

out this week.....

album of the week

former ghosts : fleurs

(cd, lp) former ghosts is xiu xiu leader jamie stewart, freddy ruppert (of the defunct this song is a mess but so am i) & nika roza of zola jesus. inspired by the synthpop language of omd & soft cell, the band borrow the blueprints but take the music into an altogether more unhinged & eerie dimension. 'fleurs' is a consistent icy hand on the shoulder of the listener; ruppert's cold production & inventive songwriting make the perfect backdrop for his ian curtis-inspired vocalisations alongside nika's unique spooked-out vocal. jamie stewart, also heavily involved in the programming & synth parts on the album, contributes his own unmistakable voice to many of the tracks. songs whistle, bleep & click with broken beats amongst the deep folds of synthesizer melody, waiting for the secrets to be shared. for fans of xiu xiu, blank dogs, wolf parade, zola jesus &, going further back, the cure & joy division. [upset the rhythm](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

them crooked vultures : them crooked vultures

(cd / lp) now these guys are what you call a supergroup! the term is often bandied about but you can't deny that the triumvirate of josh homme (qotsa), dave grohl (nirvana, foo fighters) & john paul jones (led zep) deserve the billing. since grohl's involvement with qotsa's 'songs for the deaf', many fans - us included - have been hoping that he would hook up again with homme, but little did we expect that jones would be along for the ride. homme seems to take the lead as the results most closely echo qotsa's angular hard rock with the occasional led zep foray (scumbag blues) beefed up with the ultimate rhythm section (since bonham passed away anyway). there's no doubt that they would have trouble living up to the expectations, but that shouldn't take away from this thoroughly enjoyable record. "thrillingly muscular in a way so little is at the moment" 8/10 - nme, "fan fiction with a classic-rock heart" - rolling stone. [columbia](#)

josephine foster : graphic as a star

(cd / lp) the freak folkstress's new album is based upon the poems of the 19th century american poet emily dickinson. josephine lays uncomplicated melodies beneath a collection of dickinson gems & sings them with a burnished soulfulness. her voice is sometimes compared to singers as disparate as grace slick, shirley collins or tiny tim & it's certainly difficult to pigeonhole her varied music. josephine says her craft is strongly shaped by "tin pan alley on my maternal side, rock & roll on the paternal side, western folk music by birth, art-song & classical music via my adolescent passions". these songs were written in winter while living in a remote, half abandoned spanish mountain village & they form some of her most stripped back & simplistic offerings to date. a beautiful, warm & intimate old-timey record that utilises dickinson's prose to great effect. [fire records](#)

norah jones : the fall

(cd / limited 2cd deluxe) on her new album, the brooklyn-born jazz pop pianist has teamed up with the producer behind the kings of leon albums, jacquire king. although it still remains unmistakably her sound, it moves slightly away from the sultry jazz sounds & gives an added emphasis on rhythm, bringing her own guitar playing front & centre in the sound. her 4th studio album features songwriting collaborations with alt country luminaries ryan adams & will sheff (okkervil river) so the record benefits from a certain country twang that hasn't been present before, alongside a touch of fleetwood mac thrown into the mix. "deliciously gothic blues" 4/5 - q, "bolder, more individual...norah is her own woman" 4/5 - uncut, "norah jones has moved on. her imagination's flying" 4/5 - mojo. [parlophone](#)

david mcalmont & michael nyman : the glare

david mcalmont's exquisite voice has enthralled soul & jazz fans both as a solo artist & as one half of the hit-making duo mcalmont & butler. michael nyman is one of the uk's most prestigious & innovative composers whose work reached its widest audience through his incredible film scores for 'the piano', greenaway's 'the cook, the thief, his wife & her lover' & 'the draughtsman's contract'. for 'the glare', mcalmont selected various nyman compositions & turned to world news for inspiration. these new songs, written in the first person, draw on a variety of subjects from 21st century piracy ('going to america'), lothario world leaders ('in rai don giovanni') drug mules ('in laos') & banking errors ('take the money & run'). it has taken david mcalmont over 15 years to find the right outlet for his remarkable voice & songs, but it looks as if he has finally done it. a simply stunning album. [mn records](#)

gentle friendly : ride slow

(cd & lp) gentle friendly are a duo in harmonious pursuit of the relationship between noise & pop, conflict & comfort, aggression & ethereality. everything is as live - sampling culture eschewed in favour of tape loops & effects boxes. they embrace noise & pop in equal measure, moving you physically one second & in a wholly different way the next, as a banshee shriek fades into a lovelorn sigh & drums fall silent to allow an analogue pulse to present itself to the fore. they are undoubtedly the sum of their influences: animal collective, fuck buttons, dan deacon etc, but put their own woozy & occasionally abrasive stamp on things. recommended. "it's brash but tender, heavy but filled with soul & pop - an utter contradiction, completely unique & brilliant" 9/10 - this is fake diy, "bottom heavy, danceable melancholy" - rock feedback. [upset the rhythm](#)

githead : landing

for the uninitiated, githead are colin newman (wire), malka spigel & max franken (minimal compact) & robin rimbaud (aka scanner). githead has developed incrementally & organically; from the krautrock-infused roots of 2004's debut ep 'headgit', through an expansion in style & mood on 1st album 'profile' the following year, to the self-descriptive 'art pop' in 2007, which was critically hailed as the band's zenith. improbably, their 3rd album goes one better. all the familiar components of their distinctive idiom remain in place - newman & rimbaud's minimalist guitar patterns, their supremely catchy melodic sense, spigel's propulsive bass rumble, franken's solid, steady drive - but 'landing' broadens the band's vocabulary considerably. adding depth, texture & shading, this album's 10 tracks are somehow simultaneously harder, edgier, more expansive, more organic & more hypnotic. [swim](#)

tori amos : midwinter graces

(std cd / cd with 2 bonus tracks & dvd) tori amos clearly felt it was her turn to give a christmas album a bash after previous dabblings - she recorded 'little drummer boy' for a b-side released in april one year! - but as is her style, it's done in a slightly different way. 'midwinter graces' finds amos reworking & expanding on classic carols as well as developing some of her very own seasonal tracks. "only the biggest scrooge or amos cynic could fail to be moved by such an album" 8/10 - popmatters, "a traditional holiday album courtesy of one of christianity's most astute pop cultural critics" - slant magazine. [universal republic](#)

stereophonics : keep calm & carry on

(std cd / cd & dvd) few bands make it to their 7th album but kelly jones & crew keep on keeping on. as on 'dakota,' this album sees them branch out with forays into more breezy & optimistic fare, such as 'innocent', the glam stomp of 'i got your number' & the punk-pop of 'trouble'. of course they find plenty of room for classic stereophonic material but it's when they stretch their wings that the album is at its best & most interesting. *"they're a safe pair of hands, & this record does exactly what it promises"* – the observer. [mercury](#)

john mayer : battle studies

mayer may be little known over here (except for his dalliance with jennifer aniston) but is hugely popular in the states & has been dubbed 'little slowhand' for his clapton-esque bluesy guitar playing. 'battle studies' is a sideward step from his last album's more soulful style & instead incorporates the warmth, melodies & simplicity of 70's & 80's california rock/pop, not to mention that era's confessional singer-songwriter bent – mayer has said of this album that it is "observations & a little bit of advice on relationships... kind of like a heartbreak handbook". *"a real study in craftsmanship & understated guitar ninja-dom"* - rolling stone. [columbia](#)

