

# ALBUM REVIEWS

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**Audiophonic 5** (Fine Audio Recordings) Mixed by Christian Weber

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**Gez Varley** (Force Tracks) Bayou Paradis

**Beneath Autumn Sky** (Hefty) Beneath Autumn Sky

**moonraker** (Base 9) b:zon

**Nic Endo** (Geist) Cold Metal Perfection

**Noiselab** (EM) Compilacion 001

**Skydiverz** (Superstrition) Supercruizer

**Various Artists** (Soulboy US) SoulBoy Party Pack

**Tom Tyler** (DC Recordings) Singles Collection

**Trip Tech** (Black Note Studios) Children of the Secret

**Booked 003** (Strictly Hype Recordings) Vanilla Gorillaz (T. Mullen + Phantom 45)

**Oval** (Thrill Jockey) Commers

**Vive Maria** (Arcadian) House Club

**King Jammy meets Dry&Heavy** (BSI) In The Jaws of the Tiger

**Bo Square** (Tino Corp.) Sizing Things Up

**Bombay 2** (Motel Records) Electric Vindaloo

**Alphawezzen** (Mole Listening Pearls) L'apres-midi d'un Microphone

**Saru** (Shadow) Downtempo Dojo

**Plump DJs** (Nettwerk) Plump Night Out

**Peter Beniche** (Turbo) Soundtrack Saga

**Mez** (Intergroove) Puzzled

**Saru** (Shadow) Downtempo Dojo

**Libyth** (Phthal) Dissolve a Diamond

**Ovuca** (Rephlex) Wasted Sunday

**Various Artists** (Airdog) Play It Rough

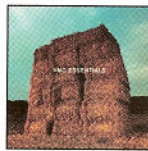
**Jigmastas** (Beyond Real/Landspeed) Infectious

**James Ruskin** (Tresor) Into Submission

**DJ X** (Quixit Records) Funky Breaks 3

## ALBUMS REVIEWED

**YMC Essentials** (Yoshitoshi Records)



Most people are familiar with the Norwegian techno sounds of Adam Beyer and the like, but did you know there's some hot house coming from our Scandinavians friends as well? YMC have been slowly amassing a following with their releases on Nitegrooves, Yoshitoshi and other labels and this album should further help put them into the forefront of the house scene. Their sounds are as clean as a Swedish fjord and as funky as a batch of pickled herring. Jocks who play the smoother side of house will be well pleased with this one. (Ben Ewy)

**Llorca Newcomer** (F Communications)



In a dialogue with F Communications' publicist, trying to keep abreast of the label's many exemplary releases, he simply said I'd want the new Ludovic Llorca album. Now, after having heard the remarkable *Newcomer*, it's safe to say everyone will—or damn well should. Whether borrowing from jazz greats like Charles Mingus; seamlessly weaving together piano, trumpet and electronic; or shaping the music around sultry songstresses like Nicole Graham and Lady Bird or the soulful stylings of Mandel Turner, *Newcomer* proves Llorca has an ear for the late and great. Anyone who's been a fan of cohesive artist albums by the likes of Soulstice, St. Germain or F Communication's other star, Jori Hulkkonen, can happily welcome Llorca's *Newcomer* into the fold. (Yuri Wuensch)

**VARIOUS Fat Beats Compilation (Volume 1)** (Fat Beats/In The Paint/Koch)



Fat Beats has built a solid reputation supplying the world with the quality hip-hop vinyl they fend for. It's surprising they've waited this long to deliver a compilation

release. Things get set off by the X-ctioners' *Stuck In The Past*, then you're treated to a variety of underground heroes, including Bumpy Knuckles, KRS One, Non Phixion, Afu Ra & GZA, as well as many more, including the all-star combo of Big Daddy Kane, Sadat X, Guru, and Greg Nice on *Hot Shit*, ending with Babu's *Fat Beats*, there is never a dull moment. The standout performance would have to be SupaFriendz' *Consequences & Repercussions*, putting forth a track that can easily be appreciated by "backpacker purists" and "commercial fans" alike. Fat Beats achieve success in delivering an album that combines their past classics with new hits for the future, keeping them on the top of the game. (Meddafore)

