

PSF's 2013 Writers' Poll Our favorite things



left to right: Motorhead, Bardo Pond, Burnt Books, Hanni El-Khatib, Harold Budd

Please enjoy our annual music poll where our 2013 writers and editors share with you their favorite albums. We asked them for a maximum of 20 albums and here's what they had to say...

Enjoy and we hope we find some things that you also like and discover some new music too.

Also, let us know some of your favorites from 2013 and we'll post some of the best lists in an upcoming issue.

Peter Crigler

- Suicidal Tendencies *13* - complete return to form and the heaviest record of the year.
- Tomahawk *Oddfellows* - one of the most radio friendly records Mike Patton has made since Peeping Tom.
- Jim James *Regions of Light and Sound of God* - a mellow detour from the MMJ frontman. The O
- cean Blue *Ultramarine* - first full-length since 2000 and it sounds just like 1991 all over again.
- Harry Nilsson *The Essential Nilsson* - definitive overview of his entire career, singles and everything in between.
- *Sound City: Reel to Real soundtrack* - interesting mix of collaborations with Dave Grohl.
- Killswitch Engage *Disarm the Descent* - a marked improvement over 2009's self-titled record.
- Eugene Mirman *An Evening of Comedy in a Fake, Underground Laboratory* - best known as Gene from "Bob's Burgers," it's funny as all hell.
- Pearl Jam *Lightning Bolt* - a strange mix of ballads and rockers leads to an ok album.
- Mad Season *Above (Deluxe Edition)* - complete recordings and new material with Mark Lanegan on vocals.
- Jimmer *The Would-Be Plans* - former frontman for the Rave-Ups back with first solo record after years of hell. Perfect encapsulation of great songwriting.
- Human Parts *Human Part* - new band from former bassist of Against Me!; very melodic and heavy all at once.
- Felled Trees *Where We Been* - emo supergroup re-recording of Dinosaur Jr.'s classic "Where You Been."
- Burnt Books *Burnt Books* - interesting band with heavy metal vocals and banjo playing.
- Black Sabbath *13* - much better than their last six or seven albums without Ozzy and the drumming is still great even though Bill Ward belongs in the band, dammit!
- Snow Patrol *Greatest Hits* - concise collection of songs from 2003 on.
- Savages *Silence Yourself* - all-female British band with a lot of oomph.
- Alice in Chains *The Devil Put Dinosaurs Here* - better than the last album but almost every song sounds like a dirge.

John Dougan

Assuming I am asked I'm not planning on providing a "Best Of" list at this time next year. I will have just turned 60, not old the way that age once was, but old for a pop music critic (unless you're Robert Christgau). Since the early 90s, I have either been preparing for or engaged in a life in academia – albeit one that has primarily focused on popular music studies. I have not been an active critic in many years and while I still love music deeply and profoundly, I also recognize that my relationship with music has changed. First and foremost, I do not have long uninterrupted periods of time for focused listening. I'm not completely out of touch. I maintain a reasonable degree of fluency with current artists and sounds (helped greatly by my 17-year-old son and Spotify), but so much current pop/indie rock/hip-hop I appreciate theoretically but do not connect with emotionally. In fact, I enjoy reading about it (thank you Ann Powers, Carl Wilson, Jody Rosen, the aforementioned Christgau, and many others) more than listening to it.

I have a house full of music. Some of it I'll never listen to again. Such is the ridiculousness of living a life that, for decades, was defined by the acquisition of music in all of its myriad sonic configurations and genre manifestations. I don't have any regrets, and I will always be listening and writing, just on my terms – disinterested in what's trending but interested in why it's trending. As for my list, due to its age-specific predictability, it's potentially meaningless to a PSF reader half my age who will (and perhaps should) dismiss it with a snort of derision – something that I might have done 30 years ago.

