

BEST OF 2015 LISTS

LIBBY

1. Sleater-Kinney – No Cities to Love
2. Waxahatchee – Ivy Tripp
3. Pile – You're Better Than This
4. Speedy Ortiz – Foil Deer
5. Metz – II
6. Chastity Belt – Time to Go Home
7. Palehound – Dry Food
8. Hop Along – Painted Shut
9. Beach House – Depression Cherry
10. Screaming Females – Rose Mountain
11. Ought – Sun Coming Down
12. Shopping – Why Choose
13. Mourn – Mourn
14. Vundabar – Gawk
15. Krill – A Distant Fist Unclenching
16. Viet Cong – Viet Cong
17. Widowspeak – All Yours
18. Bully – Feels Like
19. Desaparecidos – Payola
20. Beach House – Thank Your Lucky Stars
21. Protomartyr – The Agent Intellect
22. Death Cab for Cutie – Kintsugi
23. Shamir – Ratchet
24. Jose Gonzalez – Vestiges & Claws
25. Kurt Vile – b'lieve I'm goin down

BILL

(not in order)

Bill Fay - Who Is The Sender?
Heartless Bastards - Restless ones
Robert Pollard - Faulty Super Heroes
Graham Parker - Mystery Glue
Jessica Pratt - Your Own Love Again
The Sword - High Country
Public Image Limited - What The World Needs Now
The Chills - Silver Bullets
Julia Holter - Have You IN My Wilderness
Sparks (FFS) - FFS
Bob Dylan - Shadows Of The Night

My favorite re-issues

The Stones - Three Blind Mice
Charlie Rich - So Lonesome I Could Cry
Robin Gibb - Saved By The Bell
Denny Lile - Hear The Bang
Bob Dylan - Best Of The Cutting Edge 65-66/Bootleg Series Vol 12
Aftermath - Eyes of Tomorrow

EDMUND

Alex G – Beach Music
Blanck Mass – Dumb Flesh
Chelsea Wolfe - Abyss
Godspeed You Black Emperor - Asunder, Sweet & Other Distress
Heems – Eat Pray Thug
The Zoltars – Self-Titled
Tamaryn - Cranekiss
Protomartyr – The Agent Intellect
Max Richter – From Sleep
Maserati - Rehumanizer
Joey Badass – B4.DA.\$\$
Marsen Jules – Empire of Silence

ALICIA

Courtney Barnett - Sometimes I Sit and Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit
Deaf Wish - Pain
Deerhunter - Fading Frontier
Elvis Depressedly - New Alhambra
Eskimeaux - O.K.
Father John Misty - I Love You, Honeybear
Flesh World - The Wild Animals in My Life
Institute - Catharsis
Laura Marling - Short Movie
Moon Duo - Shadow of the Sun
Protomartyr - Agent Intellect
Radioactivity - Silent Kill
Spray Paint - Punters On a Barge
Sufjan Stevens - Carrie & Lowell
Twerps - Range Anxiety
Ultimate Painting - Green Lanes
Viet Cong - S/T

DENNIS

10- Shinyribs "Okra Candy"
9- Dwight Yoakam "Second Hand Heart"
8- Kacey Musgraves "Pageant Material"
7- Daniel Romano "If I've Only One Time Askin' "
6- Sonics- "This is the Sonics"
5- The Deslondes - S/T
4- Eddie Noack - "Ain't the Reaping Ever Done?"
3- Various "Cold And Bitter Tears- The Songs of Ted Hawkins"
2- Dale Watson "Call Me Insane"
1- Keith Richards "Cross Eyed Heart"

PAUL BENSON

Albums:

Ibeyi - Ibeyi
Joey Bada\$\$ - B4.DA.\$\$
Bassekou & Ngoni Ba Kouyate - Ba Power
Songhoy Blues - Music in Exile
New Order - Music Complete
Death and Vanilla - Where the Wild Things Are

Kay Odyssey - Chimera
Kamuran Akkor

Shows:

Jandek + Sir Richard Bishop - Red 7 4/22
Crocodile - Cheer Up Charlies 7/3
Telle Novella + Big Bill + Tucker Perry featuring Sam Sayre - Beerland 7/22
Death - Red 7 8/20
Eagle Claw - Holy Mountain 9/26

