

# o u t t h i s w e e k . . . . .

## album of the week

### **field music : field music (measure)**

(2cd / very limited 2lp + cd) sunderland's finest return after what feels like a lengthy hiatus & you would think they must have been stockpiling songs for this sprawling double album if you didn't know the brewis brothers had both released superb records under the school of language & the week that was monikers. but clearly they feel refreshed & inspired as '(measure)' takes all the familiar sounds of past field music & their solo dalliances & then stretches them gently into new shapes. there are nods aplenty to various 80's artists such as peter gabriel, kate bush & even a little bit of queen but like all great bands they make those sounds their own & they have made sure not to lose their knack for sweet harmonies or meticulous arrangements & sonic details. frankly this a wonderful album that get's better & better & rewards endless repeat listening. fantastic stuff. *"the only other group delving into classic rock & pop with such skill & affection is grizzly bear"* 5/5 – uncut, *"a sprawling gem of an album"* 4/5 – mojo, *"field music truly are a gem of a band"* – bbc. [memphis industries](#)

## rock / indie / psych / kraut etc.

### **shearwater : the golden archipelago**

(cd / lp) shearwater continue to explore the beauty, menace & fragility of the natural world on 'the golden archipelago', the band's most absorbing & accomplished work to date. formed as a side project by okkervil river's johnathan meiburg, shearwater has slowly but surely evolved into a distinct & quietly powerful creature all of its own. this new record is the 3<sup>rd</sup> panel of a triptych that includes 2006's enigmatic 'palo santo' & 2008's acclaimed 'rook' albums. shearwater take us on a spectacular journey of beautifully & strangely-wrought musical textures that draw from the same panoramic, dreamy chamber rock pool as mark hollis & co did for talk talk's 'spirit of eden' with a touch of antony & the johnsons' or rufus wainwright's grandiosity added to the rich mix. there are some rockier / proggy moments too, that add some essential variety in pace & the resulting record is one that'll have you hooked instantly but you'll keep coming back for more. if you're a fan of any of the aforementioned, or indeed local hero jacob's stories, you'll need this. [matador](#)

### **peter gabriel : scratch my back**

(standard cd / special 2cd edition with 4 extra tracks) after a 7 year hiatus, the legendary peter gabriel releases a collection of classically orchestrated covers of material by acts such as elbow, lou reed, radiohead, neil young & david bowie, amongst many other esteemed artists to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. while it's true that all too many artists return from years of hiding under the supposed protection of a covers album, fortunately, the ex-genesis man has reworked these tracks in such a lush & attentive way, that it becomes far more than a collection of borrowed works. dubbed by gabriel as a "swap shop of songs" & produced by bob ezrin (pink floyd, alice cooper), this is a beautiful, sparse, acoustic album, boasting nothing more than the accompaniment of lush strings & gabriel's distinctive voice. *"a fascinating exercise in musical refurbishment"* 4/5 – independent, *"an album to make you happy feeling sad....gets better with each play...it might just turn out to be the best surprise birthday present of the year"* 4/5, album of the month – mojo. [virgin](#)

### **lightspeed champion : life is sweet! nice to meet you**

(limited 2cd version with 5 bonus tracks featuring 4 live versions of songs from the album, plus a version of 'devil in disguise' by elvis presley / 2lp) lightspeed champion returns with a baroque pop masterpiece. dev hynes' 2<sup>nd</sup> album is an epic collection of 12 pop songs, 2 instrumental intermissions & 1 piano etude that cleverly combines wry & sometimes humorous lyrics with bolder sounds. lightspeed's early leaning towards american country dressings is traded here for a palette that draws on classical music & even musical theatre. producer & mixer ben allen (animal collective, gnarls barkley) assembles the eclectic grab-bag of influences, jolting 70s guitar & synth sounds, classical piano, queen-size 70s-rock pomp, greek choruses shouting reprisals & at least one ukulele-driven moment. *"imagine woody allen singing rufus wainwright in glee & you're about there"* 7/10, 4/5 – guardian. [domino records](#)

### **voice of the seven thunders : voice of the seven thunders**

the new project from rick tomlinson - the distillation of years of divergent musical exploration that have followed his much-acclaimed voice of the seven woods debut. taking leave of his previous incarnation, the multi-instrumentalist & sound sculptor introduces us to his fully-fledged rock group. opener 'open lighted doorway' hints at the pastoral shades of tomlinson's earlier recordings, appearing soaked in reverb as if corrupted by time. this gives way to the monolithic 'kommune' with rhythmic percussive layers & a build up of rolling guitars. 'out of the smoke's' acerbic electric & acoustic contrasts are followed by the purely acoustic, respite offering 'dry leaves', the vertiginous howl of 'dalälven' & 'cylinders', that swells from dark kosmische drones into warm opiate depths & the final track, with its stripped down vocal harmony - the nostalgic, introspective 'disappearances'. drawing comparison with bands from the heyday of 70's acid rock & the likes of amon düül ii, peter green's fleetwood mac, early pink floyd & the velvet underground's drone jams, as well as the electronic kosmische of cluster & the unhinged organic grooves of international harvester, this comes highly recommended. [tchantinler recordings](#)

### **jack rose : luck in the valley**

(cd / limited lp with download coupon) tragically, jack rose passed away recently, just as he was reaching the height of his powers. a sad, sad loss. fortunately, he left this brilliant testament to his genius. he first rose to prominence with the drone/noise/folk unit pelt, one of the early influential new music underground bands. his post-takoma, american primitive guitar playing is heavily influenced by john fahey & robbie basho but rose also incorporates north indian classical, early american blues, bluegrass & minimalism into his singular style. 'luck in the valley' is the 3<sup>rd</sup> album in the set of recordings that rose jokingly referred to as his "ditch trilogy" & here he continues his exploration of pre-war american music with a set of brand new material featuring the black twig pickers, glenn jones, harmonica dan & hans chew, along with a handful of solo pieces. the record find rose in his element, surrounded by like-minded friends on a recording that is enriched by a sense of history but entirely new, vibrant & warm. highly recommended, as always. r.i.p. 4/5 – uncut. [thrill jockey](#)

### **clipd beaks : to realize**

(cd / lp) after 2 woozy, psychedelic & often claustrophobic records that touched upon their great potential, oakland's clipd beaks have birthed something pretty damn amazing. 'to realize' is sonically expansive & it's the first of their output to have the vocals as such a key contribution to their darkly melodic denseness. it feels like a complete, cohesive journey as each track contains many of the same motifs & textures & it really does showcase the band in peak sonic form - decadent, revelling in noisy glory, layering guitars on vocals on drums on trumpets on keyboards, to huge & terrifying effect. they've managed to refrain from being too intense & overbearing by leaving enough space to breath, so you can experience the record rather than have the experience thrust upon you. it's kinda hard to pin this one down but imagine a murkier tv on the radio jamming with this heat & liars & you're somehow to getting it. the transformative power of rock 'n' roll is confirmed right here! *"it's a great, uplifting feeling when a band manages to truly surprise, when a record outstrips its influences & a band truly becomes its own damn self. 'to realize' is one such record & clipd beaks is one such band"* – [tinymixtapes](#). [lovepump](#)

