

# out this week.....

## album of the week

### ali farka touré & toumani diabaté : ali & toumani

what a pairing these 2 proved to be! these incredible 2005 sessions brought together the african music legends for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time & offer us a reminder of what a powerful musical force ali farka touré was. touré was a truly exceptional & original guitarist (known as the "african john lee hooker") & was the first to introduce desert blues to the world. toumani diabaté is from a younger generation of malian musicians & he comes from a family of exceptional griots. he's the world's foremost kora player & the leader of symmetric orchestra, an african big band that features diabaté & over 50 other musicians with an idea of modernizing traditional music in mali. he too is a performer of truly exceptional virtuosity & creativity & his 2008 release 'the mande variations' was once of our top picks of the year, so we're very happy to have another hit of his brilliance. you really don't need to be a world music aficionado to enjoy this record – soothing & quiet but brimming with life, it is a calm but intense experience that is utterly mesmeric. "will certainly join the ranks of recordings that are "beyond criticism"" – *allthatjazz*, "remarkable both for the delicacy & composure of the playing & the sheer variety" 5/5 – *guardian*. [world circuit](#)

## rock / indie / psych / kraut etc.

### efferklang : magic chairs

(cd / lp) newly signed to 4ad, the copenhagen-based quartet make their label debut with their 3<sup>rd</sup> full-length. since 2000, they have been quietly honing their craft (along with an ever evolving number of collaborators), fusing left-of-centre electronic beats with grand orchestral gestures. 'magic chairs' follows 2007's 'parades', an album that was difficult to define but even harder to fault & here, they continue their evolution, exploring previously uncharted territory. the result is an intimate & immediate record that exudes warmth. the grandiose classical structures heard so prominently on previous releases have been replaced by something far more streamlined, deconstructed & altogether melodious. highlights include 'modern drift', with its intricate & looping arpeggios, whilst 'i was playing drums' is arguably their most accessible pop song to date with melting strings & trickling piano & 'full moon' is 80s electro-pop filtered through a toyshop orchestra. imagine blue Nile or Talk Talk orchestrated by Owen Pallett combined with Múm's more recent poppy explorations & Sigur Rós' 'gobbel digook' joyousness & you'll see where they're coming from now. [4ad](#)

### marina & the diamonds : family jewels

marina (& the diamonds) diamanthis is living, breathing, belting, vogue-ing proof of the damn-near unfathomable possibilities contained within organic pop in 2010. she's the complete songwriter/performer. 50% greek, 50% welsh, 100% frolicking fairytale creature. a girl with virtually no musical schooling, for whom heart scorching choruses miraculously seem to appear at the tips of her fingers with each increasingly preposterous limb fling. a voice that both lures sailors to shores & wards ships from rocks. a mind that hacks apart the fabric of now & serves it up in an ice-cream sundae for all to guzzle down. her quirky songs show off both marina's eccentric personality & her unique voice, for she possesses that oh-so elusive ingredient. marina just has it & 2010 is hers for the taking. "jewel in the crown of the future-pop frontier, with plans as big as her anti-anthems" – *nme*, "hailed as the new kate bush & certain to be one of 2010's most ubiquitous tips, her debut album proves she's got the depth of tunes & ideas to match the hype" – *the guardian*. [679](#)

### toro y moi : causers of this

(cd / lp) toro y moi has featured on pretty much every "who's gonna be big in 2010?" list you can think of, from *nme* to the *guardian*, *pitchfork* & *time* out. south carolina's chaz bundick gathers up the best musical elements from around the globe - r&b, indie rock, electronic dance & psychedelia - & creates perfect post-club music, blissed out slow-burning landscapes, subtle rolling beats, layers of leftfield soothing synths & wobbly, soulful vocals. the album references everyone from eno to the beach boys, prince to j dilla & talking heads...or as one journalist put it: "it's kind of how animal collective would sound if they spent a year listening to old soul & motown records before laying down their new lp". the multi-cultural juggernaut mixes up daft punk-esque beats with passion pit-esque falsetto warbling, atlas sound-esque sloppy melodies & those ubiquitous 80's synths. the resulting record is less glo-fi than it's been touted to be - less in yer face than passion pit or mgmt, instead sitting more comfortably alongside the chillwave of memory tapes or neon indian. [carpark records](#)

### strange boys : be brave

(cd / lp) whilst we were big fans of the texan band's debut, 'the strange boys & girls club', it seems that the band had a whole lot more to offer & with this follow up, they've really nailed their sound. although 'be brave' draws from the same well as their debut, it is quite a different beast. with an expanded line-up featuring seth densham & jenna thornhill of mika miko & darker my love's tim presley, the overall sound is much swamplier, with its murky sleazy lurch evoking long, messy nights somewhere in the deep south. the awesome title track & 1<sup>st</sup> single is a perfect example of them bringing together catchy garage-punk, traditional rock n' roll & swamp fuelled country-blues. the expanded use of instruments (such as the surprisingly effective saxophone interlude on the aforementioned title track) demonstrates how they are progressing as a band, gradually developing a sound that is theirs alone. scuzzy, disharmonious & utterly vibrant, this phenomenal young group are both timeless & refreshingly avant-garde & we're loving them! [rough trade](#)

### loscil : endless falls

(cd / lp) the stunning 5<sup>th</sup> full length release by scott morgan under the loscil moniker. this bewitching album begins & ends with the sound of rain recorded by scott in his back yard, precipitation being a constant presence in his home city of vancouver. many of the other sounds on the album are derived from these same recordings, processed & combined with other harmonic sounds to create the textures & drones. even if you've been blown away by this man's compositions before, this record takes morgan's minimal ambience to a whole new & quite beautiful level of droney loveliness. he's even incorporated vocals (of a sort) on the final track - a first for any loscil composition, contributed by daniel bejar. jason zumpano is the only returning performer from past collaborations - he is responsible for the piano parts. kim koch & robert sparks make appearances on violin & bass recorder. cranky fans know what to expect but still may not be ready for the might of this one. check it out if stars of the lid, pan american, tim hecker et al float your boat. highly recommended! [cranky](#)

### holly miranda : the magician's private library

(cd / 2lp) 27-year-old holly miranda's debut album has had the magic touch of tv on the radio's dave sitek, who has taken on production duties on this hypnotic yet dramatic offering. recorded before holly had a record deal during all night sessions at sitek's new york studio & featuring cameos from fellow tv on the radio members kyp malone & jaleel bunton, it's an atmospheric album of modern folk that straddles the murky, otherworldly path between sol seppy, st.vincent & mazy star, all with the very recognisable sitek touch that elevates this beyond the standard female singer-songwriter fare. "a largely low-key record, one that melds sitek's familiar studio trickery with a drifting, ethereal atmosphere as reminiscent of mazy star or the cocteau twins as anything sitek has put his name to before. sound is deployed layer by layer, miranda's tender, soulful voice floating across an intricate backdrop of icy synth, digi-percussion, heavily treated guitar & occasional sunny horns, courtesy of stuart bogie & eric biando of new york's antibalas afrobeat orchestra" *bbc*. [xl](#)

