

o u t t h i s w e e k

album of the week

joanna newsom : have one on me

(3cd / 3lp) newsom's 1st album since 2006's masterpiece 'ys', makes up for lost time – it's a triple album treat! these 18 songs total about 2 hours but don't let the prospect of such a lengthy listen either put you off or make you doubt the quality of the songs – the time will fly by (although having to change the discs is an unwelcome interruption to the seamless flow) & rest assured, there's not a weak track in earshot. her arrangements have an incredible lightness of touch – some tracks are just harp, others add horns, kora strings & percussion & then there's obviously *that* voice...it's still squeaky & girlish but it doesn't sound nearly so fragile here. the record has a beautifully warm feel that makes for a very intimate listen. featuring ryan francesconi & neal morgan from her ys street band, this is an extravagant & colourful musical masterpiece. if you're already a fan, this will be an absolute delight for you. if you've not yet discovered the wonders of joanna's harp drenched exquisiteness & are a fan of 'a kick inside'-era kate bush, this is the perfect introduction to the siren. highly recommended! "a sprawling work of unquestionable artistry that's as clever as it is poignant" 5/5 instant classic - mojo, "she's a total genius, the most important living musician right now" – devendra banhart, "remarkable" 5/5 – uncut, 9.2/10 – pitchfork. drag city

rock / indie / psych / kraut etc.

archie bronson outfit : coconut

(limited cd & dvd) the scottish blues psych visionaries have taken another step into the unknown & although this record is recognisably theirs, they have taken their established sound, travelled back in time & have manipulated what is theirs into totally new forms. prepare yourself for a 70's psych-rock space disco explosion – a modern psychedelic testament delivering a visceral shot of pleasure! be warned though – it takes some getting your ears round if you come to it expecting more of the same vital intensity that made up 2006's superb 'derdang, derdang' – but the patient will be rewarded – you'll soon discover a record that's bursting with warped inventiveness. production comes from dfa's tim goldsworthy (lcd soundsystem, the rapture, hercules & love affair) & the dvd features videos for the entire album, most of them made by the band, some by artist friends & collaborators, all showcasing archie bronson outfit's own unique vision. highly recommended & a real grower – as all the best records are. domino

tung : ...& then we saw land

(cd / lp – includes an indies only bonus remix cd) the new album from the twisted pop wonders tung, is their lightest, most uplifting album yet. they may have lost a founding member but their sound is fuller than ever. this may well be due to the influence of their recent touring buddies, the malian desert bluesmen tinariwen, who seem to have had an effect on how the band construct their songs : as mike explains, "we learned that you don't always need structure! as long as there is presence, emotion & groove. it taught us that everything is open & adaptable". packed with big choruses & joyful tunes, this record has been described by mike's friend as "epic folk disco brass magnificent" , a description we couldn't possibly compete with! 3 songs contain what the band describe as "the megga chorus" – a 15-strong group of collaborators & drinking buddies who lent their voices to the album one rainy night in an abandoned school hall. becky jacobson takes centre-stage on much of the album which gives the album quite a different feel to previous records. a consistently fine band. "a revealing, liberating experience that finds them leading the field again" – bbc. full time hobby

errors : come down with me

the 2nd album from the scottish "post-electro" band, signed to glaswegian post-rock legends mogwai's label, rock action. the 4-piece draw upon elements of their paymasters' post-rock influence, as well their own intelligent style of electronic pop – kind of holy fuck meets explosions in the sky meets daft punk. it's a bolder & more psychedelic album than its predecessor – a modern & enthralling rock record. crammed full of time-changes, sudden breakdowns, spoken word samples & huge surges of thundering drums & monstrous riffs, they still manage to make this a melodic, engaging & well paced album that keeps your attention throughout & more importantly, keeps you coming back for more. a surprisingly uplifting, almost euphoric sophomore. rock action

frightened rabbit : the winter of mixed drinks

(cd / lp) over the last 2 years, the newly expanded scottish collective have become one of britain's most fiercely taken-to-heart new bands, publicly feted by fellow musicians like craig finn (the hold steady), nick harmer (death cab for cutie) & simon neil (biffy clyo). their stunning 3rd full length could well propel them into the big time as 'the winter of mixed drinks' showcases a more fully realised sound with a broader palette of terse rhythms, swelling strings & subtle brass, with direct & upbeat songs like 'nothing like you' & 'living in colour' jostling for position with intense & brittle epics like 'skip the youth' & 'yes i would'. it also boasts stunning string arrangements from labelmate, teutonic ivory-botherer, hauschka. "at the creative peak of the folk-crossover scene" 8/10 – dis, 4/5 – the skinny. fat cat

blood red shoes : fire like this

the brighton duo return with another hefty slice of rock. theirs is an honest sound that doesn't need to be smothered in effects or laced with studio trickery to make an impact, instead they boil songs down to their essence – just raw guitar riffs & drum hits presented crisp & unadorned. recording to analogue tape with the bare minimum of guitar or vocal overdubs, the result is a gutsy, raw & intense sound, steeped in a knowledge of your alt-rock staples – nirvana, babes in toyland, drive like jehu – but with its own fingerprint. "the searing guitars, walloping drums & emphatic double-tracked vocals have determined power & character – the jagged vibe somewhere betwixt primetime placebo & 'in utero' nirvana" 4/5 – uncut. v2

ellie goulding : lights

the highly anticipated debut album from the 22 year old hereford starlet who has been tipped for great things this year by just about every tastemaker about & she was winner of the 2010 brits critics' choice award & bbc sound of 2010 poll. so, does it live up to the hype? the good news is that in spite of all the pressure this young lady must have been under, she delivers a set of expectations-passing, skilfully polished songs that should see her elevated to superstar status in no time at all, much like her peers florence & the machine & marina & the diamonds. in the beginning, goulding enlisted the help of frankmusik who initiated & developed her electro-pop infused sound but the album has been enhanced by starsmith (marina & the diamonds, paloma faith) & fraser t smith (tinchy stryder, n-dubz) to ensure an up-to-the-moment production modernity shines through. polydor

