



**SLIPPED DISCS**  
 Discs you may have missed  
 by John Noyd

For those celebrating miraculous births this month, **KITKA's** gorgeous collection of global lullabies, "Cradle Songs," nurtures a haunting blend of female voices for eye-opening testaments to nap-time. Those fed up with the season's commercialism can find bittersweet solace from **ARCTIC MONKEY's** biting bon mots in the dark, mosh-pit glossy, dance-rock packed inside the marvelously malevolent, "Humbug." Meanwhile, Slipped's December details people's tendency toward deference, stalking the exalted and subverting responsibility.

**GLASS GHOST**

"Idol Omen"  
 (Western Vinyl)

Nebulous tenors narrate disembodied biographies swimming in impish synths, slithering between machine beats and tumbling, jungle percussion. A short-circuited circus of post-modern androids sorting through shattered reality. Glass Ghost hosts day-glo hymns addressing bureaucratic static. Mesmerizing, intoxicating and strangely familiar, "Idol," calls forth Major Tom promises from Kafkaesque scenarios and Clockwork Orange dreams.  
[www.westernvinyl.com](http://www.westernvinyl.com)



**TEGAN AND SARA**

"Sainthood" (Sire)  
 Examining how far from perfect we are, T&S volley teasing, time-bomb tempos into impetuous, kinetic calisthenics, confronting choppy-water obstacles



to snare love's illogical lobbying. Tactful battleaxes parlaying blasts of bashing pop into frantic romance. "Sainthood," is frosted to neon perfection - a pipsqueak blitzkrieg buffed into intense, anxious, well-timed insolence designed for maximum impact.

[www.teganandsara.com](http://www.teganandsara.com)

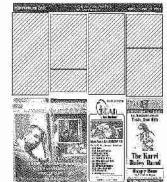
**ARMS AND SLEEPERS** "Matador" (Fake Chapter) Birthing slow explosions alongside quibbling rhythms, A&S's baroque kaleidoscopes spin tingling kinderpop into oceanic ambience, drawing patient cadence from slippery whisperings. Electro-acoustic druids from New England, A&S concoct eerie folk electronica reveling in liberating minimalism. A fluid fog of quietly classical triphop chamber-rock, "Matador," surpasses the passive to float over edgy, enigmatic elegance.

[www.wearearmsandsleepers.blogspot.com](http://www.wearearmsandsleepers.blogspot.com)

**MITTENS ON STRINGS** "Let's Go To Baba's" (Soungs) A veritable garden of quirky curiosities, existential wit and literate kismet, "Baba's," boasts both gray, no wave guitar psychedelia harvesting lofty, alt-Goth waltzes and banjo, cello and mandolin spiking pastoral, prog-rock rodeos. MoS's smirking, earnest grandeur merges into democratic genre-jumping offering sentimental laments and mocking double-talk, deadpan stanzas and granola-soaked anecdotes.

[www.mittensonstrings.net](http://www.mittensonstrings.net)

**CHRISTINE VAINDIRLIS** "Dance Mama!" (Ubuntu World) A feisty maestro commanding cool jazz and smokin' R&B rooted within pan-African grooves, Christine's honey-covered harmonies and big band stampede feeds your feet sweet, frenetic medicine. Navigating hairpin turns through soulful vocals and whiplash brass, funky zydeco and doo-wop soukous, "Mama," channels impassioned evangelism; a world-class, booty-shaking bouquet dipped in sass and



imagination.

[www.dance-mama.com](http://www.dance-mama.com)

**DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE "A  
Friend of a Friend" (Acony)**

Assembling a crackerjack team including long-time collaborator Gillian Welch, revivalist and raconteur Rawlings picks and fiddles contemporary Dust Bowl bluegrass. Toe-tapping happiness grazing cautionary tales, "Friend," renders and remembers faith-based fables and gospel-flavored shotgun swan

