

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

This week, and the next, I shall be ignoring the fact that it is *Record Store Day* to bring you a selection of the finest 12-inch records known to man. In part one alone we have the lush house grooves of **Peggy Gou**, **Ross From Friends** and **LK**, the rich electronica of **Francis Harris** and **Darren Nye**, the noisy funk of **Rex The Dog**, the sample heavy grooves of **Bassically**, and lots more. By **JOHN BITTLES**

So, make some space on your record shelves, and let us begin...



Rising star **Peggy Gou** has had the type of meteoric ascent most of us could only dream about. The Berlin resident's output manages to sound undeniably unique in a crowded marketplace and contains a sense of freshness which wafts over the listener like a cooling breeze. Case in point is the excellent *Once EP*, out now via *Ninja Tune*. Featuring three groove heavy tracks all but guaranteed to make a dance floor swoon, *Once* is nothing less than divine. Opener *It Makes You Forget (Itgehane)* features the Korean born producer singing on wax for the very first time. Slick, soulful, and with just a hint of 303, this will do damage on all but the most jaded of floors. *Hundred Times* meanwhile is a bouncy electro jam with a playful house touch, while *Han Jan* utilizes deadpan vocals, fizzing beats and a killer bassline to devastating effect. While the vinyl is pretty much sold out, don't despair, as a repress is due very soon. **9/10**.

Brooklyn based artist **Francis Harris** has, over the years, been responsible for some of the dreamiest house music known to man. A founding member of the always excellent *Scissor & Thread* imprint, he is also a highly

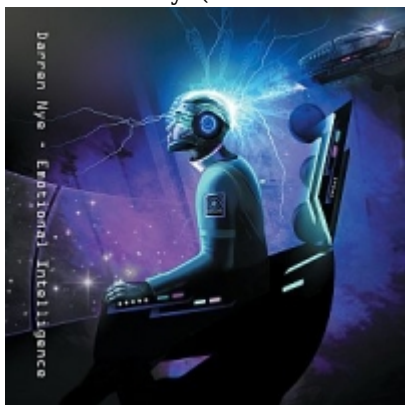


respected solo artist and one half of deep house royalty **Frank & Tony**.

His

new EP, *Minor Forms* is out now and contains four lush, unhurried tracks which lean towards the ambient side of house. The A-side is formed of two original tracks, with *More We Cannot Do* warming us up nicely with its hushed beats and hazy melodies. Next up, lead track *Minor Forms* is a gorgeously bittersweet sounding melody driven jam which uses **Greg Paulus'** trumpet playing to stunning effect. **Valentino Mora** presents a pair of remixes of the EP's title track on the flip, first turning it into a technoid dance floor throbber, before easing the pace somewhat with the wistful drift of his *Cosmic Trans Rephase*. **9/10**.

The almighty *FireScope Records* come up trumps yet again with rising producer **Darren Nye's** first ever vinyl release. Containing five tracks of languid techno and melodic electronica, *Emotional Intelligence* is out now on white/blue marbled vinyl (which is a work of art in itself) and is an aural treat for anyone with a love for 90s



era IDM. *Things She Said* opens proceedings with a chorus of gentle melodies, subdued beats and a tranquil air, before *Emulated Emotion* take things up a notch with a soft acid line and a gorgeously spacious feel. Flip over for the stuttering percussion and **Aphex Twin** like synths of *Plasmid Soul*, *Fragments'* retro sounding cool, and the melancholy ambiance of *Disconnected Reality*. Deep and dreamy, *Emotional Intelligence* is a record you will want to immerse yourself in body and soul. **8.5/10**.

Felix Clary Weatherall has been steadily making a name for himself these last couple of years. Utilizing the inspired **Ross From Friends** alias he been responsible for a string of lo-fi house excellence which has caused many a clubber to lose their cool on a packed dance floor. Newly signed to **Flying Lotus'** *Brainfeeder* label, he



broadens his outlook somewhat with the gleefully eclectic *Aphelion* EP. *Don't*

Wake Dad gets things off to a great start, its stop/start beats, 80s style synths and sparse samples working together to create a track which seems to blow kisses in your ears. Other picks include the muted jazz and drumpad beats of *John Cage* and the melancholy groove of *There's A Hole In My Heart*. Think house music is tired and jaded? Think again! **9/10**.

Cologne label *Kompakt* have long been known for their hook heavy techno and house. Whether it's the deep ambiance of **Gas**, the playful trance of **Superpitcher**, or the classic Detroit grooves of **John Tejada**,



everything they release tends to be top drawer. **Rex The Dog** makes a very welcome return to the stable this month with the epic grandeur of *Crasher*, a track whose epic swells should have you rushing to your local record emporium right now. Resembling a *Harthouse* classic from the mid-nineties, *Crasher* rises and peaks to reach a noisy crescendo which positively demands you raise your hands in the air. Also be sure to check the minimal electro pulse of *Hold It/Control It* on the flip, a tune which will make itself at home in any big room. **8.5/10**.

Released at the very end of February, *Introducing 01* by **Bassically** is such a funk filled groover that it would have been criminal not to give it a belated plug. Composed by **Raz Olsher** and his live house troupe, **Bassically** bring us the first of six EPs to be released on the *Fossil Sounds* imprint in 2018.



All Fuckin' Night gets things going; a jazz infused deep house cut featuring a **Moodymann** sample which you might not want to play to your mum. *Deep Down* ups the pace somewhat for

an old school Chicago jack track which entices your body to move, while the percussion led vocal number *Same Again* ends things on a spine-tingling high. With volume 2 due imminently it's fair to say that *Introducing 01* is a must for anyone with even a passing interest in house. **8/10**.

A special mention must also go to: *Dreams EP* by **LK** - Head straight for the soulful flourish of *(I Wanna) Make Luv 2 U*, a track so good it will put a smile on anybody's face, **9/10**, *Sour Jazz EP* by **Art Department** - While most people will concentrate on the **Todd Terry, Roland Clarke** hook up *Roots Deep*, the deep house groove and jazz licks of the title track are every bit as good, **8/10**, *Vienna001* by **DJ Boring and Stanley Schmidt** - Our intrepid duo launch their new label *Vienna* with a fantastically erratic three track EP which touches on house, jungle, techno, breakbeat and more, **8/10**, *I Keep On Wanting You/Progress* by **John Daly** - The Irish producer arrives on the esteemed *Drumpoet Community* imprint with a fierce two-tracker of tough house beats, **7.5/10**, *Yamaha Acid* by **Kalbata** - My nan always said that ,you can't bit a bit of acid!'. A sentiment ably proved by **Kalbata's** 303 laced EP, **8/10**, *Egée* by **Modern House Quintet** - Three tracks of warm, mid-paced house music which waste no time in getting you to wiggle your ass, **8/10** and *Love For The Art* by **Melchior Sultana** - Four tracks of house music so deep that when the record comes to an end you find yourself gasping for air, **8.5/10**.

| [JOHN BITTLES](#)