- Allah-Las *Allah-Las* (released 2012)
 - Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds *Push the Sky Away*
 - Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds - live at the Ryman Auditorium, March 16, 2013
 - Barrence Whitfield and the Savages *Dig Thy Savage Soul*
 - Thelonious Monk *Paris 1969*
 - Various Artists *The Sun Rock Box: Rock 'n' Roll Recorded by Sam Phillips (1954-1959)*
 - Goat *Live Ballroom Ritual*
 - Those Darlins *Blur The Line*
 - The Strypes *Snapshot*
 - Wire *Change Becomes Us*
 - Various Artists *Punk 45: Underground Punk in the USA Vol. 1*
 - Savages *Silence Yourself*
 - Dr. Feelgood *Oil City Confidential* DVD (finally!)
 - Dr. Feelgood *Taking No Prisoners (with Gypie 1977-1981)*
 - Motorhead *Aftershock*
 - Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band *Safe as Milk (original mono mix)*
 - Charles Bradley *Victim of Love*
 - Various Artists *I Heard the Angels Singing: Electrifying Black Gospel from the Nashboro Label 1951-1983*
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Michael Freerix

- Cairo Gang *The Corner Man* (Empty Cellar Records)
 - Beth Orton *The Sugaring Season* (Anti)
 - Fire! Orchestra *Exit!* (Rune Grammofon)
 - Crime and The City Solution *American Twilight* (Mute Records)
 - Günter Schickert *Kinder der Wildnis* (Re-Issue/bureau b)
 - Hugo Race *We Never Had Control* (Interbang Records)
 - Simon Joyner *Ghosts* (Sing, Eunuchs!)
 - Fire! (*without noticing*) (Rune Grammofon)
 - My Bloody Valentine *mbv* (mbv records)
 - Destruction Unit *Deep Trip* (Sacred Bones Records)
 - Kurt Vile *Smoke Ring for a Halo* (Matador)
 - Schneider TM *Construction Sounds* (bureau b)
 - Catherine Irwin *Little Heater* (Thrill Jockey)
 - Kitty Solaris *We Stop the Dance* (Solaris Empire)
 - Kluster *schwarz (Eruption)* (bureau b)
 - Daniel Norgren *Buck* (Super Puma Records)
 - Sally Ford & The Sound Outside *Untamed Beast* (Fargo Records)
 - William Adamson *Under an East Coast Moon Discmix Versions* (Brownwood Recordings)
 - Valerie June *Pushin' Against a Stone* (Sundays Best)
 - Mama Rosin *Bye Bye Bayou* (Moi J'connais Records)
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Jack Gold-Molina

- Nik Turner *Space Gypsy*
- Hedersleben *Upgoer*
- Earthless *From The Ages*
- WA *Cross The Center*
- Acid Mothers Temple *In Search Of The Lost Divine Arc*
- Chrome *Half Machine From The Sun*
- John Coltrane *Sun Ship: The Complete Sessions*
- John Coltrane *Afro Blue/Impressions*
- Golden Void *Golden Void*
- Hawklords *Dream*
- Miles Davis *Live In Europe 1969*
- Miles Davis *Newport 1967* (Vinyl only)
- Can *Tago Mago Live* (Vinyl only)
- Can *The Lost Tapes*
- Mudhoney *Vanishing Point*
- Soundgarden *Screaming Life/Fopp* (Reissue)
- Aquaserge *MOSTLA-mix-SERGE-tape*
- Spacegoat *Spacegoat EP*
- Stripmall Architecture *The Exotic Sounds Of Stripmall Architecture*

