur ros, throbbing gristle, m83) helped mix the record, which was apparently inspired by director david lynch's views on creativity for its own sake, rather than due to any commercial pressures (which presumably means none of these tracks will be used on adverts then?). this record is definitely quieter, more melodic, more reflective & more mournful than his recent dance-orientated output & the analogue recording process gives the whole thing a warm, nostalgic glow. "moby has returned to gorgeous downtempo strings & melancholic synths, topped with vocals from friends" 4/5 - record collector. [little idiot](#)

freemasons : shakedown 2 (2cd) freemasons return with their brand new double mix cd featuring "exclusive" freemasons tracks & remixes for many of today's biggest artists & the album also includes the brand new single 'heartbreak (make me a dancer)' with sophie ellis bextor. features tracks from solange, jamiroquai, moby, calvin harris, beyonce, justice, deadmau5, coldcut, kings of tomorrow & more. [loaded](#)

v/a : scratch perverts - beatdown (limited deluxe cd digipack) three of the greatest djs the uk has ever produced, & the best turntablists hip hop has ever known, this london-based, world renowned dj collective are all about invention, humour, progression & entertainment. this heavy comp of thundering dubstep & rapid fire drum & bass is a worthy addition to their canon. of course with their notorious untamed, raucous energy coupled & their mind-boggling skills & selections, breaks, grime, hip hop & electronica all get thrown into the mix too. the perverts (as we affectionately call them) have handpicked artists that represent the diverse genres & musical styles likely to be found within the confines of any perverts' set. & its this vibrant sound that they've captured on 'beatdown', a slamming compilation that embodies the scratch perverts' brilliantly vast tastes. this is one to blow out your speakers this summer – warn the neighbours! [fabric 591 limited](#)

subway : subway ii (cd & lp) a cosmic progression of post-dance music, influenced as much by classic krautrock & disco as it is techno, 'subway ii' is a startling cosmic marriage of influences – german electronic rock music from the 1970s (cluster, kraftwerk, neu, harmonia, ash ra tempel), 80's detroit science fiction techno (carl craig, juan atkins, jeff mills) & a hint of italian & european disco (danielle baldelli meets cerrone, space, moroder & jean michel jarre). subway are michael kirkman & alan james & have been releasing music since 2000. 'subway ii' was recorded at home in east london using a plethora of analog equipment & techniques that enabled them to create a sound reflecting cityscapes such as berlin, dusseldorf, detroit & paris whilst at the same time creating a contemporary musical commentary of london in 2009. definitely one for fans of lindstromm, prins thomas & other spacey-soundscapes, as well as all things kraut. [soul jazz](#)

sneaky : feel like a king... pluck a string a session with fellow mancurian, mr scruff, in 1999 produced the cheeky dance-floor classic 'get a move on' & the following year sneaky formed fingathing with fellow rae & christian band member & turntablist peter parker, after jamming together in the downtime of the rae & christian rehearsals. after 7 years of worldwide touring & 3 albums released through grand central & ninja tune, sneaky has been itching to make his solo mark. his surprisingly lovely debut features rqn & barbara panther, setting his classical training as a cellist & double bass player to a set of deeply danceable tunes. these savage compositions make up a beautifully arranged treasure trove of audio loveliness. the record is a proper mash-up of styles ranging from slappy basslines, electro-glitch wonders, drum & bass madness, soulful vocal samples, classic chill out, organic trip-along warm vibes & much more. really tasty stuff! [big chill](#)

