

40

ANA SILVERA

Oracles

Poignant, dreamlike and beautiful and written following the sudden loss of her mother and brother, Oracles was Silvera's way to transmute her grief into a cathartic work of art. The result is a haunting yet life-affirming collection of songs whose lyrics explore the journey towards acceptance with beguiling, weaving choral lines, mellifluous Debussian piano melodies, subtly off-kilter percussion and rapturous strings.



39

SZUN WAVES

New Hymn To Freedom

Szun Waves are prolific electronic producer Luke Abbott, Portico Quartet sax player Jack Wyllie and Australian percussion master Laurence Pike. Sometimes in improvised music there can be a distance from the players, a sense you're sitting back and admiring their interplay – but with Szun Waves', you're right in there with them, experiencing the absolute joy the three musicians feel as they circle around each other, exploring the spaces they've opened up.



38

WAXAHATCHEE

Great Thunder EP

On the heels of last year's critically acclaimed Out in the Storm, Katie Crutchfield found herself looking to take a sharp turn away from the more rock-oriented influences of her recent records towards her more folk and country roots. "I would say that it is a complete 180 from the last record: super stripped-down, quiet, and with me performing solo, it's a throwback to how I started."



37

NILS FRAHM

All Melody

Nils' new album is born out of the freedom that a new environment provided, allowing Nils to explore without any restrictions and to keep it All about the Melody. Despite being confined within the majestic four walls of the Berlin Funkhaus, buried deep in its reverb chambers, or in an old dry well in Mallorca, All Melody is, in fact, proof that music is limitless, timeless, and reflects that of Nils' own capabilities.



36

J MASCIS

Elastic Days

Mascis does almost all his own stunts here, although there are a few guest vocal spots. These include old mates Pall Jenkins and Mark Mulcahy but the show is mostly J's. For those expecting the hallucinatory overload of Dinosaur Jr's live attack, the gentleness of the approach here will draw easy comparisons to Neil Young's binary approach to working solo versus working with Crazy Horse.

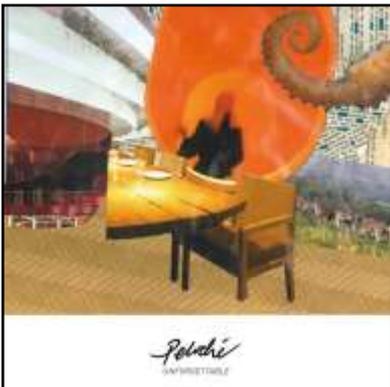


35

BETH ROWLEY

Gota Fria

10 years ago debut 'Little Dreamer' went top 10, garnered a Brit nomination and sales in excess of 100,000. A huge achievement but Rowley felt compromised both musically and stylistically. A heady fusion of rock, blues and Americana 'Gota Fria' is a startling rebirth, with a confidence that belies that ten-year absence.



34

PELUCHE

Unforgettable

Pioneers of 'Trip Jam', an emerging genre that fuses elements of Latin, funk, psychedelia, soul and hip-hop, hotly tipped trio Peluche are a troupe of intrepid troubadours, whose freewheeling artistry has already cemented their position as a standout force in London's diverse music scene.



33

ANNA CALVI

Hunter

Richly seamed powerful sounds march to the fore. Lusciously rich vocals roll and rumble up the octaves of valleys and down the hills of melody. Cathartic songs that explore sexuality breaking free from gender conformity. An emotive journey that lingers on after it's told.



32

WILL OLDHAM

Songs Of Love And Horror

Sung and played by Will alone, in a setting enjoyed by fans of his music - that of one voice and one guitar, the better to savour the spare changes and starkly-cut lyrics, operating in quiet tension and ultimate collaboration. Will brings to the songs all that he has learned from his stage-crafting fellows over the years, singing new versions that quiver like fresh young things in the air of today.



31

ADRIENNE LENKER

Abysskiss

Culled from songs written in snatched moments on the relentless Big Thief tour schedule it's 10 songs of dreamy wonder. Plucked, caressed and stroked silvery guitar strings flutter and quiver under flurrying fingers. Reflective, crooning vocals fall like a lullaby from a gentle folksy liting swaying singer. Simple and unadorned cascading arpeggios of sweet guitar notes and rippling piano.