### **midlake : the courage of others - superbox**

(very limited super deluxe box set containing the 'courage of others' cd, vinyl double gatefold heavyweight pressing, dvd documentary directed by jason lee, a 32 page booklet & 'denton sessions' live cd : 01. acts of man, 02. winter dies, 03. small mountain, 04. rulers, ruling all things, 05. van occupanther). [bella union](#)

## moon duo (sanae yamada & erik johnson of wooden shijps) : escape

(cd / lp) san francisco's moon duo was formed in 2009 by sanae yamada & erik johnson of wooden shijps. inspired initially by the legendary john coltrane & rashied ali, moon duo counts such variant groups as silver apples, royal trux, moolah, suicide & cluster as touchstones – much like wooden shijps then! utilizing primarily guitar, keyboards, percussion & vocals, the pair plays space against form to create a primordial & disorienting sonic stew. their debut long-player marks the fullest realization yet of the young group's evolving sound, following their 2 ace 12" eps last year. 'escape' delivers on the great promise of these earlier recordings & although only made up of 4 songs, the lunar flares sprawl ever outward to album length here. a wild, interstellar ride of gauzy, lo-fi psychedelic jams built on repetitive riffs. for fans of any of the aforementioned. absolutely loving this! [woodsist](#)

## musée mécanique : hold this ghost

(cd / lp, with very ltd bonus disc) while living in the bay area of california, high school buddies sean ogilvie & micah rabwin developed an affinity for the collection of vintage coin-operated games, player pianos & novelties housed at the musée mécanique (mechanical museum) located on san francisco's fisherman's wharf. much like the recordings of 'hold this ghost', the machines within the museum are a hybrid of technology & humanity. their portland, oregon home studio, itself a collection of interesting instruments & antiques, is peppered in every corner with 2<sup>nd</sup> hand flotsam. tack pianos, trumpets, musical saws & garage sale casio keyboards mingle among forgotten amateur landscape paintings, broken 1930s-era radios & hand-cranked ice cream makers. "their shy yet florid debut is tinged with sadness, like a painted carousel sitting empty in winter, mourning for a time that they - or we - never even knew" 7.2/10 – [pitchfork](#). [souterrain transmissions](#)

## xiu xiu : dear god, i hate myself

(cd / lp, with download code containing 2 bonus tracks) more strangely addictive weirdo bleep-noise-pop from jamie stewart. you may well have seen the controversial video to the album's title track (if not, check it out but be warned – don't do so on a full stomach!) & these kind of theatrics give you an idea of the disturbing nature of the music. now that caralee mcelroy has departed to join cold cave, stewart's vocals are effortless paired with vibrant melodies full of subtlety & distinct sonic accents & xiu xiu's new full-time member, angela seo, adds piano, synth & drum programming (& nintendo ds bleeps), resulting in rich gothic pop music. production is handled by stewart & deerhoof's greg saunier, together proving that art can be pop & pop can still challenge you. if patrick wolf had an older brother who was even more eccentric than himself & slightly deranged, he might well have made this record. "an utterly original mixture of home-studio goth-pop, confessional singer-songwriter outpourings & chamber music" - [new york times](#), 7/10 – [nme](#). [kill rock stars](#)

## the unwinding hours : the unwinding hours

one of glasgow label chemikal underground's best-loved bands is thankfully resurrected : 'the unwinding hours' is the first new music from former aereogramme members craig b & icain cook, since the band split in 2007. moving through the devastatingly loud & slow, to the more delicate & introspective & the unashamedly easy-on-the-ear, the epic music is steeped very much in the post-rock formula that they build on & refine to devastating effect. spectral guitar & piano ballads haunt the record & they aren't shy of dropping a string section into the mix either & as such, this record should appeal to fans of fellow scots frightened rabbit & twilight sad, as well as their previous outfit. "where aereogramme could be overblown, the unwinding hours are measured & mature, without sacrificing one iota of the magnificent heartbreak that defined the appeal of their former outlet...a truly remarkable new beginning" 5/5 – [the skinny](#), "an assured & excellent debut" – [the list](#). [chemikal underground records](#)

## picastro : become secret

since the release of their debut album 'red your blues' in 2001, toronto-based picastro have continued to mine a rich seam of beautifully melancholic (& sometimes menacing) avant-folk / rock. their 4<sup>th</sup> album finds them on top form once again, with the familiar accompaniment of cello, acoustic guitar, drums & piano employed to great effect on songs that incorporate eastern-european folk themes, bleak cinematic soundscapes & dark, unsettling pop. front woman & songwriter liz hysen shares vocal duties on several songs with guest vocalists including tony dekker (great lake swimmers), brendan massei (viking mooses), colleen kinsella (fire on fire, cerberus shoal) & john mcintyre. "picastro mine music from the most extreme intersection of beauty & melancholy" – [pitchfork](#), "compelling, haunting vocals...the beauty of the album unfurls slowly but surely" 4/5 - [the independent](#), "an often tragically beautiful album stuck between swoonome melody & the black dogs of depression" - [rock sound](#). [monotreme](#)

## thao & the get down stay down : know better learn faster

(cd / lp) 'know better learn faster' sports a fuller sound than 'we brave bee stings & all', [kill rock stars](#)' best-selling album of 2008. with more pop tricks & trickier arrangements that incorporate swirling philip glass-like keyboards, pavement slackness, new orleans horns, bluegrass tinged banjo, honky-tonk piano & weeping violins alongside guitar, bass & drums, the album contains a collection of hard learned lessons about love, sex & human connection. it's essentially a more mature record, slightly disillusioned with the world but no less playful & with no less personality. thao conveys a warm exuberance that keeps the music spry despite the weighty subject matter & the band's energy never flags - instead the guitars grow only more manic & urgent as the album progresses. her captivating anti-folk tinged mixture of micachu's quirkiness, florence & the machine's angst & feist's wryly rhythmic way makes for a great 4th record. [redeye](#) / [kill rock stars](#)

## voicesvoices : origins ep

the sophomore release from los angeles duo voicesvoices, recorded by guillermo scott herren (prefuse 73) who deftly melds the guitar drone, percussive beats & vocal loops of nico turner & jenean farris, taking it to a whole new level. this is hauntingly beautiful music that echoes the likes of cocteau twins, the diaphanous union of bilinda butcher & kevin shields's amorphous-androgynous sighs & whispers in my bloody valentine, or more recently, school of seven bells' sisters alejandra & claudia deheza. their fuzzy embraces are effortlessly absorbing in the same way that grouper's hauntingly emotional minimalism is & the subtle electronics work their way in & out, breathing a dark & delicate energy into the veins of each composition. we suspect the full-length is going to be something very special indeed but in the mean time, we'll have to be satisfied by these 5 stunning & hold out for more. "as tasters go, it's exciting fare: the appetite for more isn't so much whetted as left in a state of delightful fervent" - [bbc](#). [manimal](#)