ryuichi sakamoto : playing the piano

(std cd / deluxe 2cd) cult composer/ pianist ryuichi sakamoto has had a long & varied career from his days in the yellow magic orchestra, through his soundtrack work for the likes of pedro almodovar & collaborations with david sylvian, thomas dolby, iggy pop, david byrne & many many more. for his latest release he plays soothing renditions of some of his favourite compositions solo - including his signature piece, 'merry christmas mr. lawrence' from the david bowie film of the same name. the deluxe edition includes a 2nd disc with his last album of all new material, 'out of noise' that is at the more avant garde, electronic end of sakamoto's oeuvre. [decca](#)

lymbic system : shutter release

magnifying their already giant sounds was not an easy task but with jeff zeigler behind the boards recording the album & john congleton (modest mouse, explosions in the sky) shaping the mixdowns, they've managed to do just that. instrumentation has become broader, arrangements more grandiose & melodies more focused, resulting in a sublime 2nd album. while the stacked keys & busy drums that defined their previous outing still create the foundation here, the brothers bell have added acoustic & electric guitars, majestic brass & disembodied vocals to their arsenal. drawing inspiration from the groups tortoise, explosions in the sky & four tet, their compositions cleverly combine vintage keyboards, infectious melodies, analogue effects, dynamic drumming & intricate laptop programming to form melodic & cohesive tracks that blur the borders between post-rock, indie-rock & the most organic electronic music. [mush](#)

glass ghost : idol omen

from j. dilla to deerhoof, this record incorporates a myriad of influences. it's the pairing of eliot krimsky's fragile & haunting falsetto with the group's bottom-heavy, hip-hop influenced rhythm section that yields the crystalline world populated with ass-shakin' beats found here, on their debut. while fear, anxiety & delusion effervesce from tracks like 'mechanical life' & 'the same', the album ebbs & flows from frenzied to fatigued. alternately, the beautiful & unforgettable 'like a diamond' invokes reflections of resolute melancholy, while 'divisions' captivates with bizarre images of a fever dream. these guys conjure up similar soundscapes to those that yoni wolf & co achieve these days with why?. *"the nocturnal cousin to 'merriweather post pavilion'"* – stereogum, *"that irresistible, disjointed mix of pop hooks & beefheartian abandon"* - village voice, *"incredibly moving & inspiring. something to sustain me!"* - john dietrich (deerhoof). [western vinyl](#)

sisters of transistors : at the ferranti institute

sisters of transistors came about through a research project embarked upon by graham massey (808 state) at the ferranti institute & at his own facility, the south manchester museum of keyboard technology (smmokit). the aim of the project was to replicate the work of lillian meyers as closely as possible using only vintage transistor organs. the inner workings of sisters of transistors remain something of a mystery. the quartet meet weekly behind closed doors where their time is roughly divided into activities such as electronics seminars, soldering or choir practice & gossip is strictly limited to only 20 minutes per session. the musical result crosses elements of german kosmiche music with the ghost box sound, a splash of goblin & a flash of voodoo jackie mittoo. it's an entertaining listen that brings to mind everyone from magma & ennio morricone through to the shangri las & the b52s. *"brilliant fun"* – boomkat. [this is music](#)

rio en medio : frontier (deluxe edition)

the new mexico resident danielle stech-homsy released her brilliant debut 'the bride of dynamite' on devendra banhart's gnomosong label in 2007 & her sophomore followed after extensive touring with cocorosie, grizzly bear & quinn walker. this deluxe edition of her 2008 album includes 3 previously unreleased bonus tracks & a video for 'the umbrella'. her songwriting reflects a vast scope of influence from techno to traditional folk to early & contemporary classical, drawing on literature as well as music, from ancient to avant. her crystalline vocals, delicately strummed baritone ukulele & found sonic elements evoke the strange delight of a dream. the gentle, the fearful, the sorrowful, the formidable, the entranced & the rambunctious collide. *"part cosmic fun house, part haunted house, it keeps you on your toes, waiting to see if the next song will amuse you, entrance you, or scare you silly. or all three"* 7.2/10 – pitchfork. [manimal vinyl records](#)

dub tractor : sorry

dub tractor, aka anders remmer, follows up his last album 'hideout' by making good on that record's promise. listening to his early works, one could clearly detect where the name for the project came from: spring reverbs & tape delays act as key ingredients, full of incredible blueprints of indie-driven electronica. 'sorry' is indie-tronica with clear references to the shoegazing movement of the 90s & builds on the sonic foundations of his previous work with a stronger grasp of songwriting allowing his latest to unfold into a collection of pure pop. with proper tracks rather than instrumental tracks, this is the dub tractor fans have eagerly been waiting for. *"reminds you what it was that made remmer's productions so compelling in his earliest days"* – boomkat. [city centre offices](#)

katy carr : coquette

after laying bare the hot-blooded current of the feminine mystique with the primal carnality of 'screwing lies' (2001) & willful sensuality of 'passion play' (2003), katy returns with the unabashedly romantic 'coquette'. suffused with echoes of voices from 30s & 40s wartime england, 'coquette' recounts a time when the wrenching loss of battle collided with the sparking of feverish romantic encounters. the role of the coquette was an important one in the war years, performing for the troops, & for inspiration katy needed look no further than the grand dames of frontline entertainment & hollywood legends of the time. in her own words *"the beautiful feminine energy"* of gracie fields, katherine hepburn, ginger rogers & others infuses 'coquette' with a purity of virtue & inner strength. an anachronistic gem with a distinct, edgy & thoroughly modern sensibility. *"alt- folk star in waiting"* 4/5 – q, *"odd & brilliant"* 4/5 – mojo. [deluxe](#)

soft hearted scientists : scarecrow smile – home demos volume 1

soft hearted scientists make psych pop with a wealth of fantastic noises, plus off-hand lyrical references to the welsh countryside, reality tv & primitive dentistry. they're not ones to shout out loud, & over the course of 2 full albums they've quietly caressed lovers of their music, creating a small cult following that grows gently with each week & each new release. this album collects together 16 tracks restored & remastered from original home recordings of the band. none of these tracks have previously been released nor will ever be re-recorded. off-key lo-fi home-assembled pop with more than a passing nod to ol' syd barrett. [my kung fu](#)

huw costin : regrets

in 2005 costin released a white label version of this record but despite much attention at the time, it has taken until now to get the release it deserves. the former frontman of stoner-rockers earth the californian love dream & now at the heart of echoboy's new project the cold light of day, nottingham-based costin's solo debut is an emotive recollection of a love gone wrong. but it's not all doom & gloom - this record is far from damien rice-styled self-pity, nodding more to big star. from the gentle acoustic jeff buckley-isms of opener 'we ride' to the anthemic title track, on to the sweet if forced optimism of 'ride my life', the dark resignation of 'i'm gonna miss you' & the bitterness of 'lover', this is an emotional rollercoaster that climaxes with the staccato epiphany of 'time' & the thunderous, driving assault of 'leisure & technology', with costin's rich tenor dominating throughout. *"another broken heart reaps musical rewards"* 4/5 – uncut. [special sound unit](#)