the ruby suns : fight softly

known for their combination of psych pop & world music (notably kenyan influences), the new zealanders centre around multi-instrumentalist ryan mcphun. 'fight softly' retains the super melodic song writing of the first 2 records but displays a new electronic direction. ryan cites as equal influences, 80's / 90's new jack swing & modern angolan kuduro, fleetwood mac & britney spears, brazilian tropicalia & argentinean cumbia. sonically, it remains as beat-centric as 2009's 'sea lion', though these beats are deliciously artificial – stretched & compacted & distorted beyond recognition. melodies are suzy & digital, no guitars strummed or basses plucked. mcphun's soulful upper-register croon, swallowed into the mix, replaces group chants & full-throated singalongs. "welcome sunshine, brightening any day with a sonic smile so infectious that all but the most doleful of listener will come away grinning like a member of the glee cast in full hammed-up flow. it's simply irresistible" – bbc. memphis industries

babybird : ex-maniac

stephen jones, a.k.a. babybird, recovers from his death of the neighborhood side-project & hits back with a surprisingly strong set of songs which prove his master musicianship & songsmithery is still very much in tact. 'ex-maniac' is riddled with irresistible melodies that accentuate jones' rich, warm voice, combining the sunniest of melodies with the darkest of subject matters, all topped with a dark sense of humour. the anthemic guitars & euphoric melodies work in stark contrast to the radio-unfriendly subject matter - macabre tales covering such cheery subject matter as murderous 5 year olds & aborted suicides. with long-time fan johnny depp on lead guitar on 'unlovable', this record marks a return to jones' britpop heyday. [unison music](#)

seabear : we built a fire

(cd / lp) defying its humble beginnings as the lo-fi solo project of icelandic singer/multi-instrumentalist sindri már sigfússon, seabear has morphed into a rambling experimental/indie/folk septet. for their 2nd full length lp, all members of the band had equal input in the writing process, thereby creating seabear's 1st real collective album. the songs here are beautifully rich, with all manner of strings, horns & plucked instruments augmenting the band's multi-harmony layered vocals. this is a warm, glowing & slightly eccentric affair that fans of mum, sufjan stevens & hjatalin should check out. "think sufjan stevens meets an unplugged arcade fire & you'll be somewhere near the mark" – [clash](#), [morr music](#)

v/a : rough trade counter culture 09

a selection of staff favourites, best sellers & forward-thinking music that have passed over the counters of rough trades east & west. 'counter culture 09' is a sonic snap-shot of the year, 43 tracks jammed onto 2 discs. always a surprising blend, they have compiled a mess of young upstarts as always & this year they bunch-up next to established contemporaries & a couple of old friends alike. fever ray & kurt vile. mos def & broadcast. kid congo & tom russell. a unique collection that could only have occurred in 2009. a great document of the year, as always. [rough trade](#)

turin brakes : outbursts

while their previous album, 2007's 'dark on fire', relied heavily on a cast of session musicians, on 'outbursts' the duo of olly knights & gale paridjanian rediscovered the working practices that got them started in the 1st place & with it, their old sense of mission. written & (for the most part) performed entirely by the 2 of them, this is a collection of songs that returns to the essence of turin brakes, echoing the quiet edginess of their most celebrated work. this fresh approach is evident on 'never stops', a soulful, life-affirming mantra with a raw, bluesy feel, which sums up the enduring spirit of turin brakes & their uniquely thoughtful brand of acoustic music. "return to form from south london's simon & garfunkel" 4/5 – q, "back to basics & top form" 4/5 – [mojo](#). [cooking vinyl](#)

so so modern : crude futures

hugely entertaining debut from the noisy new zelanders. their wide array of musical influences (hardcore punk, no-wave, dance, krautrock & electronica) have undoubtedly rubbed off on them, as they incorporate different parts of the musical spectrum fleetingly & with joyful abandon, with splashes of stilted post punk timing paired with vintage synths, punk-funk yelps one minute & a piano ballad the next. combining the school yard yelps of animal collective at their most primal, the trendy guitar minimalism of foals & the particularised electronics of battles, this is a frenzied & constantly unpredictable listen. "on the war path from start to finish, so so modern beg for not a second of your patience" – [bearded](#). [transgressive](#)

electric president : the violent blue

electric president return with a lovely new record that continues to meld electronica, pop & folk but also branches into some mbv-esque/shoegaze moments. there's more flirtation with distortion & thicker layering than on past efforts. lyrically, the record is dark & brooding, often touching on lost love & isolation, with singer ben cooper going from sad to bitter on 'eat shit & die', describing broken love in an almost apocalyptic tone. meanwhile the beautiful title track is reminiscent of m83, with its waves of synths, lush orchestration & faint rhythms. fans of postal service & m83 should check this out. [fake four inc](#)

aaron martin : worried about the fire

the former machinefabriek & dawn smithson (sunn o))) collaborator returns with his 4th solo outing. this was originally devised as the soundtrack to a short film & sees him deconstructing pre-existing snippets, sketches & samples from various collaborations & solo performances. all prior restrictions were set aside as he forwent his regular live-approach, untypically using electronic processing & effects & editing the parts without limiting himself in any way. still built around his set-up of cello, banjo, harmonica & organ, there is an unsettling installation-character to the work, with distant echoes of acoustic instruments shining through the ghostly fabric of these short pieces. this is not only a dark & demure work but also one of brittle beauty - ranging from the meditative cymbal-space of 'ice melts' & the broken-piano semblance of 'blue light', to the consoling ambient-folk of 'making rope'. [experimedia](#)

two door cinema club : tourist history

(comes with a bonus remix disc) the hotly tipped trio from northern ireland arrive with their debut, peddling the kind of awkward, damn catchy electropop that could score a million broken-hearted teenage romances. there's plenty of big choruses, synthesized drum beats & hushed vocals here, the band at times sounding like a poppier bloc party. this assured effort will no doubt see this band go massive! "two door cinema club show flashes of greatness & have an overall standard of songwriting which places them among the better new bands in the uk" – [bbc](#), "it's herky, it's jerky, it's mile a minute, it's everything we love about guitars & boys" – [nme](#). [kitsune](#)

emma pollock : the law of large numbers

following up her brash & brilliant 'watch the fireworks' solo debut, former delgados principle emma pollock returns with a new album that raises the bar even further, laying down a bolder, more urgent ante. this time around any traces of a smooth art-pop veneer & moody elegance on pollock's songs are, for the most part, pulled taut & replaced with a more brooding angular edge. even the quieter moments have a palpable tension. on the galloping lead track 'hug the harbour' guitars churn, drums tumble & crash & pollock's voice has a demanding, knowing assurance as the melody twists & turns from one major mood change to another. "the 'law of large numbers' proves solo pollock just as exciting a prospect as her former band were at their peak a decade ago" 4/5 – [the skinny](#). [chemikal underground](#)

alphabeat : the beat is...