KANA

Jan ::: Sleater-Kinney "No Cities to Love" (SubPop)
Feb ::: XETAS "The Redeemer" (12XU)
Mar ::: Mitski "Bury Me at Makeout Creek" (Don Giovanni) [this technically came out in Nov 2014 but was repressed as a 'deluxe' version in March of this year so w/e]
Apr ::: Leatherface "Razor Blades and Asprin 1990-1993" (Fire)
May ::: Shamir - Ratchet (XL Recordings)
Jun ::: Spray Paint - Punters on a Barge (Homeless)
July ::: Borzoi - "Pinnacle + I Feel Alien + Swamp Thing" b/w "Live at Beerland 6.26.2015" Cassette (Bored Tapes)
Aug ::: Lizzy Mercier Descloux - Press Color (ZE)
Sep ::: Suburban Lawns - Suburban Lawns (Futurismo)
Oct ::: Shopping - Why Choose? (FatCat)
Nov ::: Sun City Girls - Torch of the Mystics (Abduction) [this came out Oct 30 but w/e]
Dec ::: Songhoy Blues - Music in Exile [counting this as December 2015 because I saw + heard them for the first time opening for the Pop Group and Gang of Four at Hotel Vegas last winter so that sounds like that time of year for me.]

JAY

Punk/Oi/Hardcore:

Rixe - Coups & Blessures 7"
Crown Court - English Disease 7"
Bishops Green - A Chance To Change
Last Crusade - Last Crusade
Agnostic Front - No One Rules
Wisdom In Chains - God Rhythm
Outreau - 2nd 7"
Bitter End - Illusions of Dominance
Violent Reaction - Marching On
All Out War - Dying Gods

Metal:

Gruesome - Savage Lands
Night Demon - Curse Of The Damned
Iron Maiden - Book Of Souls
Hooded Menace - Darkness Drips Forth
Enforcer - From Beyond
Uncle Acid & the Deadbeats - Night Creeper
Magic Circle - Journey Blind
Satan's Satyrs - Don't Deliver Us
Entrails - Obliteration
Black Breath - Slaves Beyond Death

CORBY

Top" Ten" Albums

Blanck Mass - Dumb Flesh
The The - Hyena Soundtrack

Circle - Pharaoh Overlord
Pharaoh Overlord - Circle
Kerrier District - 4
Luke Vibert - Bizarster
Jussi Lehtisalo - Maisteri
Mystery Cave - Ausarian Comforts
Sagan Youth - Cela
Umberto & Anton Maiowvi - Law Unit
Rival Consoles - Howl
Ancient Ocean - Blood Moon
Janne Westerlund - Marshland
Suuns & Jerusalem In My Heart - S/T
Mugwump - Unspell
Mourn - Mourn

Top "Ten" Reissues
Delia Derbyshire - Delian Mode/Blue Veils 7"
John Baker - Vendetta Tapes
Manos: Hands Of Fate Original Soundtrack
Nightsatan & The Loops Of Doom
Circle - Miljard
6 Circle - Pori

CYNTHIA

Alabama Shakes: Sound & Color
Courtney Barnett: Sometimes I Just Sit and Think, And Sometimes I Just Sit
Beach House: Depression Cherry
Beirut: No No No
BoRNS: Dopamine
Leon Bridges: Coming Home
Father John Misty: I Love You, Honeybear
Jose Gonzalez: Vestiges & Claws
Ibeyi: Ibeyi
Tobias Jesso Jr: Goon
Kadavar: Berlin
Josh Ritter: Sermon on the Rocks
SOAK: Before We Forgot How to Dream
Sufjan Stevens: Carrie & Lowell
Tame Impala: Currents
Uncle Acid & the Deadbeats: The Night Creeper
Wilco: Star Wars
Wild Child: Fools

DC

DC's Delights 2015:

Young Fathers "White Men are Black Men Too"
Maserati "Rehumanizer"
Prefuse 73 "Rivington Não Rio"
Kid Cudi "Satellite Flight: The Journey to Mother Moon" RSD
Death Grips "Powers That B"
Death Grips "Fashion Week"
D33J "Gravel Remixed"
Pictureplane "Technomancer"
Campsite "2 Fotografic" EP
Brian Eno "My Squelchy Life" RSD
Bill Hicks "Complete Collection" Box Set

CHIP

TOPS OF 2015 (in no particular order)