**SAFETY SCISSORS Parts Water** (Plug Research)



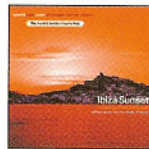
This is a dry and papery album about water; indescribably sad, but with a rhythm that keeps you moving along through a cardboard ocean. There's a certain jack house feel to it, although the beat is rarely four on the floor. It's rare that an album captures and maintains such a strong sense of mood throughout, but *Parts Water* is a single idea, made large. A few tracks, such as *Stormy Weather* and *Your Beautiful Feet* are vocal tracks, add to rather than disturb the melancholia. Music for that rainy bus ride to work, when you embrace the Monday blues. (Matt Haines)

**LOS CHICHARRONES Blow for Me Blow for You** (Tummy Touch)



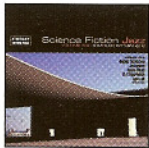
Direct from the UK base of unclassifiable funk sounds, Los Chicharrones represent Tummy Touch well. The major appeal of Tummy Touch artists Tim Love Lee, Organic Audio, Tutto Matto, Mescalito—and in this case—Los Chicharrones, is that they are dead serious about music; the music they make has a sense of humor that easily accentuates the forward thinking party music they keep pumping out. This one will grab you with funky breaks spiced up with cool samples and bits of humor to keep the mood light and fun. Dancing is allowed too, that's what I found myself doing. (Blips)

**VARIOUS ARTISTS Ibiza Sunset Mixed by Rob Da Bank** (Pagan Records)



On a recent trip to my mothers (a naturally high-strung woman with a Muslim/Christian-esque hatred of electronic music) I managed to slap this bad boy in as she was bucking and spasming under the heady influence of a mocha latte with a quad shot of espresso. To my surprise, we hadn't reached track three when I glanced over to see her collapsed, not asleep, but hypnotized on the couch. Mellow indeed. Not perhaps the hippest way to test an anthology that touts itself as a collection of "chill-out gems from the island of dance", but hey...screw you! It's mixed by Rob Da Bank, who obviously knows what he's doing and uses tracks from Ibizarre, Danmass, and A Man Called Adam. Supposedly the CD has "incredible" time-lapse shots of sunsets off the island of Ibiza from the "revolutionary" Beach Cam. I wasn't too impressed with the one, ten second video they sandwiched on the disk. Now, regardless of length, if they had a girl losing her bikini top... (M.von Pfeiffer)

**VARIOUS Science Fiction Jazz Volume 6 (Compiled by Minus 8)** (Mole Listening Pearls)



The acclaimed Science Fiction Jazz series from German-based Mole Listening Pearls returns with its 6th (and finest) collection, impeccably compiled and mixed by Zurich-based producer and DJ Minus 8. A slight departure from previous incarnations, *Volume 6* is a decidedly more upbeat affair draped in lush, cinematic and spiritually evocative jazz-inflected electronic soundscapes. With entries from a collective of nu-jazz pioneers—friends like Jazzanova, Fauna Flash, Kyoto Jazz Massive, LTJ Experience, DJ Smash Hunter and Minus 8—this compilation will undoubtedly satiate fans of this exciting genre. Minus 8 manages to keep the vibe sophisticated and delicious throughout with danceable, soulful, jazzy and timeless tunes that are ideal for your living room, café or lounge. (Craig Roseberry)

**MIXMASTER MIKE Spin Cycle** (Moonshine)



A huge departure for the Moonshine camp, Skratz Pickl and Beastie Boy's DJ, Mixmaster Mike hits you with a slick mix of party rockin' tracks that will get the most discerning of heads bobbing. Too often in the world of turntablism we are assaulted with an unlistenable assortment of turttable trickery that was intended for live performance, not an album. The Mixmaster has saved you the drama and put together a nice balance of cuts, tricks and smooth mixing that keeps you interested as well as entertained. From underground to overground the track selection will please with its nice groove and variety of artists including: Gang Starr, KRS-One, Cali Agents, Beastie Boys and Deltron 3030 to name a precious few. If you are a fan of hip hop as well as turntablism then this will sort you out just fine. Top shelf hip hop for sure... buy it. (00-Negative)

**MAURO PICOTTO The Album** (Radikal Records)



If you are not fortunate enough to see the Italian euro-trance master known affectionately as the Lizard Man, make sure to pick this gem up. Flowing easily among various sub genres that comprise electronic music (trance, house, techno), Picotto makes you feel as if he is performing right in front of you. This CD should appeal to those who are more familiar with the likes of BT and Sasha and Digweed, and the mix of minimalist techno interwoven with vocals will not disappoint. Listeners will be familiar with many of the tracks (some of which date back to 1999), but this is the first domestic release by Picotto. (Lucas Mast)