

# out this week.....

## album of the week

### vampire weekend : contra

(cd / lp) what a way to start 2010! it might have crossed our mind that this lot couldn't pull another stunner out of the bag but we'd have been very wrong. album no.2 is another total triumph! it's bustling with fresh ideas & yet it sounds immediately recognisable. heavily layered but taut & kinetic, it chews ravenously through sound palettes & rhythms & yet it's nimble & assured. it's still breezy & yet smoulders with a newfound emotional heft. the songs are catchy, fast, twinkling & clattering yet there's also an element of darkness that runs throughout. afro-pop, surf guitar & art-rock combine to great effect once more & although there aren't as many obvious singles, the album hangs together beautifully & packs a punch throughout. the perfect follow-up to the perfect debut, from one of the most exciting bands of recent times. oh yeah! "brainy, confident & generally awesome" 4/5 - rolling stone, "as gem-like as its predecessor" - guardian. xl

## rock/indie/prog/psych/kraut

### laura veirs : july flame

(upfront release) veirs' 7<sup>th</sup> album sees the portland, oregon singer-songwriter move back to the cosy bella union stable. 'july flame' is a magical & flawless collection of songs, highlighting veirs' masterful finger picking guitar & confident vocals. the album breaks from her previous full-band efforts - it's a more stripped-down, folksy affair performed primarily by veirs herself, featuring a variety of "oddball tunings" - although many of the same players make appearances, including long-time collaborators karl blau & steve moore. the string arrangements are more prominent - the brilliant improviser eyvind kang playing viola on many songs & legendary arranger stephen barber composed hauntingly beautiful string quartet arrangements for 3 songs. "laura's like the queen bee & my ear is her hive; she nests & makes honey in the hairs of my cochlea," says jim james of my morning jacket (who sings on several tracks). highly recommended. bella union

### good shoes : no hope, no future

(indies only exclusive special edition with a bonus disc featuring a live performance recorded especially for this release, including a couple of old faves & a mystery cover version) the 2<sup>nd</sup> good shoes album seamlessly melds up-tempo, jerky, changeable indie-pop with darker, more editors-esque explorations. most of these songs provide testament to the fact that this lot are at their danceable best, with a perfectly executed album loaded with bouncing, rocking, frenetic indie dancefloor fillers. it's a bit heavier than past offerings but they retain the trademark good shoes sound that makes them one of the most exciting & unique bands of their ilk. alt-pop guitar fun for fans of the maccabees & foals. brille

### delphic : acolyte

(cd / lp) this manculian trio have been tipped for big things in 2010 & you can see why. they have pulled off that most difficult of tricks - the indie dance record. splicing new order's manculian brand of indie disco intellectualism with the unbound, arms aloft euphoria of orbital or the chemical brothers. with not a little help from berlin resident & house & techno wiz ewan pearson in the producer's chair, they seamlessly integrate contemporary house, trance & techno elements into their catchy pop-rock sound. their nearest contemporaries would be klaxons or friendly fires but delphic have perhaps delivered their indie-dance fusion with even more poise & style than those two bands managed. "might just be the first great album of 2010" - bbc. "if you can marry dancefloor electronics & rock as well as delphic, resistance is useless" 4/5 - guardian, "a cohesive & impressive debut" 8/10 - nme. polydor

### adam green : minor love

the former moldy peach returns with his 7<sup>th</sup> solo album, recorded with long time producer/friend noah georgeson. 'minor love' found green enlisting the talents of rodrigo amarante from little joy & other hangers-on, like his brother joel & look-a-likes joe steinbrick & greg from megapuss. stepping away from the goofball quirkiness of past releases, green appears to have matured & mellowed out in his late twenties, with subtle lyrics & tender subjects that sit comfortably alongside his relaxed lou reed-styled croon & acoustic guitar. green recorded almost all of the instruments himself & the songs have simple arrangements, which highlight green's vocals. a slower pace but still a prime example of his wit & charm. rough trade