## owl city : ocean eyes

owl city's single 'fireflies' has already sold nearly 3million copies in the us, topped the billboard charts – twice – & the itunes chart in 6 countries, yet he's been relatively unknown in the uk. until now that is – it's all about to change! owl city is the electronic brainchild of adam young, who launched the project in 2007 while living at his parents' home in owatonna, mn. troubled by insomnia, young began spending his evenings in the household basement, where a computer & several instruments provided a welcome diversion from his sleeping patterns. he eventually combined those diversions into a blend of electronica & emo-pop, using little more than his computer & various keyboards to record the material. death cab for cutie / the postal service's little auto-tuned brother – it's gonna be massive this side of the atlantic too. [island](#)

## the postmarks : memoirs at the end of the world

following 2 woefully ignored but delightful albums, the miami trio have thankfully stuck to their lush, orchestrated pop with their 3<sup>rd</sup> album & deliver a sublime marriage of cinematic melodies, sonic experimentation, classic soul harmonies & female vocalist tim yehezkely's sultry, world-weary vocals. as the sleeve artwork might suggest, the band have turned to the mancini/morricone/john barry world of soundtrack compositions for inspiration this time round, embracing all the bold horns, cascading strings & percussive panache that come with it. the result is a beautifully widescreen yet jingly jangly indie-pop affair that sounds like a summery blend of joy zipper, saint etienne & camera obscura – what's not to love?! in short, it's that rare beast – an album that oozes instant appeal as well as rewarding repeated listens. they deserve much higher recognition (or an advert spot at least). [unfiltered](#)

## **ikons : ikons**

an existential & cosmic odyssey...a transcendental adventure...a neo-power-kraut galactic drama in 3 acts. ikons are 6 musicians & 1 video artist. the album was recorded by ikons & mixed by alex palmestål of pistol disco & dan lissvik of studio. the journey starts off at galactic dawn, landing in high speed adventure on an uncharted planet. recorded a year ago, the album has since been reworked to find its musical identity & in the production, they have steered away from muscles & distortion in order to create an elegant & majestic flowing sound form - powerful but frictionless, in constant movement. sitting somewhere between spiritualized, the silver apples, jesus & mary chain & wooden shjips, this is repetitive, hypnotic & utterly kraut-tastic! liking this a lot. [service](#)

## **dave formula : satellite sweetheart**

not many people can say they've played keyboard in legendary punk outfit magazine, beat pink floyd in a battle of the bands competition, starred in a film with the spencer davis group & most impressively, shared a flat with martin hannett & lived to tell the tale. but then again, not many people are dave formula. now, one full year on from the triumphant return of magazine themselves, dave returns with this debut collection of solo recordings featuring new collaborations on new material from fellow band members howard devoto, bary adamson, john doyle & the late john mcgeoch. additional performances are supplied by guest vocalists & musicians david mcalmont, robert wyatt, corinne drewery, joel purnell, dennis rollins & clint boon. dave was introduced to howard devoto in manchester during the 1977 white heat days of punk rock by legendary producer martin hannett. the 2 have worked together subsequently in magazine & luxuria & together they have composed one of the album's centre pieces in 'via sacra', which in turn lit the spark to the recent magazine reformation. [wire-sound](#)

## **caitlin rose : dead flowers**

(cd mini album / 10" lp) hailing from nashville is something of a burden, when you're a country singer but 22 year old caitlin rose is no ordinary country singer. blessed with a startling, precocious native talent, a silvery, bell-clear, brilliant voice & crucially, an undeniable charisma along with a defiant songwriting style all her own, she draws to mind the pure country pop of jenny lewis, the early folk experiments of beck & the sheer cheek of moldy peaches, underlying a gigantic vocal talent scaling the heights of neko case alongside her obvious adoration of loretta lynn, emmylou harris & patsy cline. a precursor to a full length due later in 2010, this is a distilled taste of caitlin rose. her 2 cover versions are the title track, the rolling stones 'dead flowers' turned into a forlorn, pedal-steel infused ballad & an elegant, torch song take on patsy cline's 'three cigarettes in an ashtray'. let rock n roll's tambourine toting little sister into your heart. [names](#)

## **jookabox : deadzone boys**

the 3<sup>rd</sup> album from indianapolis-born david "moose" adamson & co. (previously grampall jookabox) is a love story meets psychedelic zombie-musical. moose grew up on the east side of indianapolis in the 90s, an area plagued by constant recession, pandemic homicide & racial tension. it was this frantic energy & violence that infused itself into the jookabox experience while musically nodding to early ween, black sabbath & fellow indiana native, the king of pop. sonically, 'boys' more or less picks up where 'ropechain' left off but shapes that album's slapdash collection of half-formed songs & killer loops into something bordering on a b-movie soundtrack - adamson's own small-scale escape from new york maybe? a massive leap forward from his previous records, this is the record to finally put jookabox on the map worldwide. "jookabox is still only half-sane, but this time there's more of a method to the madness" - [pitchfork](#). [asthmatic kitty](#)

## **daniel bjarnason : processions**

the debut album from the latest signing to esteemed icelandic label bedroom community. daniel has previously worked with ólöf arnalds, hjaltalín & most famously, sigur rós, collaborating with that band at their abbey road sessions with the london sinfonietta. blurring the line between electronic & chamber music, the constructions of this recording's emotional triggers are wholly unique. from traditional slavic concerto music, remarkable for its virtuosic elements & deeply earnest melodies to the propulsive rhythms of the last movement ('red-handed'), this record covers the spectrum of modern classical composition. 'skelja' offers up a darker, more introspective score for harp & percussion & elsewhere we find the dense texture of the electronic cello choir, the strict economy of a plucked & e-bowed harp, jagged percussion & some extreme piano histrionics, making this a very colourful & engaging set of compositions. [bedroom community](#)

## **broadcast 2000 : broadcast 2000**

finally the debut album lands, following the critically acclaimed ep from the london based band. broadcast 2000 is the musical brainchild of joe steer, a classical music graduate with a unique take on folk using computer-generated looping of acoustic instruments. the multit talented singer-songwriter now takes his bedroom recordings & spices them up with violin parts recorded by acclaimed violinist tom hobden of noah & the whale & additional production by star producer eliot james (kaiser chiefs / bloc party) to complete a record full of mesmerizing orchestral folk-pop compositions. the tracks are veritable symphonic gems featuring smoothly layered vocal stylings & complex yet harmonious musical arrangements that include double bass, cello, guitar, ukulele, glockenspiel & percussion all sung & played on the recordings by steer himself. recommended for fans of mumford & sons, noah & the whale & the leisure society. [gronland records](#)