- Elton John *The Diving Board*
-

Kurt Gottschalk

- Joana Sá & Luís José Martins *Almost a Song*
 - Nick Brooke *Border Towns*
 - Jacques Demierre *Breaking Stone*
 - Chris Abrahams/Alessandro Bosetti *We Who Had Left*
 - Chris Abrahams/Magda Mayas *Gardener*
 - Anthony Braxton *Echo Echo Mirror House*
 - Ellery Eskelin/Susan Alcorn/Michael Formanek *Mirage*
 - Sophie Agnel/John Edwards/Steve Noble *Meteo*
 - Aki Takase *My Ellington*
 - Yannis Kyriakides *Resorts and Ruins*
 - Koch / Schutz/Studer with Shelley Hirsch *Walking and Stumbling Through Your Sleep*
 - Trophies *You Wait to Publish*
 - Maja Ratkje/Ikue Mori *Scrumptious Sabotage*
 - Mathieu Metzger *Self-Cooking*
 - Evan Parker/Barry Guy/Paul Lytton *Live at Maya Recordings Festival*
 - John Tilbury *For Tomasz Sikorski*
 - Jaap Blonk *Songs of Little Sleep*
 - Jason Cady *Happiness is the Problem*
 - John Butcher/Thomas Lehn/John Tilbury *Exta*
 - Tony Oxley with Bailey/Rutherford/Thomas *A Birthday Tribute: 75 Years*
-

Jason Gross

- Fidlar *Fidlar*
- Bad Religion *True North*
- Daft Punk *Random Access Memories*
- Deerhunter *Monomania*
- Stooshe *London With the Lights On*
- MacG *Freedom*
- Telekinesis *Dormarion*
- Deltron 3030 *The Event II*
- Melt Yourself Down *Melt Yourself Down*
- Burial *Rival Dealer*
- Bleeding Rainbow *Yeah Right*
- Ex Cops *True Hallucinations*
- Banque Allemande *Willst du Chinese sein musst du die ekligen Sachen essen*
- M.I.A. *Matangi*
- Arcade Fire *Reflektor*
- Jai Paul *Jai Paul*
- Caleb James *The Jones*
- J Cole *Born Sinner*
- Hanni El Khatib *Head in the Dirt*
- Front Bottoms *Talon of the Hawk*

FULL LIST: <http://yewieblog.blogspot.com/2013/12/2013s-greatest-hits-albumssinglesreissu.html>

Billy Hell

Thalia Zedek goes first due to more emotional content than other music of similar excellence. Also honourable mention for two five song CD EPs "Last Days of Butterfly" by Stranger Son and "The Ghost List" by Girls Against Boys. I could almost be living in the 1990s.

- Thalia Zedek Band *Via*
- Bardo Pond *Peace On Venus*
- Wire *Change Becomes Us*
- Melt Banana *Fetch*
- Califone *Stitches*
- White Hills *So You Are... So You'll Be*
- Rodan *Fifteen Quiet Years* (compilation / Peel session)

- Arbouretum *Coming Out of the Fog*
- Carlton Melton *Always Even*
- Low *The Invisible Way*
- Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds *Push the Sky Away*
- Yo La Tengo *Fade*
- Polvo *Siberia*
- My Bloody Valentine *MBV*
- King Champion Sounds *Different Drummer*
- The Ex and Brass Unbound *Enormous Door*
- Mick Turner *Don't Tell the Driver*
- Pelican *Forever Becoming*
- Mainliner *Revelation Space*
- Kandodo *K20*

Brent Jensen

- Kurt Vile *Wakin on a Pretty Daze*
- Patty Griffin *American Kid*
- Laura Marling *Once I Was An Eagle*
- The National *Trouble will Find Me*
- Motorhead *Aftershock*
- Elvis Costello & the Roots *Wise Up Ghost*
- Johnny Flynn *Country Mile*
- Hiss Golden Messenger *Haw*
- David Bowie *The Next Day*
- Josephine Foster *I'm A Dreamer*
- Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds *Push The Sky Away*
- Arcade Fire *Reflektor*
- Chelsea Light Moving *Chelsea Light Moving*
- Tom Keifer *The Way Life Goes*
- The Men *New Moon*
- Steve Gunn *Time Off*
- Alter Bridge *Fortress*
- Alela Diane *About Farewell*
- Palma Violets *180*
- Pearl Jam *Lightning Bolt*



left to right: Wonder Years, Pablo Ziegler, Charles Bradley, Sweet Felony, Fairport Convention