## **brian jonestown massacre : who killed Sgt Pepper**

(cd / 2lp) featuring not only will carruthers of spaceman 3 on bass but the full-time return of guitarist/songwriter matt hollywood into the fold as well, the brian jonestown massacre follow up the shoegazed sprawl of 2008's 'my bloody underground' with the equally well-titled 'who killed sergeant pepper?'. for those who know the band only as '60s rock/'80s shoegaze revivalists, or as the head-kicking hedonists of 'dig!', this may be the album that dispels you of such notions. recorded in iceland & berlin, the new disc spins from ambient electronica beats, moody bhangra folk, thunderous rock, krautrock & eastern-tinged psychedelia, in places (as on the euphoric dancefloor antics of 'feel it') coming across like a modern-day 'screamadelica'. "a remarkable collection of songs" 4/5 – *the skinny*, "this feels like the most structured set of recordings newcombe has been involved with in many a year" – *drowned in sound*. ['a' records](#)

## **krystle warren : circles**

debut effort from krystle warren who hails from kansas city, missouri. she has the kind of assured quality about her voice that makes her sound like a veteran, sashaying elegantly among the hidden corridors linking jazz, blues, folk, funk & pop with absolute ease. the musicianship on the album is flawless - from the basis of a simple percussive guitar, warren's team of musicians build tracks with layers of playful saxophone, dextrous bass lines & with greatest effect, the slide guitar that gets a welcome outing on the stand out 'current events'. whilst comparisons to tracy chapman, nina simone, joan armatrading, norah jones, madeleine peyroux & erykah badu spring lazily to mind, warren has a distinctively forthright style of her own that carries her through the album's maze of eclecticism. "warren's talents are extraordinary...she's the real deal" – *guardian*, "we are certainly in the presence of a mighty talent" – *bbc*. [because](#)

## **cluster : qua**

the durable & ever-reliable krautrock duo of roedelius & moebius return as cluster for their 1<sup>st</sup> proper studio album since 1995. as ever, their signature sound of beguiling yet playful electronics remains intact, drawing you into a world of other-worldly synths, skittering drum machines & plenty of alien atmospherics. it's beautifully engaging stuff, showing electronic-based music can have a truly human heart. "runs the gamut from cold space-station ambience to serene minimalism to shuffling electronica, while maintaining a commendable consistency" 4/5 – *uncut*, "17 glinting sketches skimming delightfully between choppy motorik travelogues, trembling, arcadian synth sketches & empyrean radiophonic hymns" 4/5 – *mojo*. [klangbad/broken silence](#)

## **valgeir sigurdsson : draumalandid**

'draumalandid' ('dreamland') is the latest release by renowned icelandic producer & composer, valgeir sigurdsson who has previously worked with an impressive array of artists including björk, bonnie 'prince' billy, coco rosie, múm & many more. it is the score to the critically acclaimed icelandic documentary feature film of the same name & for this soundtrack, valgeir has brought out a heavier set of tools with the record featuring his entire roster of bedroom community label mates contributing in some way to the creation of the score : classical composers nico muhly & daniel bjarnason, industrial wizard ben frost & american folksinger sam amidon, along with a host of others, as well as musicians from the iceland symphony orchestra & soloists nadia sirota & borgar magnason. the small orchestra assembled for the record swells from moments of expansive beauty into massive, surging symphonic force. the harmonies are anxious, pulsing, driven but it's still all beautifully subtle & delicate. fabulous stuff! [bedroom community](#)

## **josh rouse : el turista**

the 8<sup>th</sup> studio album from the american alt-country singer is inspired by his move to valencia, spain & takes influence from the legendary cuban singer bola de nieve. rouse takes his midwestern roots & fuses them with folk stylings from brazil, venezuela & cuba. with such colourful & intriguing references, he creates a warm & bittersweet record. "i know it's kind of funny, this midwestern guy doing brazilian songs in spanish," says josh rouse about his new studio album. "i don't know if it fits, but i like the way it feels." unexpected & utterly sublime, 'el turista's sultry song cycle shuffles seamlessly in tandem with 'getz/gilberto' & 'graceland', albums as boldly surprising in their eras as 'el turista' is in this one. the record marks a new direction for the critically acclaimed cult artist, while offering the musical sophistication & emotional depth rouse's devoted fans have come to expect from him thanks to a consistently enthralling body of work highlighted by the modern-day landmarks '1972' (2003) & 'nashville' (2005). [bedroom classics](#)

## **quasi : american gong**

(cd with bonus disc 'so far, so good : a quasi anthology' / lp with download code for the full album) indie-rock mainstays quasi, whose members have performed stints in sleater-kinney, heatmiser & stephen malkmus' jicks, return with their 8<sup>th</sup> album. they've switched labels, from the chicago-based touch & go to kill rock stars, which is based right in their back yard in portland, ore. 'american gong' hits all the major pleasure centres dead on : sam coomes' writing is arch-but-lovable, fusing cobain-like couplets & lurching melodic chops to supreme effect, whilst the bombastic production underlines that janet weiss is one of the very best - & most swinging - rock drummers of her generation. the bonus cd catalogues the greatness of quasi over their 16 years in action. "a pop band for people who like their pop throttled" – *carrie brownstein*, "a peach of an album from start to finish" – *the skinny*, "the scene-stealing guitar solos, the ever glorious weiss-created rhythms & the more focussed musical direction leaves 'american gong' feeling like a rebirth of a band too often dismissed as an afterthought...their best for some time" 8/10 - *dis*. [domino records](#)

## **jason & the scorchers : halcyon times**

almost 30 years into their career, jats have made a rock 'n' roll record as dynamic & mind-blowing as their vintage work. opener 'moonshine guy' is full of bravado & bravery, whilst 'mona lee' is certainly as exciting as anything the band has ever recorded. warner e. hodge's guitar work has never been better, full of style & inspired originality, while jason ringenberg rocks like he's still 18, leaping off the edge of the world, laughing while doing it. pontus snibb & al collins supply that elusive, magic rock 'n' roll groove, full of energy but grounded in unhurried power. however, like all classic rock records, 'halcyon times' has more than enough moments of sublime grace to balance out the hormones. listen to the 12-string guitar on 'land of the free' or put on headphones & let 'mother of greed' take you down a road that winds from northern wales in 1910 to birmingham, alabama, in 2009. hodge & brad jones' production has succeeded in capturing the live energy of the band, with enough added ear candy to keep you coming back for repeated listens. [jerkin' crocus](#)