## **slow six : tomorrow becomes you**

slow six return to their experimental rock roots with their emotionally unrestrained 3<sup>rd</sup> full-length, infused with taught rhythms, unravelling melodies & detailed ambiances that owe as much to tortoise & the dirty three as steve reich & brian eno. in keeping with the slow six mantra, this is still music that changes slowly over time. however, there's a new, welcomed optimism running through this record - in fact, never has the band's light shone so brightly as in the record's finale, 'these rivers between us'. one for fans of the album leaf, clogs & the books. "listening is like slipping into a warm aural bath...tignor's beguiling compositions move seamlessly through several stages of development, often ending up somewhere distant from where they appeared to be headed at the outset" - [wire](#), "in a word - fuck! in four - fuck, this is good!...there is a tradition of post-rock neo-classicism exemplified by rachel's & clogs which slow six fits into, but no band has really attempted to create pieces on this scale before" 8/10 - [pop matters](#). [western vinyl](#)

## **trevor moss & hannah-lou : trevor moss & hannah-lou**

(limited) produced by romeo stodart (magic numbers) & danny george wilson (danny & the champions of the world), this is already being tipped as the defining moment of the modern folk resurgence. this formidable young husband & wife duo possess a seldom seen commitment to truly well written & performed songs, with equal measure of incisive social observation & timeless grace. they spare no time for whimsy or self-indulgence & their music is intelligent, shrewd, yet touching & universal in its sentiment, if a little obsessed with vegetables! their mesmerising repertoire chimes with melody & verse, with a delivery both intense & delightful & their sparse, woody guthrie loving take on english folk could appeal to fans of first aid kit or alela diane as well as more traditional folksters. "they have a real feel for melody & harmony - vibrant & contemporary" - [mojo](#), "they mix traditional brit-folk with early rock & a touch of bluegrass for seasoning" - [nme](#), "reedy note perfect voices" - [guardian](#), "artrocker digs folk album shocker? i'm afraid so!" - [artrocker](#). [loose](#)

## **a broken consort (richard skelton) : crow autumn**

the latest album by english composer richard skelton, who releases haunting & evocative music under a variety of guises through his own much-acclaimed sustain-release private press. from clouwebeck to heidika, carousell to riffmusic, his recordings brim with intensity & stark beauty, redolent of the landscapes that inspire them. recording here as a broken consort - his most prolific & successful pseudonym - skelton expertly builds on the achievements of last year's 'box of birch', creating a dense-yet-delicate weave of textures from a broad palette of acoustic instruments, including guitar, mandolin, piano, violin & accordion. the result is a stunning sequence of swells & eddies, culminating in the orchestral intensity of 'the river', with its torrent of interleaved violin melodies & seething undertow. originally released in 2 installments on the his own label, this special edition for tompkins square distills the essence of those recordings into a coherent whole & augments them with new material, including the beautifully elegiac 'like rain' & the brooding coda of 'leaves'. [tompkins square](#)

## art museums : rough frame

art museums fuse gloriously jangly indie-pop with new wave & even a bit of psych to create a heady mix. the duo of josh alper & glenn donaldson weave vocal harmonies through simple chiming guitars & even the odd crunch of a drum machine, to tell sordid tales of artists, lovers & poseurs. they come across like ganglions after a heavy dose of anglophilia, having spent an entire week listening to nothing but television personalities & the kinks. recorded on a tascam 388 tape machine, (state of the art home-recording circa '85), 'rough frame' is their debut lp & they are off to a great start, with a set of timeless & irresistibly catchy pop songs. woodsisit start the year as they spent all of 2009 – releasing brilliant albums. [woodsist](#)

## nedry : condors

the debut from the london trio, whose gorgeous fusion of electronica, instrumental rock, dub-step rhythms & haunting vocals has already generated quite a buzz in the media. nedry is matt parker, chris amblin & ayu okakita & together they create music to bounce to, rock-out to & get lost in. their beautiful sound & arresting beats are from & for the 'post-' generation - dark & ambient but broken-up & lifted by moments of glitch & fuzzy, melodic guitars. recalling everything from bjork to four tet to pivot, this is a peculiar mixture of sounds that the trio have pulled off remarkably convincingly. "gently skittering electronics & slow-building, spacious ambience - nedry's gorgeous, minimal soundscapes are tailor made for the wee hours" – q, "a sorta apocalyptic hip-pop" – times, "eyeing post-rock's rainswept soundscapes from afar while ensuring the bass & beat are kept running" - stool pigeon. [monotreme](#)

## puerto muerto : drumming for pistols

equal parts sweet & sour, swagger & swoon, the 13 cuts on this swashbuckling new full-length range from the ragtag-circus chantey 'beautiful women with shining black hair' (featuring devil in a woodpile associate gary schepers on tuba), to the delirious bilingual stomper 'tanze', to the sinister swamp-dirge 'song of the moon' (bolstered by john lunday's exquisitely filthy guitar solo). 'the bell ringer', a tender art song inspired by werner herzog subject bruno stroszek, has a ragged opulence, rife with stately strings supplied by tiffany kowalski (bright eyes, head of femur) & handbells. other highlights include the rousing, intricately arranged anthem 'arcadia' & 'tamar', a grimy gospel-tinged rocker ripped from the pages of the old testament. "although the album is very dark in tone in many respects, i think it is a celebration of the changing nature of life & of love," meyer explains. "delicious" 8/10 – nme. [fire](#)

## ben sollee, daniel martin moore & jim james : dear companion

a collaboration between 3 kentucky musicians ; the songs were written & performed by ben sollee & daniel martin moore, produced by & featuring yim yames / jim james of my morning jacket & monsters of folk. recorded in the first half of 2009 in their home state, 'dear companion' explores their ties to the place they love & aims to draw attention to the problem of mountaintop removal coal mining (mtr) & its impact on the people & heritage of central appalachia. a portion of the proceeds from 'dear companion' will benefit appalachian voices, an organization devoted to ending mtr & finding a better way forward. [sub pop](#)

## mondo drag : new rituals

from deep in the cosmos of iowa & from the same interstellar scene that gave you radio moscow, comes mondo drag, orbiting the planet's garage, psych, space, sludge & stoner rock. with a wall of sound all their own, an arsenal of guitars & a head full of clouds, they are on a rock n'roll mission. the band is flying head-first into the future, while channeling artists from the past ; pink floyd, pentagram, blue cheer, even hendrix are part of their musical lexicon, while sonic youth, dead meadow & comets on fire hint to their current references. mondo drag emerge bearing psychedelic sweets that seem to melt as soon as they hit your tongue. [alive](#)

## robert pollard : we all got out of the army

robert pollard simply can't be stopped. indeed, the ever-prolific bard is in the midst of one of the most creative & hyperactive periods of his career. with 'we all got out of the army', pollard delivers yet again. the new album blasts out of the speakers with 'silk rotor', a power-pop gem with a swirling, fist-pumping chorus. this song alone is worth the album price. for the next 38 minutes, pollard puts his unique stamp on sludgy, glam psychedelia ('rice train'), jubilant, synth-spiked pop ('i'll take the cure'), the kind of moody, melodic, perfectly weird rock 'n' roll long beloved by guided by voices fans ('i can see', 'poet bums') & concludes with a haunting acoustic / electric ode with shades of bowie circa hunky dory ('faster to babylon'). [guided by voices, inc](#)

