

Music | Bittles' Magazine: The music column from the end of the world

Every year the month of December sees many of us struggle to survive the gift-buying frenzy and glut of ,hearty' parties thrown our way. That's why it can be important to take a break every once in a while and treat the most important person in your life: you. And, what better way to do this than by checking out some of the stunning new music sitting fresh and eager on the nation's record stores' shelves? By **JOHN BITTLES**

This week I will be reviewing some great new records which are certain to raise more Christmas cheer than buying your father yet another pair of novelty socks. We have a fab new live album from **New Order**, a stellar collection of post-punk tunes from *Cherry Red*, the club destroying grooves of **DJ Pierre** and **DVS1**, the glacial electro throb of **Aleksi Perälä**, a sublime new mixtape from **Sampa The Great**, and tons more.

So, put on your winter woollies, get yourself a glass of glühwein, and let us begin...



While most people think of disco, punk or the glitter ridden extravagance of glam rock when they reminisce about the 1970s, the end of the decade also saw the refinement of a series of musical movements which later came to be labelled ,post punk'. This month the good people at *Cherry Red Records* release a five disc compendium of some of the best music released during this time. *To The Outside Of Everything - A Story Of UK Post-Punk 1977-1982* is out now and contains tracks by alternative heavyweights such as **Joy Division**, **PiL**, **Wire**, **Echo And The Bunnymen**, **The Fall**, **Throbbing Gristle** and more. Named after a lyric from **Magazine's** *Shot By Both Sides*, *To The Outside Of Everything* is at its best when unearthing little-known gems. For instance *China's Eternal* by **The Tights** is a perfect marriage of new wave romanticism and punk rock snarl, **The Raincoat's** *Fairytale In The Supermarket* is a loose rebel rouser, *The Dignity Of Labour Pt. 1* by **Human League** is a fantastic slice of early electronica, and **The Slits**, *Typical Girls* skilfully pairs reggae riffs with urban bite. Go buy! **9/10**.



Two years ago the album *Music Complete* saw Manchester band **New Order** triumphantly return to peak form. Full of catchy dance floor grooves, surging melodies and vocalist **Bernard Sumner** in fine voice throughout, it was the group's most enjoyable full-length in a mighty long time. The accompanying tour showcased a band revitalised, giving each show a celebratory tone. *NOMC15* was recorded during the second of their sold out *Brixton Academy* gigs, and bucks the trend of recent live albums by being pretty great. After a slow build up, the album kicks off properly with the driving pulse of *Singularity* and an ecstatic sounding *Ceremony*. From here, the set features classics such as *Bizarre Love Triangle*, *True Faith*, *Blue Monday* and *Love Will Tear Us Apart* mixed with new tracks such as *Tutti Frutti*, *People On The High Line* and *Restless*. While it is the classics that will have you raising your hands into the air wishing you were with a couple of thousand other sweaty bodies, the newer songs stand up remarkably well. All of which makes *NOMC15* a must for any pop music fan. **8.5/10**.



A collection of new tracks, classics and remixes, **DJ Pierre's** *Wild Pitch: The Story* is an excellent snapshot of one of the stand out producers of our time. For those who don't know, the Chicago native practically invented acid house when messing around with a *Roland TR-303* drum machine back in the mid 80s. While *Wild Pitch* doesn't feature *Acid Trax*, or his other work with seminal band **Phuture**, the goodies do come thick and fast. **DJ Pierre's** take on *House For All* by **Blunted Dummies** opens the album with warm house tones and a slightly trippy air. This vibe is continued by the lush mid-paced groove of *MuSiQ*, while the gospel house vocals and preacher samples help make *Meet Hate With Love* a joyous slice of classic house. Of the big hitters, the excellent *Generate Power* is given an unnecessary update, yet still manages to sound fab, *House Music*, a collaboration with **Marshall Jefferson**, is a deep heady jam, while the 1979 *Disco Club Mix* of **Donna Summer's** *I Feel Love* is one of the best edits you will hear all year. Although *Wild Pitch* isn't a record you will find yourself repeatedly playing from beginning to end, there are more than enough gems here to make any clubber's day. **8/10**.