cloaks : versus grain a cold & challenging assault on the senses from dubstep destroyers cloaks. their genre-crossing sound incorporates aspects of noise music, industrial & dubstep & as such, this record could appeal to fans of everyone from dubstep heavy-hitters distance, pinch & burial to the post-metal / industrial records of wolf eyes, einsturzende neubauten or nine inch nails right through to the stark, compelling output of the likes of ben frost or pan sonic. wading through dark new waters in terms of approach, sound design & execution, cloaks are swimming against the tide, creating a sound so dense & dark, it's almost claustrophobic. these speaker-killing sound-system floor shakers have been constructed from found sound sources which incorporate experiments in circuit bending. this is a dark-stepping sound unlike anything else - maybe the closest comparison you could make would be trent reznor's most pummeling sonic constructions tearing through jah shaka's sound system - viciously fucked! [3 by 3](#)

v/a : sick music (2cd) sick music is the brand new compilation from hospital's a&e hit squad. spreading like a global pandemic with top surgeons like london elektrikcity, cyantific & total science donning their scrubs & ambulance chasers like apex, randomer & b-complex, who are ready to unleash some truly infectious beats, expect the full gamut of the hospital sound here - from experimental cuts to downright dancefloor anthems. this unmixed double cd set features tracks from the aforementioned & alongside danny breaks, seba, muffler, mistabishi, nu:tone, mrsa, luca & more. remember : always read the label & if in doubt consult your doctor or pharmacist. [hospital records](#)

karizma : a mind of it's own v2.0 – the upgrade following 2007's award winning debut solo album 'a mind of its own', karizma returns with the highly anticipated sequel. he continues to defy categorization as he moves between his customarily ferocious club bangers through downtempo burners, atmospheric soundtracks & even smoothed out soul, with featured vocalists monique bingham, fruity & djinji brown on rap duty. karizma's trademark fusion of raw electronic grooves transcend through the house, broken, dubstep & funky house scenes to produce a well developed set of lushly soulful & jazzy house rhythms. recent single 'drumz nightmare' is a major highlight, while the detroit strings & strutting nyc bounce beat of 'how fly this life is' will appeal to fans of deeper cats like moodyman & co. meanwhile, his edit of 4hero's 'look inside' should get the broken soul crew creaming at the ears. laidback beats for late night chillin'. [!k7](#)

silicone soul : silicone soul silicone soul are the internationally renowned & much-loved dj & production duo craig morrison & graeme reddie whose 4th record is released on their long-time home, soma records. they have a unique ability to create intricate productions that stand the test of time, yet appeal to current dancefloors. this record encapsulates a broad musical spectrum as the duo continue their smooth tech-house stylings, marrying wistful melodies & live instrumentation with crisp electronic beats. fans of the current wave of streamlined minimal house should take easily to tracks like 'midnite man' & album closer 'dogs of les lhes' but there are also quite a few concessions to a more sedate home listening style. 'david vincent's blues' sees a bluesy slide guitar sit on top of loping disco-influenced beat, while the guitar also sits at the forefront of 'koko's song'. dipping between eras & moods, this album has an enduring spirit. [soma](#)

v/a : fabrique – a room40 compilation

the compilation celebrates a series of events curated by australia's lawrence english, titled fabrique. the series ran for 8 years & produced 40 events - each celebrating the full breadth of electronic & avant musics. fabrique presented artists from japan, spain, slovenia, usa, uk, belgium, germany, france, austria, italy, denmark, new zealand & australia amongst others. the event prided itself on creating networks between australian & international artists, all of whom shared an interest in testing for the very edges of contemporary sound in performance. the cd features exclusive tracks or live recordings at fabrique from the likes of david grubbs, chris abrahams, pimmon, keith fullerton whitman, janek schaefer, andrew pekler, scanner, dj olive & i/o3, robert henke, tujiko noriko & more. [room 40](#)

jean-jacques perrey & dana countryman : destination space

jean-jacques perrey is a legendary pioneer in electronic music & this is his 22nd album in his long career of many classic moog & analog influenced albums. he has been sampled or celebrated by so many artists including ice t, dr. dre, fatboy slim, the beastie boys, smashmouth, negativland & they might be giants, to name a few. perrey's music partner is arranger & composer dana countryman. the cd was recorded in countryman's studio in seattle & explores new musical territory, this time adding rock & spy themes to their happy-go-lucky space age science fiction tunes. they even get funky with a moog-ed out dance tune. 'beyond the milky way' is perrey & countryman's first song written with lyrics. always aiming to surprise, the duo used computers to synthesize & create artificial voices for the song - the effect becomes an eerie version of the carpenters meet elo in outer space. [oglio](#)

mr. scruff : keep it unreal (10th anniversary edition remastered)