Tame Impala – Currents
Chvrches – Every Open Eye
Beach House – Depression Cherry
Shamir – Ratchet
Sword – High Country
Foals – What Went Down
Chemical Brothers – Born in the Echoes
FFS – FFS
Ash – Kablammo!
Vaccines – English Graffiti
Jamie XX – In Colour
Ceremony – L-Shaped Man
Tuxedo – S/T
John Carpenter – Lost Themes
John Carpenter – Lost Themes Remixes
Jose Gonzalez – Vestiges & Claws
Districts – Flourish & A Spoil
Panda Bear – Meets The Grim Reaper
D'Angelo – Black Messiah
Borns - Dopamine
Bixiga 77 - III

BEST REISSUES:

Everything But The Girl – Walking Wounded
Garbage – S/t
Ride – Nowhere
Son Volt – Trace
Lizzy Mercier Descloux – Press Color
Duran Duran – Rio
OST / AIR – Virgin Suicides
David Bowie – Five Years

ANGEL

Sir Lord Von Raven - The Age of Machines Guitars and Bongos Records
Part Time - Virgo's Maze Burger Records
The Scientists - S/T (Reissue) Numero
The King Khan and BBQ Show - Bad News Boys In the Red Records
Nalgadas - QUIUBO Burger Records/Mother of Pearl
The Barreracudas - Can Do Easy Oops Baby Records
Sweet Talk - Double Perfect 12XU
Dirty Fences - Full tramp Slovenly Recordings
Dancer – Please Please Leave Chocolate Covered Records
Terry And Louie – I'm looking for a heart Tuff Break
Kim Fowley - The Trip/Underground Lady Sundazed

LINDSEY

Best Albums in No Particular Order:

Wire:Wire
Deerhunter: Fading Frontier
Kendrick Lamar: To Pimp a Butterfly
Panda Bear: Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper

Jim O'Rourke: Simple Songs
Sleater Kinney: No Cities to Love
Courtney Barnett: Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes, I Just Sit
Shopping: Why Choose
Shamir: Ratchet
Damaged Bug: Cold Hot Plumbs
Chastity Belt: Time to Go Home
Sir Richard Bishop: Tangier Sessions
Protomartyr: Agent Intellect
Beach House: Depression Cherry

Best Reissues:

Lizzy Mercier: Descloux
Suburban Lawns: Suburban Lawns

Best Cover Album:

Yo La Tengo: Stuff Like That There

Best WTF Collaboration That Worked Like Sweet Ridiculous Magic:

FFS:FFS

Best Local Albums:

Xetas: The Redeemer
Big Bill: The Second Bill
Kay Odyssey: Chimera
Moving Panoramas: One

JOSHUA

Joshua's TOP 6 albums from the year 2015

6. Toro y Moi - "what for?"
// Genre's // Indie pop, electronic, synthpop, chillwave, R&B.
favorite track - "Lilly"

Me and my girlfriend love this album, it's a great album to listen to the car! I feel like it flows really well from one track to the next. I don't have to skip around the cd which is always good the music is fun and light nothing really dark or emotional. great feel good music to play while getting through a work day!

5. Goldlink - "after that we didn't talk"
// Genre's // Hip-hop, dance, R&B
favorite track - "palm trees"

Just released on Nov. 6, 2015. this album has a few different feels to it. from some of the best rap lyrics I have heard all year to some of the best beats, topics and concepts! the album is a short listen running only 35 minutes which is just long enough to get the point across! I am super stoked on this album.. did I mention it was produced by Rick Rubin?

4. Kali Uchis - "por vida"
//Genre's // [Soul music](#), [Indie pop](#), [Doo-wop](#)
favorite track - "Speed"

Without a doubt one of my favorite new artists. Kali Uchis is a Colombian singer who has an old school style with a very new sound! I discovered her through a friend of a friend who works for score more shows. (Texas based concert promoters) who also manage her. the visuals for her songs are what got me hooked! she is a fan of classic cars as you can tell from all of the cool shots she has of her lying on the hood or behind the wheel. I liked this album so much that I had to figure out how to squeeze it in at the last moment. making my top 5, an even top 6! check this girl out on tour with Leon bridges or on youtube if you cant find tickets!

3.earl sweatshirt -
"I don't like shit, I don't go outside"

// Genre's // Hip-Hop
I can't tell you what my favorite song is I love this whole project!

The title of this album says it all. dark lyrics, dark heavy beats. It's a hip-hop album "for all of the introverts out there.." and those are earls words not mine!