### you me at six : hold me down

bands start young these days - 'hold me down' is you me at six's 2<sup>nd</sup> album & they're still in their teens! this record could prove these surrey emo-punks are the uk's answer to paramore. they certainly have the tunes & the added muscle to attain the lofty heights that paramore have since scaled. they execute the ultra-melodic & euphoric emo rush with style & grace. for fans of paramore, taking back sunday & fall out boy. "the unadulterated glee with witch they attack every fists-aloft chorus makes 'hold me down' impossible to dislike" - q. virgin

### ok go : of the blue colour of the sky

it's been a fair while since ok go's last album & maybe they felt they needed a little space after the enormous response they got to their single 'here it goes again' & particularly its synchronised treadmill dancing video. 'of the blue colour of the sky' finds them bounding into new territory while retaining their distinctive & fun power-pop moves. lead singer damian kulash has stated that they listened to a lot of 'purple rain' while recording the album & the diminutive purple one's influence is all over this record & with david fridmann (flaming lips, mgmt) at the controls, it's their most psychedelic & varied record yet. kulash says, "i think it sounds more like us than anything else we've done, its more like the music that's in the back of my head, just out of reach, that i've been trying to get to for so long." capitol

### v/a : we are only riders - the jeffrey lee pierce sessions project

this project was stirred into being when cypress grove, pierce's former bass player, discovered a cassette recording of live rehearsals from shortly before pierce's death with a number of unreleased songs caught on it. these skeletons of songs were then fleshed out by an astounding array of friends, colleagues & acolytes under the watchful eye of grove & many left pierce's own guitar track intact. over the years an album came together, one which will drive you to tears with its sheer beauty & intensity. nick cave, debbie harry, kid congo, mark lanegan (& many, many more) have done themselves & him proud. "the most heartfelt of tributes to this seismic giant of american music" 4/5 - record collector, "a brilliant, elegant, transcendental covers record" 5/5 - subba-cultcha. glitterhouse



## **marta kubišová : ne! the soul of marta kubišová**

kubišová found fame in her native czechoslovakia in the early 60s where she flourished until she was banned from singing by the new communist regime in 1970. using the cream of prague's session musicians, arranger, writers & producers she sculpted a sound that was equal parts pop & freakbeat with her shapiro/springfield/driscoll/slick styled vocal riding on top. collected here for the 1<sup>st</sup> time outside czechoslovakia are those freakbeat tracks that she threw down with such relish "these are fantastic rare-mod floor-fillers, with brilliant basslines, the fuzziest guitars, phenomenal horn arrangements & the much-underrated psychedelic jew's harp" 4/5 – mojo. [vampisoul](#)

## **rain parade : beyond the sunset**

among the l.a. groups dubbed paisley underground (dream syndicate, the bangles, three o'clock), rain parade were the closest to being the real deal with their use of psychedelic flourishes. formed in los angeles in the early 80s, the group consisted of david roback (vocals, guitar), steven roback (vocals, bass), matt piucci (vocals, guitar), will glenn (keyboards) & eddie kalwa (drums). david roback left to form a new band, rainy day, with the rest of the band continuing to record as a 4-piece. the band signed to island records & this live album, recorded in japan, came out in 1985. this is the band's only live album & until now, it has never been released on cd. this release has been re-mastered & has exclusive notes by classic rocks malcolm dome. [lemon](#)

## **v/a : the psychedelic salvage company vol 1 & 2**

(2cd) at last! this legendary compilation of the rarest psychedelic artefacts of all time is finally available again. spanning tapes, acetates & private pressings that for decades circulated only amongst hardcore collectors & connoisseurs, the music on this deluxe double set spans demented acid rock, way-out folk, psychedelic jazz & much more. it comes complete with a full booklet offering background information on the acts featured, making it a genuine must-have for all fans of way-out psychedelia. [past & present](#)