thee vicars : psychotic beat

(cd / lp) bury st edmunds' wildest, youngest & most insane garage combo returns with their 2nd album & this one's a real smoker! more authentic than ever, thee vicars deliver the perfect mixture of purist teen-beat, ravin' r'n'b & primitive 60's garage-punk. the band have progressed from hard-hitting but trashy 60's influenced punk rock towards a more melodic but still teen-garage sound & the band's manic energy is palpable. this is a true must have for all you 'back from the grave' & 'pebbles' maniacs out there! every single song on this record could've been recorded in 1966. imagine if the downliners sect shared their rehearsal space with the mummies, or the shadows of knight would play their fave mighty caesars tunes & you've got an idea of what this sounds like. [dirty water records](#)

william fitsimmons : the sparrow & the crow

even without hearing a note of his music, you would probably have to acknowledge that the voluminously bearded, illinois-based singer-songwriter william fitsimmons is an intriguing character with a remarkable back-story. after all, how many other musicians can you name who are ex-mental health therapists & whose blind parents' divorce was so traumatic he wrote an album about it, the recording of which in turn proved so harrowing it precipitated the break-up of his own marriage, which he then proceeded to document on the follow-up? presumably not that many. 'the sparrow & the crow' maps out fitsimmon's very own divorce from his childhood sweetheart & he weaves intricate guitar work, occasional piano & softly spoken, pure vocals together to tell the tale of this personal tragedy, providing an intimate collection of repentant, americana enriched acoustic folk. recommended for fans of iron & wine or sufjan stevens. [naim edge](#)

helen money : in tune

with its clattering rhythms, symphonic swells, distorted, plucked chords & razor-toned riffs, 'in tune' reaches for the limits of where a single medium can be taken - in this case, the cello. chicago's alison chesley (the sole member of helen money who has recorded with broken social scene, mono, bob mould & anthrax) uses atypical techniques & the accoutrements of rock 'n' roll to forge an exhilaratingly ominous batch of recordings. by putting her cello through a guitar amp, with production from steve albini's electrical audio, she achieves a muscular angularity that sounds not unlike shellac delivered by a lone, angry cellist. there's a gleefully raucous 'cover' of the minutemen's 'political song for michael jackson to sing'. an evocative & mesmerizing set of songs that comes highly recommended. *"truly majestic. lovers of modern minimalists, of folk music & of doom metal should all find something to thrill here"* - *la city beat*. [table of the elements](#)

big sexy noise : big sexy noise

big sexy noise follow up their vinyl mini album, released earlier this year, with a full blown cd album. the band, fronted by lydia lunch & gallon drunk alt-rockers james johnston, terry edwards & ian white, have recorded a further five johnston/lunch originals plus a lynrd skynyrd cover to complement the original 6 tracks. big sexy noise is the primeval bump, grind & holler of white's thuggish drums, johnston's moronic low-tuned riffing & edwards' brutal organ & sax interventions led by lunch's take-no-prisoners vocals. lydia is on fine form, berating the weak & miserable accompanied by smouldering & slinky grooves, precision metal riffing, a vocal/sax duel & formidable drums. according to the no wave nostradamus herself, *"it's time to stop complaining, quit your crying & embrace the coming end times. let's fucking rock"*. [sartorial](#)

andy nice : the secrets of me

cello player andy nice has played with the likes of luke haines & orbital & is now a member of tindersticks. on this, his debut, he shows off the versatility of his chosen instrument. as a calling card it's pretty impressive, with nice wringing out all the melancholy from his instrument while layering up songs in an almost post-rock way. opening track 'orangeblu' hangs graceful & melancholic harmonies on a sombre plucked string beat, while 'holly at the ivy' opens with a coy dancing rhythm that sounds almost synthesized at first, blossoming into a stately waltz intertwining threads of melody at either ends of the cello's remarkable range. the final track 'somebody take me home' defies the mould in its addition of silkily imploring vocals of maple bee into a slow dance hinting at deeper melancholy. a beautifully dark album that brings to mind olafur arnalds & nick cave & warren ellis's sombre soundtrack work. [front & follow](#)

the beets : spit in the face of people who don't want to be cool

another band coming flying out of brooklyn, this time via uruguay. perched uncomfortably between sun kissed american rock of the 1960s & the frazzled pop of new zealand in the 80s, yet sometimes sounding like the ramones fronted by daniel johnston, the beets manage to turn these often imitated sounds into something unmistakably theirs. simple rhythms & chanted dual vocals combine with repetitive, almost metronomic guitar to surprising effect, creating anthemic, catchy & very memorable songs. the likes of 'what did i do?' & 'go away' are in some ways timeless pop songs, yet in other ways sound completely shambolic & amateurish. this seeming contradiction is what makes this album so appealing, as it gives us a set of utterly beguiling songs. great title too. [captured tracks](#)

radian : chimeric

more unsettling ear-shattering noise & digitally disordered improvisations from the mighty austrian avant-rock group. steady, multiple rhythms layered on top of each other disappear into chaos & turn back into discreet structures in the next moment. 'git cut noise' starts off in spluttering chaos, sounding initially like a construction site only to escalate towards a more coherent racket, while the album seems to reboot for 'feedbackmikro / city lights', shifting into a hushed, jazz-themed mode that creaks into life via intricate percussive work with deep, enveloping bass before eventually lurching into bright plumes of amplified plumes of amplified music offset by tuneful vibraphone tones. *"tightly constructed post-jazz that's halfway between triosk & the necks"* – boomkat. [thrill jockey](#)

tune-yards : bird-brains

(cd with bonus disc while stocks last) tune-yards is the singular musical project of new england native merrill garbus. possessing an expansive sound that marries a coarse folk ingenuity with the bold pop sensibility of an r&b siren, 'bird-brains' was assembled with a staunch diy aesthetic & while it may have been cheaply recorded to her laptop, the album is rich in ideas & sonic textures. her folky songs are infused with the worldly sonic palette of m.i.a. or post-punk pioneers the raincoats & are liberally daubed with ricocheting drum patterns, intoxicating tape loops & soaring multi-tracked vocals. *"conveys a sense of intimacy, as if it's a one-to-one conversation between the artist & the listener"* – pitchfork, *"a self-contained sublime frequencies compilation, jumping between blues, african tunes, shiny reggae-esque sprawls, & lo-fi folk"* – stereogum. [4qd](#)

breed 77 : insects

unleashing the heaviest & most direct record of an already lengthy & distinguished career, the gibraltarian born, uk based quintet are fired up & ready for action. 1st single 'wake up' is a bludgeoning, rollercoaster of a track, employing breed 77's trademark infectious melody married to bone jarring latino-riffery. from the ominous ticking clock intro through to the crushing outro (probably the heaviest thing breed 77 have ever done), it is a clear cut demonstration of the intent & style of 'insects'. resolutely intense in both their outlook & musical output, they have garnered a well deserved reputation for their dynamic & individual take on post millennial heaviness with a unique blend of their native mediterranean influences & contemporary metal & rock. [7hz](#)

cloak/dagger : lost art

is it punk? hardcore? garage? colin barth's winding guitars juggle melody, punch & vitriol on par with the avengers, john reis, mission of burma & greg ginn. indeed it's tracks such as 'deathbed rebels' that push the punk envelope a bit further with frenzied, circle-pit fodder reminiscent of the circle jerks & big boys. underneath, snaking rolls of bass drive the proceedings with the flawless percussive thrust of the ramones, hot snakes & bygone boston hardcore heroes f.u.s. jerry's kids. over this, jason mazzola distinguishes the band with a full, arching tenor that's more bellow than scream. mazzola's delivery & lyrics shine especially on numbers like 'lower eastada' & 'dead idols', where the band's punk 'n roll swagger takes over (think more johnny thunders, less ray cappo). *"devastatingly original, driving rock'n'roll that knows how to manipulate a guitar to its new expected potential"* - [razorcake](#). [jade tree](#)