Over the last few years, Finnish artist **Alekski Perälä** has successfully crafted some of the most accomplished electronic music ever committed to wax. His *Colundi Sequence* series, the best of which were recently rounded up on two stunning volumes by *Clone*, features a glorious mixture of heady electronica, spacey techno and jerky electro. This month he returns to our stereos via **Nina Kraviz's Trip** label for the dense, sonic assault of his new double EP. Composed of ten tracks, *Paradox* is out on the 15th of December and will make the perfect Christmas present for anyone who likes their music cerebral and deep. More dance floor focused than his recent *Simulation* LP, *Paradox merges* the futuristic sounds of electro pioneers like **UR** or **Drexciya** with 90s IDM and more to create a musical landscape resembling no one else around. As usual, tracks are given perfunctory titles such as *GBLFT1740065*, and, while some are no more than club tools, *Paradox* is an album which will delight fans of **Convexion** or **E.R.P.** **8/10.**



Mixed live in one continuous take using only three decks and a *Xone 92* mixer, the latest in London institution *Fabric's* long-running series boasts American producer and DJ **DSV1** furiously blending a total of 29 tracks in his own inimitable style. *Fabric 96* is out now and is formed of completely new material from techno/house bastions such as **Steffi**, **Neel**, **Planetary Assault Systems** and **Jeff Mills**. With the majority of tracks drawn from **Zak Khutoresky's** own *Mistress* and *HUSH* imprints there is a degree of subtlety and musicality to be found here which makes *Fabric 96* stand out from the slew of tough techno mixes you can find on *Soundcloud* or any number of mix hosting sites. And, while *Fabric 96* isn't an album you will find yourself playing to help seduce the person of your dreams, it does capture the energy, passion and excitement of going clubbing in 2017 better than a bottle of Buckfast and a bucket full of pills. **8/10.**



A special mention must also go to: *Birds And The BEE9* by **Sampa The Great** - Funky, musical and exhilaratingly fresh sounding, **Sampa Tembo's** debut release on *Big Dada* is a glorious melding of hip hop and soul, **9/10**, *Drownscapes* by **Locust Toybox** - Out now on *Brainfeeder*, these lonely, melancholy ambient excursions will make the perfect soundtrack to long winter nights, **8/10**, *GL Outtakes* by **Martyn** - A collection of darkly funky tracks originally composed in 2008/2009, a time when dubstep rhythms seemed unimaginably exciting and new, **8/10**, *Reflection Of Youth* by **Eera** - London based **Anna Lena Bruland's** debut LP is a heartfelt panorama of huge rock riffs, soulful dirges and confessional lyrics. In other words, it's great, **8.5/10**, *The Best Of Get Physical 2017* by **V/A** - With a total of 50 tracks by artists such as **M.A.N.D.Y.**, **DJ Pierre**, **Few Nolder**, **DJ T**, and **Jazzuelle**, it sounds like German label *Get Physical* had a pretty great year, **8/10**, *Heaven Inside Your Frequencies* by **Simone Gatto** - Hazy electronica and shadowy Balearica combine to form a record which does strange things to the mind, **7.5/10**, *Hypnagogia* by **Austen/Scott** - *Danse Club Records* celebrate their 50th release with the debut LP from label heads **Austen** and **Scott Smart**. Tough, yet melodic, these eleven tracks hit that sweet spot where house and techno meet, **8/10** and *Tour De Traum XIV* by **V/A** - Surely there is no better way to spend Christmas Day than curling up with your loved ones to the sound of *Traum* label head **Riley Reinhold** blending a soundtrack of ambient, electronica, techno and melody rich house, **8.5/10**.



And let's not forget: *Pop Ambient 2018* by **V/A** - The latest instalment of *Kompakt's* annual celebration of all that is tranquil and sedate features acts including **Kaito**, **Mikkel Metal**, **The Orb** and **T. Raumschmiere** who give us twelve tracks of aural gold, **8.5/10**, *Don't Believe In Happiness* by **Jori Hulkkonen** - Anyone with fond memories of 80s synth pop will find much to enjoy in this excellent LP, **8.5/10**, *Barricades* by **Franck Vigroux** - A gloriously dense album of ambient atmospherics and brutal electronics, **8/10**, *Cryosleep* by **Null + Void** - **Kurt Uenala's** debut album sees guests such as **Dave Gahan**, **Black Rebel Motorcycle Club** and **The Big Pink** create a goth-tinged pop gem, **8/10**, *Aspirations For Young Xol* by **Santiago Salazar** - The **Underground Resistance** artist arrives on **Radio Slave's** *Rekids* imprint

with a groove laden record of deep techno jams, **8/10**, *In Case You Don't Know What To Play* by **Damiano Von Erckert** - An album of playful house and techno which will bring a smile to the face as it pulls at your feet, **7.5/10**, *Amsterdam To Broadway* by **Brian Johnson** - Solid album of big room house moments, perfect for those times when you just have to raise your arms in the air, **7/10**, *Principles Of Newspeak* by **Nicolas Bougaïeff** - Dense, cerebral techno with a winning 4/4 thump, **7/10**, and *Permanent Vacation X* by **V/A** - Munich label *Permanent Vacation* celebrate ten years in the game with a four record set which will make the perfect Xmas present for anyone in love with house, **9/10**.

| [JOHN BITTLES](#)