## **tom mcrae : alphabet of hurricanes**

the british singer-songwriter has been quietly moving up the ranks of the most respected songwriters in the world today after releasing 4 critically acclaimed studio albums over the last 9 years. now, after a year away from touring, during which tom moved back to london from brooklyn, he releases his 5<sup>th</sup> studio album. 'the alphabet of hurricanes' is mcrae's most ambitious album to date, recorded over 3 years in studios, hotel rooms & backstage both in the us & uk. having set up his own studio, gunpoint, in east london, mcrae has been taken charge of the production once again, with his haunting melodies & poetic lyrics given a new sonic palette in an eclectic selection of powerful songs. "reinforces his status as one of britain's better songwriters. using banjo & mandolin, he's made a beautiful, contemplative record" 4/5 - *guardian*. [cooking vinyl](#)

## **alkaline trio : this addiction**

(deluxe cd & dvd containing a full 18 song live set & 6 cd bonus tracks) from the opening seconds of the title track of their 7<sup>th</sup> studio album, it appears the chicago-bred threesome may have found the place their entire career has been leading to. while the album's opener blazes at a tempo reminiscent of the band's 1998 debut 'goddamnit' & features a signature matt skiba lyric of fatal co-dependency, the whole affair feels strangely...comfortable? by the time 2<sup>nd</sup> track 'dine, dine my darling' kicks in with dan andriano providing his traditionally lighter foil to skiba's obsidian musings, it's clear : alkaline trio has settled into an unforeseeable maturity - at least by alkaline trio standards - & it suits them just fine. whether pervading the darkly perverse blue velvet-inspired strains of skiba's 'dorothy' or andriano's sardonic 'fine', this newfound air of ease owes no small debt to the fact that this is the 1<sup>st</sup> physical manifestation of their own heart & skull label, formed in partnership with epitaph records. for fans of green day, rancid, afi & my chemical romance. [heart & skull / hassle](#)

## the features : some kind of salvation

the new album by tennessee brethren the features is released with a little help from their friends, kings of leon. the first act to be released on kol's new label, the band have also been supporting kol on their us & european tours. kol fell in love with the features' sound, energy & explosive live show. 'some kind of salvation' weaves a sound that can be described as a bulging mix of scrappy white-boy soul with their influences running the gamut of popular music over the last 50 years. "powerful & poignant, the features are difficult to ignore" - the guardian, "we've been long-time supporters of the features, they're one of the best undiscovered bands in the world & we're excited to be releasing 'some kind of salvation'" - Jared Followill, kings of leon. [serpents & snakes](#)

## leatherface : the stormy petrel

sunderland's hardcore troubadours are back with their long awaited album, on their own record label, big ugly fish recordings. the album takes its title from the nickname of joseph hodgson who was hailed as a hero dozens of times after risking his life to save others from the stormy seas that battered 19th century sunderland. the critically acclaimed punk band, fronted by frankie stubbs, has influenced many bands around the world & had a major effect on the usa punk scene. from the moment stubbs opens his mouth & utters the words, "god is dead" - his voice cracked with abuse & strained with a resigned anger & frustration - he's got you locked in & hypnotized for the long haul through the album. that voice is a treasure & backed with the wildly emotive sonics supplied by philliskirk, drummer stefan musch & guitarist dickie hammond, it creeps straight down to the bone marrow of anyone listening. [big ugly fish](#)

## the go find : the everybody knows it's gonna happen only not tonight

belgian knob-twiddling crooner, dieter sermeus, returns with a 3<sup>rd</sup> collection of songs as the go find. as ever, dreamy indie pop is the order of the day here, with swirling synths, subtle electronics & acoustic guitars providing a lush backing for dieter's effortless yet reassuring vocals. there's echoes of hall & oates, as well as the soft-rock pastiches phoenix excelled at on their debut album 'united'. closing in fine style, the blissed-out, autotuned slow 80's disco 'heart of gold' sees the album out brilliantly, leaving you with the sense that sermeus is far from a spent force & that there's plenty more good stuff to come. euphoric laptop-augmented guitar pop for fans of styrofoam, postal service & the notwist. [morr music](#)

## arch garrison : king of the down

craig & sharon fortman, creators of the wonderful north sea radio orchestra, return with a beautiful stripped down album that shows off craig's songwriting skills & amazing ability as a guitarist, particularly on the nylon-stringed acoustic. its pastoral themes, referencing the river thames, roman roads & dog walking on the wiltshire downs, are reminiscent of nick drake, with a little organ added to give the record an almost medieval tone at times. with a nod to classic folk & 60's psych-pop, this is a lovely downbeat affair that fans of nsro will love. "a cheerful slice of lo-fi loveliness...ideal for the chill winter nights" - clash. [domino](#)

## eight legs : the electric kool-aid cuckoo nest

eight legs bring spiky, jerky indie-pop noise on their new effort. an interest in drugs & the human condition fills the record, alongside musings on love, life & the various frustrations of growing-up in a seemingly unexciting generation, with nothing to offer but the same-old saturday night rough & tumble. it brims with social commentary that is poetically charming in its beating heart honesty & youthful naivety, while simultaneously throwing out stabbing shards of insightfulness & raw awareness. plenty of jangly guitars, shouty choruses & pop hooks all with an alternative slant, make this one for fans of good shoes, the mystery jets & the futureheads. [bootlegs](#)

## dakota suite : the night just keeps coming in

not so much a remix album as a remake of dakota suite's 'the end of trying long-player', reconstructed according to the original record's tracklisting with the help of an absolutely sterling cast of artists including machinefabriek, peter broderick, hauschka, deaf center, jacaszek & tape to name but a few. the new "versions" on offer here are utterly beautiful, with highlights including peter broderick's overhaul of 'this falling sea' featuring haunting piano & distant field recordings to stunning effect, hauschka adding sparkle to 'a quietly gathering tragedy' using electronics & music box mechanics & swod adding melancholic string swirls to 'een langzaam lekkende wond'. a brilliantly realised project, working coherently throughout to make up one beautiful & haunting neo-classical work. highly recommended! [karaoke kalk](#)

## lonelady : nerve up

manchester's julie campbell, releases her atmospheric, taut debut album on warp. campbell is a self-styled writer, vocalist & guitarist. with little more than thorny determination & a shoestring budget, she built a secluded ramshackle studio in the belly of one of manchester's crumbling mills & created 'nerve up' in just 4 weeks. the aesthetics of this ex-mill were a pure joy for lonelady & invoked the ghosts of bands she loves (like joy division, esg, wire, grace jones, the fall, suicide & pill), grainy anton corbijn-like black & white images depicting the kind of spaces that have barely changed over the past 30 years, where ghosts stretch from the past & point to the future. co-produced by julie & guy fixsen (mbv, the breeders, stereolab), an omnipresent clack & judder of a drum machine underpins almost everything on this unusual, 80's inspired record. "'shadowplay's' stoic motorik rhythms loom through 'immaterial', magazine-nodding guitars chop & cut through their way through the cavernous 'intuition' & the lean paucity of a martin hannett production is an inspiration throughout" - dis. [warp](#)