systems officer : underslept

systems officer is the solo guise of armistead burwell smith iv, the prolific multi-instrumentalist songwriter & founding member of pinback & three mile pilot. written & recorded between breaks in the rigorous pinback recording & touring schedule, his debut solo album has been five years in the making - a concise collection of thoughtful, complex pop songs. written, produced & performed by smith in his home studio, 'underslept' features the same kind of intricate arrangements & layered vocal harmonies that have become a trademark of pinback, with nods to the dramatic tone that marks the best three mile pilot songs. 'underslept' gives smith - already one of rock's most innovative & influential bass players - the opportunity to place his often understated gifts as a singer & songwriter front & centre, drawing influence from the police, peter gabriel-era genesis & the beach boys to craft thoughtful, progressive pop with spiky hooks. [temporary residence ltd](#)

alan mx : warpsichord

being hailed as "a staggering work of heartbreaking electro genius", this is alan mx's debut. 'warpsichord' combines thom yorke melodic sensibility with thumping peaches breaks - a study of skittering beats, jittering string samples & lyrics that meander around the subtler nuances of relationships, through everyday narratives about things such as captain america videos. alan mx is a musician that is easy to take to your heart - open, honest & catchy tunes - one to watch. *"patrick wolf had better watch out"* - [gay times](#). [smalltown america](#)

these arms are snakes : easter

these arms are snakes' 2nd full length for jade tree finds the seattle foursome towing a proverbial line between paradox, hostility & a caustic blend of post-hard/math core. retaining the definitive tension & angular force of earlier efforts, 'easter' is the year-long culmination of a more structured yet experimental song writing process for the band. the seattle troupe continues to mash post-hardcore with noise rock & mathy song structures that astringently contrast calm & harsh settings to keep you constantly on edge. echoing keys resonate murkily through dense backgrounds, unconcerned with whatever else is going around them. the guitars & drums pointedly rise & fall & the intensity is solid throughout. [jade tree](#)

wells / schneider / whitehead / morgenstern : paper of pins

'paper of pins' is a truly harmonious collaboration between bill wells, ann whitehead, stefan schneider & barbara morgenstern. wells, schneider & morgenstern have collaborated previously in the september collective & the four have recorded as a group once before, releasing 'pick up sticks' on leaf five years ago. mr wells is responsible for arrangements & samplers, while barbara morgenstern experiments on the keyboards, stefan schneider controls the synthesizers & bass & annie whitehead plays trombone & melodica. it is a beautifully relaxed record that subtly meshes electronic blips, bleeps & whirs with jazzy organic flourishes. *"a lovely, ornamental record that flirts with the avant-garde but always maintains a easy-going approachability"* - [boomkat](#). [karaoke kalk](#)

lily allen : it's not me, it's you (special edition)

(cd & dvd) the lovely lily's 2nd album follows up to her massive selling debut, 'alright', which established the outspoken mockney popstress as the voice of a generation. 'it's not me...' is full of similarly zeitgeist-inflected tunes which have been produced & recorded by the bird & the bee's greg kurstin. the 1st single, 'the fear', is somewhat heavier in tone than previous singles & sees allen dealing with notions of modern celebrity, a theme that continually crops up on the album. allen also confronts political issues on this markedly more adult album than its predecessor. the dvd features 'lily live in london' footage, an interview & videos. *"exquisitely produced, loveable pop"* - [bbc](#), *"dismissing this album out of hand would be a grave error of judgement. there's nothing as straight-up enjoyable as 'ldn' or quite as remarkably scathing as 'smile', but sticking with 'it's not me, it's you' is wholly advisable"* - [dis](#). [regal](#)

elbow & the bbc concert orchestra : seldom seen kid

(cd/dvd) back in january elbow went into abbey road studios with the bbc concert orchestra to perform 'the seldom seen kid' in its entirety for broadcast on the bbc. anyone who has seen elbow live won't be surprised at the quality of the performance & the warm presence of the man at the heart of the band, guy garvey. it's a heart stopping performance of an outstanding album that has rightly found its way into the heart of much of the nation. recommended. [polydor](#)

black rebel motorcycle club : live

(cd/2dvd) 'live' follows brmc across 2 sold out shows in berlin, dublin & glasgow capturing over 2 hours of live footage recorded at the end of the band's 2007 tour in support of 'baby 81.' the gritty cinematography keeps the band's music front & centre while viewers experience the show both from the stage & from the audience's perspective. over 90 mins of unadorned, intimate behind-the-scenes footage is captured on the 2nd bonus dvd along with additional performance footage. the set is rounded out by a bonus cd featuring 14 songs from the concert film & a gorgeous 48-page booklet of previously unseen backstage & candid photos of the band. [v2](#)

v/a : forge your own chains vol.1 - heavy psychedelic ballads & dirges 1968-1974

(ltd deluxe digipack) an outstanding tour-de-force of obscure musical excavation from now again head honcho egon, 'forge your own chains vol. 1' presents a selection of strange & beautiful psychedelic cuts from across the globe. fans of finders keepers will find much to enjoy here as egon trawls the crates of exotic & faraway lands for long forgotten psych gold. the fruits of his labours presented here have been dug up in columbia, nigeria, sweden, south korea & beyond & make clear the far flung influence of the likes of jimi hendrix, sly & the family stone, james brown, cream & other influential western acts of the late 60s & early 70s. as is now the standard with these sort of comps these uncovered tracks come with a booklet with plenty of juicy details about the artists selected. recommended. [now again](#)

v/a : bad music for bad people – songs the cramps taught us

a 26 track collection of wild irreverent rockabilly, demented rock n roll, wanton blues & the occasional elvis wannabe. these vintage performances were discovered by lux & ivy of the cramps & spun on their various radio shows for wfmj & on lux's purple knife show. many of the tracks here were also covered by the cramps in their live sets or acted as inspiration for the band's own self-penned tunes including strange guitar-led instrumentals, rootsy rock n roll & a tip of the hat to hicksville rationale. a top notch set of tunes, re-mastered with sleevenotes by dave henderson from mojo magazine. [righteous](#)

v/a : art of chill volume 6 - mixed by i monster

(2cd) a lovely double cd compilation that spans downtempo, quirky pop & electronica, all expertly selected & blended by i monster. with artists here including raymond scott, magazine, goblin, suicide, tim buckley, the high llamas & the shangri las as well as a smattering of i monster tracks, this is a great collection of after-hours listening. [platipus records](#)

v/a : rare mod 2

rare mod 1 was filled to the brim with a mixture of newly discovered & classic mod tunes, so why change the formula? acid jazz have once again combed the attics of hundreds of original musicians & collected an amazingly broad cross-section of acetates, demos & bona-fide unreleased material. from obscure british soul (the donnie elbert band & mac kissoon), though r'n'b (c jam blues, parker's mood & the gass company), early psych (the nocturnes, the amboy dukes, the summer set) to out-&-out mod classics (the fleur de lys & the richard kent style), this album showcases a whole host of brilliant, undiscovered anthems for old hands & new converts alike. [acid jazz](#)

v/a : building peaks vol.1 & 2 (mixed by digital midgets)