the unashamedly pop-obsessed danes return with more joyous synthetic songs, emulating the sound stock aitken & waterman pioneered back in the 80s. certainly their cheery pop is like a little chink of light shining brightly in a world of earnest sincerity & blousy ballads, making them hard not to warm to. on this record they seemed to have moved on from the 80s & into the early 90s, a time when vocal-led euro-house ruled the charts. echoes of ace of base, black box, madonna & haddaway are all present & correct – but there's no shame when it all sounds so much fun! "that it's almost impossible to hear without smiling along suggests their mission is already accomplished" – q. [polydor](#)

el goodo : coyote

2nd album of harmony-drenched psych-pop from welsh trippers el goodo. the album was mixed by cian ciaran from the super furry animals, which is not a great surprise as the band do sound somewhat like the sfa's long lost acid-fried cousins. highlights here include 'i saw her today' with its swirling keyboards, galloping rhythms, mariachi horns & frequent nods to morricone & the baroque pop of 'don't worry marie', a short & sweet combination of leff banke hooks & teenage fanclub melodies. throughout the album there are further signs of influences from the beach boys & love to os mutantes, all recorded with an authentic vintage sound. "filled with psychedelic harmonies & spaghetti western rhythms: a match made in vintage heaven" – [pop matters](#). [dell'orso](#)

fun lovin' criminals: classic fantastic

nyc's funk soul brothers return with another slice of infectious, goodfellas-esque swagger which is no great departure from their previous work but then no less fun either. huey morgan, ever the comedic wiseguy, ruminates about parties on mars along with fast living on the mean streets of the big apple. we even get a guest spot from roots manuva, as well as actor/comedian paul kaye who pops up under his mike strutter alias. good clean fun from the lovable rogues. [absolute](#)

yellow fever : yellow fever

(cd / lp) this duo from austin (tx) is all about reviving the spirit of stripped-down, 60's california garage on their debut, released on the vivian girls' own wild world imprint. yellow fever are a kitschy band, which definitely works in their favour on tracks like 'joe brown'. however they're even more beguiling when they're crafting oddball pop about "all the cats...going home" on the surf-tinged 'hellfire'. what's best is that the bass is really the centrepiece, from the simple but irresistible groove on 'ratcatcher' to standout track 'donald', which is all melodious bass runs & girl-group come-hithering. there's something in the stark simplicity of the arrangements that works, with the overall record making you feel like you're being privy to the rock 'n' roll daydreams being beamed out of the bedrooms of ordinary girls from bygone days. [wild world](#)

james chance : the fix is in

(cd & dvd) with this new project, ex-teenage jesus & the jerks & contortions frontman/saxophonist offers his take on the origins of blues & jazz from the 40s & 50s. somewhere between charles mingus, duke ellington, jac berrocal, archie shepp or even chet baker, early rock n roll & the no wave musical deconstruction with which he made his name, james chance offers an album at once hypnotic, decadent & timeless, mixing glamour, sex, humour & daily transcendence. the dvd includes a documentary about chance, with live footage on stage with the contortions. [le son du maquis](#)

advanced sportswear : advanced sportswear

(v.limited - 99 hand-numbered copies in zip-lock bags) advanced sportswear is an evolution of the group skill 7 stamina 12 but they easily transcend their forefathers to deliver a great little package bursting with moon dog & liquid liquid flavoured weirdness. balancing noise & melody, structure & improvisation & combining extraordinary percussion sequences with sparse guitar refrains, heavy distorted bass, wildly tumbling piano riffs, icy synths & group vocal harmonies, this is unique & impossible to categorize, yet seems totally right. tortoise's darker moments or the recent snorkel album could be reference points, yet these guys are still very much out there doing their own thing. highly recommended! [junior aspirin](#)

bettina koester : queen of noise

debut album from bettina koester, founder member of proto-feminist german artrockers, malaria!. opening with a bizarre, robotic take on the beatles' 'helter skelter', the album then proceeds through new wave territory with plenty of militant drum machines & angry synths backing up koester's powerful, cigarette-stained vocals. indeed koester sounds on good form, evoking a modern marianne faithfull in many ways but with a predominant german accent. [le son du maquis](#)

cars & trains : the roots the leaves

sophomore effort of portland, oregon based multi-instrumentalist cars & trains (tom filepp). tom deftly mixes out-of-the-box electronics & found sounds seamlessly with a myriad of instruments including woodwind, banjo, acoustic guitar, string & glockenspiel, walking a blurry line that makes one wonder where exactly the uncommonly organic drum programming ends & the instruments & lushly layered sounds begin. carrying on the mantle of previous releases laden with toy instruments, distorted tape samples & banjos, this record sits at a curious intersection between more folk-oriented electronic groups like tunng, the late great beta band & the distinctive pacific northwest experimental folk sound of mount eerie. [fake four inc](#)

air formation : nothing to wish for (nothing to lose)

brighton based air formation return with their 4th album. 'nothing to wish for...' explores the space & textures hinted at by their previous work but with more confidence & elegance. coming from the same stable of thought as the likes of sigur ros, slowdive & mew, they flit from breathy escapism to futuristic terrorcaust in a matter of minutes, whilst still fully engaging your attention, as the next twist & turn is only moments away. it's a classic shoegaze sound with well crafted songs that will no doubt appeal to fans of any of the aforementioned. [club ac30](#)

orenda fink : ask the night

orenda fink, one-half of the acclaimed duo azure ray, has stayed busy sculpting a diverse & heralded career on her own since azure ray released their last album in 2003. this record is very much a reflection of (& homage to) her southern roots, the cultural & familial upbringing that helped to shape her aesthetic. inspired by traditional american folk music & southern gothic literature, the album is a mix of both her personal experiences & stories told in character. subtle genre hints emerge such as old-time waltz, country, folk & haunting bluegrass, while the instrumentation includes acoustic & slide guitar, mandolin, banjo, accordion, violin, upright bass, pump organ & saw. from the plaintive, melancholic opener 'why is the night sad' to the sweetly doleful closer 'the moon knows', this is a true collection of folk music, translated through orenda's unique perspective, woven & intertwined by her distinctive, heart-rending vocals. [saddle creek](#)