## last harbour : volo

the manchester collective return with their 4<sup>th</sup> album. from dusty laments to doom-filled rock, from starkly beautiful duets to drifting clouds of looped noise, there's always an intensity that strikes hard underpinning kevin craig's sorrowful cavernous baritone. the album's title refers to a type of early 20<sup>th</sup> century child's toy ouija board & to the latin word for "a desire" or "a will" - both are a good fit. by relinquishing control of the record, instead handing it over to producer richard formby (wild beasts, herman dune, spacemen 3, dakota suite) to complete, last harbour have created a space for the unseen & unheard to become realised. "with their gothic archness & deathly strings, last harbour's 4th lp is their most expansive to date" - uncut, "a perfectly realised example of their modus operandi" - clash. [little red rabbit](#)

## the courteeners : falcon

(cd / 2cd with 5 additional tracks) 'falcon' is the 2<sup>nd</sup> album from the manchester based outfit, produced by ed buller (suede, pulp, white lies) & mixed at the legendary electric lady studios in new york by michael brauer. the album sees the four piece build upon their sound, creating a set of impressive soaring indie anthems, showcasing their poignant passionate songwriting with liam fray's everyman lyrics at the forefront. marking a huge leap forward for the 4-piece, 'falcon' proves that there is more to the courteeners than a cocky strut. it's a slower, much more introspective prospect than its predecessor, with fray's lyrics softened by time spent on the road. these songs manage to build into something epic without being overblown & feature some genuinely affecting lyrics. [polydor](#)

## erik hassle : pieces

the latest in a long line of scandi pop artists emerging into our charts, erik is a massive word of mouth success in sweden. his debut single there, 'hurtful', has already spent over a year at the top of the swedish single & airplay charts. his debut single here, 'don't bring flowers', is an addictive & powerful slice of acoustic-synth pop - a moment of high lyrical melodrama, about being "so deep into the shit i can taste the earth" & how "each day i die in a million ways" - these lyrics are the torn out pages of a secret teen diary - whose chorus begs "don't bring flowers after i'm dead, save your givings for the living instead". a collection of powerful & dramatic songs, 'pieces' is a full on pop album filled with sweeping melodies & grand romantic gestures destined for sales as big as his hair. [island](#)

## **ben+vesper : luvnidleness**

this record began in ben + vesper's kitchen a few years ago over bowls of vegetarian chilli, a pan of cornbread, filtered water & an agreeable dinner guest by the name of sufjan stevens. the occasion was an invitation to play at a house-concert series that ben + vesper hosted in their living room. this unlikely start to sufjan's performing career also resulted in an ongoing friendship & musical dialogue that has recently inspired ben + vesper to dish out another dollop of ambrosial pop songs titled "luvinidleness". this new ep brought things full circle as sufjan invited the jersey-based couple to record over at his studio. the result is a charming collection of off-kilter pop harmonies & lush arrangements that fans of sufjan stevens, beirut & dirty projectors should check. [sounds familyre](#)

## **baby dee : a book of songs for anne marie**

american performance artist & singer/songwriter baby dee returns with a new album, of sorts. although the songs on this album were originally released as part of a david tibet book in 2004, they've now been re-recorded, produced & arranged by maxim moston from antony & the johnsons. a unique talent, baby dee has in the past drawn comparison to antony for her trembling falsetto vocal delivery. however, she undoubtedly occupies her own respectful position as a multi-instrumentalist also, playing harp, piano & accordion here, accompanied by flute, french horn, cello & mandolin on a collection of songs full of unexpected musical flourishes. equal parts side shop stomp, smoky cabaret torch songs & dissolute pop, this is one for fans of antony & the johnsons, marc almond & will oldham. [tin angel](#)

## **leonard cohen : leonard cohen's jukebox**

(2cd) while leonard cohen has enjoyed a comeback of religious proportions over the past few years, the man & his music still resonate with the same poetic language, genteel but never easy melodies & statuesque, albeit often dark, humour. rarely though has he worn his musical influences on his sleeve. this contains 25 tracks which illustrate the diverse & often surprising selection of music that has inspired & influenced him throughout his career. featured here are songs from the ronettes, the righteous brothers, judy collins, joan baez, billie holiday, hank williams, bob dylan, joni mitchell, jack kerouac & more, giving a rare insight into the composers & performers he respected most. [chrome dreams](#)

## **lawrence english : it's up to us to live**

aussie composer lawrence english delivers a work that unfolds & reveals his delicate sense of textural depth while exploring densities & flows. in his own words, "only offering the occasionally moment to surface for air. much of this lp's sound textures emanate from distant calls of guitar, sharply cracked electronics, alien field recordings & a variety of other less identifiable sources". it's a serious headphones album of extremely well-crafted droning electronic music. on this release, english doesn't really stray from his well honed experimental laptop explorations & pristine digital drone workouts but to be honest, as he's one of a few artists who get this consistently right (machinefabrik & fennesz being his 2 most equal obvious contemporaries), it's enough to have more of the same. it's a well paced, dystopian, yet very enjoyable set of compositions. [sirr](#)

## **black sabbath : black sabbath**

(reissue) remastered, deluxe digipak gatefold packaging with 20 page booklet containing rare & previously unseen photographs & images. black sabbath's debut album is given over to lengthy songs & suite-like pieces where individual songs blur together & riffs pound away one after another, frequently under extended jams. there isn't much variety in tempo, mood, or the band's simple, blues-derived musical vocabulary but that's not the point; sabbath's slowed-down, murky guitar rock still bludgeons you in an almost hallucinatory fashion, revelling in its own dazed, druggy state of consciousness. "*this blueprint would be refined & occasionally elaborated upon over the band's next few albums, but there are plenty of metal classics already here*" – [allmusic](#). [sanctuary](#)

## **black sabbath : paranoid**

(reissue) remastered, deluxe digipak gatefold packaging with 20 page booklet containing rare & previously unseen photographs & images. 'paranoid' was the sabbath's most popular album as well as standing as one of the greatest & most influential heavy metal albums of all time. it was on this record that they really refined their signature sound, namely crushingly loud, minor-key dirges loosely based on heavy blues-rock, applying it to a newly consistent set of songs with utterly memorable riffs, most of which now rank as all-time metal classics. "*monolithic & primally powerful, 'paranoid' defined the sound & style of heavy metal more than any other record in rock history*" – [allmusic](#). [sanctuary](#)