(2cd) cookshop artist & record selector digital midgets finally makes his legendary 'building peaks' mixes available for public consumption. previously aired on coldcut's solid steel radio show, these are expertly segued & immaculately compiled excursions into the weird & wonderful music of yesteryear covering 60's psych, prog, early electronics, oddball folk & soundtracks featuring the likes of lalo schifrin, can, cluster, king crimson, ennio morricone, serge gainsbourg, moondog, faust & more. if you enjoyed the recent amorphous androgynous comps, or the sterling work of finders keepers or trunk then this is an essential purchase. proper cosmic! [digital midgets](#)

the raincoats : the raincoats

(reissue) the raincoats were one of the most experimental bands that immediately followed the initial burst of punk rock in the late 70s. with their minimalist approach to guitar-driven folk-rock, the band developed a distinctive, jagged sound, punctuated by a shrill violin. we three (the band's own label) now announce the reissue of the legendary all-female post-punk band's 1st album, originally released on rough trade records in 1979. widely acclaimed as one of the musical highlights of the post punk period & a breakthrough moment for women in music, 'the raincoats' has been commercially unavailable for the past 10 years. the album has been re-mastered from original masters & is now enhanced with an extra track from their 1st single 'fairytale in the supermarket', live film footage from 1977 & 1979, the video for 'fairytale in the supermarket' directed by gina birch in 1995 & the liner notes written by kurt cobain in 1993. an essential purchase! [we three](#)

madness : one step beyond...

(2cd reissue) along with the specials, madness were one of the leading bands of the ska revival of the late 70s & early 80s & this is the heavy heavy monster sound of madness's classic epoch-making debut from 1979, which took the world by storm with its nutty slant on ska, motown, rock'n'roll & good old fashioned music hall. it bothered the charts for more than a year & it's easy to see why – their exuberance & wish to get everyone moving on the dancefloor was - & is - infectious & consequently it spawned 3 massive hit singles among its many charms. now, on the anniversary of its original release, the album has been remastered with bonus tracks, videos, a john peel session & liner notes by irvine welsh. "no matter what your cup of tea, madness were playing mother & more than happy to pour it out with lashings of cream & sugar. one step beyond? more like a giant leap into a brave new world" – amg. [salvo](#)

kath bloom & loren connors : restless faithful desperate/ moonlight

(reissue) meeting in 1976 in their hometown of new haven, ct, kath bloom & loren connors formed a creative partnership that has haunted psych-folk fans ever since, releasing 6 albums of fragile, avant-garde folk-blues in miniscule quantities, all of which now change hands for huge sums. these 2 albums were the last of their creative partnership; as her creativity accelerated, so kath's songs became looser, more intuitive, with a darkening of tone & an eventual abandonment of intent to shape the music. the songs were still there, however, with 'restless...' containing one of her most gorgeous compositions, 'look at me', while 'moonlight' includes an early version of kath's signature tune 'come here'. "kath bloom is teetering on a vashti bunyan level of rebirth" –pitchfork, "unlike anything else of its time in its mix of the conventional & avant-garde" - all music guide. [chapter music](#)

devo : freedom of choice (deluxe)

(import) with 'freedom of choice', devo completed their transition into a full-fledged synth-pop group, producing a musically cohesive album spawning hits like the breakthrough 'whip it', 'girl u want' & 'gates of steel'. synthesizers were fully integrated into the band's sound, frequently dominating the arrangements sharing equal time with the guitars. everything is played with a cool, polished precision that mirrors the stylized uniformity of the band's visuals; the dissonance is more subdued than in the past & the rhythms lock the band into a rigidly even keel. the deluxe edition includes the 12 tracks from original album plus 6 live bonus tracks, all on one disc. [warner bros](#)

wall of voodoo dark continent / call of the west

(reissue) wall of voodoo emerged from the late 1970s los angeles punk/alternative scene with a unique blend of machine-age junk music & off kilter pop-rock. like devo, wall of voodoo's sound was always challenging & entertaining. the debut 'dark continent' was brilliantly executed with a blend of hyperactive rhythm box beats, western & film noir-influenced guitar, colourful washes of synthesizer & lead singer stan ridgway's distinctive vocals & highly stylised cinematic narratives. 'call of the west' is livelier & even more articulate, yielding the now-classic alternative hit 'mexican radio'. recommended. "there's an intelligence & wounded compassion in the album's gallery of lost souls that remains satisfying 2 decades on" – amg. [raven](#)

isolation ward : point final

while this belgian post-punk act never released an album as such, they had enough recordings to generate 2 posthumous tapes after their 1983 break-up, 'point de depart' & 'point final.' cherry picking from both ltm's 'point final' provides a comprehensive overview. plagued by a somewhat unstable lineup - the group featured at least 4 separate lead singers - & less a distinct voice than an accomplished one of the era, isolation ward's best efforts are smart examples of nervous, melancholic electronic/rock fusions. plenty of comparison points can be drawn - wire just before their 1st break-up, 17 seconds-era cure, modern english & the cocteau twins & perhaps above all else siouxsie & the banshees, the most clear model. a minor detail in the grand scheme of things, but well worth investigating. [ltm](#)

edwards hand : edwards hand

(reissue) rod edwards & roger hand formed this breezy, psychedelic pop outfit after briefly recording as the picadilly line. sadly this album never made it to a british release as their record label folded. so this can count as a genuine lost uk '60's gem. edwards hand were one of the few bands that george martin produced during his tenure with the beatles & his vast experience is made good use of. there is plenty of swinging london vibes & whimsical vocals here, as well as dreamy vocal harmonies & elaborate electric & acoustic arrangements very much of the era. the beatles connection is obviously strong, & much of this material is reminiscent of late 60, early 70s paul mccartney as well as donovan - with its chirpy, evocative lyrics, harmonies & warm arrangements. re-released with 4 bonus tracks. [grapefruit](#)

procol harum : exotic birds & fruit

(reissue) procol's preceding album, 'grand hotel' - a grandiose effort that recalled earlier majestic achievements like 'a whiter shade of pale' & 'a salty dog' - had been hallmarked by its symphonic sweep. but for 'exotic birds & fruit', procol harum can be heard going back to basics. this was clearly an album custom built for a working band on the road. the accent was returned to the thick electric guitar & swirling guitar on a batch of lushly textured but driving songs that covered everything from hard rock to moody prog & even a bit of music hall comedy. the original side 1 was as fine a selection of songs as procol had ever lent their name to - & indeed, as powerful an opening as any long player of the decade. the remainder of the tracks were reminiscent of a lighter shade of procol. "one of procol harum's finest efforts of the 70s" - [amg](#). [salvo](#)

procol harum : procol's ninth

(reissue) when a top band has been on the road for some years, with a catalogue of successful recordings behind them, it is sometimes helpful to bring in fresh blood in the pursuit of new horizons. when procol harum came to record their 1975 album 'procol's ninth', they decided on a drastic change of policy. the result was an unexpected collaboration between procol & one of america's top producer/songwriter teams, jerry leiber & mike stoller. the exquisite 'pandora's box' would prove to be the band's last uk chart single. the album also made a little piece of history when it became one of the very 1st by a serious rock group to be released in poland. procol were also the 1st group to visit the country since a rolling stones concert in the 60s, which led to a ban on all 'decadent' western rock music. [salvo](#)