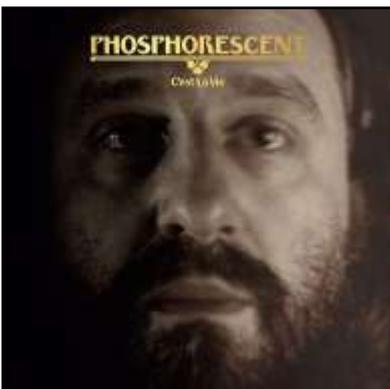


30

BUFFALO TOM

Quiet And Peace

Having first made its mark with a raw, raucous approach that put the band at the forefront of the '90s alt-rock explosion, the intrepid trio has consistently revealed new layers of musical and emotional depth, as manifested in the bitter-sweet ballads, soul-searching song craft and rousing rock tunes that make up the new album Quiet and Peace.



29

PHOSPHORESCENT

C'est La Vie

Songs encompassing swoops and swooning passes of sound pulsate with throbbing keyboards. Vamping synths back a sobbing heart of a voice. Like country songs from the lonesome prairie spruced up by Ennio Morricone on a synth. An occasional tinge of a Caribbean beach party atmosphere waft by.



28

NUBYA GARCIA

When We Are

Following on from her scorching sophomore release, Nubya's *Five* (jazz:refreshed), *When We Are* sees the trailblazing player take typically self-assured steps into new territory with electronic experimentation. "I've been inspired a lot by the producers around me at the moment, people like Ben Hayes, Tom Misch, Joe Armon-Jones, Jake Long and Maxwell Owun", said Garcia. "There's an electronic vibe in there that I wanted to explore more."

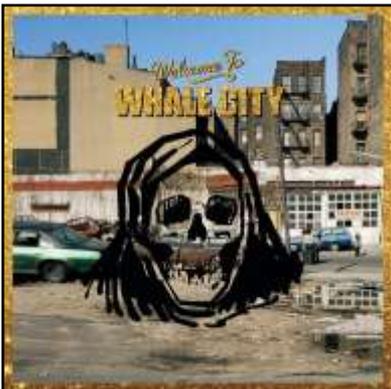


27

THE LAST POETS

Understand What Black Is

On the 50th anniversary of the band's inception at an event in Harlem, NY to commemorate Malcolm X's birthday, influential spoken word artists, poets and commentators The Last Poets make a glorious return with their first album in 20 years. "Understand What Black Is" speaks of a revolutionary struggle defined by both race and identity, that has never sounded more relevant.



26

WARMDUSCHER

Whale City

London recidivists Warmduscher include members of Paranoid London, Fat White Family and Childhood. Longtime Warmduscher biographer Dr Alan Goldfarb describes *Whale City* as "a rock opera so vast in magnitude that - were in not for my being strapped naked to a chair in a garage - could send a man hurtling towards the outer perimeters of uncharted space."



25

COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS

May Your Kindness Remain

UK fans fell for Courtney's breakthrough album *Honest Life* last year, when as the BBC put it, she became an "overnight success" after 10 years trying to break into the business. UK media compared her music to the work of classic artists such as Guy Clark, John Prine, Joni Mitchell, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and Glen Campbell alongside modern references such as Laura Marling and Julie Byrne.



24

VIRGINIA WING

Ecstatic Arrow

Ecstatic Arrow borrows from the heterogeneous terrain of The Flying Lizard's Fourth Wall, the exuberant technology assisted pop of Yellow Magic Orchestra and the playful sophistication of Lizzy Mercier Descloux's Press Colour, arriving at the evergreen intersection of pop music and conceptual art



23

EELS

The Deconstruction

"Here are 15 new Eels tracks that may or may not inspire, rock, or not rock you. The world is going nuts. But if you look for it, there is still great beauty to be found. Sometimes you don't even have to look for it. Other times you have to try to make it yourself. And then there are times you have to tear something apart to find something beautiful inside." Eels singer-songwriter E.



22

YOUNG FATHERS

Cocoa Sugar

Written and recorded in the band's basement studio and HQ, Cocoa Sugar sees Young Fathers operating with a newfound clarity and direction, and is without doubt their most confident and complete statement to date. For all the more accessible moments, there still lurks a heart of darkness inside.



21

NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS

Tearing At The Seams

The group mentality is no more evident than on the glorious opener Shoe Boot a five minute, funk-infused jam and Intro the raucous jam used to open the band's sets over the last few years. The album title track, however, is perhaps the most moving, lyrically tackling the huge challenges and sacrifices faced along the way by a band who are constantly away from home on the road. Rateliff's inimitably expressive, world-weary vocal leads the track as it builds into an emotional yet defiant close