(2cd) the re-mastering of the classic fish-obsessed scruff album & sessions, to mark the 10th anniversary of its release. this jazzy-dancefloor classic sounds as fresh today as it did 10 years ago (although maybe that's coz we don't want to admit it was really 10 years ago that we were stepping to its beats down at the big beat boutique?!) & although it's unlikely anyone in brighton doesn't already own a copy of this essential album, this is a fabulously repackaged, remastered & bolstered reissue that now includes the hits 'get a move on', 'spandex man' & 'fish', plus 6 previously unreleased tracks, so you've got the perfect excuse to buy it again! "the added warmth & tightened sound that fans should desire...be assured, a repeat or first time purchase is most certainly worth the punt" 4.5/5 – [subba-cultcha](#). [ninja tune](#)

domu : one offs, remixes & b sides

(2cd) an incredible collection, bursting at the seams with the many standout musical moments of domu's illustrious career to date, including remixes of tracks by the likes of maddlinky, mf doom, daedelus, jazzanova, nathan haines & cinematic orchestra's seminal 'man with the movie camera' - along with a whole host of rarities & hard-to-find, highly sought-after cuts. [tru thoughts](#)

soul / funk

sa-ra creative partners : nuclear evolution - the age of love

(2cd) the list of these guys collaborators is quite mind boggling - from j dilla to iggy pop, dr dre to herbie hancock & more or less everywhere inbetween. most recently they contributed 7 tracks to erykah badu's 'new amerykah' album & this is probably the closest guide to their own output. their music is soulful, but not limited by the neo soul tag. they use their three minds to make something that is always new, & twisted, a sound not heard before. easy to like, but difficult to pigeonhole, the album oozes equal parts jazz, soul, pop, funk, & hip-hop. this eclectic collection bounces from sticky & bubbly soul to outer-worldy bossa nova. double cd includes a bonus disc of beats & previously released tracks. "with the glorious 'nuclear revolution' (sa-ra) finally realise their potential. fusing spirituality & sin, cynicism & optimism, it's a panorama that throws you into a dark nightlife, then lifts you out, invigorated, into a new da" [spin](#). [ubiquity](#)

james brown : the singles vol. 6 1969-1970

the same guys that continue to bring us the complete motown singles have also thrown themselves into the massive undertaking that is compiling james brown's entire singles output. these collections are not for the faint hearted but document a fascinating period in popular music & in particular one of its most important figures. volume 6: 1969-1970 is the final chapter of brown & his amazing sixties band. all of the singles, a- & b- sides are here, released & otherwise, offering a window into an extraordinary sound & time. it includes 'funky drummer', 'ain't it funny now', 'mother popcorn' & many more incendiary 45's that have reverberated down the years. highly recommended. [hip-o-select](#)

james brown : the singles vol. 7 1970-1972

on march 9, 1970 brown's band imploded. they had grown tired of the pay, brown's dictatorial manner & just generally slogging their guts out for so little reward. brown barely shrugged his shoulders & at a moment's notice hired the pacemakers in their place. the pacemakers number included two devastating young musicians - guitarist phelps "catfish" collins & his bassist brother william "bootsy" collins. the string of singles that james brown recorded & released with this group changed the landscape of popular music forever & went on to define james brown in the hearts & minds of the world. james brown: the singles volume 7, 1970-1972 charts the entire course of this volatile but explosive & creative period, collecting all planned releases from the time. highly recommended. [hip-o-select](#)