procol harum : something magic

(reissue) the final release in salvo's reissue series of procol's albums. 'something magic' is their much maligned final album 'til their return in the 90s. they could no longer fight the rising tide of punk & so packed it in after this album's release. as so often is the case 'something magic' deserves revisiting. careful remastering has brought out hitherto elusive nuances & judiciously-selected bonus tracks offer a unique insight into the compositions of gary brooker, keith reid & their less-frequent collaborators, & into procol harum's studio methodology. [salvo](#)

dance/electronica

joe goddard (hot chip) : harvest festival

this new album from hot chip member joe goddard is a very fruitful listening experience, based around 12 tracks of synth-laden electronics, mostly aimed squarely at the dancefloor. mainly instrumental, goddard only contributes vocals to the wistful 'lemon & lime', with the rest sounding very much warp-esque in their execution. there are echoes of his hot chip day job on display here, with plenty of melodic flourishes & tracks which cover the full dance spectrum with traces of house, dub step & electronica all seeping into the proceedings. a nicely varied & well produced record that will appeal to fans of hot chip & those who seek some quality electronica to accompany the long cold nights ahead. "a synthetic sun shower of analogue electronics...pretty neat" - [nme](#). [greco roman](#)

dj/rupture & matt shadetek : solar life raft

emerging from the shores of brooklyn bearing gifts blending bass, beats & space rocked by a tropical wind, this album is an arresting testament to the fruit that grows at the margins, free from genre orthodoxy, & pulsing with gentle mutant energy. 'solar life raft' is heavy on deformed, quaking bass, with a variety of remixes, original content, & tweaked lifts, built in real time into a hulking apparatus, following very much in the tradition of rupture's absolutely classic 'uproot' mix album. fellow brooklynites gang gang dance, telepathe & jahdan blakkamoore collaborate with the duo, remixing their flow of both delicately smooth & raw, first take style recordings. "a mix that's never predictable, full of surprises, & engaging from start to close" - [bbc](#), "feels like the equivalent of a much further travelled dubstep allstars mix" - [musicweek](#). [agriculture](#)

kraftwerk : the catalogue

(8cd deluxe box set with large format versions of each album booklet) electro pioneers, living legends & globally revered masters of electronic sound, celebrate the 35th anniversary of their landmark 1974 hit 'autobahn' with this 8cd box set containing all the recently remastered albums. rolling back musical barriers with every forward-thinking phase of their career, dusseldorf's zen masters of electronic minimalism laid the foundations for 4 decades of computerised pop & dance music. in 2009 kraftwerk have upgraded their kling klang masters with the latest studio technology & these 8 magnificent recordings still sound like nothing else in the history of music - unique, pristine, profound & beautiful. their streamlined synthetic symphonies stand outside time - transcendent & sublime. from the hypnotic 'autobahn' to the seminal simplicity of 'man machine', this is the perfect introduction or reminder of true musical visionaries. [mute](#)

v/a : fabric49 - magda

another quality instalment in the fabric mix series, this time coming from new york-based dj magda. apparently inspired by her love of italian horror film soundtracks from the 70s, this mix does have a dark & groovy soundtrack feel about it. dramatic sounds & eccentric basslines carry the fast-moving, multilayered mix through the rising swells of circlesquare, the haunting vocals of luciano, the chilling chords & offbeat pop elements of her kindred spirits at minus (gaiser, marc houle & heartthrob), & the funk-filled soundscapes of magda's own productions. this is a watertight compilation that brims with lively character & skitters with her own personal touches & effects, a reminder of how rarely djs truly break the mould. [fabric](#)

v/a : kitsuné maison compilation 8

more super-hip cuts from the french bastion of cool, kitsuné. on this volume the kitsuné house is now packed with friends, girls & boys, new & old. quiet girls, neurotic boys, kitsuné mobilises all that is most passionate & exciting. here we have 20 tracks from the drums, chew lips, delphic, memory tapes, sirismo, parallels, heartsrevolution & more. c'est formidable! [kitsune](#)

v/a : future sound of brazil

brazil reveals itself to be a thriving hotpot of dance music in all its shapes & forms on this collection from the bbe stable. over the past 10 years the influx of brazilian music in terms of travelling djs & producers, as well as sampling & production in general, has been growing at an exponential rate. on this collection no stone is left unturned, with electro-pop from terry poison, samba-fied drum & bass from dj marky, lush minimal techno from gui boratto & deep tech vibes from marcelinho cic. [bbe](#)

v/a : the future sound of russia

having showcased regional & international scenes from cambridge to tokyo via budapest, hospital's 'future sound' series takes on a whole new dimension, tackling the giant superpower that is russia. drum & bass has been thriving in mother russia for a while now, with djs bringing back reports of some mind-blowing parties & clubnights. with music flooding into the hospital office from st petersburg, moscow & even further afield, this comp started becoming an exciting inevitability. the stylistic spectrum is broad - from the soulful sounds of electrosoul system, to the experimental ambience of bop & dissident, via the awesome dancefloor minimalism of subwave - these producers are some of the most talked about in the scene. [hospital records](#)

machinefabriek : loops for voerman

(v.limited 3" cd) loops for voerman is a home stereo friendly version of a commissioned piece from rutger zyudervelt, aka machinefabriek, for a recent art installation. this is a dark, impressionistic composition, just over 15 minutes in length, its bowed metal, atonal strings & cold harmonic overtones continually realigning, bringing to life the imposing nature of its subject matter - a sculpture of a modern ruin created by rob voerman. the silence within the piece evokes an unsettling presence, a claustrophobic feeling of imposing, collapsing structures, abandoned & lost. the release comes with a bonus download of a live performance of the composition, which presents the piece in a different light again, in this aspect focused on the experience of listening without any visual, in a darkened concert hall. [machinefabriek](#)

al kent : secret sounds

disco & soul obsessive al kent returns with a barnstorming collection of dancefloor boogaloo & more refined moments of soulful reflection. the tunes focus on neck snapping drum breaks, heavy boogie bass lines, the underbelly of real independent disco. certainly kent pulls it off well, with an authentic retro sound obtained by using a lot of outboard analogue gear as well as the good ol' reel to reel. a groovy record that fans of real disco & the likes of faze action & nuyorican soul should make a beeline for. [bbe](#)

shut up & dance : how the east was won

(3cd) way back in 1986 there were 4 guys named smiley, pj, dj daddy & dj hype. they built a sound system called heatwave & come the weekend they would customarily break into an unoccupied building to start their own illegal parties, as was the done thing back then. after trying to get a record deal for their own productions to no avail, they decided to go the diy route & shut up & dance was born. the label grew from strength to strength, & quickly became a renowned outlet for the underground rave music of the time, with artists such as ragga twins, nicollette, peter bouncer & rum & black all getting involved. this collection gathers up a slew of hits from the label's productive history, covering an amazing 20 years in the business. [shut up & dance](#)

hip hop

michael franti & spearhead & various artists : power to the peaceful festival

(cd & dvd) the power to the peaceful festival has become a yearly tradition & inspiring event for michael franti & spearhead & their fans, who meet up for music, peace & good times at the golden gate park in san francisco. this incredible event brought out some 50,000 people in 2005 to groove to & hear the sounds of michael franti & spearhead & their friends saul williams, anti-flag & zap mama. features some of michael franti & spearhead's most loved songs including 'everyone deserves music', 'yell fire' & 'is love enough'. [friday music](#)

felt 3 : a tribute to rosie perez

slug (atmosphere/rhymesayers) & murs (living legends) are back with volume 3 of their popular felt series, this time dedicating their signature light hearted back & forth to rosie perez. with production being handled by aesop rock, this takes on a darker, edgier feel than the 2 previous felt releases & completes the coastal trifecta with 3 of the biggest independent hip hop artists from the west coast, mid west & the east. quality underground, old school-flavoured hip hop for fans of ugly duckling, jurassic 5 & people under the stairs. [rhymesayers](#)

soul/funk

james brown : live at the garden (expanded edition)