## i was a king : i was a king

hailing from the fjords of norway but with a tinge of glasgow & california, i was a king are the an intriguing blend of so-cal 60's surf-pop fed through an early 90's indie fuzz filter. opening with the spiralling reverb heavy still & rattling through the sub 3 minute college-pop of step aside & golden years, frontman frode stømstad takes us on a romp through 15 snippets of nostalgia & hope. the album features collaborations from emil nikolaisen (serena maneesh), sufjan stevens, daniel smith (danielson) & gary olson (ladybug transistor) & their honey-dipped noise is likely to appeal to fans of teenage fanclub (by name-checking teenage fanclub's norman blake as norman bleik in the way tfc misspelt neil jung, the band have pinpointed where their hearts lie). "imagine matthew sweet's 'girlfriend', only with kevin shields & j mascis subbed in...& you get an idea of i was a king's cumulative, generation-spanning appeal"- [pitchfork](#). [hype city](#)

## boo hooray : haunted

now trading as boo hooray after their escapades as electric music aka. scottish duo tom doyle & anth brown, return with their 3<sup>rd</sup> long player, released on their 69 bluebird imprint. 3 years in the making, its 10 tracks sound like they were made under the influence of talk talk, the blue Nile, elvis costello & the zombies. these mid-tempo songs are high on atmosphere & melody - intimate, soulful pop - nicely grubby & fuzzed like the hangerover's just kicking in. "thoughtful head music. a restrained, comforting mixture of sweet melody & sparkling invention" – nme, "near-unique...these pop songs create their own quiet little world" – q, "cut-&-paste techniques on unlikely soft-rock sounds craft sweet, sad pop songs" – mojo, "a perfect sunday afternoon record. sigh, wallow & hug yourself to your heart's (dis)content" - [time out](#). [69 bluebird](#)

## & so i watch you from afar : the letters ep

asiwya are 4 guys that practice what they preach & live by their epiphanic song title 'don't waste time doing things you hate'. the band have become flag bearers for belfast's burgeoning arts scene. everything about asiwya is gargantuan. their critically acclaimed, self-titled debut album released in 2009 is exhibit a. from the iron-clad riffs to the pummeling crash of the cymbals to the palpable positivity of the music, it's everything great rock (never mind just instrumental rock) music should be. you'll be glad to hear that their new ep is also filled with monstrous guitars, bulging rock histrionics & genuinely breathtaking, demonstrating that they are a band that are only going to get bigger, more inspiring & continue to push the boundaries as far as they can. "if the apocalypse is televised, these guys will provide the soundtrack" 10/10 [radio one](#), "as emotively atmospheric as it is devastatingly overpowering" - [rock sound](#). [smalltown america](#)

## priestess : prior to the fire

after much industry ballyhoo garnered from their intense live set, priestess signed a deal in 2004 & released what is widely regarded as one of canada's greatest hard rock debuts ever, 'hello master'. unlike most hard rock/metal bands that rely solely on ballast & blast to sear their message into grey matter, priestess had an extra trick up their sleeve – they could write a song that could walk the tight rope between being infectious & downright vicious. armed with far more hooks than your average metal band, their unique style of driven melody with metal muscle & marshall stack attack quickly earned them a die-hard fan base weary of death metal grunts & metal clichés. if their calling card 'hello master' was considered lethal, this sophomore effort (produced by david schiffman - system of a down, mars volta, nin), easily trumps it with a devastating display of heaving heaviosity & a new found sense of innovation. the band remains hungry, fierce & focussed & let their progressive rock & hard psych tendencies add to the dynamics. includes download card for bonus tracks. [tee pee records](#)

## matthew neel : new maps of hell

the inside cover of this cd reveals a post-apocalyptic trafalgar square complete with burning buses, a can-opened national gallery & nelson's column snaking off in collapsed sections towards the strand. for such a seemingly gentlemanly acoustic album, this might appear incongruous - the first song sounds like it was recorded at a cocktail party at the savoy sometime in the 1930s but closer inspection of matthew neel's world reveals a catalogue of current psychological ills, from the inevitable environmental to more straightforward existential woes. the genuine pop moments are surfing away happily on top of the angst with the deft guitar playing of cohort luke brightly, with his often lilting beats, keeping the songs relatively light on this accomplished debut that soothes as much as it pricks. [scratchy](#)

## built to spill : there is no enemy

(uk release) the indie rock stalwarts return with their 1st album in 3 years & it comes as something of an unexpected (but very pleasant) surprise to find that the band are wholly revitalised & on very fine form indeed. doug martsch's absorbed & witty wordplay consistently turns lyrical convention on its head & the songs feature a parade of quirky hooks with driving, accomplished backing. the always literate martsch makes a virtue of steadfastness & reflection, while the band attacks most of these songs, giving martsch's reflective songwriting a little more bite. besides connecting the dots between the chugging side of neil young & the slightly warped alterna-pop of the flaming lips, built to spill continue releasing some of the most affecting, beguiling indie rock of the 2000s. *"unexpectedly terrific...easily the best built to spill album of the decade - an improbable late-career reawakening & heartening evidence that becoming dependable doesn't mean having to settle for being predictable"* 7.9/10 - [pitchfork](#). [warner bros](#)

## john phillips : jack of diamonds

(re-release) the 2<sup>nd</sup> release in the ongoing 'papa john phillips presents' album series, following the acclaimed reissue of his 1970 debut solo album, 'john, the wolfking of la'. after the release of 'wolfking...', john phillips worked on a number of diverse film & record projects, including sessions for a 2<sup>nd</sup> solo album, which he recorded intermittently in 1972 & 1973. although that album was never completed, 'jack of diamonds' contains an approximation of what it might have been. the unreleased 13-song album, plus 5 bonus tracks, have been assembled into a new, never-before-heard compilation from original session recordings that were recently located. the 2<sup>nd</sup> solo album was a major departure from the country-rock of 'wolfking...' & pop sound of the mamas & the papas, pushing a more urban, gritty, jazz-rock style (suggestive of later work by steely dan), reflective of time spent in new york with members of andy warhol's factory. [varese sarabande](#)

## john phillips : pussycat

(re-release) the long-lost album that phillips recorded as the 1<sup>st</sup> solo artist signed to rolling stones records in 1976. produced by mick jagger & keith richards, the album reunited them in the studio for the 1<sup>st</sup> time with ex-stones member mick taylor & also features his replacement, ron wood. 'pussycat' presents, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, the recently-located original 70's mix of the album, together with newly-discovered outtakes & material from the 1976 sessions for phillips's soundtrack to the film 'the man who fell to earth', starring david bowie. [varese sarabande](#)