## **black sabbath : master of reality**

(reissue) remastered, deluxe digipak gatefold packaging with 20 page booklet containing rare & previously unseen photographs & images. the follow-up to 'paranoid', this album repeated the sabbath tried & tested formula but they still sounded fresh as ever & had a seemingly endless supply of crushingly heavy riffs to bludgeon their audiences into sweet, willing oblivion. indeed, tony iommi contributes some amazing playing here, with the slow, loud riffs of 'sweet leaf' & 'children of the grave' ranking as some of his finest work with the band. "*its influence can be heard throughout the generations of heavy metal bands that followed*" – [allmusic](#). [sanctuary](#)

## **the chameleons : what does anything mean? basically**

(reissue, 2cd) this new expanded version of the influential uk post-punk act's 1985 sophomore album features 10 previously unreleased demos. this record marked the band's fascination with digital delays, pedals & making the studio an instrument, making them sound at once all the more unique while avoiding a repetition of earlier work. the empathetic fire that infused burgess' words for songs like 'singing rule britannia (while the walls close in)', a poetic attack on the thatcher government, finds itself matched as always by brilliant playing all around. john lever's command of the drums continues to impress & fielding & reg smithies remain guitarists par excellence. the sublime combination of 'looking inwardly' & the soaring, blasting rip 'one flesh' leading into a relaxed instrumental 'coda', anchors the 2<sup>nd</sup> side, while 'p.s. goodbye' provides a lovely, melancholic conclusion to an astounding record. classic. [blue apple music](#)

## **john phillips : john the wolfking of l.a.**

(re-issue) john phillips has been called one of the greatest pop songwriters of the later 20th century. the songs he wrote & performed with the mamas & the papas are pop classics : 'california dreamin', 'monday monday' & 'creeque alley' among them. in 1969, john phillips was moving past the mamas & the papas & assembled a collection of songs at his home studio that would eventually become his 1<sup>st</sup> solo album & the only one to be released during his lifetime. it is an album reflective of the changing era & the ever-changing composer & arranger. playing on the album are many of the session musicians who contributed to the success of the mamas & the papas, elvis presley & ricky nelson, as well as countless other recordings in the 60s & 70s & whom john dubbed the "greatest players in the world" (including hal blaine, larry knechtel, joe osborn, james burton, buddy emmons & red rhodes). this expanded & completely re-mastered edition features 8 previously unreleased bonus tracks, all recorded during the original sessions for the album. [varese sarabande](#)

## **james blackshaw : sunshrine**

(reissue) originally issued in 2005 by the digitalis industries label, 'sunshrine' is the shortest of blackshaw's early recordings. it is comprised of just 2 tracks; the title piece at 26-odd minutes & the shorter but no less beautiful, 'skylark herald's dawn'. as ever, blackshaw's amazing contemplative guitar work holds everything together, augmented by indian sarod, harmonium, organ, bells & bowed cymbals. 'sunshrine' is pristinely recorded & is developed by combining modal notions of indian raga with long drones juxtaposed against various melodies & fluctuating rhythmic pulses & dynamic textures. [tompkins square](#)

## **james blackshaw : celeste**

(reissue) 'celeste' originally surfaced in 2003 & set the blueprint for just about every solo recording he's made since. while the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the album finds blackshaw in solo 12-string mode, the 2<sup>nd</sup> deviates from the well-trodden takoma-styled path & heads into an effects-laden drone composition. this sort of style-melding approach would come to characterise more mature works in his canon but there's something particularly compelling about hearing such a raw talent in its incubative period. [tompkins square](#)

### **dennis wilson : pacific ocean blue**

(reissue) dennis wilson's classic lost masterpiece now comes as a single disc along with 3 bonus tracks. this, his one issued solo project, is certainly a product of its time, both musically & texturally, revealing a songwriter who was looking to stretch out on his own & engage a vision of music that stood far outside what the beach boys were capable of. the psych-soul album was originally panned by wilson but it's a real gem for any fan of the beach boys or wilson brothers. "a classic, blissed-out, coked-up slice of 70's rock & pop that is as essential as fleetwood mac's 'rumours'" 4.5/5 – all music guide. [sony bmg](#)

### **arthur brown : the crazy world of arthur brown (deluxe edition)**

(reissue, 2cd) remastered & expanded, includes rare single tracks, a bbc radio one session from april 1968 & alternate mono mixes from the album sessions. arthur brown's psych-rock classic burst forth in 1968, topping the album charts on both sides of the atlantic & spawning the hit single 'fire'. the rock world discovered the delights of supreme showman arthur brown & his influence would be felt the following decade when alice cooper acknowledged his debt to arthur's genius. produced by who manager kit lambert & who guitarist pete townshend, this remains an exhilaratingly reckless slice of psychedelia. [esoteric](#)

### **local natives : gorilla manor (limited collector's edition)**

(cd & dvd / lp) special edition version including a bonus dvd of live footage, acoustic performances & outtakes. in case you missed this sun-soaked gem from late last year their hazy, hippy soul calls to mind the likes of fleet foxes, ra ra riot, yeasayer & the walkmen but it's all a lot more laid back & breezy than the work of these contemporaries. the lush vocal harmonies are backed with symphonic strings, lolling drums, sleepy piano & powerful percussion to create a swell of sound that rises & falls & carries you along on the wave. "a stunning debut, feeling simultaneously familiar & challenging & presenting a sweeping collection of tracks that are at once cinematic & sonically lush, swelling & serene. 'gorilla manor' manages to linger on like the best sort of lazy afternoon, lifting spirits like a warm & fleeting pull from a flask on a bitter evening. this one's not to be missed" – music ohm. [infectious](#)

### **lisa hannigan : sea saw (special edition)**

(2cd) the 28 year-old irish indie/folk singer just ended a long-time musical partnership with damien rice. she sings with the same angelic translucence as bjork but as soon as you tune into her lyrics, she reveals herself to be an artist who's disarmingly original & endearingly idiosyncratic. who else compares their lover's sadness to "a pre-shelled pistachio". her album is sensory paradise sprinkled with alliteration & honeycombed with warm, romantic imagery. the release of this special edition album sees lisa round off a spectacular 12 months whereby she was nominated for a mercury prize. this edition includes a bonus disc with 6 live tracks & 2 videos. "a beaming presence. rice's next work is a plainer prospect without her. his loss is our gain" – financial times, "mesmerising" – the times. [hoop recordings](#)

### **hawkwind : alien 4**

(reissue, 2cd) new re-mastered edition featuring rare bonus track 'space sex' & a lavishly illustrated book with new essay. at the end of 1994, with hawkwind established as a 3 piece of guitarist dave brock, bassist alan davey & drummer richard chadwick, they felt they were lacking visually in terms of showmanship. ron tree, who had been involved with groups in the english free-festival scene, had offered his services & the group accepted. this, the resulting album which came out in 1995, was a serious attempt to go back to the calvert years & saw the band adopt modern influences within their unmistakably unique style to produce a collection of wonderful material. [atomhenge](#)

