

Songs You Must Hear Now!

April 2009 issue

1. Josh Reichmann Oracle Band "Shivering Black"
A stomping, sparkling sci-fi popscape that hits like a kiss from a starman you suspect is full of shit but still dig for his dance moves.

3. Playboy Tre, feat. B.o.B. "We Are the Robots" Atlanta MCs spit pissy wisdom in a disorienting synth fun house: "The best slave is a slave that doesn't know he's a slave."

2. Yeah Yeah Yeahs "Zero"
Recast as the electro-rock stadium diva the Daft Punk-worshipping, hipster-runoff nation so desperately needs, Karen O purrs: "Get your leather on." Uh, yes, ma'am.

4. Death "Politicians in My Eyes" Now that the inaugural bloom is fading, this reissued mid-'70s proto-punk rager—with prison-break bass line—by three African American brothers from Detroit seems cuttingly appropriate.

5. Fight Like Apes "Jake Summers" Nothing's more universal or eternal than a pop-punk moppet—in this case, Irish lass MayKay—deliriously insulting an egregious ex with an obscure TV reference over lovingly primitive racket.

6. Buraka Som Sistema "Sound of Kuduro" Lisbon B-boys soak up the soca-fied sound of the city's Angolan immigrant suburbs, add rubbery dub reverb, and nab M.I.A. for the hook. It's a small world.

7. Cage "Nothing Left to Say" El-P's shuddering soundtrack gives the wracked rapper's spoken words and rants about his relentlessly dysfunctional life the sort of hardscrabble cinematic grandeur that *8 Mile* never approached.

8. Ruby Coast "Neighbourhood" Even more preternaturally fresh-faced, melodically polished, chorus-shouting Toronto indie pop than Tokyo Police Club or Born Ruffians. Respect the xylophone!

9. First Aid Kit "Tiger Mountain Peasant Song" Swedish teen-girl duo don flannel shirts, trek to the woods, and stun the natural world with this Fleet Foxes cover.

10. Those Dancing Days "Hitten" More Swedish teens, jangling and swirling along inoffensively, until Linnea Jönsson's ageless Northern-soul croon begins to ache.

11. Mims "Move (If You Wanna)" The latest from the half-cocked sage behind "This Is Why I'm Hot" claps and thuds forward like a gloriously lobotomized bulldozer.

12. Surf City "Dickshakers Union" New Zealand's glumly infectious, lo-fi guitar-pop tradition (the Clean, Bats, Verlaines, Straitjacket Fits) gets a plucky new heir.



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Josh Reichmann Oracle Band

Home base: Toronto **Began:** 2008 **Influences:** "All the best shit from the '60s and '70s," says Reichmann. "Especially Funkadelic and Robert Wyatt." **Sounds like:** "A synthesis of modern sounds and more timeless, raw rock songwriting." **Latest release:** *Crazy Power* (Paper Bag)

Buraka Som Sistema

Home base: Lisbon, Portugal **Began:** 2006 **Influences:** "The *kuduro* dancehall scene from Angola was the starting point for the whole project," says producer João "Lil' John" Barbosa. **Sounds like:** "Dance music with crazy drumbeats you've never heard before." **Latest release:** *Black Diamond* (Fabric/Enchufada)

Florence and the Machine

Home base: London **Began:** 2007 **Influences:** "'Love Will Tear Us Apart' and 'A Change Is Gonna Come,'" says frontwoman Florence Welch. "Beirut, too." **Sounds like:** "Choir music gone wrong. Or apocalyptic pop with lots of drums. Either works." **Latest release:** *A Lot of Love. A Lot of Blood EP* (IAMSOUND)

FROM LEFT: COURTESY BIG HASSLE; ANA GILBERT; ELLIS PARRINDER