## wilko johnson : the best of wilko johnson volume 1

collected together for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on cd, the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 volumes presenting the finest recordings of one of the most idiosyncratic & iconic guitarists in rock history. included are key tracks from both wilko's time with dr feelgood & his long & successful solo career. julian temple's extraordinary film 'oil city confidential', the story of dr.feelgood, is currently garnering huge praise (*"f\*\*\*ing brilliant! absolutely essential viewing for any music fan"* - [phil jupitus](#)), so this is a timely release. *"great & deeply moving, rock 'n' roll history of one of britain's finest & unfairly overlooked bands"* - [the times](#). [the cadiz recording co.](#)

## wilko johnson : the best of wilko johnson volume 2

collected together for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on cd, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of two volumes presenting the finest recordings of one of the most idiosyncratic & iconic guitarists in rock history. included are key tracks from both wilko's time with dr feelgood & his long & successful solo career. julian temple's extraordinary film 'oil city confidential', the story of dr.feelgood, is currently garnering huge praise (*"f\*\*\*ing brilliant! absolutely essential viewing for any music fan"* - [phil jupitus](#)), so this is a timely release. *"great & deeply moving, rock 'n' roll history of one of britain's finest & unfairly overlooked bands"* - [the times](#). [the cadiz recording co.](#)

## kd lang : recollection

(2cd / deluxe 3cd&dvd) kd lang is a once-in-a-generation artist who has consistently displayed an extraordinary interpretative range as well as remarkable vocal prowess. as lang has matured, she continues to surprise & impress. this retrospective - which includes favourites like 'constant craving' & 'smoke rings', as well as 11 tracks that never appeared on kd lang albums alongside interpretations of classic songs like leonard cohen's 'hallelujah' & the hollies' 'the air that i breathe' - illustrates the strength of her 25 year career. as lang moved from the subversively whimsical cow-punk sound of her early career in western canada to a broader pop palette, she has shown an ever-increasing sophistication, both as songwriter & interpreter. 'recollection' tells the story of this singular artist's evolution, from brash "angel with a lariat" to supremely elegant, yet still reassuringly down to earth, pop icon. the 3cd version contains an extra disc of live & unreleased tracks as well as 11 videos, 9 of which have never been released before. [nonesuch](#)

## pet shop boys : pandemonium (live at the o2 arena, london, 21<sup>st</sup> december '09)

(cd & dvd) captured on their sold out worldwide pandemonium tour, this 2 disc cd & dvd release sees the pet shop boys at the height of their powers. featuring songs from 2009's critically acclaimed 'yes' album plus all their greatest hits including 'west end girls', 'being boring' & 'heart', 'pandemonium' is the definitive live pet shop boys experience; shot in hd & mixed by stuart price. the dvd also features 3 music videos & 2 exclusive live encore tracks performed at the o2 - including a cover of 'my girl' by madness. last but by no means least is the spectacular brits performance from 2009 when the pet shop boys were honoured with the prestigious "outstanding contribution to music" award. this performance features both lady gaga & brandon flowers from the killers. also included is a brand new audio commentary from neil & chris together with the show's creative director es devlin. [parlophone](#)

# d a n c e / e l e c t r o n i c a

## lost idol : brave the elements

(upfront copies, comes with exclusive 4-track bonus ep) superb 2<sup>nd</sup> album from james dean, producer & man behind the cookshop record label, in his lost idol guise. it has been quite a wait since 2006's critically acclaimed 'utters from a cluttered mind', however he has spent this time carefully developing a sound that moves away from the psychedelic songcraft of his debut & into a predominantly instrumental oeuvre that reflects his love for electronica, ambient, krautrock, soundscapes & beyond. 'brave the elements' is a record that does just that; it is an emotive listen that dares to be different & looks in at the world from lost idol's unique creative viewpoint. melodic, atmospheric & beguiling, this is an immersive record that reveals its beauty through repeated listens. fans of four tet, boards of canada, caribou & dextro need this quick smart! highly recommended. *"harnesses raw elements & deftly smelts them into something entirely different & wonderful"* 4/5 - q.

## v/a : fabriclive 50 - dbridge & instra:mental present autonomic

another great instalment in the ever-reliable series, fabriclive 50 has drum & bass artists d-bridge & instra:mental collaborating with a number of top dubstep artists on this dark, incredibly minimal album. from the outset riya gives us shades of burial, using an embryonic layer of synth sounds rising into the echoed, urban female vocals that come to greet it, elsewhere artists such as scuba, skream, abstract elements & actress deliver the goods with plenty of twitchy rhythms, warm sub bass throbs & a definite nod to the deeper, more streamlined & atmospheric side of dubstep. fans of the aforementioned as well as 2562, pinch & martyn will find much to love here. *"the moment 'autonomic' drifts hazily from the speakers, the first thing you become aware of is just how immaculately programmed it is"* 8/10 - [drowned in sound](#). [fabric 591 limited](#)

## v/a : gui boratto – renaissance, the mix collection

(2cd) gui boratto provides the latest instalment of the illustrious 'mix collection', including a blend of exclusive original production & the best in contemporary dance music. gui is one of the most respected producers in electronic music, having collaborated closely with artists such as pet shop boys & massive attack, as well as making his own music for the kompakt label. this mix delivers a floor-filling journey through electro, house & melodic techno with artists such as lusine, josh wink, ben kloock, christian smith, bomb the bass & more.

[renaissance](#)

## ewan pearson : we are proud of our choices

dj, remixer & in-demand producer ewan pearson hooks up with kompakt to deliver this excellent mix that sees him focus on the melodic tech-house sound that he's been cultivating throughout his djing career. neville watson, lusine, john talabot, hot natured, taron trekka & wah chu ku all feature on the mix, which strays away from the more popular club tracks of the year & instead focuses on the secret weapons that pearson has been utilising in his sets of late. it's a perfect match with the kind of quality output we've come to expect from kompakt these days, perfect dance music that works just as well in the club or in the comfort of your own home. [kompakt](#)

## the parks dept. : no/noise

(comes with a free kooky discs compilation) debut full length from the parks dept., who is primarily northampton musician/producer luke farmer. luke first came to prominence on the music scene in 2001 as one quarter of indie-rock band kapowski but he soon began noodling about with electro noises & wrote some proper tracks, the results of which were heard farmer became frustrated with the sterile environment surrounding laptop-based performance & over the past 12 months & has expanded the band to an energized 6-piece, including live drums & percussion banks of keys & guitars. taking elements of lcd soundsystem's spoken vocal lead dance/punk, daft punks synthy alien-disco & anti-con-like blip hop beats, this is fascinating record. "*diy electronica is alive & well & living in northampton*" [bbc weekender](#). [kookydiscs](#)