(2cd) originally recorded at the famed latin casino in cherry hill, new jersey. this collection's unreleased material, newly mixed from the original 4-track master tapes, captures the raw excitement of the james brown experience circa january '67. the collection also includes a remastered version of the original mono album, with its fake applause & overdubbed arena ambience left intact - on cd for the first time. once again hip-o select have done a superlative & exhaustive job. it's james brown live in his pomp so obviously it's highly recommended! "delivering feverish, high-energy grooves almost mathematical in their symmetry & precision... captures james brown live, & that's really all the recommendation you need" - [amg](#). [hip-o select](#)

jazz

trio vd : fill it up with ghosts

the startling debut album from trio vd captures their head on assault on your senses perfectly. trapped in their studio while the worst storms for several decades raged outside, the band's marathon recording sessions were fuelled with a diet of caffeine & shouting. with a sound much bigger than the sum of their parts, chris sharkey plays guitar & bass at the same time, christophe de bézenac uses the saxophone, effects & the voice to create a multi-layered sound while chris bussey's ferocious polyrhythmic drumming style would put at least 2 ordinary drummers to the test. sharkey has recently joined acoustic ladyland & features on their new album, as well as tearing it up on the live circuit with death metallers bilbao syndrome. schizoid jazz for fans of polar bear, acoustic ladyland et al. "earth-shattering, taking a sledgehammer to preconceived limitations of jazz" - [time out](#). [babel](#)

enrico pieranunzi : wandering

followers of enrico pieranunzi's career have witnessed the emergence of one of the most fascinating contemporary artists & one of the world's best jazz pianists. with 'wandering' enrico pieranunzi chose to confront himself. on this very personal solo piano album he combines more than ever musical intelligence, mastery of his instrument & the expression of his emotions, & arouses the listener's imagination. harmonic & melodic progressions come as events in the course of the stories told here, be they patiently polished or invented on the spur of the moment. through its multiples facets made out of its different tunes, this album delivers a portrait of enrico pieranunzi. thanks to a wonderful mastery of the piano, to stretched dynamics & a wide sonic range, the artist manages to avoid repetition whilst always staying himself. [camjazz](#)



gwilym simcock : blues vignette

(2cd) 'blues vignette' moves gwilym simcock onto a new musical plane. an extraordinarily gifted pianist/composer, his music is engaging, exciting, melodically enthralling, complex & wonderfully optimistic. the 1st disc offers a mix of stunning improvisations & new simcock compositions as well as insightful interpretations of grieg's piano concerto & the popular tune 'on broadway'. it also provides a brief window into the mind of a composer who mixes classical & jazz without effort, with a recording of a suite for cello & piano. the 2nd disc heads for the classics with simcock making his own arrangements of 'black coffee', 'nice work if you can get it' & 'cry me a river'. "gwilym simcock has moved up to an entirely new level" – 4/5, jazzwise. [basho](#)

stacey kent : collection iii

kent's striking, captivating & addictive vocals make this new collection an essential album for jazz lovers across the globe. her unique approach to old classics allows for the emotion & true meaning of the lyrics to come through whilst she pays homage to the beautiful melodies provided by history's greatest jazz artists. songs covered here include 'you've got a friend', 'what the world needs now is love', 'the best is yet to come' & more. [candid](#)

eberhard weber's colours : yellow fields/silent feet/little movements

(3cd) colours was formed in 1975, initially to take music from weber's award-winning 'the colours of chloe' on the road, but quickly took on its own special identity, drawing on the musicians' exceptional talents & touching on jazz improvisation, rock energy, contemporary composition, diverse world musics & the pulse patterns of minimalism. the line-up featured the great us jazz saxophonist charlie mariano & rainer brüninghaus on keyboards. jon christensen drummed on 'yellow fields', but for 'silent feet' & 'little movements', british drummer john marshall, who had been exploring similar sonic territory in his work between jazz & rock with the soft machine, was drafted in. & of course throughout there is the uniquely arresting sound of eberhard weber's customized upright electric bass. [ecm](#)

gil scott heron : 1980

(reissue) 1980 was the last album that gil scott heron recorded with his musical collaborator brian jackson. originally released on arista the album includes the popular single 'shut em down' & is both lyrically & musically on point throughout. the album reflects on the turning of that decade & 30 years on many of the messages are still relevant to today's society. this album had been long out of print but is finally available again, re-mastered from the original master tapes with sleeve notes by brian jackson. "loaded with perceptive & poignant observations on the state of america as it advanced into a new & uncertain decade, 1980 is a powerful final album of the 1970s for scott heron & his partner jackson" – amg. [passion music](#)

elton dean's ninesense : happy daze & oh! for the edge

(reissue) elton dean was a mainstay of the british jazz scene in the 1970s, following a stint with soft machine. by 1975 he was a member of georgie fame's blue flames & of chris mcgregor's brotherhood of breath, amongst several other projects, but he still found the time to organise a large ensemble of his own, ninesense; an ambitious project dominated by 6 prodigious horn players. this collection of material is more than a nostalgia trip – it's a remarkable pan across the british contemporary jazz scene of that era. & whilst their optimistic free-improv bordered on mayhem at times, dean's charts – sounding like anything from thus spake zarathustra to a salvation army brass band with carla bley's escalator over the hill or mike gibbs in the middle – are bearily majestic. the 2 albums recorded for ogun in 1976 -77 have never been available on cd until now, & are testament to a wonderful musician & a joyous band. 4/5, *the guardian*. [ogun records](#)

folk

john smith : map or direction

at only 27 years old, john smith is a dazzling, inventive guitarist, with lightning-fast fingerpicking, jaw-dropping, unconventional percussive guitar techniques & the possessor of an unforgettable, honeyed, gravely growl of a voice that belies his age & background. for this, his debut, he headed into america's deep south, armed with recording equipment & instruments & a determination to find unusual field locations for the project. the result is an atmospheric & engaging series of tracks, many recorded out in the open air. john's self-penned songs sound as if they are hewn from the rich seam of the tradition, yet 9 of the 10 tracks are entirely his own, the other an original & dramatic interpretation of traditional folk song 'death & the lady'. timeless & earthy folk in the tradition of john martyn, davy graham & nick drake. [barp ltd](#)

world

v/a : singapore a-go-go - vol. 1

sublime frequencies works its way down to the tip of the malaysian peninsula with this superb collection of singaporean 60's beat, pop & off-beat cha-cha instrumental classics from original vinyl 45s. these 22 supercharged beat-a-go-go tracks defy a common held belief that the chinese couldn't rock, groove or swing back in the 60s. the vocals are sung in the dialects of mandarin & hokkien & they soar with catchy hooks atop groovy, clever beats. there's plenty of electric guitar, organ & crazy percussion rocking & twisting behind it all, at times reaching quite a mad & freaky state of affairs. seminal bands of the period like the stylers & the silvertones are well represented, backing up a wide array of popular vocalists with charlie electric guitar band's sound of japan ripping it up on 4 brilliant instrumental tracks. comes with a 16 page booklet featuring photos of the original 45 sleeves & liner notes from compiler william gibson. [sublime frequencies](#)

v/a : panama! 3 - calypso panameño, guajira jazz & cumbia típica...