## **v/a : high all the time volume 2**

finally available on cd, this classic compilation gathers together 14 of the best 1960s psychedelic obscurities. representing the length & breadth of america (with contributions from arizona, california, ohio, kansas & elsewhere), the set will thrill anyone whose tastes run to fuzz, echo, feedback, distortion & any other effect you care to mention. as with their companions on volume 1, these tracks are frenzied testament to the benefits of being high all the time. [past & present](#)

## **kevin coyne : i want my crown – the anthology 1973-1980**

(4cd) coyne is one of the finest british singer songwriters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, yet his 40 album back catalogue has, more often than not, languished in obscurity. this compilation seeks to redress that balance & draws material from a period of a dozen albums recorded for the virgin label in the 70s. the material has been selected from albums, singles, demos & live recordings during this most fertile period of his career & is arguably the definitive collection of this unique & troubled artist. "fans of jack white's tempestuous outpourings or the minimalist drive of seasick steve should form a disorderly queue" – mojo. [virgin](#)

## **kevin coyne : marjory razor blade**

(2cd) originally released in 1973, 'marjory razor blade' is considered coyne's finest album. it made enormous waves amongst the critics upon it's release & the ripples continued long after with johnny rotten singling out 'eastbourne ladies' as one of his all-time favourite records. coyne was a self taught guitarist & channelled the blues, rock'n'roll & music hall in typically eccentric british fashion & his songs often dealt with dark subject matter such as insanity, despair & abuse & were peopled by marginal members of society. this collection of edgy folk-rock songs is tinged with an avant-garde feel & combined with his lyrics (coyne was a published poet) has a unique feel. the 2<sup>nd</sup> disc features previously unreleased bbc sessions & outtakes. "there are 4 or 5 coyne albums that can be described as his best. but 'marjory razorblade' remains the greatest of them all" – amg. [virgin](#)

## **ian dury & the blockheads : sex & drugs & rock & roll – the essential collection**

ian dury was always a strikingly singular figure on the british pop & rock scene & to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death & the movie about his life, 'sex & drugs & rock & roll', this new collection of his finest work is released. these 20 tracks make you realise what an embarrassment of riches dury & the blockheads gave us. from the title track (a phrase that has since passed into the english language) through the no. 1 'hit me with your rhythm stick,' 'what a waste,' 'reasons to be cheerful' & 'spasticus autisticus', we are given 20 (cheerful, sardonic) reasons why dury is held with such affection by the diverse likes of macca, robbie williams, sugs & hugh cornwell. a great testament to an enduring & unique character. comes with 2 hard to find extended 12" mixes of 'rhythm stick' & 'reasons to be cheerful'. [dmg tv](#)

## **moebius : tonspuren**

by 1969 at the latest, dieter moebius was synonymous with the avant-garde electronic music scene in germany. he & hans-joachim roedelius formed seminal electronic/ambient duo cluster, whilst moebius was also a member of krautrock supergroup harmonia (with michael rother & roedelius). somehow, it took moebius until 1983 to release his own solo debut album, 'tonspuren'. when he did he delivered an album of minimalisms, miniatures & stringent form. these meticulously fabricated pearls of electronic music coast along on lo-fi rhythms & an assortment of creaking, chirping & wheezing synthesizer lines with a distinct pop sensibility. [bureau b](#)

# **dance/electronica**

## **v/a : fabric 50 - martyn**

martyn's debut, 'great lengths' was undoubtedly one of our favourite dance albums of 2009, with percussive rhythms & deep, swallowing basslines. now, with 'fabric 50', he presents a thrilling, unpredictable portrait of today's all-embracing & cross-pollinating music scenes. powered only by the common link of bass culture, martyn uses the deep impact of 2562 & kode 9, the funky step of roska & uncle bakongo, wildly imaginative creations from hudson mohawke & joy orbison & the cerebral trip of werk discs' actress. also glittered with his own 3024 label creations, this is a definitive snapshot of any pulsating, incandescent dancefloor taken over by the martyn sound. essential. [fabric](#)