## charlie alex march : home / hidden

the debut album from charlie alex march is a wonderfully melodic & satisfying affair, gloriously english in a non sniffy manner, like tea & crumpets or a stroll on an autumn day. stylistically, it's a tricky beggar to pin down. certainly there's a hint of apex twin in his most melodic & satisfied state, along with strings (brilliantly arranged by sean o'hagan of the high llamas) & analogue synth swells that recall stereolab, broadcast & vintage bbc radiophonic workshop fare. these varied & inventive instrumentals range from lavish constructions, such as the very grand 'melodie' to smaller scale, intimate performances, as on the prepared piano solo 'telephone song', or 'son of a joe', which does have a tinge of 'drukas' about it. a mish mash, perhaps, but one that's beautifully executed into one satisfying genre-bashing whole. "*a gorgeous english pop daydream with the right balance of the programmed & the pastoral*" – [sounds xp](#). [la recordings](#)

## 4hero & dj marky : the kings of drum & bass

(2cd) the 'kings of...' mix series returns, as ever shining the spotlight on some of dance music's true originators & innovators. 4hero take control of one half of this compilation with a mixture of classic hardcore era drum & bass & upfront monster jams. as pioneers of jungle/drum & bass they massively changed the face of 90's music & made a huge contribution to dance culture. forging ahead with new beats & new techniques, the london duo have released a steady stream of precious moments & crafted a sound which is entirely their own. brazilian superstar dj marky provides the sounds on the 2nd half of this compilation, showcasing the nu-school end of the spectrum. with cuts from caliber, lemon d, rufge kru, q project, nu:tone, logistics & more this is essential listening for d&b heads who appreciate where the scene came from & indeed where it's going to. [bbe](#)

## mavis : mavis (presented by ashley beedle)

an ambitious & sweetly appealing project from ashley beedle & darren morris, named after their shared reverence for the spiritual & soulful sounds of mavis staples & the staple singers, in which the duo uses staples & staples inspired tracks & craft their own grooves outward, with a diverse roster of guest vocalists. 'gangs of rome' features kurt wagner (lambchop) on vocals, with the mix of soaring soulfulness & the right kind of moody country noir vocals from wagner working exceptionally well, while 'puzzles & riddles' with ed harcourt & 'what you looking for' with john turrell go to more of a spiritual soul vibe. elsewhere guest spots from candi staton, edwyn collins, cerys matthews & sarah cracknell (saint etienne) make this a project that prides itself in being steeped in rich musical history but operates in a most modern mind set. [lk7](#)

# hip hop

## madlib : madlib medicine show # 2 - flight to brazil

madlib's monthly self-released cd series continues, this time with an 80 minute guided tour through rare-as-heck brazilian funk, psychedelia, prog-rock & jazz. certainly he trod this path before (on the superb 'speto da rua' mix for mochilla) but this time around there's more of a slant on the psyched-&-smoked side of his brazilian predilections, segueing from seductively exotic tropicalia to fuzz toned psychedelia. another must-have from this crate-digging prolific producer extraordinaire. [madlib invasion](#)

## oh no : dr. no's ethiopia

oh no follows his excellent 'dr. no's experiment' album by diving into stonies throw & now-again label-head egon's record collection for a region-based instrumental beat album. this time he's offered up 36 tracks inspired by & sampled from rare 60s & 70s ethiopian funk, jazz, folk, soul & psychedelic rock. what we're presented with here are concise beat-heavy interludes & nuggets which make a perfect marriage between the original grainy source material & oh no's intuitive beat science. this has a wonky lopsided quality that pays homage to the legacy of j-dilla while proving to flying lotus, ras g & crew that the left coast old guard still know their way around a hard edit. "*'ethiopia' rests on the ability of oh no's alchemy to preserve just enough of the original sound to make its origins recognizable, but still finds a way to whittle it down to shards & fit it to his own, differently-angled approach*" – [pitchfork](#). [disruption productions](#)

# world

## v/a : brazilian guitar fuzz bananas – tropicalia psychedelic masterpieces 1967-1976

(enhanced cd with documentary 'what are fuzz bananas?'). collated by the same expert team of archivists behind the recently released 'psych funk 101', this awesome comp should serve as a master class for those entranced by the funky, heavy psychedelic wonders of the tropicalia movement & all that it spawned but, as the liner notes state, "you won't find os mutantas or their maestro rogerio duprat on this compilation. there is a reason that the records contained here have never been reissued...some of the rarest, & best, examples of fuzzy, funky brazilian psychedelia came out as promo-only 7" records." each song contained on this album has never been reissued & has been restored from the best source possible & remastered for near-perfect sound quality. the giant 24 page full color booklet contains a wealth of imagery & detailed annotation & liner notes in both english & portuguese. other there brilliance! [world psychedelic](#)

## justin adams / juldeh camara : the trance sessions

following many months of touring, taking their raw afro-blues to increasingly enthusiastic audiences, justin adams & juldeh camara took the spirit of the live performance back to the recording studio. these recordings are their first featuring ex-shriekback drummer marty n barker & each track was recorded in one take, with no overdubs, capturing the spirit of their raw afro-blues. juldeh, using griot skills honed since childhood, stirs the music into a frenzy while adams' drone guitar can provide sheets of sonic attack, often closer to the velvet underground's 'sister ray' than most conventional world music. with a true african sense of time & structure, there's no 3.30 here. repetition builds on each track that grows slowly from song to abstraction, infused with psychedelic energy, a web of sound far greater than the sum of the 3 players' parts, utterly captivating & invigorating stuff – highly recommended. [real world records](#)

## v/a : ethiopiennes vol. 24 - golden years of modern ethiopian music 1969-1975

mad music from the golden years of ethiopian music & a set that's going to grab you every bit as much as the first few famous volumes of the ethiopiennes series. like those sets, the collection here is completely fresh - sounds that really blow us away in their unique mix of styles - bits of american soul & funk buried somewhere down in the rhythms, complicated by a host of regional touches that include offbeat reed passages, romping basslines & incredibly heartfelt vocals that are more than moving enough, even if you don't understand the language! fortunately, the booklet also offers notes in english too, along with some fascinating historical details. a fabulous collection. [buda musique](#)

## v/a : ethiopiennes vol. 25 - modern roots 1971-1975

an amazing return to form for the ethiopiennes series - wonderful cuts from that early 70s moment when ethiopian music was really exploding with new ideas! if you've dug some of the other sets in the series, especially those by mulatu, tlahoun gessesse & mahmoud ahmed, you'll find plenty to love here. the rhythms are exotic, the instrumentation unusual & the sounds out of this world. it's really amazing stuff that breaks down any conventions you might expect - exactly that fresh spirit that's been taken up by so many younger artists in recent years. as with other volumes, notes are both in english & french, with lots of images too. [buda musique](#)

## f o l k

### v/a : the village

until about 1963, popular folk music retained its apolitical image, but that didn't last. mccarthy was gone, the red scare era was over & the left-leaning singers were no longer blacklisted. the older protest singers like seeger, havens & odetta burst back into the scene, singing at gatherings for the burgeoning civil rights movement & with the vietnam war escalating, the peace movement. the music which sprang from greenwich village in the late 50s & the early 60s were the seeds that became the social movement of the rest of the decade. at no time in history has music ever played such a role in changing the social conscience of an entire nation, & eventually the world. 'the village' celebrates this music & these times. [proper](#)