scary mansion : make me cry

scary mansion is the pseudonym of brooklyn-based leah hayes, a woman whose music has thus far dwelt rather aptly in places just as dark & uncanny. her 2008 debut was a brooding, antifolk trip to some decidedly gloomy vicinities, very much reminiscent of cat power's 'moonpix'-era output. here though, she & her band properly align themselves with a glam-punk ethos that they share with, most obviously, the jesus & mary chain & other 3-chord bands of that particular time in indie history, especially the shop assistants. as befits the album title, musically there is a pervasive sadness to many of the lyrical & thematic concerns here. 'over the weak end' is mournful in tone, with the added strings accompanying hayes' tale of how she would "make myself cry" & even when not overtly melancholy, there is a general soft-hearted or tender feel. [talitres](#)

v/a : maximum prog

virtuoso musicianship? complex keyboards? wild guitar? shifting time signatures? bizarre lyrics? all are present & correct on this scorching new collection of british prog rarities, culled from 16 of the most collectible albums in the genre, originally released between 1969 & 1973. the set comes complete with a detailed booklet offering seldom-seen pictures as well as histories & discographies of the acts involved, who include aardvark, rock workshop, samurai, abacus, quicksand & goliath. [past & present](#)

v/a : stepping through an empty time

a solid collection of obscure british & european pop psych from the golden era of the late 60s. among the aural thrills on offer are an irish folk band gone decidedly trippy, an italian-only release from a bournemouth based soul band, a lifting number from the son of a world famous painter, a band from harrow who became italy's top psych outfit & the singer of the cheynes going psychedelically solo. artists here include sleepy, francis lai, rokes, pattersons, love affair, rattles, wishful thinking, montanas & other such day trippers who are gone but certainly not forgotten. [psychic circle](#)

sun dial : sun dial

the critically acclaimed psychedelic/stoner rock band return with their 1st new studio in 8 years, released on their own shrunken head label, set up to release purely their own material & other related acts. fronted as ever by founder member gary ramon, along with ex-chapterhouse bassist/lyricist russell barrett, this new record sees them explore a much heavier sound than before which harks back to 1990s seattle grunge with more than a cursory nod to metallica. a bit of a departure for the band, but they sound very much at home cranking out gnarly distorted guitar riffs, pounding drums & heffield-style snarling vocals. heavy! [shrunken head](#)

chumbawamba : abcdefg

'abcdefg' is musically eclectic & wide-ranging, from acapella to pop to folk to jazz, a mix-up of ideas to reflect its subject matter. that subject matter includes a gentle hymn to teenage under-the-pillow discovery of music heard on late-night transistor radio, a celebration of the marching songs written by soldiers in the first world war, the story of how people had to battle against state communist ideology to play their music & a poke at the folk world's obsession with collection & authenticity. musically the band play a battery of instruments & are augmented with contributions from members of oysterband, bellowhead & the unthanks. [no masters cooperative](#)

juliana hatfield : peace & love

the 1st mostly-acoustic release from the indie rock trailblazer/heroine was written, performed, produced, engineered & mixed alone in her apartment. hatfield also played all the instruments herself, including acoustic & electric guitars, piano, harmonica & drum machine. the warm & dry acoustic sound of these 12 songs is a brand new, fresh direction for her. she continues to embody the spirit of total independence with her self-run record label & her always vital & uncompromising music. the songs are their spirit selves, pale unelectric blueprints : no band, no rock thump. no barrel of laughs, actually. they describe sorrowfulness, loneliness, faintness of heart, the old brain chemistry blues. the highlight of the album is without a doubt the love song 'evan' – an ode to juliana's ex, evan dando of the lemonheads. [ye olde records](#)

carly simon : never been gone

carly simon revisits some of her finest songs on this alternative 'best of'-styled album. its hybrid format allows simon to revisit the songs of her youth in illuminating & poignant ways, with her new performances of 'that's the way i've always heard it should be' & 'coming around again' being particularly striking. the cd was recorded at home and consists of new largely acoustic versions of carly's biggest hits & 2 brand new tracks. [rhino](#)

kaki king : junior

the highly acclaimed singer/songwriter & guitarist extraordinaire returns with her 5th record. 'junior' delivers twists & turns, lyrically from exuberance & anger to heartbreaking melancholy & sonically from experimental pieces to accessible pop. while there is plenty of the dazzling musicianship king has been renowned for, this also showcases her further maturation as a well-rounded artist who defies categorization & expectations. [cooking vinyl](#)

toshi ichiyanagi/michael ranta/ takehisa kosugi : improvisation sept 1975

(limited cd digi-book) a mind bending slice of drone improv from 3 of japan's post-war heavyweights; former john cage student, julliard graduate & yoko ono's former husband toshi ichiyanagi, stockhausen percussionist michael ranta & takehisa kosugi, considered by many to be the father of what some called japanese krautrock. heavy layers of reverbed ring modulators, threaded vocals, melodicas, pianos, violins gongs & japanese biwas & shamisens combine to elevate the improvisations into the region of krautrock & in particular, courtesy of ranta, into post-stockhausen inspired rock a la amon duul. an extremely rare & highly important album which paved the way for successors taj mahal time travellers & much later, industrial giants, nurse with wound. [phoenix](#)

brast burn : debon

(reissue) brast burn are often linked with karuna khayal, with many aficionados concluding that they were actually the same band. whether this is true or not remains an unsolved mystery but one thing is for sure : brast burn's one & only recorded outing originally released in the mid 70s left an indelible stamp on those who were to follow. nurse with wound's steve stapleton thought highly of 'debon' & included it in his "legendary list" that appeared on the sleeve of his band's 1979 debut album. featuring orchestrated fuzz guitar, echo-drenched percussion, reverbed bass, zithers, assorted taped sounds & vocals that are simply inspired, this is an album that sounds truly out of time & out of place & is a must for devotees of the likes of faust & can. [phoenix](#)

blueboy : unisex

(reissue) this was blueboy's 2nd album, originally released in 1994. formed in reading in the early 90s, unlike many of their label mates on sarah records who were busy hacking out shambling pop, they dealt in jazzy acoustic guitars, melodramatic strings, tinkling pianos & some of the most affectedly sweet vocals to be found anywhere - the closest available comparison would be the baroque pop of shelleyan orphan. *"it would be easy to dismiss 'unisex' as effeminate english easy-listening, but surprisingly, the album is incredibly well-written...they've taken pop to such an extreme that they sound completely unlike any other band"* – [allmusic](#). [el](#)