2. The Internet - ego death
// Genre's // [Acid jazz](#), [Trip hop](#), [Electronica](#), [Funk](#), [Soul music](#)
favorite song

Me and my girlfriend Love this band and they did not disappoint us with this album! we have seen them twice in concert and will see them every time they come to town! once again another album that's great in the car, or just dancing around your house cleaning up or whatever it is that you love doing in the privacy of your own home!

1. Travis \$cott - Rodeo
// Genre's // Hip-Hop
favorite track - "I can tell"

This album is an all around party record, not for the weak hearted! This dude Travis \$cott has been a breath of fresh air in hip-hop for the last 2 years. from producing for Kanye west, to King Krule. His party fueled lyrics and great trap inspired production will keep the party going from beginning to end!

PLUTA

Top 10 in no particular order:

Drinks - Hermits on Holiday
Jacco Gardner - Hypnophobia
Courtney Barnett - Sometimes I Sit and Think...
Kerrier District - 3
Unknown Mortal Orchestra - Multi-Love
Toro y Moi - What For?
Damaged Bug - Cold Hot Plumbs
Peacers - Peacers
D'Angelo - Black Messiah
Moon Duo - Shadow of the Sun

Reissues

Lizzy Mercier Descloux - Press Color
Chris Knox/Tall Dwarfs reissues
Ananda Shankar - Ananda Shankar and His Music
Karin Krog - Don't Just Sing
Doug Hream Blunt - My Name Is
Patrick Cowley – Muscle Up
Suburban Lawns – Suburban Lawns

PATRICK

[picks 2015](#)

[title I'd like to hear Dan Rather repeat](#)
Joe Ely – Panhandle Rambler

heaviest rotation of 2015

James McMurtry – Complicated Game

most haunting swirl of harmonies

Kay Odyssey -- Chimera

best slow burn & salve

Saun & Starr – Look Closer

least surprisingly terrific set of songs

Will Johnson – Swan City Vampires

loud at any volume

Kadavar – Berlin

makes her peers sound dull

Courtney Barnett – Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit

peerless

Buena Vista Social Club – Lost & Found

LISA

All Them Witches - Dying Surfer Meets His Maker

Fuzz - II

Kadavar - Berlin

Elder - Lore

Sweat Lodge - Talismana

Sons of Huns - While Sleeping Stay Awake

Ruby the Hatchet - Valley of the Snake

Windhand - Grief's Infernal Flower

Blackout - Blackout

Monolord - Vaenir

Wand - Golem

Ringo Deathstarr - Pure Mood

The Shrine - Rare Breed

Chelsea Wolfe - Abyss

High on Fire - Luminiferious

PABLO

Bassekou Kouyaté & Ngoni Ba "Ba Power"

Benoît Pioulard "Sonnet"

Blanck Mass "Dumb Flesh"

John Carpenter "Lost Themes"

Disappears "Irreal"

Eternal Tapestry "Wild Strawberries"

Four Tet "Morning/Evening"

Föllakzoid "III"

Goat "Commune"

GY!BE "Asunder, Sweet & Other Distress"

Maserati "Rehumanizer"

Ritual Howls "Turkish Leather"

St. Germain "St. Germain"

Shlohmo "Dark Red"

Sun Kil Moon "Universal Themes"

Toro Y Moi "What For?"

The Twilight Sad "Öran Mór Session"

The Very Best "Makes A King"

Chelsea Wolfe "Abyss"
Songhoy Blues "Music in Exile"

Reissues:

Miles Davis "At Newport 1955-1975, Bootleg Series Vol. 4"

CAMERON

1. David Kauffman & Eric Caboor - Songs from suicide bridge (light in attic reissue)
2. Coil-backwards (lost record release)
3. Swans - filth (reissue)
4. Destruction unit - negative feedback resistor
5. John carpenter - lost themes
6. Royal jesters - English oldies (numero)
7. Rose McDowall - cut with the cake knife (reissue)
8. Protomartyr - the agent intellect
9. Metz - II
10. Ryan Adams – 1989

MICHELLE

Courtney Barnett - Sometimes I Sit and Think...