Zachary Kauz

- Foxygen *We Are The 21st Century Ambassadors Of Peace & Magic*
- Chance the Rapper *Acid Rap*
- Black Milk *No Poison No Paradise*
- Thundercat *Apocalypse*
- Kool A.D. *63*
- Milo *Things That Happen At Day/Night*
- Mr Mfn. Exquire *Kismet*
- YC The Cynic *GNK*
- Queens of the Stone Age *Like Clockwork*
- Kurt Vile *Wakin On a Pretty Daze*
- Run The Jewels *Run The Jewels*
- Smith Westerns *Soft Will*
- Wavves *Afraid of Heights*
- King Krule *6 Feet Beneath the Moon*
- of Montreal *Lousy with Sylvianbriar*
- This Routine is Hell *Howl*
- Melt Yourself Down *Melt Yourself Down*
- Major Lazer *Free The Universe*
- Hellfyre Club *Dorner vs. Tookie*
- Danny Brown *Old (Still falls apart at the end but has grown on me)*

Honorable Mentions:

- Mac Miller *Watching Movies with the Sound Off* (Falls apart at the end)
 - James Blake *Overgrown* (Tracks 6-8 could very well be James Blake's weakest material)
 - Armand Hammer *Race Music* (A bit long)
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Giovanni Lobato

- The 1975 *The 1975*
 - Goldspot *Aerogramme*
 - Little Comets *Life is Elsewhere*
 - Mree *Winterwell*
 - The Wonder Years *The Greatest Generation*
 - Streetlight Manifesto *The Hands That Thieve*
 - The Lone Bellow *The Lone Bellow*
 - Kanye West *Yeezus*
-

George Light

Albums New

- Terence Blanchard *Magnetic*
- BNLX *LP*
- Daft Punk *Random Access Memories*
- Deerhunter *Monomania*
- Jason Isbell, *Southeastern*
- My Bloody Valentine *m b v*
- Tedeschi Trucks Band *Everybody's Talkin'*
- Waxahatchee *Cerulean Salt*

Reissues

- BNLX *Produit Collecté (Collected Product)*
- Bob Dylan *The Bootleg Series Vol. 10 Another Self- Portrait (1969-1971)*
- The Mountain Goats *All Hail West Texas*
- Neutral Milk Hotel *Box Set*
- Songa: Ohia *The Magnolia Electric Co.*
- Various Artists *The Rise and Fall of Paramount Records, Volume One (1917-1932)*

Songs

- Babtunde's Ubuntu Band "Ubuntu Song"
 - Chvrches "Gun"
 - Savages "She Will"
 - Linda Marie Smith "All the Umbrellas in London"
 - Wyatt Funderburk "If Ever I Wanted Easier"
 - Ylvis "The Fox"
-

Wade Oberlin

- Public Image Ltd. *First Issue* (Reissue)
 - The Names *Swimming* (Reissue + Singles)
 - Woebot *Woebiotic*
 - I'm Sorry *First Cry*
 - Chelsea Light Moving *Chelsea Light Moving*
-

Jack Partain

- Neko Case *The Worse Things Get, The Harder I Fight, The Harder I Fight, The More I Love You*
 - Neko Case *The Worse Things Get, The Harder I Fight, The Harder I Fight, The More I Love You*
 - Neko Case *The Worse Things Get, The Harder I Fight, The Harder I Fight, The More I Love You*
 - Did Dylan release an album this year?
 - Neko Case *The Worse Things Get, The Harder I Fight, The Harder I Fight, The More I Love You*
 - The Thermals *Desperate Ground*
 - Elephant Revival *These Changing Skies*
 - Laurie Anderson's obituary for Lou Reed
 - Har Mar Superstar *Bye Bye 17*
 - Wooden Wand *Blood Oaths Of The New Blues*
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James Paton

- Boards of Canada *Tomorrows Harvest*
- Jacques Brel *Brel*
- Jacques Brel *Ne Me Quitte Pas*
- Serge Gainsbourg *Aux Armes Et Caetera*
- John Coltrane *A Love Supreme*