far east family band : parallel world

(reissue) unlike other albums where the far east family band focused on pink floyd-esque psych ballads, on 'parallel world' the influence of producer klaus schulze is more pronounced, merging prog rock with electronic music to create something rather weird & wonderful. although schulze oversaw the production of the album rather than playing on it, the synth star turn is masanori takasaki who was later to find new age fame & fortune under the name of kitaro. this is space rock at its finest & the band's extended compositions attracted favourable comparisons with both tangerine dream & pink floyd & even at times, the vocal style of the moody blues. unfortunately this was the band's last album but they went out on a high, achieving the rare feat of appealing to devotees of both kraut rock & electronic psychedelia alike. [phoenix](#)

hawkwind : sonic attack

(reissue - 2cd) this expanded edition contains a bonus cd featuring both sides of the 'angels of death' single & previously unreleased alternate takes & early demos. by the time of 'sonic attack', hawkwind (after losing virtually all of its original members save singer-guitarist dave brock), had made a complete transition from a psychedelic proto-punk outfit to a sleek, polished heavy metal band. this sounds like it could have been recorded by early-80s contemporaries like iron maiden & judas priest. most of the lyrics are typical sci-fi & dungeons & dragons-style tales, which are not all that dissimilar from lyrics of other bands of the era, with clean musicianship, probably even more so than on hawkwind's earlier albums. [atomhenge](#)

susan pillsbury : susan pillsbury

recorded in new york, susan pillsbury's sole record was released in 1973 & makes its long-overdue cd debut here. deeply personal & spiritual, it touches on themes both personal & universal, with sensitive support from guitarist jay berliner & stand-up bassist richard davis, both of whom contributed decisively to the atmosphere of van morrison's 'astral weeks', with which this shares clear similarities. this is nothing short of a lost singer-songwriter classic & includes 5 previously unissued bonus tracks, detailed liner notes & rare photographs. [sunbeam](#)

arthur brown & kingdom come : galactic zoo dossier

(reissue - 2cd) newly remastered edition includes bonus tracks & a john peel session from 1971. after arthur brown briefly ascended to stardom via the crazy world of arthur brown's only album, it was a long 3 year gap until the release of the next lp bearing his lead vocals, kingdom come's 'galactic zoo dossier'. if not for brown's immediately recognisable vocal histrionics, it could be the work of an entirely different artist. the crazy world of arthur brown's exhilaratingly jazzy, madcap psychedelia had been jettisoned for far darker excursions into mordant early progressive rock. touching on the musical territory of fellow travellers hawkwind, this was a masterwork & is now rightly regarded as a classic. [esoteric](#)

elvis costello : live at hollywood high

elvis costello was 23 years old when he performed a sold-out concert at the epicentre of the entertainment universe – the auditorium at hollywood high school. now that historic 20 song concert is issued here for the first time in its entirety, featuring 11 previously unreleased recordings including 'lip service', 'the beat', '(the angels wanna wear my) red shoes', '(i don't wanna go to) chelsea', 'this year's girl', 'no action', 'radio, radio' & 'pump it up'. [ims](#)

a certain ratio : force

(reissue - remastered & expanded, includes extra bonus tracks) described by drummer donald johnson as "the mike tyson of funk", this marked a convincing return to form for acr, mixing the robust funk grooves of single 'mickey way' with downtempo tracks, as well as 'si firmi o grido', the percussive tour de force which provides a reliable climax to live performances. in addition to pin-sharp rhythm & groove the album also displayed real consistency & even a pop sensibility, courtesy of guest vocalist corinne drewery (swing out sister). "bright, brilliant & hard as nails" - nme. ltm

aztec camera : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'dreamland', 'frestonia', 'high land hard rain', 'knife' & 'stray'. rhino

echo & the bunnymen : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'crocodiles', 'echo & the bunnymen', 'heaven up here', 'ocean rain' & 'porcupine'. rhino

the jesus & mary chain : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'automatic', 'darklands', 'honey's dead', 'psychocandy', 'stoned & dethroned'. rhino

little feat : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'dixie chicken', 'feats don't fail me know', 'little feat', 'sailin' shoes' & 'the last record album'. rhino

los lobos : original album classics

(5cd) includes & 'a time to dance', 'by the light of the moon', 'how will the wolf survive?', 'kiko' & 'the neighborhood'. rhino

the monkees : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'headquarters', 'monkees', 'more of', 'pisces aquarius capricorn & jones', 'the birds the bees & the monkees'. rhino

the pogues : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'hell's ditch', 'if i should fall from grace with god', 'peace & love', 'red roses for me', 'rum sodomy & the lash'. rhino

pretenders : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'get close', 'last of the independents', 'learning to crawl', 'pretenders' & 'pretenders ii'. rhino

sisters of mercy : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'a slight case of overbombing', 'first & last & always', 'floodland', 'some girls wander by mistake' & 'vision thing'. rhino

warren zevon : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'bad luck streak in dancing school', 'the envoy', 'excitable boy', 'stand in the fire' & 'warren zevon'. rhino

the cars : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'candy-o', 'heartbeat city', 'panorama', 'shake it up' & 'the cars'. rhino

rickie lee jones : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'girl at her volcano', 'naked songs', 'pirates', 'rickie lee jones' & 'the magazine'. rhino

todd rundgren : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'faithful', 'runt', 'runt: the ballad of todd rundgren', 'the ever popular tortured artist effect' & 'the hermit of mink hollow'. rhino

dance/electronica

groove armada : black light

groove armada return with their 6th album & the good news is, they're still managing to keep things fresh & new without repeating past glories. this is, in places, by far their darkest record to date & yet in true armada style, it manages to pull off big radio-friendly tunes thanks to a little help from guest vocalists bryan ferry, nick littlemore (empire of the sun), st savioir & will young, who turns out a surprisingly yearning performance on house lullaby 'history'. there's a definite nod to classic soft rock, as well as plenty of growling beefy synth lines & emotion-heavy, 80's-finged pop, all making this an assured effort from the good ship groove. "black light is dominated by future-pop with the rough edges left in" - independent, "fulfilling dark disco, as if massive attack had made 'protection' with giorgio moroder on the mixing desk" - nme. ministry of pies

bomb the bass : back to light

it seems bomb the bass, aka tim simenon, is back & on a roll. his album 'future chaos', which came out in 2008, was his 1st in around 10 years & now he's back again with another new album, clearly making up for lost time. this record finds him raising the tempo, taking inspiration from classic techno & modern electro with a radiant sound that's buoyed by waves of synths & propelled by clean-lined grooves. vocal contributions come from richard davis, kelley polar, the battle of land & sea & paul conboy lending the record an even more immediate & accessible sound. if you enjoyed the last gui boratto album then you should certainly give this some attention. "an altogether brighter & fresher sound, more an open-air, pre-balearic rave than the dark, psychotic comedown we might expect" - the skinny. !k7