Beach House - Depression Cherry

Beach House - Thank Your Lucky Stars

Bjork - Vulnicura

D'Angelo - Black Messiah

Dungen - Allas Sak

Lord Huron - Strange Trails

Tame Impala - Currents

Unknown Mortal Orchestra - Multi-Love

Kurt Vile - b'lieve I'm goin down

IAN

Top Picks for the Candy Colored Nightmare that was 2015

Blanck Mass - "Dumb Flesh"

Tuxedo - "Tuxedo"

Blackalicious - "Imani Vol. 1"

Colin Stetson & Sarah Neufield - "Never Were the Way She Was"

Dâm-Funk - "Invite the Light"

Czarface - "Every Hero Needs a Villain"

Kerrier District - "4"

James Pants - "Savage"

Mr. Oizo - "The Church"

Chelsea Wolfe - "Abyss"

Compilations, Soundtracks & Re-Issues of Note

"A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night"

"Peru Boom: Bass, Bleeps & Bumps from Peru's Electronic Underground"

"Science Fiction Dancehall Classics"

"Ultra High Frequencies: The Chicago Party"

Karin Krog - "Don't Just Sing: An Anthology 1963-1999"

Lizzy Mercier Descloux - "Press Color"

NICO

Roman Diaz - Lo Da Fun Bata
Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto - Dub de Gaita Vol 2
Frightnrs - I'd Rather go Blind (Daptone)
Bunny Lee - Next Cut
Various - Afro Sound of Colombia Vol 2
Samuel Torres - Forced Displacement
Various - Rough Guide to Psychedelic Cumbia
Royal Jesters - English Oldies (Numero Group)
Various - Studio One Jump up! (Soul Jazz)
Various - Nu Yorica: Culture Clash in New York City (Soul Jazz)

MARTIN

In no order
Jimmy Lafave - Night Tribe
Shinyribs - Okra Candy
Bright Light Social Hour - Space is still the Place
Texas Horns - Blues gotta hold Me
Rick Hopkins - Enchanted Rock
Stephen Doster - Arizona
Gurf Morlix - Eatin at Me
Mike Flanigin - The Drifter
Ray Wylie Hubbard - Ruffians Misfortune
Van Wilks - 21 Century Blues
and for an oldie Rolling Stones-Marquee Club 1971

CHIQUITA

Favorites Of the Year Music Only

John Carpenter - Lost Themes
Panda Bear- Meets the grim reaper
Bjork Vulnicura
VietCong - ST
Father John Misty - I love you honeybear
Ghostface Killah/badbadnotgood-sour soul
Ibeyi-Ibeyi
Kendrick Lamar-To Pimp A Butterfly
Toro y Moi - What for?
Shlomo - Dark Red
My Morning Jacket -The Waterfall
Blur-the Magic Whip
Todd Rundgren/Lindstrom/Nikolaisen-Runddans
Snoop Dogg - Bush
Kamasi Washington- The Epic
Crocodiles- Boys
Unknown Mortal Orchestra- Multi Love
Jamie XX- In color
Daughn Gibson- Carnation
Four Tet - Morning/Evening
Mac Demarco- Another One
Dam Funk- Invite The Light
Dungen - Allas Sak
Protomartyr- The Agent Intellect
Uncle Acid and the Deadbeats- Night Creeper
Damaged Bug- Cold Hot Plumbs
D' Angelo - Black Messiah
Neon Indian-Vega Intl Night School

Earl Sweatshirt- I don't like shit, I don't go out.
Hiatus Kaiyote- Choose Your Weapon
Shmu-Shhhh!

Comps
Frankie Knuckles- House Masters
Dj Koze- DJ Kicks
Pete Rock- Petestrumentals 2
Late Night Tales- Nocturne
Ghostly International Various Artists- Ghostly Swim 2
Ultra High Frequencies The Chicago Party
Jon Hopkins Late Night Tales
SDTK- Inherent Vice

KELSEY

Courtney Barnett - Sometimes I sit and think, sometimes I just sit
Blackalicious - Imani, Vol. 1
Deaf Wish - Pain
Deerhunter - Fading Frontier
Drinks - Hermits on Holiday
Jacco Gardner – Hypnophobia
Girls Names – Arms Around A Vision
FFS - FFS
Kay Odyssey - Chimera
Moonsicles - Creeper
Moving Panoramas - One
New Order - Restless
Shannon and the Clams - Gone by the Dawn
Shopping – S/T
Snoop Dog – Bush
Sweet Talk – Double Perfect
Vietcong - Vietcong
Wire - Wire
Xetas - The Redeemer

Re-Issues:

Broadcast - Vinyl Re-Issues!
Reatards - Grown Up, Fucked Up
Suburban Lawns - Suburban Lawns
Supergrass - I Should Coco