v/a : london street soul 1988-2009 - 21 years of acid jazz records 'london street soul' is a look at the heavily soul influenced output of ed pillar & gilles peterson's creation, a celebration of the 21st birthday of one of the most influential independent labels of the 1990s. paul weller, the brand new heavies, leffield, the jta, mica paris, the young disciples, alison limerick, max beesley, moloko & members of jamiroquai are just some of the artists featured. the booklet is packed full of rare photographs from the label's archive & an in-depth interview with ed pillar, as he talks through the tracks on the album. it is the first of a three volume series that will follow with 'london street beats' & culminate with 'london street jazz'. [bgp](#)

jazz

tim friese-greene : 10 sketches for piano trio friese-greene spent a very earnest & productive relationship with talk talk as well as catherine wheel back in the 1990s, adding a sparse & minimal flavour to their output. since leaving the ambit of talk talk in 1992, tim has recorded 2 albums as heligoland, but '10 sketches for piano trio' is the first to be released under his own name. with tim playing all the instruments on 10 sketches, there is no following of any pre-arranged script, although the very concise thematic material (sometimes just a smudge of a few notes) is tightly developed, in a way that recalls janacek or debussy. if you have a penchant for the more atonal end of talk talk ('laughing stock' / 'spirit of eden') mixed with a subtle beauty, then this is for you. jazz for those who seek solace with the ecm label. [itm](#)

steve kuhn trio & joe lovano : mostly coltrane pianist steve kuhn certainly has the pedigree for a john coltrane tribute album. during a short period in 1960, when the saxophonist was completing his tenure with miles davis, coltrane led a band of his own on the side at the jazz gallery in new york city with kuhn as the pianist. 50 years on & kuhn returns the favour with a thoughtful album of songs written by or composed in honour of the great saxophonist. on the hot seat is joe lovano playing tenor saxophone (& torogato on 'spiritual') & rounding out the group are david finke on bass & joey baron on drums. kuhn & joe lovano improvise gloriously together, riding the surging waves of joey baron's polyrhythms. [ecm](#)

egberto gismonti with alexandre gismonti & camerata romeu : saudações (2cd) the great brazilian musician egberto gismonti's first new ecm recording for 14 years is a double-album (saudações means greetings) that displays his artistic range - as composer for orchestra & virtuoso guitarist. disc 1 features gismonti the composer on a 70-minute journey through his native brazil : 'sertoes veredas: tribute to miscegenation'. it is a work that takes account of brazil's culture & history, landscapes & cityscapes, vividly evoked by cuba's all-women camerata romeu, an orchestra which specializes in performances of south american composition, conducted by zenaida romeu. disc 2 features gismonti the guitarist in an exciting duo recital with his similarly-gifted son alexandre, romping through a programme of new arrangements of such well-known, favourite gismonti pieces as 'zig zag', 'lundú' & 'dança dos escravos'. [ecm](#)

kyle eastwood : metropolitan kyle eastwood's 4th release was recorded in paris & collaboratively formed with some of the artists he admires most on the current scene : drummer manu katché, trumpeter till brönnner, french star vocalist camille & pianist eric legnini. produced by erin davis (son of miles) & kyle's long term writing partner michael stevens, 'metropolitan' is set to capture the attention of the jazz world with its forward thinking style, as well as line-up which represents the creme of today's jazz musicians. [candid](#)

miroslav vitous group with michel portal : remembering weather report one of the founders of weather report, the great czech bassist miroslav vitous celebrates the creative spirit of that famous group in a blazingly inventive recording. the obvious musical empathy between vitous & drummer gerald cleaver is a joy & trumpeter franco ambrosetti & saxophonist gary campbell contribute inspired solos - as does legendary guest michel portal on bass clarinet. the music, almost exclusively by vitous, alludes to wayne shorter's 'nefertiti' & to ornette coleman's 'lonely woman' as well as to miles davis & antonín dvorák & also pays tribute to joe zawinul. [ecm](#)

