

# out this week.....

## album of the week

### lawrence:arabia : chant darling

lawrence:arabia is the pseudonym of new zealand's james milne. james has already established a rich musical resume as a former member of the brunettes, the ruby suns & one time touring member of okkervil river. 'chant darling' is his uk & bella union debut & is in large part hewn from his gradual relocation to london. combining harmony, sweet melody & lush orchestration, this is a collection of pop songs that have an insidious quality & slowly take a strangle-hold on your ears. there is light-footed classicism at play & the songs betray the influence of the beatles quite clearly but thankfully this influence isn't cloying. throw into the mix a little jonathan richman, some beach boys, a dash of vampire weekend's tropical swagger & a few more exotic sounds (no doubt soaked up during his days in the ruby suns) & the breezy results are what you get here – a record that doesn't try too hard to win your affections but succeeds in doing so anyway. charming low-slung americana & indie-pop hooks for fans of devendra banhart, eliott smith & all of the aforementioned. [bella union](#)

## rock / indie / modern classical

### francois & the atlas mountains : plaine inondable

(only available in a few select shops) meet françois marry – a multi-talented songwriter, musician, animator & artist, hailing from saintes, a small town on the west coast of france. françois is the latest signing to fence records. at the age of 19, he travelled over to the uk & quickly became involved in the bristol scene, joining the line-ups of movietone & crescent. after a few months he started playing his own shows & assembling an ever-changing band of players called the atlas mountains – whose cast has included rachael dadd (angel's egg) & fellow fence records artist rozi plain. his 3<sup>rd</sup> album marks a departure from the homemade character of his first 2, eschewing the casiotones & xylophones for a more professional sound & sophisticated arrangements. he's lost none of his charm in the process, mixing english & french lyrics seamlessly & with the same subtle emotion. "*discovering françois is like being let in on a wonderful indie pop secret*" – [clash](#). [fence](#)

### codeine velvet club : codeine velvet club

codeine velvet club is the side project from fratellis' main man, jon lawler. finding himself with a slew of new songs & a new friendship with glaswegian singer lou hickey, jon decided to put together a bigger, more expansive band for his new compositions. lawler & hickey celebrate the music of the post-war swinging big band era, taking inspiration from sixties orchestral pop, particularly composer john barry. the album is a mix of upbeat & sometimes jazzy rock similar in vein to alex turner's the last shadow puppets. "*a fine record inspired by brassy show tunes, gothic blues & sweeping orchestral pop*" – [observer](#), "*lawler can stand proud that codeine velvet club exceeds expectations*" - [bbc](#). [island](#)

### neal morgan : to the breathing world

portland, oregon's neal morgan plays drums & sings backing harmonies for psych-folk chanteuse joanna newsom & now the barefooted drummer releases his debut solo album. neal's album consists entirely of his voice & his drums, nothing more. such a venture could go 2 ways : painfully pretentious or excitingly original. thankfully, the latter is the case. morgan's voice is just as dynamic an instrument as his feral, fitful drumming. he layers & folds his voice onto itself, creating intricate, otherworldly harmonies. there's a celebratory aesthetic sheen on 'to the breathing world' & morgan's lyrics have an abstract, childlike quality even when he's singing about loneliness & isolation. a purposeful venture into the world of song from a singing drummer's perspective behind the traps. [drag city](#)

### the real tuesday weld : the clerkenwell kid live at the end of the world

(box set) the real tuesday weld, aka the clerkenwell kid, aka stephen coates, is an ingénue of the jazz period, a modern musical visionary who mixes genres, styles & emotion like a master story-teller. this strange companion piece to last year's 'the london book of the dead' is a valedictory performance recorded on the eve of the apocalypse. the band perform a set of pre-apocalyptic junkyard blues in honour of (& inspired by) dreams. in addition to the album itself in its beautiful fold out cover, the 19cm x 14cm box contains a gorgeous last will & testament designed by artist catherine anyango & a little selection of ephemera. the contents of every box are different & including a personal story by & items hand gathered by the kid himself. [antique beat](#)

### serge gainsbourg : poet & provocateur


gainsbourg was known outside france primarily for the heavy-breathing masterpiece 'j'taime moi non plus' but to those at home he was one of the more potent cultural figures of post-war france. 'poet & provocateur' comprises rare live & studio recordings by serge, juliette greco's exquisite ep of gainsbourg songs that did so much to establish his name, interpretations of some of his finest early songs by contemporaries such as pia colombo & hugues aufray, gainsbourg's score for jacques doniol-valcroze's film 'l'eau a la bouche' (a game for six lovers) & the soundtrack of michel boisrond's 'voulez-vous danser avec moi?' (come dance with me) which saw gainsbourg make his screen debut in a film which starred brigitte bardot, the biggest star in france. this superb comp is a must have for any gainsbourg fan. [el](#)