KESEY

Records

1. Damaged Bug- Cold Hot Plumbs
2. Wilco- Star Wars
3. Peacers – Self-Titled
4. Lizzy Mercier Descloux- Press Color
5. E.S.P.- Erick Sermon's Perception

Movies

1. Mad Max
2. Inherent Vice
3. Ex-Machina

PAUL V

Protomartyr – The Agent Intellect

ERIC

1. Happy Forever - Coma In Algiers
2. The Redeemer - Xetas
3. Mutilator Defeated At Last - Thee Oh Sees
4. War Tuna - Loch Ness Mobsters
5. Collisions - Ghetto Ghouls
6. Punters On A Barge - Spray Paint
7. Double Perfect - Sweet Talk
8. The Entertainers - Video
9. Dopers - Spray Paint

JESSY

Thee Oh Sees - Mutilator defeated at last
Suburban Lawns - Re-issue Self titled
Tame Impala - Currents
Snoop Dogg - Bush
Jacco Gardner - Hypnophobia
Babes- (untitled) Five Tears
Ibeyi- Ibeyi
Moon Duo- Shadow of the Sun
Lizzy Mercier Descloux- Re-issue Press Color
Courtney Barnett- Sometimes I shit

Honorable mention because I discovered this album in 2015, but it came out in 2013...
La Femme- Psycho Tropical Berlin

Local:

Kay Odyssey - Chimera
Sweet Spirit - Kokomo
Moving Panoramas - One
Sweet Talk - Double Perfect

SAYRE

- 1 Gary Wilson "Alone With Gary Wilson"
- 2 Jacco Gardner "Hypnophobia"
- 3 Neon Indian "Vega Intl. Night School"
- 4 Ariel Pink "Pom Pom"
- 5 Drinks "Hermits On Holidays"
- 6 D'Angelo and the Vanguard "Black Messiah"
- 7 Death "N.E.W."
- 8 Metz "II"
- 9 Tame Impala "Currents"
- 10 Chastity Belt "Time To Go Home"

KEN

Björk – Vulnicura
Container - LP (2015)
D'Angelo – Black Messiah (this came out right at the end of Dec 2014 so take it out if it's not apropos)
FFS – FFS
Dâm-Funk – Invite the Light
Dan Friel – Life
Ghostface Killah – Adrian Younge Presents: Twelve Reasons to Die II
Hot Chip – Why Make Sense?
Mbongwana Star – From Kinshasa

Oneohtrix Point Never – Garden of Delete
The Phoenix Foundation – Give Up Your Dreams
Tame Impala – Currents
Kamasi Washington – The Epic

Reissues, Compilations

Ata Kak – Obaa Sima
Jorge Ben - Ben
Built to Spill – There’s Nothing Wrong with Love
Lizzy Mercier Descloux – Press Color
The Edge of Daybreak – Eyes of Love
Universal Togetherness Band – Universal Togetherness Band
Various Artists – Disco Dildar
Various Artists – Ultra-High Frequencies: The Chicago Party

PAUL

1. Tim Foljahn “Fucking Love Songs” CD/LP
2. W-X “S/T” CD/LP
3. Various/Library of Sound Grooves “Obscure Psychedelic Manuscripts from Italian Cinema 1967-75” LP
4. Drinks “Hermits on Holiday” CD/LP
5. Family Fodder “Sunday Girls: Director Cut” CD/LP
6. Ennio Morricone “Spazmo” LP
7. Ennio Morricone “Cosa avete fatto a Solange?” LP
8. The Paperhead “Africa Avenue” CD/LP
9. Shit & Shine “Everybody’s a Fucking Expert” CD/LP
10. Jacco Gardner “Hypnophobia” CD/LP

Cool reissues: Sun City Girls “Torch of the Mystics” CD/LP, Various “Bollywood Bloodbath: B Music of the Indian Horror Film Industry” CD/LP, Ennio Morricone “Verusckha” LP, Ennio Morricone “Revolver” LP, Red Krayola “Corrected Slogans” LP

MARK

- 1) Kendrick Lamar "To Pimp a Butterfly"
- 2) Cherubs "z Ynfynity"
- 3) Parquet Courts "Live at Third Man Records"
- 4) The Body & Thou "Released From Love / You Whom I Have Always Hated"
- 5) Courtney Barnett "Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit"
- 6) Velvet Underground "Loaded" reissue
- 7) Kurt Vile "b'lieve I'm goin' down"
- 8) Sun City Girls "To Torch a Mystic" reissue
- 9) Spray Paint "Punters On a Barge"
- 10) Big Brave "Au De La"

RUSSELL'S ONLY SOMEWHAT PANICKED BEST OF 2015 LIST (Alphabetical)

ADES: Complete works for string quartet ("The Twenty-Fifth Hour"). Calder Quartet; Thomas Ades, piano. Signum 413 (63521204132).

