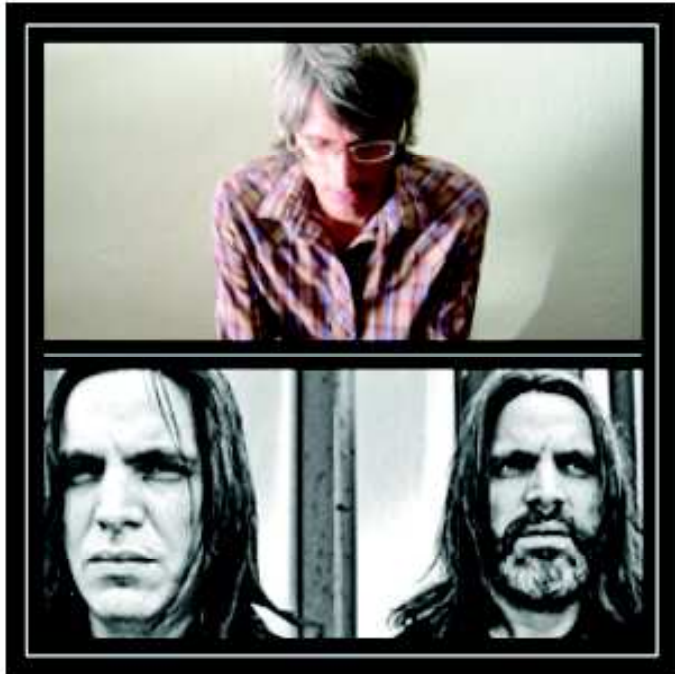


dusted



Dusted Features

Every Friday, Dusted Magazine publishes a series of music-related lists compiled by our favorite artists. This week: Portland guitarist Ilyas Ahmed and Chicago sound artist Wrekmeister Harmonies.

Based in Chicago, composer and sound artist J.R. Robinson works at the intersection of sound art and avant garde music. For the past three years, he has been recording what he calls "sonic templates" in museums across the United States and Europe, in cities such as Pittsburgh, New York, Los Angeles, Paris and Berlin. Robinson then took these recordings and utilized them in studio collaborations with a wide cast of musicians, including Ken Vandermark, David Yow (Jesus Lizard), Mark Shippy and Pat Samson (US Maple), Matt Carson, Nate McBride, Fred Lonberg Holm, John Herndon and Jeff Parker (Tortoise), and Azita. Wrekmeister Harmonies is the result of these collaborations, collecting the museum recordings as well as field recordings made at PS1 Contemporary Art Center and Joshua Tree National Park. Wrekmeister Harmonies will be released by [Atavistic Records](#) on April 7, 2009.

Here are ten very good records in no particular order that you might enjoy:

1. Folke Rabe - What?? (Dexter's Cigar)

In 1975, the scholar Robert Erikson described What?? this way: "an elegant touch, all possible timbral dimensions are manipulated: spectral envelope, including harmonic and inharmonic partials; time 4 of 6 5/2/09 10:42 AM envelope phenomena, such as beats and tremolo; micropitch changes, both fast and slow." Rabe is Swedish so this came very naturally to him.

2. Black Devil Disco - 28 After (Lo)

French producers Bernard Fevre and Jackie Giordano – who credited themselves (inexplicably) as Joachim Sherylee and Junior Claristidge – created this moogsterpiece in the 1970s as an homage to Giorgio Moroder. Or did they? Controversy surrounds this record – if you look it up on AllMusic it's listed as both "scary" and "party music," which only further complicates matters.

3. Jackson C. Frank - Blues Run The Game (Castle)

You may have had a difficult childhood but surely you weren't horribly disfigured at age eleven by a fireball from an exploding furnace at school that killed fifteen of your classmates. Music is what pulled Frank through but it never saved him. The folk campground is littered with mental illness and suicide but there's not a more lonely and beautiful tree than Jackson C. Frank.

4. Kevin Drumm - Sheer Hellish Miasma (Editions Mego)

A discourse on sonic depth and dimensions. Best described as an insurmountable wall or a bottomless white hole – this transcends categorization as a "noise" recording. Exotic mood modifiers are fine, but this will completely clean your mindspace should the need arise.

5. Medio Mutante - Inestable (Cititrax)

Imagine if Human League were formed in Mexico City circa 1979. Mariana Saldaña's cool, calm delivery is in Spanish and dropped over a bed of jagged analog synth gear - stay up past an unreasonable hour and enjoy this one.

6. Arnold Schonberg - "Transfigured Night"

Dark forest on a moonlit night, a woman shares a secret with her new lover: She's going to have a stranger's baby. Get the Czech Philharmonic version and just read the poem aloud to yourself. A string sextet in one piece by the master - if you've ever found yourself enjoying music of any genre this might be worth looking into.

7. Ace Frehley - Ace Frehely (Casablanca)

Each member of Kiss put out a solo record and that was a huge mistake. Paul Stanley's record is pretty good, but Ace really delivers . He recorded at his home studio with Anton Fig and Will Lee from David Lettermans band handling drums and bass. An enormously dumb and completely enjoyable listen from start to finish.

8. Peeesseye - Pestilence and Joy

Peeesseye are the next logical step for fans of This Heat, Yoko Ono or those who think John Carpenter never went far enough with the soundtracks he created for his films. Deep bass calls to the junkman's office for primal scream therapy.

9. Mirror - Viking Burial For A French Car (Plinkity Plonk)

This is like listening to a glacier dissolve. Envision the biggest object you've ever seen becoming completely undone cell by cell and you'll get an idea about what Christoph Heeman and company are accomplishing here.

10. Xasthur - Nortt / Xasthur (Southern Lord)

You may have a complicated relationship with black metal and that's completely understandable. The three songs from Xasthur on this split deviate from the normal black metal subjects of satanism and violence and instead focus on the unique beauty of misery, loneliness and despair.