### the silent league : but you've always been the caretaker

(2cd reissue) the 3<sup>rd</sup> album from the critically acclaimed brooklyn orchestral pop supergroup (feat members of beirut, leisure society, arcade fire & mercury rev) gets the expanded treatment. this is a beautifully arranged mixture of dreamy soft rock, elo & talk talk. the 2<sup>nd</sup> disc includes remixes by neon indian, helado negro as well as covers & rarities. "*an album of such accomplished majesty...this is hairs on the back of your neck stuff*" – [thelineofbestfit](#), "*the silent league doesn't fall short of its reputation, bringing new meaning to soft rock*" - [filter](#). [something in construction](#)

### blueboy : if wishes were horses

blueboy were formed by lyricist & singer, keith girdler & songwriter / guitarist, paul stewart in reading in the early 1990s. whilst their initial releases were gentle & acoustic, they expanded into a full band, with bass, drums, keyboards & cello, eventually including harvey williams on guitar. their 1<sup>st</sup> album, originally released in 1992, is now reissued on el records. in keeping with the sarah records tradition, the original album was an 8-track mini-album with no singles or previously / later released tracks but it is re-released with the addition of the band's 1<sup>st</sup> 4 singles & their b-sides as a 19 track album. all of this material has been unavailable, except for download, since around the time sarah records shut up shop in 1995. [el](#)



## hip hop

### souls of mischief : montezuma's revenge

(2cd) oakland's souls of mischief haven't exactly been the most productive since their classic debut '93' til infinity' – this is only their 5<sup>th</sup> album & 1<sup>st</sup> in almost 10 years. it seems that the long lay off has had no effect on their skills & with the legendary prince paul (stetsasonic, de la soul, handsome boy modelling school) in the producer's chair it is like no time has passed at all. the golden-age originators are all having an indian summer right now & you can add souls of mischief to the growing list of classic 90's rappers turning back the clock. the 2<sup>nd</sup> disc is the instrumental album. "the bay area originators of the abstract are still pushing the limits & making music that feels good" – hiphopdx, "hip hop for those who like beats that boom-bap, lyrics that run deep" – bbc, "there are plenty of small pleasures to be heard, from the tipsy flows of 'home game' to the buttery jazz vibes of 'tour stories'" – spin. [hiero imperium](#)

### dj shadow : in la (halloween mix)

(very limited) blink & you'll miss this. dj shadow shows of his skills with this special halloween mix that was made for kcrw radio in the us. as the l.a.times put it : "what could be better than dancing to dj shadow, spinning live from a crate of vinyl in a small ballroom at l.a.' park plaza hotel with an almost full-moon pouring through the patio windows". by all accounts, shadow had his fans jumping up & down from the very first wild outburst of scratching. minutes in, he laid into an inspired mix of 'bustin' loose' from chuck brown & the soul searchers entwined with the zombies' version of 'time of the season', with the phrase 'who's your daddy' hiccupping out every few bars. in the words of the man himself : "y'all ain't ready for this one". awesome stuff. xxxxxx

## blues

### t-model ford : the ladies man

t-model ford's first & only acoustic album! on july 22, 2008, james "t model" ford stepped into planet paul studios in wichita, kansas at the end of his first formal tour in years. rumours of his demise had been laid to rest after 2 weeks of t model performing his raw, rough & tumble blues. he wanted to play acoustic guitar & have 100% control over the record, so everyone agreed he should do it the way he wanted. the engineer simply let the tapes roll & t-model made it look easy. one song after another just rolled out of him. 'the ladies man' is the product of this afternoon session in wichita - pure t-model, with some newer young musician friends playing along with him. it is also the only acoustic album t has ever recorded & it's a blast. at 88, he appears younger & livelier than many folks a fraction of his age. [alive](#)

## vinyl

### orchestre poly-rythmo de cotonou : echoes hypnotiques vol.2 - from the vaults of albarika store 1969-1979 (limited 2lp) [analog africa](#)

### goblin : the best of (green vinyl) [pretentious moi](#)

### richmond fontaine : we used to think the freeway sounded like a river [diverse](#)

## singles

### ash : f limited 7". [atomic heart](#)

### distance : clockwork / one blood, one source (remix) limited 12". [tectonic](#)

### codeine velvet club : hollywood/i am the resurrection limited heavyweight 7". [island](#)

## pre-orders

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