### **roedelius : wenn der südwind weht**

(reissue) bureau b continue their excellent krautrock/ambient reissue series with roedelius' 7th solo album from 1981. on this record roedelius pushes his music outside the territory he & moebius usually occupy with cluster. on 'freudentanz' the music truly lives up to the title ('joy-dance' being an approximate translation of the title) with more than a little chuck berry breaking into the normally unearthly electronic body of roedelius' work. in a complete about-turn in terms of mood, 'saumpfad' takes the more ambient approach explored in his previous solo albums & takes it to a darker, more intimidating place. like cluster's final albums prior to going on hiatus, 'wenn der südwind weht' is a document of unbridled exploration that resonates as loudly today as ever. [bureau b](#)

### **13th floor elevators : 7th heaven - music of the spheres**

(limited edition digibook with a new 16 page booklet) for the first time, the original 45rpm mono mixes of the 13th floor elevators' 7 singles (a & b sides) for international artists records have been compiled on a single cd. completing this brand new package are the 4 tracks from the ultra-rare 'french riviera' ep - 3 of which are unique stereo mixes. includes a detailed analysis by paul drummond of the extraordinary history of the band told through their singles. "the fearless trailblazers of psychedelia & one of the most kick-ass rock bands ever...for 2 or so years they burned with a flame so fierce that 40 years on they still remain an inspiration" – mojo. [snapper](#)

### **owl city : maybe i'm dreaming**

(reissue) a re-release of owl city's 'maybe i'm dreaming' album, originally released in 2008. [island](#)

### **owl city : of june**

(reissue) a re-release of owl city's 'of june' ep, originally released in 2008. [island](#)

## **dance/electronica**

### **v/a : ellen allien - watergate 05**

5th instalment of the innovative compilation series by famous berlin club watergate, this time with ellen allien at the helm providing a sleek & well programmed mix of microhouse gems & electro movers. john tejada, luciano, alexi delano & dj yellow all make the grade on this occasion, while the sound of her own imprint comes under representation from aerea negrot & agf/delay. the mix really comes into its own towards the end of the disc however, with matias aguayo & alexei delano cueing up an apparat remix of royksopp's ace karin dreijer andersson (fever ray/the knife) collaboration & allien's own 'pop the clock (uffi remix)' leading into agf / delay's 'connection', as overhauled by heartthrob. [watergate](#)

### **v/a : balance presents electric05 - mixed by emerson todd**

the balance mix series rolls on, this time with new zealand ex-pat emerson todd at the controls. from releasing singles on respected labels like trapez, get physical, cocoon, anabatic & dirtybird, to working as an audio engineer for the presets, emerson's output of late has been prolific, winning him support from the likes of sasha, digweed & richie hawtin along with dj'ing alongside top drawer names such as luciano, dubfire & dj sneak. this is an assured mix that moves effortlessly through the many shades of house & techno, from deep & warm to dark & rolling, with artists such as guy gerber, adf, jonas kopp, strict border & android cartel all getting plays here. [balance](#)

### **v/a : boogybytes vol. 5 - mixed by seth troxler**

although born & raised in detroit, seth troxler is making himself quite a name closer to home now, thanks to a recent move to berlin. with this mix for bpitch control, his aim was to do something which would set itself apart from all the trends & yet paint a picture of his newly adopted hometown. its palpable deepness occasionally harbours a touch of melancholy, yet never becomes overwhelming. seth's particular way of combining the most varied of musical elements is shown both in his fitting track selection & in his remarkable mixing technique, paying homage both to his detroit roots & to the minimal house style of his new home. includes cuts from luciano, the royal we, spectrum, fever ray (as remixed by seth himself), heartthrob, roman flugel & kiki. [bpitch control](#)

## zero db : ones offs, remixes & b-sides

(2cd) superb collection of rarities, vinyl-only releases, remixes & all that jazz from zero db. over the years, zero db have garnered praise from the likes of gilles peterson amongst others for their forward-thinking sound which fuses elements of jazz, brazilian music & electro together, culminating in a sound which is always tough & primed for the dancefloor. this features some of their finest moments to date with remixes of the likes of the pharcyde, quantic, bonobo, alicia russell, hexstatic & more. make no mistake, this has big basslines in abundance. another tru thoughts sure-shot. [tru thoughts](#)

## hip hop

### epmd : strictly business

(reissue) a stone cold classic from the golden age of rap. this pair from long island dropped the dopest rhymes with ease, sounding like they spoke them all the time. their debut single 'you gots to chill' was a perfect example of the epmd revolution; two obvious samples doing battle over a high-rolling beat, with the their fluid, collaborative raps tying everything together with a mastery that made it all seem deceptively simple. "there was really only one theme at work here - the brilliancy of epmd, or the worthlessness of sucker mcs - but every note of 'strictly business' proved their claims" - [allmusic](#). [emi](#)

## soul

### dr buzzard's original savannah band : dr buzzards original savannah band / meets king

#### pennett

(reissue) dr. buzzard's original savannah band were one of the most original sounding outfits of the disco era. a skilful blend of big band, hollywood-styled strings, swing influenced grooves & rhythm & percussive techniques, aimed directly at the dance floor. they played around new york city & upstate, usually dressed in cool 40s gangster garb; doubled breasted suits & fedora hats. they made a huge impact on clubs around the world & became regulars at studio 54. these 2 albums were the biggest records of their short lived career, originally released in 1976 & 1978. [super-bird](#)

#### jimmy hughes : why not tonight? the fame recordings volume 2

kent's 2<sup>nd</sup> volume of jimmy hughes' recordings compiles his sought after fame album of the same name plus a host of bonus tracks, 14 in all, that are all previously unavailable cd. 'why not tonight?' was recorded at the famed muscle shoals studio & has that beautifully gritty sound that defined some of the finest soul records of the late 60s. in fact, it was on these recordings that the studio began to define its signature sound. as such, this compilation is a mighty fine mix of ultra high quality ballads & a raft of splendid dance cuts & comes highly recommended. [kent](#)

#### n'dambi : pink elephant

n'dambi began her career as a backing singer for erykah badu, something which comes as no surprise when you hear the quality of her voice on this new record. with veteran soul producer leon sylvers (whose credits include shalamar, black street & gladys knight) at the helm, this is a record that channels voices of the past into a modern rendering of all that is good about soul & r&b music, as much a tribute as a compelling bearing of the torch. from beats to bounce to ballads, this is quality fare that fans of jill scott, erykah badu & angie stone should investigate. [concord](#)