In truth, whilst Boards of Canada's *Tomorrows Harvest* is my favourite album of the year, it is actually the only new release that I have purchased throughout the entirety of 2013, but don't let that put you off, for this latest effort is quite possibly Mike Sandison and Marcus Eoin's finest to date. Sumptuous, melodic and incredibly chilled out, the album feels like it was the score that *Tron: Legacy* should have had, it's simply immense. The remainder of my top albums go to Universal Music Group's High Definition Pure Audio releases, there are more than thirty albums available, but so far these are my only tastes of the new format thus far. Neil Young said last year that 2013 would be the year for bluray audio, and Universal have proved him right, and whilst the internet is full of disparaging comments for a new physical medium, the Pure Audio releases (which debuted in France in the summer) have already sold well over half a million units thus far, so if we're lucky, high resolution audio may yet be here to stay. I cannot recommend these enough, particularly the Brel albums which are warm, offer frightening clarity, and Mr Brel himself now sings with a voice as big as a house, I simply cannot wait to hear how Scott Walker will sound when his albums eventually come. Roll on 2014.

Robert Pally

- - Lisa Mychols *Above, beyond & in between*
 - Michael Fennelly *Love Can Change Everything: Demos 1967-1972* (Reissue)
 - Woodkid *The Golden Age*
 - Primal Scream *More Light*
 - Clutch *Earth Rocker*
 - Queens of the Stone Age *...Like Clockwork*
 - Goldfrapp *Tales of Us*
 - Greek Theatre *Lost Out At Sea*
 - Earthbend *Serenity*
 - Jacco Gardner *Cabinet Of Curiosities*
 - Joel Sarakula *The Golden Age*
 - Jonathan Wilson *Fanfare*
 - Justin Currie *Lower Reaches*
 - Matthew E. White *Big inner*
 - Rue Royal *Remedies ahead*
 - The Spring Standards *Yellow//Gold*
 - The Winkies *Same* (Reissue)
-

Danny R. Phillips

Album of the Year- Savages *Silence Yourself*

All others in no particular order of greatness:

- Bad Religion *True North*
- Black on Black *Get On With It*
- Queens of the Stone Age *...Like Clockwork*
- Dsoedean *Continue to Move*
- Nirvana *In Utero- Steve Albini Remix* (Record Store Day Black Friday Limited Release)
- Tame Impala *Lonerism*
- Velvet Underground *White Light/ White Heat 45th Anniversary Edition*

- Grant Hart *The Argument*
 - The Bronx *IV*
 - Mudhoney *Vanishing Point*
 - Many Moods of Dad *The Consequence of Trying*
 - Big Star *Nothing Can Hurt Me: The Story of Big Star Original Soundtrack*
 - The Joy Formidable *Wolf's Law*
 - Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds *Pushing the Sky Away*
 - Vampire Weekend *Modern Vampires of New York*
 - Superchunk *I Hate Music*
 - No Age *An Object*
 - Parquet Courts *Light Up Gold*
 - Arctic Monkeys *AM*
 - The Oblivians *Desperation*
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Marc Phillips

- Robert Sarazin Blake *Robt Sarazin Blake*
 - Daniel Louis White *Natural Consequences Vol. 1*
 - Neko Case *The Worse Things Get, the Harder I Fight, the Harder I Fight, the More I Love You*
 - Daft Punk *Random Access Memories*
 - Janelle Monae *The Electric Lady*
 - Nirvana *In Utero (20th Anniversary Edition)*
 - Arcade Fire *Reflektor*
 - Sherman Baker *Sherman Baker*
 - David Bowie *The Next Day*
 - Jane Ira Bloom *Sixteen Sunsets*
 - Bone Cave Ballet *Will of the Waves*
 - George Glass *Welcome Home*
 - The Smoking Flowers *2 Guns*
 - Sly and the Family Stone *There's a Riot Goin' On (ORG resissue)*
 - The Beta Band *The Regal Years (1997-2004)*
 - Kasey Musgraves *Same Trailer Different Park*
 - My Bloody Valentine *m b v*
 - Uranienborg Vokalensemble *Song*
 - Sweet Felony *Split Ends Mend*
 - White Orange *Onawa*
-