the love supreme : new millennium freaks

with a range of influences from psychedelia, all things italo, through to krautrock & john carpenter soundtracks, the love supreme return with an irresistible slice of electro that's part disco-pop & part retro-synthetics. early 1970s krautrock pioneers can & the sounds of tangerine dream's 'pink years'-period weave their fabric through motorik tracks such as 'boy', 'rocquet' & 'the parrot', while the album's peppier tracks hark back to early 1980's new york & all things cbgbs. proceedings round off with a cover of the bauhaus classic 'bela lugosi's dead', with nyc vocalist lord doing a fine job of capturing the spirit of peter murphy. plenty for fans of datarock & the juan maclean to enjoy here. "45 minutes of fantastic, sonically pleasing, italian electro" - subba cultcha. tirk

ripperton : niwa

lush, deep, atmospheric techno is very much the order of the day on this excellent debut from swiss producer raphael ripperton. it's obvious this album hasn't been put together in a hurry - each track has room to breathe & evolve & offers something vivid enough to engage you emotionally. these tracks aren't just informed by dj sets in sweaty little clubs or vibing warehouses - instead they draw on dewy landscapes, frosty winter walks & summers in the sun all at the same time. the results are surreptitiously hypnotic & cleverly timeless in their appropriation of many sounds but capitulation to no one in particular. this makes a very welcome addition to the realm of home listening techno recently explored by four tet & pantha du prince. green

conforce : machine conspiracy

lush & melodic detroit/dutch techno album from conforce. opening with an insolent, precise, tightly-wound bass & hats configuration, there's an immediate affinity with carl craig's myriad shades of impeccable funk - a kinship is established between windy cities, gloom & lakeside living. the rest of the record fluctuates between rolling 4/4 driven tracks like the emotive highpoint 'love-hate' or the rumbling bass driven 'subtraction' & a number of cruising electro-infused tracks like 'the land of the highway' or 'robotic arm wrestle' reminding of the typical dutch electro style or 90's juan atkins classics. this is a great record that takes elements of detroit operators like carl craig or derrick may & fuses them with a european dub-techno sensibility. meanwhile

v/a : freerange records colour series pink 07

freerange continue their mission of bringing the finest in proper underground house to our attention, rounding up all of the year's best received tracks alongside some brand new & exclusive cuts from some of their favourite producers, created specially for the compilation. includes tracks & remixes from tony lionni, manuel tur, milton jackson, nikola gala, mr. morning, vincenzo & elmar schubert & jimpster. anyone wondering where all the real house music's at needs this quick smart. [freerange](#)

v/a : zen & the art of disco maintenance chapter 1

a solid little mix comp from the tirk folks that flits between downtempo, balearic sounds & cosmic disco with absolute ease. architeq's ace mix of cruising gangs' seminal 'chinatown' kicks things off, building steadily into a quietly epic 303 & pads odyssey. elsewhere space's seminal 'carry on, turn me on' is here in it's revamped richard norris version, retaining the simmering eroticism of the original whilst adding a layer of ethereal warmth. other artists include boffin, the love supreme, woolfy vs projections, the time & space machine & sorcerer. fans of that slow cosmic disco sound will love this! [tirk](#)

v/a :café del mar – volumen uno y dos

(2 cd) 2010 sees the legendary café de mar celebrate its 30th anniversary. situated in san antonio de portmany, on ibiza, café del mar arguably kick-started the chillout scene with its laidback vibes & grooves. in the 90s, they began to release a series of chillout compilations with tracklists carefully chosen to reflect the mood & spirit of a sunset by the ocean. café del mar dj & artist, jose padilla curates these 1st 2 volumes (which have become classics of their time) & was instrumental in creating the sound that was to become chillout. [spectrum](#)

soul

bajka : in wonderland

smokin' soul/jazz flavours in abundance on this, the debut effort from german singer bajka. you might recognize her distinct, husky delivery thanks to her work for artists such as bonobo, radio citizen & beanfield. hooking up with the cream of berlin & munich's jazz players, the music here has a very classic feel, not over polished & a little rough round the edges, lending it a timeless quality that is often lacking in contemporary soul of this nature. the lyrics are all taken from 'the hunting of the snark', a whimsical poem written by lewis caroll, with the musicians managing to write a song for every chapter of the poem, covering the whole opus. one for fans of erykah badu, jill scott & lauryn hill. very lovely indeed. [chin chin](#)

lee dorsey : ride your pony

dorsey epitomised the loose, easygoing charm of new orleans r&b perhaps more than any other artist of the 60s. working with legendary crescent city producer/writer allen toussaint, he typically offered good-time party tunes with a playful sense of humour & a loping, funky backbeat. even if he's remembered chiefly for the signature hit 'working in a coalmine', it was a remarkably consistent & winning combination for the vast majority of his career. this is a collection of his earlier toussaint-produced sides, built around his bell records album 'ride your pony', along with a slew of 45 side & rarities. a great introduction to the work of one of crescent city's finest. [revola](#)

james brown : the singles volume 8 – 1972-1973

(2cd) more funk rarities galore from the godfather himself on this excellent collection, including an unreleased vocal version of 'hot pants road', the single version of 'honky tonk', the uk-only release 'i know it's true', the rare mono promo mix of 'ants' & the rare cover version of 'watermelon man' by wesley, that features jb on drums! [umc](#)

aretha franklin : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'aretha now', 'never loved a man', 'lady soul', 'live at the fillmore' & 'spirit in the dark'. [rhino](#)

bootsy collins : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'ahh...the name is bootsy baby!', 'bootsy? player of the year', 'stretchin' out in a rubber band', 'this boot is made for funkin'' & 'ultra wave'. [rhino](#)

dionne warwick : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'anyone who had a heart', 'make way for', 'presenting', 'valley of the dolls' & 'windows of the world'. [rhino](#)

otis redding : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'dictionary of soul', 'otis blue', 'pain in my heart', 'sings soul ballads' & 'the soul album'. [rhino](#)

chaka khan : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'chaka', 'chaka khan', 'i feel for you', 'naughty' & 'what cha' gonna do for me'. [rhino](#)

detroit spinners : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'live!', 'mighty love', 'new & improved', 'pick of the litter' & 'the spinners'. [rhino](#)

