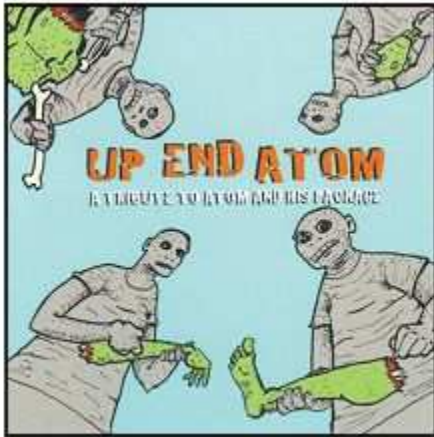


In Tune

The Daily News

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009



**VARIOUS ARTISTS,
“Up End Atom: A Tribute
to Atom and His Package”
(Heartless Hind Records)**

★★★★ — Adam Goren is a name that many of you might not know, but as the creative force behind Atom and His Package, he’s influenced countless up-and-coming musicians over the past decade. Perhaps his best-known acolyte is nerdcore rap standout MC Lars, whose

“Atom Your Awesome” is one of the decade’s best man-crush-inspired tributes around.

A handful of other fans — including Lars, who delivers “(Lord It’s Hard to Be Happy When You Aren’t Using) The Metric System” with the Worm Quartet — have joined forces for “Up End Atom,” a delightful 11-track tribute to the music of Atom and His Package. Among the many highlights here are MC Chris’ superb reading of “Punk Rock Academy,” Math the Band’s rendition of “Upside Down From Here,” the Zambonis’ version of “Goalie” (with Goren lending a hand on vocals), the Emotron’s take on “Me and My Black Metal Friends” and Locas In Love’s reading of “I Am Downright Amazed at What I Can Destroy With Just a Hammer.” In fact, the only cover that doesn’t work is Steinbeck’s set-opening version of “Possessions (Not the One By Danzig).” Otherwise, this is as close to perfect to it gets. (JS)