## blues

### eric bibb : booker's guitar

eric bibb's latest recording captures the spirit of the original delta blues of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century & reinterprets it for a new era. he recorded the title track, one of his own compositions, using delta blues legend booker white's 1930's vintage resophonic national steelbody guitar that had been recently re-discovered. the remaining tracks, although recorded in rural ohio on bibb's own guitars, sprang from the same well of inspiration. somewhat bizarrely, meditation guru deepak chopra is cited as an inspiration on 'with my maker i am one', 'flood water' looks back on the mississippi disaster of 1927, while on 'tell riley', he takes the opportunity to reprise his homage to bb king. "the acoustic blues revival is in safe hands" 4/5 - [times](#). [telarc](#)

## country

### johnny cash : america vi - ain't no grave

gone but not forgotten, this is the 6<sup>th</sup> & final instalment of johnny cash's acclaimed american recordings album series, produced as ever by rick rubin. this is very much a companion volume to 'american v' : acoustic, downbeat, almost wholly devoid of percussion, cash's voice a wracked, whispery drawl. whilst the song choices here are slightly more obvious than those of past volumes, there's still some terrific performances from cash as he contemplates his final days & the meeting of his maker. tom paxton's 'where i'm bound' & kris kristofferson's 'for the good times' are particular highlights, on the latter cash's elementary delight in one of country music's set texts takes on an eye-misting beauty. the album also features a never before heard cash original, 'i corinthians: 15:55', written in the last 3 years of his life. "anyone seeking a full stop to the longest goodbye in music history is advised to find it at the end of american vi" 4/5 - [times](#), 4/5 - [independent](#). [mercury](#)

## folk

### kathryn williams : the quickening

kathryn williams is setting herself up to enjoy quite a distinguished middle period, now reaching her 8<sup>th</sup> studio album. last year's record with neill maccoll proved that she is as adept at collaboration as she was on her quiet, folky lonesome & 'the quickening' does nothing to derail her very comfortable ascent. the mournful restlessness of the opening '50 white lines' recalls james yorkston's 'shipwreckers' in its marriage of activity & lyrical intrigue - we're immediately drawn in by the colours & counting voice in the background, cleverly ending the song as soon as it hits 50. elsewhere more tender, traditional paeans are the order of the day. "possibly britain's most talented folk artist" - [q](#). [one little indian](#)

### kath bloom : thin thin line

new album from cult american folk singer, on mark kozelek's caldo verde label. backed by members of the love at work band, bloom sounds every bit like a woman who has spent years in the wilderness. against the elegantly rustic folk backdrop, which swirls with fiddle & harmonica, she sings about fragile hearts & precarious relationships with tender, maternal authority. an earthy, unpretentious presence, she can snap a heart like a twig on the title track & 'heart so sadly'. her voice is shaky & imprecise but as always, it's all the more affecting for its imperfections. when she sings wordlessly & forcefully in her upper register on 'another point of view', the effect is harrowing. when she whoops through 'i'm thinking of love' or chirps out the sing-songy 'freddie', she sounds joyful even if her words are not. [caldo verde](#)

## jonny kearney & lucy farrell : the north farm session

jonny kearney is a young songwriter from hexham way & lucy farrell is his kentish accomplice. they met while studying in newcastle & were soon spotted by the unthanks, who invited jonny & lucy to open for them on their uk tour. on this record, kitchen sink dramas & tales of the heart are played out by jonny & lucy with tender, quiet reserve on guitar, piano, fiddle, viola & saw, while lucy's pure & graceful voice is the perfect foil to jonny's melancholic tones. similarly, the unlikely combination of farrell's english folk upbringing & kearney's american songbook background has resulted in a quality of songwriting that belongs to the dylan/thompson/waits school, rather than the myspace corridors of modern singer songwriting. heartbreaking, enthralling & magical in equal measure. "delicate, thoughtful & intimate" 4/5 – [guardian](#). [rabble rouser music](#)

## kathy mccord : new jersey to woodstock

(2cd) kathy mccord's lone record for cti records has long been a cult folk-psych classic, rated highly by all those who enjoy nick drake, vashti bunyan & their ilk. its cult status has been boosted by its incredible scarcity – a true holy grail in collector circles, if ever there was one. thankfully big beat have stepped in to reissue the album & the set now includes both sides of a rare, pre-cti single & nearly 20 demos that kathy cut in woodstock during the 1970s, with more than a little help from paul butterfield & co. recorded at the dawn of cti's existence, this is among the most unusual records in the label's catalogue. it's a sublime mix of folk & jazzier arrangements & fans of vashti, nick drake, linda perhacs & trees will find much to love. 'new jersey to woodstock' is most certainly a musical journey worth taking. [big beat](#)

## ian a anderson : time is ripe (rare psych folk from the village thing years 1970-1973)

first ever reissue on cd. in 1969, country blues singer/ guitarist ian a. anderson took a left swerve into what now gets called psych folk or acid folk – heavy, science-fiction & fantasy influenced songs & acoustic guitar instrumentals – releasing 3 albums on the cult 'alternative folk' label village thing. 4 years later he returned to roots music, locking away the masters & refusing all pleas to let them out again until now. with 2010 marking the 40th anniversary of village thing, a spate of books on the music & the era & high prices being paid for old vinyl copies, here's the pick of those vt years, remastered from the original tapes, with 3 previously unreleased tracks. arrangements span from solo acoustic guitar to full blown band, recorded at legendary rockfield studios with a line-up including drummer pique withers, who went on to power the original dire straits. [weekend beatnik](#)

## among the oak & ash : among the oak & ash

on 'among the oak & ash', pennsylvania-born new yorker josh joplin & the mississippi-bred, nashville-based garrison starr lend their distinctive voices to a dozen folk songs, some self-penned, some traditional, drawn from rural appalachian & anglo-american musical idioms. although much of the material is centuries old, the songs' eloquently simple melodies & their universal themes of love, loss, longing, cruelty & death give them a timeless resonance into which joplin & starr tap effortlessly. with the duo's evocative harmonies complemented by spare, stripped-down arrangements, this is a powerful testament to joplin & starr's interpretive abilities & to the ageless appeal of these ancient tunes. "there's an engaging charm to the album that's hard to resist" – [independent](#). [verve](#)

# world

## v/a : nigeria afrobeat special - the new explosive sound in 1970's nigeria

this is the 4<sup>th</sup> in an ongoing series of releases collecting nigerian music from the golden years of the 1960s & 70s. miles cleret & co. have focused this time on the afrobeat scene that sprung up in the wake of fela kuti's explosive 1<sup>st</sup> afrobeat records. it kicks off with fela's highly sought after original version of 'who're you' & the following tracks all contain the seed of fela & tony allen's revolutionary idea – a big band sound dominated by wailing saxophones, brass solos & relentless poly-rhythmic grooves. it is fantastic stuff & these guys far from simply mimick fela's sound - there are jazzier sides, more heavily percussive tracks & mellower tunes too & only one of these tunes has ever had the reissue treatment, so this makes this yet another essential soundtrack release. as is custom, it comes packaged beautifully with rare photos & essential info on all the artists featured. highly, highly recommended. [soundway](#)