drifters : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'clyde mcphatter & the drifters', 'i'll take you where the music's playing', 'rockin' & drifin'', 'save the last dance for me' & 'under the boardwalk'. [rhino](#)

slave : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'just a touch of love', 'stone jam', 'slave', 'the concept' & 'the hardness of the world'. [rhino](#)

donny hathaway : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'donny hathaway', 'everything is everything', 'extension of a man', 'in performance' & 'live'. [rhino](#)

jazz

polar bear : peepers

(cd / lp) 4th effort from the highly regarded experimental avant-jazz outfit. this album was apparently inspired by classic soul as much as the influences of jazz, rock, folk & electronica that permeated previous albums. however, as you can pretty much guarantee with this band, the results sound like no-one else but polar bear. there's abrasive moments such as 'scream', which opens with saxophones clucking like angry chickens, ending 30 seconds later in a single shrill squeal. just as common though, are moments of disarming beauty. 'the love didn't go anywhere' is subtle & gorgeous, yearning sax lines & quiet whispers of percussion that recall miles davis at his more wistful. these guys are still very much an integral part of the revival in british jazz & this is yet another impressive & affecting record. "it's jazz shorn of cliché with elliptical nods to james 'blood' ulmer, tortoise & the free-jazz cosmos along the way" 4/5 – [mojo](#). [leaf](#)

skeletons (nostalgia 77) : smile

new project focused on african jazz-inspired sounds from benedic lamdin, aka nostalgia 77. despite having the sound of a super tight band, in the words of benedic, "skeletons is a made up band. these musicians never stood in the studio together, they just passed through my house or left some scraps of sound behind after sessions we were working on". in fact the music here started life as commissions for a library music company, pastiches & forgeries paid for by the current vogue for a certain style of african jazz but once benedic had done a few, he found he couldn't stop, it was a default preoccupation. it was relaxation - something that didn't matter whether it worked or not. the whole lp was made like that, done in the time between recording jobs. the results show it to be a very healthy preoccupation, with a well produced, authentic-sounding record. [impossible ark](#)

tape five : tonight josephine

the speakeasy revival continues on 'tonight josephine', a retro-homage to various facets of 20th century bar music. driving electro-swing laden with clarinet & trumpets inspired by louis armstrong, gene krupa, josephine baker & benny goodman, is the order of the day here. inspired by the high calibre & style of the golden 20s, like a black-&-white classic film but coloured like today's blockbusters. it's all lively stuff that can't help but make you smile & shuffle your feet. [chin chin](#)

v/a : beat scene – jack kerouac

in the 50s, with allen ginsberg & william s burroughs, jack kerouac was instrumental in starting the beat movement. the acknowledged leader & spokesman of the group, it was he who first used the term beat generation to express despair over the suppressed state of the individual in society & belief in the natural world & in the powers of the beat of jazz music & poetry. the beats rejected the prevailing academic attitude to poetry & declared, through their art & attitudes, their alienation & disgust with shallow american middle-class values. combining words & music - including historic recordings of kerouac, ginsberg, lawrence ferlinghetti, ken nordine & lenny bruce as well as the likes of thelonious monk, dizzy gillespie, charles mingus & louis armstrong - this is a great snapshot of the beat panorama. [el](#)

blues

the holmes brothers : feed my soul

from winning multiple blues music awards to sharing stages & recordings with bob dylan, van morrison, bruce springsteen, patti smith, willie willie nelson, lou reed, peter gabriel, merle haggard, lucinda williams, steve earle & countless others, the holmes brothers have seemingly done it all. recently though, they confronted a stark reality when brother wendell was diagnosed with cancer. having since made a full recovery, 'feed my soul' is an album born from this harrowing experience. the songs deal with friendship, aging & illness set against a musical background of their typically infectious blues & roots. the record is dominated by a host of sparkling holmes brothers originals but still includes a couple of revelatory interpretations of other songwriter's material, like their cover of the beatles 'i'll be back'. [alligator](#)

dr john : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'babylon', 'gris-gris', 'gumbo', 'in the right place' & 'the sun, moon & herbs'. [rhino](#)

paul butterfield : original album classics

(5cd) includes 'east-west', 'in my own dream', 'keep on moving', 'paul butterfield blues band' & 'the resurrection of pigboy crabshaw'. [rhino](#)

folk

chris wood : handmade life

the stunning new studio album from the award-winning folk singer-songwriter is a progressive step forward from his previously acclaimed solo work, 'trespasser' & 'the lark descending', it's wider in scope & the band comprises andy gangadeen & barney morse brown of the imagined village & robert jarvis of london improviser's orchestra. wood skilfully creates a subtle yet massive sound with this ensemble that's warm & intimate but which would work equally well on a big stage. if the reviews to date are anything to go by, he looks set to gain even more critical acclaim & awards for this release than for his previous work. a considerable piece of work. "gentle, powerful & classy" 4/5 – [guardian](#), "the band is a marvel" 4/5 – [independent](#), "wood delivers masterpieces" 4/5 – [songlines](#), "melding the personal & the political without any trace of creative fatigue" 4/5 – [spiral earth](#), "undoubtedly one of the albums of 2010" 5/5 – [americana uk](#). [ruf records](#)

nuala kennedy : tune in

irish traditional singer & flute player nuala kennedy, although rooted in the celtic music of her native ireland & adopted homeland of scotland, is increasingly recognised for her eclectic cross genre work. 'tune in' features bonnie prince billy, norman blake (teenage fanclub), oliver schroer & more. "kennedy doesn't so much imbibe or inhale as swallow, whole & unadulterated, melodic & rhythmic influences from beyond her kith & kin. she is not only an exceptional interpreter of the tradition; her own music glistens with freshness" 4/5 – [the irish times](#), "bright & rhythmic, percussively accently playing...a voice of luminous clarity" – [the herald](#). [compass](#)

judy collins : original album classics

(5cd) includes : '5th album', 'in my life', 'judith', 'who knows where the time goes' & 'wildflowers'. [rhino](#)