## r e g g a e

### v/a : harder shade of black

(reissue) jamaican youth producer leonard 'santic' chin first arrived in the uk in 1974. while staying in london he compiled & released his debut lp, built around his then current successful jamaican 7" recordings, the classic 'harder shade of black' album. & now, almost 36 years to the day after he 1st flew in from kingston, this classic set gets the reissue treatment courtesy of pressure sounds. this is a classic roots album comprising of crucial selections featuring vocals from gregory isaacs, roman stewart & horace andy alongside some wicked early pablo workouts & superb king tubby dubs. this version includes extra bonus tracks from augustus pablo, santic all stars, jah woosh & paul whiteman. [pressure sounds](#)

### byron lee & the dragonaires : the man & his music

(2cd) in the years before reggae or even ska was known outside of the caribbean, byron lee was the 1st band leader to achieve an international following playing jamaican music & played a vital role in popularizing it around the world. when bob marley was a struggling young musician & of the little-known wailers, byron lee was probably the most well-known jamaican band leader in the world. this collection celebrates an amazing career that spanned over 50 years, with 48 byron lee favourites all-remastered along with extensive liner notes. [vp](#)

## v i n y l

### indignant senility : plays wagner part 1

(v.limited lp - only 100 copies for the uk) pat maherr has hand-crafted music of a beguiling nature under a plethora of names for some time, with indignant senility being his guise for cask-strength industrial ambience. using a handful of dusty wagner pieces (no doubt scored from one of portland, oregon's many thrift stores), he has stretched & distorted the hallowed tones into something indescribably dark & beautiful. like david lynch's peerless 'eraserhead' soundtrack before it, this is music that sounds as if you are being dragged through rusted pipes & hearing the distant swell of broken gramophones playing in unison. maherr has created music that is at all times exquisite but deeply disturbing. like leyland kirby or even william basinski, there is a sense of harmony, nostalgia & restraint in the layers of hiss, grit & noise. bleak, but beautiful. [type records](#)

hot chip : one life stand (very limited gatefold heavyweight double lp + bonus 7" with 2 exclusive tracks (bubbles & do not wait) + numbered print of album artwork) [vinyl factory](#)

magnetic fields : realism (lp & cd) [noneseuch](#)

the album leaf : a chorus of storytellers (2lp) [sub pop](#)

## d v d

### blur : no distance left to run (documentary)

(2dvd) a brilliantly produced documentary/live package about the undisputed kings of britpop. this film tells the members' story of how it all came together, fell apart & was reassembled. from albarn & coxon's school days in colchester, the band's early years as written off neo-baggys & albarn's realisation, on a tour of america, that their proper subject was england. with previously unseen archive material alongside revealing new interviews & reportage, the film recounts blur's highs & lows, culminating in their triumphant reunion gigs at glastonbury & hyde park (which is featured in its entirety on the 2<sup>nd</sup> disc). "no one looks old & the chemistry is still there. you can only hope that this isn't the last we'll hear from them" 4/5 - [mojo](#). [parlophone](#)

## m a g s

wire : #313 march 2010 [alasdair roberts](#), [dylan nyokis](#), [geiom](#), [yabby you](#) & the thirteenth assembly.

word : # 85 march 2010 [goldfrapp](#), [john hiatt](#) & more + free covermount cd

clash : #47 march 2010 [courtney love](#), [hot chip](#), [midlake](#) & [broken bells](#). includes free gallows documentary dvd.

## singles

# single of the week

### esben & the witch : lucia, at the precipice

(ultra limited 7") gorgeously haunting, slow building, siouxsie inspired "nightmare pop". the 1<sup>st</sup> official release (following the self released ep & split dance to the radio 12") from brighton's hotly tipped (& rightly so) 3 piece who've been bubbling under for a while now & are ready to brim over the cauldron's edge. this year's the xx? [too pure](#)

### fucked up : couple tracks / heir apparent

(ultra limited 7") recorded in november 2009, these 2 new tracks were given away with mail order copies of the album of the same name via matador, only in the states. even though the album was called 'couple tracks' - the song didn't appear on the album. now us lucky few of us uk people can have them too. [matador](#)

### dum dum girls : jail la la

(7") not a new song but it has been re-recorded & given the richard gottehrer treatment for dee dee & co's excellent forthcoming sub pop debut 'i will be'. it still nods equally to noise poppers & girl groups but things shine a bit brighter. b-side is a cover of 'play with fire' by the rolling stones. [sub pop](#)

### hot chip : one life stand

(ultra limited 12") huge slice of infectious bittersweet electronic pop from hot chip, once this one gets under your skin it's impossible to resist! backed with an exclusive b side 'build a house'. [vinyl factory](#)

### the moons : nightmare day

(7") straight out of northampton, the moons are fronted by paul weller's keyboard player, andy crofts & also feature chris ketley from the recently defunct rakes. this, their debut, is a glorious 60s-inspired indie pop affair, bringing to mind the coral & the zutons. [acid jazz](#)

### los campesinos! : romance is boring

(7") los campesinos! return with a huge slice of catchy indie pop in the form of 'romance is boring' taken from their new album of the same name. features brand new b-side 'too many flesh suppers'. [wichita](#)

### the low anthem : to the ghosts who write history books

(7") new single taken from the critically acclaimed album 'oh my god, charlie darwin', 'to the ghosts who write history books' is a beautiful song that finds the low anthem at their most reflective best. [bella union](#)

### the big pink : velvet

(limited, beautifully embossed 12") re-release of this standout track from their 'a brief history of love' album. b-sides are 'velvet (perversion)', which reworks the single in a more stripped down fashion & a cover of otis redding's 'these arms of mine'. [4ad](#)

### uffie : mc's can kiss

(12") the 1<sup>st</sup> lady of electro pop is back. produced by mr oizo, it's an old skool soundclash of heavy beats & sharp rhymes, a 'pass the dutchie' for the modern era. remixes come from some new kids on the block, zombie disco squad & starkey. [ed banger](#)

### air formation : low december sun

(limited 7") brighton based air formation return. with influences including jesus & mary chain & flying saucer attack & with a love of the cure & galaxie 500, 'low december sun' is the 1<sup>st</sup> single taken from the new album & is a slice of dark melodic pop in the vein of the cure's 'disintegration'-era songs. [club ac30](#)

## pre-orders

we are very happy to take pre-orders for any titles that you would like to have reserved when they are released. we can usually do this for you from a few weeks prior to release onwards. this can be especially useful for limited edition albums or 7's which tend to disappear quickly or cd singles which we don't always stock in great quantity. it also means that you will be able to have any freebies that come with the album / single (posters, stickers, badges etc) reserved for you too.

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although we do try to cover as many new releases as possible, it will never be possible for us to take everything that is released, so if there is anything that we do not stock, we are more than happy to order it in for you. also, we don't carry a huge range of albums on vinyl but again, anything available on vinyl can easily be ordered in for you at no extra cost.

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