## **the glimmers present.... : disko drunkards**

the glimmers have come a long way since 1<sup>st</sup> picking up the needle back in '85 - from spinning records in every watering hole & club in their native ghent to globetrotting djs & in-demand remixers. now, from the depths of their infamous basement hq rises an infectious groove, a rumbling clatter of analogue beats, synth stabs & bellowing bass. imagine the minimal but explosive raw power of the white stripes crossed with the percussive, dub-infested urban jungle funk of liquid liquid & the psychedelic freakishness of funkadelic or the revolution. "it's got enough 'fro shaking fun for disko drunkards to join poirot & jean-claude van damme on that party game list of famous belgians.. wicked!!" – idj. [diskimo](#)



## blues

### v/a : dr boogie presents heavy jelly – essential instrumentals

the 5<sup>th</sup> volume in sub rosa's continuing fundamental series shines a light on some of the more obscure foot-tap inducing instrumentals that hit the shelves during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 60s. back when the 45 was king anyone could make with a fistful of cash could make a record & the selection here all elected to record instrumentals designed to fill the dancefloor. these tunes – from r&b to jazz to boogie woogie to ska – are all dominated either by sax or organ & have a kicking rhythm section. dr boogie is once again in picking the picks & once again picks a sack-full of hits! great stuff. [sub Rosa](#)

## folk

### imagined village : empire & love

one of the most unusual collaborations of the past decade, the imagined village made a significant impression with their critically acclaimed debut album & if the band had initially developed as a loose collective of singers & musicians, they have subsequently consolidated into a working, growing, organic band. featuring martin & eliza carthy, chris wood & simon richmond, amongst others, this collective combines traditional british folk, global music influences & electronica. this time out they tackle traditional staples like 'scarborough fair' right through to 'cum on feel the noize' by slade & the cohesive performances very much underline that this is a real band rather than a 'project'. "a band transformed" 4/5 – [guardian](#), "a quantum leap beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> album" 5/5 – [independent](#). [ek](#)

### sandy wright : songs of

(2cd) in british folk there are a number of names that continually get dropped as influences & if you go north of the border there is one name that may get dropped more than most. sandy wright has been a long-time underground hero in his native edinburgh, latterly championed by the likes of eddi reader, kris drever, karin polwart. the 1<sup>st</sup> disc of this navigator compilation is recordings made by the man himself of songs spanning the last 20 years of his career while the 2<sup>nd</sup> disc is given over to interpretations by some of the finest young folk artists around – kris drever, chris wood, karine polwart & roddy woomble to name a few. "an intriguing & insightful album, which offers aural delights at every turn" – [brighyoungfolk](#). [navigator](#)

## vinyl

### v/a : original vampires of dartmoore / science fiction dance party instrumentals

(limited to 500, lp only) the 4<sup>th</sup> instalment in disposable music's library music series is the instrumental versions of 2 recent finders keepers releases. these two collectable novelty lps by the crime sound orchestra were actually the product of the savvy studios publishing company attempting to cash-in on whimsical media trends on tv or in the cinema. shelved at a micro cosmic axis where krautrock meets lesbian vampire horrofica & easy listening meets psychedelia. this is the 1<sup>st</sup> time on any format for the original instrumental tracks for 'dracula's music cabinet' & 'the science fiction dance party' concept albums. essential stuff for all library music fans. [disposable music](#)

## mags

mojo : issue 195 - feb 2010 jimmy page, slayer, midlake, ian dury, free superb amorphous androgynous cd & we're featured in this issue!!!

## singles

these new puritans : we want war (10") what a return! this extraordinary 7.5 minute epic is the 1<sup>st</sup> taste of their bizarre but utterly compelling 2<sup>nd</sup> album, 'hidden'. massive attack meets doom meets rock opera – awesome! [angular](#)

good shoes : under control (7") lively debut single from the 2<sup>nd</sup> album by the suburban jerky-indie-pop heroes. [brille](#)

## pre-orders

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