Ethan Stanislawski

- Vampire Weekend *Modern Vampires of the City* (which, I should note, I consider the best album of the past 10 years)
 - Parquet Courts *Light Up Gold*
 - Those Darlins *Blur The Line*
 - Kanye West *Yeezus*
 - Pissed Jeans *Honeys*
 - Deap Vally *Sistrionix*
 - Marnie Stern *Chronicles of Marnia*
 - Heavy Times *Fix It Alone*
 - Quasi *Mole City*
 - Mannequin Pussy *Gypsy Pervert*
 - Bare Mutants *The Affliction*
 - Deer Tick *Negativity*
 - Chance The Rapper *Acid Rap*
 - Various Artists *The World's End Soundtrack*
 - Free Energy *Love Sign*
 - Radical Dads *Rapid Reality*
 - The Julie Ruin *Run Fast*
 - Hilly Eye *Reasons To Live*
 - Eminem *The Marshall Mathers LP 2*
 - Run The Jewels *Run The Jewels*
-

Pat Thomas

- Alex Chilton *Electricity By Candlelight*
 - Robert Wyatt '68
 - Various Artists *LIVE AT CAFFE LENA : MUSIC FROM AMERICA'S LEGENDARY COFFEEHOUSE, 1967-2013*
 - Linda Thompson *It Won't Be Long Now*
 - Fairport Convention *Rising For The Moon* (2 CD expanded edition)
 - Lal Waterson *Teach Me to Be a Summer's Morning* (book with a CD)
 - Bobby Whitlock *Where There's A Will There's A Way: The ABC-Dunhill Recordings*
 - King Crimson *Road to Red* (box set)
 - Bob Dylan *Another Self Portrait (1969-1971): The Bootleg Series Vol. 10*
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Mark S. Tucker

After pissing off idiot editors at every national magazine and website on Planet Shithole - oops! I mean: Earth - that I've written for over 30 years (save for four gigs, this being one of 'em), I've purposely fallen out and have been freelancing. Good thing, actually, 'cause mainstream PR people suck Godzilla donkey choad. I want nothing to do with the bastards. Nonetheless, reviewing hundreds of discs per year as I do, I caught some damn good'uns that never made it into the media circus, so here they are...n I'm making my list 21. I push things, it's what I do.

Of course, the real world DOES make a few good choices, sure, so I've noted a coupla mainliners that were fetching as well. Another small deviation: Tom House's **Winding Down the Road** is a 2012 issuance, but, godammit!, it's perfect, and no one's paying attention, so I'm still lauding it a year later. And probably will next year too. It needs to be heard. Seriously. Like I say, I step on the rules. I'm kind of a prick.

Okay then, alphabetically:

- Rory Block *Avalon: A Tribute to Mississippi John Hurt*
 - Leo Brouwer *Beatlerianas*
 - Jeri Brown *Echoes*
 - Camel *The Snow Goose* (reissue - remaster)
 - Copernicus *Worthless!*
 - Pierre De Gaillande *Bad Reputation: Pierre de Gaillande sings Georges Bressens, Vol. 2*
 - Dream Theater *Dream Theater*
 - Jace Everett *Terra Rose*
 - Ayman Fanous / Jason Kao Hwang *Zilzal*
 - Tom House *Winding Down the Road*
 - Kevin Kastning / Sandor Szabo / Balazs Major *Becoming*
 - Peter Kerlin Octet *Salamander*
 - King Crimson *Road to Red* (reissue - deluxe ed.)
 - Lord Mouse And The Kalypso Katz *Go Calypsonian*
 - Melt-Banana *Fetch*
 - Van Morrison *Moondance* (reissue - deluxe ed.)
 - Meg Okura & The Pan-Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble *Music of Ryuichi Sakamoto*
 - Scott Robinson / Frank Kimbrough *Afar*
 - Forrest Smithson *Dreaming Time*
 - Julien Temple (Director) *Oil City Confidential: The Story of Dr. Feelgood* (DVD)
 - Pablo Ziegler & Metropole Orkester *Amsterdam Meets New Tango*
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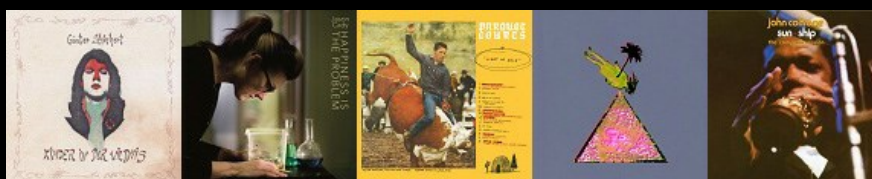
Daniel Varela