world

tamikrest : adagh

a great set of desert blues from the young tamashek rebel rockers. tamikrest in tamasheq language means junction, connection, knot, coalition. the group members come from different horizons (mali, niger, algeria). pino, cheikh & mossa had just finished a guitar workshop with juhan ecaré (guitarist for meikway) when they decided to form a group with only 2 old home made guitars. though their music takes root in ishumar rock or tuareg blues, it borrows from various international influences as well as from neighbouring cultures. on most tracks ousmane ag mossa's simple, gnarled lead guitar is backed by 2 other rhythm guitars, providing a drone or subtle waves of reverb & cheikhe ag tigly's rather mobile bass lines & the frequent introductory ululations by female backing singers, keep the mesmerising mix lively. one for fans of tinariwen or ali farka toure. "although this album has inevitable echoes of the loping, rhythmic guitar style of tinariwen, the desert blues is mixed with thoughtful, breathy laments in which the drifting guitar work makes them sound like the african answer to an americana band" 4/5 – [guardian](#). [ilkamedia](#)

v/a : bollywood funk experience (compiled by jonny trunk & joel martin)

compiled by jonny trunk (the man behind trunk records, one of the world's most celebrated soundtrack reissue labels) & joel martin (half of balearic-disco outfit quiet village), 'bollywood funk experience' presents some of the funkier, quirkiest & grooviest tunes to have ever come out of mumbai. this is more than your average crash-bang-wallop bollywood release though - jonny & joel have dug deep in their collections to show the breadth & depth of bollywood music. we have jazz from the rare-as-hens-teeth 'chic chocolate ep' by confessa, various tracks from possibly the most influential bollywood music composer ever, mr rd burman. of course, it wouldn't be a bollywood album if they didn't throw in a few "out-there" covers, so for good measure, they've included whacked out versions of 'these boots are made for walking' & 'twinkle twinkle little star' from none other than the gentleman musician of bollywood himself balsara. [nascente](#)

asha bhosle : the playback queen (very best of)

(2cd) with a career spanning 5 generations of indian cinema, asha bhosle is 'the playback queen'. this is the 1st extensive overview of bhosle's music, demonstrating how she is equally at home in a broad spectrum of styles ranging from indian classical to western rock. the 1st disc gathers together her famous swinging latin & western influenced hits, whilst the 2nd disc features a selection of her sublime traditional, devotional & classical numbers. [nascente](#)

v/a : garrincha – estrela solitaria (lonely star)

evocative old-school-samba soundtrack to the acclaimed biopic of the maverick, brazilian football genius, garrincha - a true brazilian legend. one of the all-time great footballers, he twice inspired brazil to world cup glory. this soundtrack is suitably of the period, with beautiful ipanemas-esque soulful samba sitting alongside carnival batucada, darker cinematic experimentalism & playful jazz funk, the majority was composed especially for 'estrela solitaria' by leo gandelman, who captured garrincha's personality perfectly. garrincha is brazilian football, samba, the symbol of the nation's music. 'lonely star' is the ultimate tribute to both. [far out](#)

reggae

v/a : ghetto ska

the shuffle rhythm that was born from the american rhythm & blues tunes that hit jamaica in the 50s, would soon fuse under its jamaican influence & find an emphasis on the 2nd & 4th bars of the beat. this off-beat would create the ska sound & a fine exponent of this in the sound's early days, was theo beekford. theophilus "easy snapping" beekford began his musical career in the 50s & had, after only 2 years mastered his instrument of choice : the piano. his 1st hit for coxonne dodd's worldisc label was the classic 'easy snapping'. he had created his own laid back style that simply rolled off his piano & his musical arrangements became the backbone of so many early ska tunes. kingston sounds have compiled some great early ska cuts for this release that have been touched with the t. beekford magic : some of his own classic hits alongside some of his productions for some of the other, long-forgotten heroes of the early ska sound. a mighty fine set of early ska tunes fighting their way out of kingston town & into your hearts. [kingston sounds](#)

vinyl

v/a : communion

(limited 2lp) communion records' debut double vinyl album release sees the label showcasing the finest in 2010's folk. featuring 21 handpicked tracks from communion's favourite artists including mumford & sons, marcus foster, peggy sue, johnny flynn, jeremy warmsley & alessi's ark, the compilation is a fitting result of over 3 years of involvement with london's nu-folk scene. communion began life in the summer of 2006 with a monthly residency at notting hill arts club, providing a platform for the newest bands on london's circuit. over the last 3 years the night has been host to the likes of noah & the whale, laura marling, mumford & sons, jj pistolet & peggy sue. in 2009 sister nights were launched in brighton, leeds & as far afield as sydney, australia. in september 2009, communion records was founded with the aim to continue the club night's all encompassing philosophy & championing of new talent. [communion](#)

mags

mojo : april 2010 peter gabriel, eels, courtney love, judy collins, serge gainsbourg, 13th floor elevators....

uncut : april 2010 the rolling stones, joanna newsom, lemmie, the triffids & cover cd 'rip this joint - 16 brilliant tracks in the spirit of the rolling stones'

q : april 2010 lady gaga, vampire weekend, jimi hendrix, mumford & sons, laura marling, john lydon.....

fashion music style : winter 2010 lightspeed champion, beach house, fanfarlo, delphic plus free cd featuring new islands, my tiger my timing, the heartbreaks & more.

singles

single of the week

beach fossils : daydream / desert sand

(7") the jangly, self recorded ramblings of brooklyn's dustin payseur. sun drenched riffs, kaleidoscopic rhythms & hazy lyrics saturate beach fossils' 1st release. another dreamy captured tracks classic. [captured tracks](#)

new young pony club : chaos

(7") nypc return with a catchy slice of new wave-inspired pop taken from their brand new album 'the optimist'. features an exclusive cover of pj harvey's 'dress' on the flip. [the numbers](#)

dan le sac vs scroobius pip : get better

(7") the kings of outsider pop release the 1st single from their eagerly awaited new album. 'get better' is a rousing electro anthem tackling the uk's attitude towards disillusioned teenagers, taking a swipe at a society that berates kids for drinking on street corners, yet failing to encourage them to grow & become inspired. the errors ably handle remix duties on the b-side. [sunday best](#)

local natives : airplanes

(7") local natives have been snapping hot on the heels of fleet foxes & vampire weekend of late, with their complex arrangements & multi-layered vocals winning them fans across the globe. 'airplanes' is one of the standouts from their debut album 'gorilla manor' & comes backed with a live session recording of 'sunhands'. [infectious](#)

mumford & sons : the cave

(limited 7") the word of mouth success story of 2009 continue to prove that every track on their splendid debut is a single worthy release. brand new song 'untitled' backs up the single. [island](#)

yeah yeah yeahs : skeleton

(very very limited numbered 7") backed with an acoustic version of the song, these will disappear super fast so don't hang about. [geffen](#)

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