## razia : zebu nation

madagascar's razia said, issues a soulful & poignant musical call for an end to environmental & cultural destruction in her native land. 'zebu nation' is the outcome of a personal journey that began in february 2007 when razia returned to madagascar to reconnect with the land she left as an 11 year-old child. featuring razia's smooth & soulful voice, 'zebu nation' weaves malagasy music styles such as tsapiky & salegy with contemporary arrangements to create an uplifting & accessible sound rooted in the indian ocean island's strong musical traditions. 'zebu nation' features some of madagascar's most celebrated instrumentalists including the guitar & marovany (a box lyre) player dozy njava & accordionist regis gizavo. [cumbancha](#)

# soundtracks

## john parish : ost – she, a chinese

xialolu guo's 'she, a chinese' has been winning praise across the film festivals, with british musician, producer & pj harvey collaborator john parish providing the soundtrack which aptly mirrors the film's themes of leaving & longing & a young woman on a soul searching journey. parish & guo agreed they didn't want to use typical chinese music; flutes, bowed strings & so on & that they wanted something unexpected & contemporary that would reflect the energy, rawness & contradictions of the film's main character mei. what john composed for the film was instead something that is both fragile & powerful – pounding drums, banjos, drones – with an air of melancholy about it too. additional tracks here include contributions from chinese punk-rock bands muma & hang on the box as well as an early track from feist. [dreamboat records](#)

# vinyl

## wolf people : tidings

wolf people, the first london-based band signed to the jagjaguwar label, unleash their own particular brand of classic rock on their debut, 'tidings'. the songs have one foot firmly in the past, with hissing guitars & harmonica filling up songs loosely based on old blues structures & folk ballads but there's plenty of the present day on here too, as those same songs are cut up with field recordings, the hiss of winding tape & squeals of feedback. indeed, extended spins reveal that this is a collage as much as it is a rock record, its 1960s-redolent guitar anthems pieced together with odd tape experiments & kraut-referencing canned beats. rich & analogue, authentic & well executed, bringing to mind past masters such as cream & captain beefheart as well as contemporaries such as dungen & white denim. [jagjaguwar](#)

leyland kirby : sadly, the future is no longer what it was (ultra limited 6lp collection – be quick!) [history always](#)

the soft pack : the soft pack (comes with a very limited free tote bag & badge set, while they last) [heavenly](#)

first aid kit : the big black & the blue [wichita recordings](#)

# m a g s

record collector # 373 – march 2010 jimmy page, stephen stills, pink floyd, millie small, eddie kramer, frank sidebottom....

## single of the week

### archie bronson outfit : shark's tooth

(7") the excellent abo return, taking another bold step into the unknown, based in tradition but manipulated into totally new forms. 'shark's tooth' is a warped slice of psych-rock egyptian space disco produced by the dfa's tim goldsworthy that offers up a tiny taster of the direction the band are exploring on their new psych-rock extravaganza of an album, 'coconut'. [domino](#)

### sun araw : sun ark

(7") following their all-slaying 'heavy deeds' opus, sun araw kick off the new year with this taster of their forthcoming album. this is proper psych-haze bliss, like king tubby tweaked on loop, before flipping over to 'live mind' for more tropical vibes, beach dwelling percussion & chorused guitar squawking. [not not fun](#)

### chapel club : o maybe i

(limited 7") quality pop noir from the hotly tipped editors / white lies followers. 'o maybe i' is a tune about miserable love life angst & is proof that gangly guitar music is still alive & well when backed up by a bit of mbv & booming basslines & drums. [east city records](#)

### tung : hustle / the source

(7") new single taken from the brilliant forthcoming album, 'and then we saw land', this is tung at their most cheery, slightly eccentric best! includes exclusive b-side 'the source'. [full time hobby](#)

### blood red shoes : light it up

(7") 'light it up' sees a progression & pairing down from laura-mary carter & steven ansell that echoes their diy/punk roots. as steven explains, "it's like our pixies formula song, just groove on the verses then smash the distortion up full on the chorus. it's about craving for chaos & upheaval & destruction because it might actually change something". [v2](#)

### frightened rabbit : nothing like you

(limited 7") precedes the release of the hugely anticipated new album & is backed by previously unreleased bbc session track 'learned your name', performed solo by frontman scott hutchison. the glasgow based 5-piece are set to break through to the big time this year... & about time too! [fat cat](#)

### hot club de paris : with days like this as cheap as chewing gum, why would anyone want to work?

(10") a new 6 song ep which finds the band still operating with their usual punk-rock ethic, proudly keeping diy alive by producing & recording all their new material themselves. the songs here combine both fun & sadness with the band's usual unmistakable british brand of eccentricity. [moshi moshi](#)

### jack sparrow : terminal / tormented

(limited 12") jack sparrow returns for pinch's tectonic, on mighty form & currently unassailable. where the a side bears a new school flex with some future proofed funkstep manoeuvres, 'tormented' on the flip arrives fully basted - glacial movements, a rockstone bass lays waste as gradual tension & eventual dementia build. [tectonic](#)

### f : energy distortion part 2

(limited 2 x 12") f is the alter ego of french producer & dj florent aupetit, whose dubstep productions have been grabbing attention from all the major players including appleblim, pinch, martyn & scuba. traversing different worlds, atmospheres & vibes, 'energy distortion' features much sought after unreleased tracks & brand new material. [7even records](#)

### gil scott-heron : me & the devil

(7") the 1<sup>st</sup> single to be taken from the critically acclaimed new album, backed with an amazing alternate version, exclusive to this release - 'me & the devil' (nyc orchestral version). [xl](#)

### girls : morning light

(7") the 4<sup>th</sup> single taken from the san fran band's critically acclaimed debut, 'album', comes backed with a cover of skeeter davis' 'the end of the world'. [fantasytrashcan](#)

### eprom / eskmo : hendt / lands & bones

(limited 12") a taste of san francisco's finest, this double a side 12" is split between 2 of the west coast's most-watched producers. eprom's 'hendt' is a dancefloor monster in his trademark style - a lazer-tinged gangster-lean pulse that speaks to both the codeine-sipping & the all-night raver contingent alike. eskmo's 'land & bones' is a lurching, soulful dubstep clatter rich in lyrical melody & artfully crowned with swan's icy vocals; forward for the dancefloor, layered for the headphones - braincandy that moves feet. [warp](#)

### two door cinema club : undercover martyn

(7") the northern irish band draw on disparate elements including electronica/electro, rock & afro-beats, whilst remaining resolutely fresh & inventive. "it's herky, it's jerky, it's mile a minute, it's everything we love about guitars & boys" - nme. [kitsune](#)

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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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