country

levon helm : electric dirt helm's follow up to the grammy award winning 'dirt farmer', with multi-instrumentalist larry campbell again taking the reigns as producer. 'electric dirt' finds levon going deeper & fuller in painting a musical canvas by incorporating some gospel, blues & soul with a wide range of original compositions & eclectic covers. the record starts with a rousing rendition of the grateful dead's 'tennessee jed', moving on to a beautiful stripped down version of happy traum's 'golden bird'. 'growing trade', written by helm & campbell, tells a heartfelt story of a farmer's struggle to preserve his livelihood & the rousing horn arrangements by allen toussaint & helm's band on 'kingfish', written by randy newman, brings the swagger of new orleans to the forefront. "one of the most soulful vocalists in rock" - *san francisco chronicle*. [welk](#)

nanci griffith : the loving kind this, griffith's 19th album, represents something of a return to her roots. both the strings & jazz/torch song dalliances of her last 2 records have been ditched in favour of arrangements that recall her early work, featuring fiddle, steel guitar, piano & accordion. she has straddled the fine line between folk & country for the best part of 20 years & has recently admitted that her heart hadn't been it for a little while but her new album sees her getting back into the swing of things. this album marks a triumphant return for one of america's most revered singer-songwriters. *"it's good to have griffith going back to her folk/country roots for inspiration"* – pop matters, *"quite an accomplishment. the loving kind is the 19th album of nanci griffith's brand of folkabilly, but she still manages to keep us enthralled"* - the austin chronicle. [rounder](#)

folk

ellen mary mcgee : the crescent sun of irish & romany gypsy descent, nottingham's ellen mary mcgee plays off-kilter, transcendental folk on guitar, banjo & zither primarily. this is her 1st solo album, following a stint in performing in irish folk outfit saint joan who made a few records for excellent australian label camera obscura. her music is steeped in folk traditions & manages to be idiosyncratic yet unaffected - for the most part the music revolves around an acoustic guitar, subtle strings & a single, beautiful voice. ellen sings about greek mythology, sublimation, the ocean & metaphysics, usually involving a pretty high death toll. a hauntingly seductive record for fans of the owl service or linda perhacs. *"blood splattered folk...it's compellingly executed & makes a suitably dark companion piece to nick cave's 'murder ballads'"* 4/5 – q. [midwich records](#)

chris wood : albion – an anthology (2cd) last year's 'trespasser' album transformed the fiddle player, guitarist & vocalist chris wood's reputation. he has been (rightly) much hailed & won folk singer of the year & album of the year at the latest bbc folk awards but he is no overnight sensation & this timely anthology is a reminder of his decade-plus career already. this is an essential purchase if you want to know more - the material here demonstrates quite how vital an artist wood is. [navigator](#)

world

tinariwen : imidiwan - companions (cd/dvd with a 30 minute dvd of the group's life whilst recording the album in the desert & very limited lp) the magical tinariwen seem to be more of a social movement than a desert rock'n'roll band. it's often said that every touareg from tamanrasset to niamey & from timbuktu to ghat is a member of tinariwen, so widely are their songs known & treasured, having established themselves as one of the most popular & best selling african groups on the planet. for their 4th album they expressed a strong desire to return to their roots & recapture the raw desert sound of their early recordings. although the production on this record is cleaner & crisper than before, the warmth, simplicity & beauty is undeniable, with subtly shifting layers of guitar & clapping creating a rhythmic base for the mesmeric vocals. the booklet is full of beautiful desert shots & captivating anecdotes. the perfect record to warm your hands to, round a late at night campfire, whilst looking up at a sky thick with stars. highly recommended. [independiente](#)