The Calder Quartet has become Thomas Ades' chosen ensemble for this music, and this recording of the Piano Quintet includes changes that Ades penciled into the published score.

BACH: Sonatas & Partitas for Solo Violin. Midori, violin. Onyx 4123 (88004041232--2 CDs).

I could never choose a favorite or definitive version of these exalted masterpieces, but I fully enjoyed Midori's performances from start to finish.

BRUCKNER: Symphony No. 4. Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra; Manfred Honeck, conductor. Reference Recordings FR-713 SACD (03091127132).

Okay, there are a ton of Bruckner Fourths out there, but it has been quite some time since I last encountered a version this beautiful, musical, and heartfelt, with the brass prominent when appropriate instead of ALWAYS prominent.

JACQUET OF MANTUA: Missa Surge Petre; Motets. Brabant Ensemble; Stephen Rice, cond. Hyperion CDA 68088 (03457128088).

Compelling performances of an unknown composer deserving of greater attention.

LALANDE: Lecons de Tenebres. Sophie Karthäuser, soprano; Ensemble Correspondances; Sebastien Dauce, cond. Harmonia mundi 902206 (314902022062).

Soprano Sophie Karthäuser is utterly divine in these smaller-scale works by a composer best known for grander statements--more from Ms. Karthäuser, please!

ORNSTEIN: Piano Quintet; String Quartet No. 2. Marc-Andre Hamelin, piano; Pacifica Quartet. Hyperion CDA 68084 (03457128084).

Leo Ornstein, who lived in three different centuries (1893-2002), is known primarily for his early modernist works, but his more mature works deserve at least equal billing, starting with the Piano Quintet, which receives the strongest advocacy from the inspired pairing of Hamelin with the Pacifica.

PRAETORIUS (Hieronymus, Jacob, and Michael): Sacred works. Balthasar-Neumann Choir and Ensemble; Pablo Heras-Casado, cond. Archiv 02894794522.

These unapologetically lush performances have already ruffled the feathers of the Musicology Police, but I think this CD is a beauty.

SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 10. Boston Symphony Orchestra; Andris Nelsons, cond. DG 02894795059.

Though I have known the Tenth for roughly 40 years, I found myself in 2015 more head-over-heels in love with it than ever, and this Nelsons/BSO performance is one of the most compelling I've ever heard, gripping from start to finish. (Nelsons does cast an extremely key moment of the first movement in musical italics when I think it would have been more effective to let the music speak for itself, but I could never come anywhere close to the overall results he achieves.)

TAVERNER: Missa Corona spinea. Tallis Scholars; Peter Phillips, cond. Gimell CDGIM 046 (75513810462).

The stratospheric soprano parts will not be to everyone's liking, but Taverner's writing is amazing.

Leon Fleisher: "All the Things You Are". Bridge 9429 (09040494292).

Pianist Leon Fleisher, now in his mid-80s, remains one of the most phenomenal musicians around, and this late 2014 release shows that his magic remains intact.

Leon Fleisher and Katherine Jacobson: "Four Hands". Sony 88875064162.

Fleisher and his wife Katherine convey the pleasure of playing in their own living room, with Schubert's Fantasie being the highlight.

BEST WORK TO MAKE ITS FIRST APPEARANCE ON CD:

STRAVINSKY/ARR. SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony of Psalms for piano, 4-hands. Jeremy Menuhin and Mookie Lee-Menuhin, piano. First Hand Records FHR 37 (506021634303).

FAVORITE UNKNOWN COMPOSER NAME TO SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY IN 2015:

GRZEGORZ GERWACY GORCZYCKI (1665-1734)

BEST CONFIRMATION OF MOZART'S GENIUS IN 2015:

The Sistine Chapel Choir's recording of the original manuscript of Gregorio Allegri's Miserere, a work which for all these years has been performed and recorded using the version Mozart wrote down after one hearing; as it turns out, he chose not to write it down verbatim, but instead made some key changes, and in the process made it much, much better than the original.