due to its totally unique geographical location connecting north & south america, panama's music is a soulful blend of latin american, caribbean, european & indigenous forms & here are 23 examples of the country's unique flavour. for this 3rd set, label boss miles cleret has roped in will holland (aka quantic) alongside himself & series compiler roberto gyemant to select the tunes & they continue to dig deeper into the treasure chest that is the record collections of the people of panama & come up with another winning set of bilingual calypsos, cumbia tamboreras, guajira jazz, tropical guarachas, funk & more. as always the booklet is brimming with photos & information about all the tracks & artists represented here. so, yet another superb compilation from the ever reliable soundway label. recommended. [soundway](#)

v/a : balkanbeats - a night in berlin

robert soko has been throwing parties in berlin since 1993. he was the first to coin the term balkanbeats to try & define his mix of music from the balkans. balkanbeats are serbian gypsy brass & folk melodies reinterpreted, given electronic beats & blended with western styles such as ska & rock. after years of listening & playing western-derived rock, punk & ska, soko found himself returning to his ethnic balkan music roots, the roots he had rejected as a youth in bosnia & so soko ended up playing new/old balkan music. & people loved it. women grooved to it. guys pogoed to it. it was a sensation. now you can enjoy another fine selection of this music, courtesy of robert soko. this enhanced cd features a slideshow which takes you through a balkanbeats night in berlin with music by fanfare ciocarla. [piranha](#)

depedro : depedro

singer & guitarist jairo zavalá has taken some time out from his busy schedule of playing & performing with other acts, most notably calexico, to record his solo album. throughout 'depedro' are carefully picked acoustic guitars, subtle drumming with brushes, perfectly placed mellow horn sections & most notably jairo's smooth vocals spoken in spanish. whereas the spanish influences found in calexico are more modern & infused, zavalá's work in depedro is far more traditional & inherently his own. "if the idea of flamenco-inflected country rock with a psychedelic film noir feel sounds horribly indigestible, take a listen to this melodic debut from arizona-based spanish guitarist & singer jairo zavalá. backed by alt-country outfit calexico, the fetchingly hoarse-voiced balladeer makes his move from barcelona to border badlands sound the most natural thing in the world" 4/5 - telegraph. [nat geo music](#)

rupa & the april fishes : este mundo

san francisco's rupa & the april fishes are back with a 2nd album crossing borders with a blend of french alternative chansons, rousing latin grooves & energetic gypsy swing. on this record they hold up a carnival mirror to life & present a warped, humorous & occasionally disquieting reflection. sequestered beneath rupa's infectious & captivating melodies are thought-provoking themes that address life, love, art, death & the real & artificial divisions that keep us apart. "rupa surely deserves to become something of a global celebrity thanks to her cheerfully cool & soulful vocals" - the guardian. [cumbancha](#)

márta sebestyén : i can see the gates of heaven...

an album of secular & sacred folk songs from hungary by one of the great singers in world music, perhaps best known for her oscar-winning contribution to the soundtrack of 'the english patient'. this album represents a major new shift in marta's career. here she sings songs personally chosen from the extensive hungarian folk & religious repertoire, songs that have close personal resonance for her & that reflect the proud cultural heritage of the carpathians. the accompanying musicians are 2 of hungary's finest - balazs dongo sokolay on bagpipes, flutes, saxophone & tarogato & matyas bolya on lute & zither. "any new project from her is always an exhilarating prospect. without bowing to cliché, she is the hungarian folk singer par excellence, somebody who breathes new life into old songs" - froots. [world village](#)

vinyl

the german measles : wild

(12" ep) featuring members of cause co-motion!, these brooklynites make a similar pop racket, but infused with wonderfully shambolic garage. this results in songs that are incredibly catchy, full of confidence, yet ever so slightly unhinged. some sort of bizarre mix of the soup dragons, black randy, protex & the fall had they recorded for bhudda. all the subtlety of sonny bono trying to barge his way into a restaurant while wearing a fur vest. these are pop songs of the most chaotic variety, but their disordered nature is part of the charm.

[captured tracks](#)

the notwist : sturm

(ltd lp & cd) the notwist return to their soundtracking activities, once again collaborating with filmmaker hans-christian schmid. 'sturm' is a hypnotic work of unreal ambience characterised by an intricate blend of modern classical composition & minimal electronic gestures, using bowed xylophone, alienated glockenspiel, orchestra accordion & minimal electronics to stunning effect. indeed the combination of electronic treatment with morose, impressionistic acoustic instrumentation makes for a potent soundtrack work & a worthy successor to their previous collaboration with schmid, the 'lichter ep', & still retains plenty of that notwist magic you hear so much of on the band's 'proper' albums. [alien transistor / morr music](#)

kraftwerk : autobahn [mute](#)

kraftwerk : computer world [mute](#)

kraftwerk : radio-activity [mute](#)

kraftwerk : techno pop [mute](#)

kraftwerk : the man machine [mute](#)

kraftwerk : tour de france (2lp) [mute](#)

kraftwerk : trans europe express [mute](#)

rainbow arabia : kabukimono [manimal vinyl](#)

d v d

all tomorrow's parties : the film

the film is a semi-found multimedia bricolage shot by over 200 filmmakers, fans & musicians over the festival's recent history, with key contributions from co-director jonathan caouette (tarnation), & cinematographer vincent moon (the take away shows, arcade fire) & features amongst others: belle & sebastian, grizzly bear, sonic youth, battles, portishead, daniel johnston, grinderman, david cross, animal collective, the boredoms, les savy fav, mogwai, slint, the dirty three, yeah yeah yeahs, the gossip, gza, seasick steve, iggy & the stooges, fuck buttons, shellac, patti smith & john cooper clarke. a kaleidoscopic journey into the parallel musical universe of music festival all tomorrow's parties. "a rousing, kaleidoscopic celebration of the seaside indie-rock festival" - time out. [warp](#)

m a g s

wire : issue 310 – dec 2009 [sensational](#), ben frost, king crimson, carlos giffoni & much more.....



singles

single of the week

florence & the machine : you've got the love (xx remix) 7" island

joe goddard : apple bobbing (four tet remix) 12". greco roman

headless heroes : remixes by tunng / jon hopkins / james vuill & the earlies 12". names

the antlers : bear 7". k7

samuel & the dragon : diamonds on a boat 7". moshi moshi

florence & the machine : you've got the love (xx remix) 7" island

the cribs : we share the same skies 7". wichita

little boots : earthquake 7". 679

the cheek : hung up 7". polydor

cold cave : death comes close 12". matador

florida : s/t 7". shdwply records

fools gold : surprise hotel b/w micachu & the shapes remix 7". iamsound

los campesinos : there are listed buildings ltd 7". wichita

arctic monkeys : cornerstone limited 7" & ultra limited, indies only 10". domino

lonelady : immaterial 7". warp

brakes : worry about it later 7". fat cat

frightened rabbit : swim until you can't see land 7". fat cat

biffy clyro : the captain 7" & 7" picture disc. 14th floor

grievous angel / naphta : harpy / soundclash 1 (grievous angel vip) limited 12". keysound

harmonia & eno : remixes by shackleton / appleblim & komonazmuk

12". amazing sounds

sigur ros : gobbledigook remixes 12". kompakt

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