zap mama : recreation zap mama's superb first disc on heads up sees vocalist marie daulne, the founder & fronting member of this multicultural musical entity, joined by a guest list of high-profile vocalists including bilal, g. love & the french actor vincent cassel, plus tony allen & meshell ndegeocello. lush & exotic, this is yet another dishy blend of eclectic world music compositions swirling with ms daulne's marvellous vocals & entrancing percussion. incorporating nipping bites of africa richness & brazilian sass, 'recreation' sizzles with a sophisticated sound, marked by an expertly wrought cornucopia of brass, guitar, percussion, keyboards, kora, piano & a curtain of delicious vocals. recorded in 2008 in belgium, boston, brazil, los angeles & new york, 'recreation' is a veritable cross-pollination of sounds from around the world. [heads up](#)

márcio local : don day don dree don don local is the latest in a long line of fine brazilian musicians that have fused samba & soul that started way back when with the inimitable jorge ben. with the help of producer mario caldato jr (beastie boys, sfa, marcelo d2), márcio has discovered ways to combine these two traditions to forge new variations of samba-soul by exploring the ever-expanding modern soundscape of rio. these songs about lazy saturday afternoons at the beach, football & sex ooze summer vibes. in this way, he belongs to the tradition in brazilian music that celebrates the pleasures of everyday life & the redemptive power of a catchy tune. for fans of seu jorge, jorge ben & tim maia. [bop](#)

reggae

dubblestandart / lee "scratch" perry & ari up : return from planet dub (2cd) this is the austrian collective's 11th album & here they are producing & providing backing to the legendary lee "scratch" perry & ari up (the slits / new age steppers), plus special guest us film director david lynch. the outernational dub-veterans have created what feels like a road-trip crowd pleaser. there are explorations of classic dub tracks & refreshing new sounds from deep in the unknown to keep your trip energised. weaving the random playfulness & natural skeez of perry's lyrics into their patented brit-dub sound, an erratic, disturbing & exciting form emerges, all the tracks featuring ari up, including 'surrender dub' & 'idiot dub', rip into some excellent dubstep sounds, immediately re-energizing the rest of the album. the collaborative dubs take on new life, tripping-out all over dubblestandart's new material & completely new rhythms enter & attack the powerful, established themes in all the remixes. downtempo roots n' dub for some summer chillin'. [collision](#)

king tubby meets the scientist : in a revival dub this fantastic collection from jah thomas's midnight rock archives is the 2nd featuring unreleased dubs from the legendary scientist & king tubby. tubby & his apprentice mix tracks laid down by the legendary roots radicals band. the tracks were recorded at the legendary channel one studios & mixed at king tubby's. these excellent dubs have been collecting dust ever since & roots records finally unveils them to the dub loving public. yet another example of tubby & scientist's alchemical majesty. [roots records](#)

the pioneers : give & take: the best of formed in 1962 the pioneers were one of jamaica's finest harmony groups. they scored their biggest hit with a joe gibbs production in 1967 – 'long shot' was a tribute to a famous jamaican racehorse! despite line-up changes they continued to have hits into the early seventies & particularly here in england where they relocated in 1970. after a brief name change to the slickers & a hit 'na na', included here, they reclaimed their name & followed up their equine saga with 'long shot (kick de bucket)' - I think we know how that one ends. [sanctuary](#)

vinyl

animal collective : danse manatee (dmm vinyl reissue) 'danse manatee' was the first animal collective album to feature now permanent member geologist. a 'live' sound permeates the surface audio aesthetic here but the more intriguing development is the music itself: geologist contributes live electronics & incidental vocals; panda bear is singing more; the whole thing is more organic, fleshed out & looser, whilst retaining the playful, melodic otherworldliness that characterised 'spirit they're gone...'. "*call it post rock, psychedelia, prog pop, or whatever other music category comes to mind, in the end, animal collective creates melodies with their vocals or with their instruments that are either accessible or challenging - sometimes both at once - & moulds it all into tracks & albums*" – pop matters. [fat cat](#)