- Dennis Johnson *November*
- Philip Corner *Piano Activities*
- Stephen Whittington *Music for Airport Furniture*
- John Cage *The Works for Organ*
- Harold Budd *Jane 1 - 11*
- BJ Nilsen *Eye of the Microphone*
- Bryn Harrison *Vessels*
- Peter Streiff *Vokal/ Instrumental*
- Joseph Byrd *NYC 1960 - 1963*
- Various Artists *The Art of David Tudor*
- Various Artists *IPEM - Institute for Psychoacoustics and Electronic Music : 50 years of electronic and electroacoustic music at the Ghent University*

- Alvin Curran *Shofar Rags*
- Nu Creative Methods *Superstitions*
- François Bayle *Les Couleurs De La Nuit*
- Brunhild Meyer-Ferrari & Luc Ferrari *Contes Sentimentaux*
- Gamelan Semara Rati of Bali *Returning Minimalism*
- Marginal Consort *Instal, Glasgow 2008*
- Sound and Fury *Pulsacion*
- Lars-Gunnar Bodin/Bengt Emil Johnson *Semikolon*
- Neil Young *Live at the Cellar Door*

Kurt Wildermuth

- John Cale - Brooklyn Academy of Music, hosting a tribute to Nico on 1/16 and playing solo on 1/18: The sweet Nico tribute inspired me to buy all of her recordings with Cale. Cale's solo show was excellent, and his final encore, a cover of the VU's "Venus in Furs" with him singing and playing viola, was the kind of treat I go to concerts hoping for.
- Dave Davies - Hudson Park Festival, 6/4: His voice was never strong, and now it's horrible; I hope to never hear him destroy "Tired of Waiting" again; and his guitar playing could never be called virtuosic. However, Dave made up for his shortcomings with spirit and good humor.
- Bob Dylan *The Bootleg Series, Vol. 10: Another Self Portrait*: Another weird, beautiful dream from the master of them.
- Led Zeppelin vs The Beatles - Whole Lotta Helter Skelter: Brilliant Soundhog mashup at YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aY2bWyiaei4>).
- Low - Ethical Culture Society, 3/20: The day after the release of their excellent CD *The Invisible Way*, this two-decade-old band played like their mission is to keep the music fresh at every moment.
- Parliament Funkadelic - Beekman Beer Garden, 8/22: A blast. Yes, this funk band can most definitely still play rock.
- John Prine - Beacon Theater, 9/6: A country-folk-rock blast by a grizzled veteran.
- Los Straitjackets - Hudson Park Festival, 6/11: Hours of instrumental fun and stage antics by four guys in suits and wrestling masks. Like a dream directed by Quentin Tarantino.
- Throwing Muses *Purgatory/Paradise*: Visionary return and recapitulation.
- Laura Veirs *Warp and Weft*: Irresistible.
- Rufus Wainwright, Martha Wainwright, et al. – Brooklyn Academy of Music, 6/23: "Kate's Kids" was a freewheeling tribute to the late, great Kate McGarrigle and a release party for the live McGarrigle tribute compilation *Sing Me the Songs*. Lovely stuff.



left to right: Gunter Schickert, Jason Cady, Parquet Courts, Melt Yourself Down, John Coltrane

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