divorce : divorce (10") the debut ep from divorce. born in glasgow through a frustration that their kinda music wasn't getting heard in the city, divorce decided that instead of adding to the choir of miserablists & moaners they would instead 'make their own scene'. recorded fast & loud, this ep features 4 examples of their anvil-heavy, rhythmically propulsive nae-wave sound that incorporates elements of late 70's lower manhattan art-noise & mid 80's chicago ferocity. sure to find favour with those of you with a soft spot for bands like melt banana, fantomas & even the more palatable ranks of future of the left & bands of that ilk, divorce's low, rumbling, fuzz spillage has plenty of femme-punk attitude to boot. if you like your hardcore-influenced dissonance with a spot of melody, you might want to look elsewhere - this is pretty punishing stuff. [optimo music](#)

here we go magic : here we go magic (lp) [western vinyl](#)

the pains of being pure at heart : s/t (special white vinyl edition - limited to 500) [fortuna pop](#)

husker du : candy apple grey lp [rhino](#)

talking heads : 77 (lp) re-issue of the talking heads classic on 180gm vinyl. [rhino](#)

d v d

amanda palmer : a collection of music videos the frontwoman of the critically acclaimed dresden dolls, amanda palmer, has filmed a video for every single song from her solo debut, 'who killed amanda palmer'. 'a collection of videos' also features commentary from amanda herself & director michael pope on the creation of the videos & the meaning behind the songs, as well as amanda's tour diary from her first us solo tour. from the sweeping orchestral opener 'astronaut' to the wild choruses of 'leeds united' to the sinister pop of 'melissa mahoney', each song peels back multi-faceted layers of amanda palmer, revealing an unbelievably talented woman at the core. the perfect accompaniment to the album. [roadrunner](#)

m a g s

mojo : august 2009 yoko ono, manic street preachers, fleet foxes, blur, tinariwen & free cd featuring fleet foxes, low anthem, bill callahan, alela diane, the dodos, animal collective & more

s i n g l e s

single of the week

the big pink : stop the world 7". 4ad

animal collective : summertime clothes 12". [domino](#)

v/a : o.i.b. split series volume 2 7" featuring sj esau, half handed cloud, suburban kids with biblical names & kopek [o.i.b records](#)

dinosaur jr. : over it 7". [pias recordings](#)

ash : return of white rabbit ultra limited 7". [atomic heart](#)

bat for lashes : pearl's dream 7". [parlophone](#)

jamie t : sticks 'n' stones ep cd & 12". [virgin](#)

official secrets act : bloodsport limited 7", available in selected indies only. [one little indian](#)
of montreal : for our elegant caste limited 7". [polyvinyl record co.](#)

boy crisis : dressed to digress 7" [rhino](#)

faux hoax : your friends will carry you home limited 7". [polyvinyl record co.](#)

dexter romweber duo : the wind did move / last kind words limited 7" featuring jack white. [third man records](#)

2562 : love in outer space / third wave limited 12". [tectonic](#)

bovill : transfesa ep 12". [meanwhile](#)

mr scruff : baisies (10th anniversary analogue remaster edition) 12". [ninja tune](#)

mr scruff : jus jus (10th anniversary analogue remaster edition) 12". [ninja tune](#)

roots manuva : do nah bodda mi 12". [big dada](#)

lord cut-glass : look after your wife 7". [chemikal underground](#)

the gaslight anthem : the '59 sound 7". [sideonedummy](#)

golden silvers : arrows of eros / inside out upside down very limited 7", available in selected indies only. [xl](#)

bombay bicycle club : dust on the ground 7" & cd. [island](#)

yeah yeah yeahs : heads will roll 7" picture disc & cd. [polydor](#)

the rumble strips : not the only person cd. [island](#)

white lies : death white 7" / black 7". [polydor](#)

slow club : it doesn't have to be beautiful 7". [moshi moshi](#)

orbital : lush (remix) 12". [rhino](#)

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