

Joe's Top Ten List
(*This one goes to 11!*)

1. Song of Zarathustra - The Birth of Tragedy (Troubleman Records; 2000)
One of the bands that contributed to the high water mark of progressive hardcore. These guys rock unrelentlessly and do so with an organ. Needless to say, I like screaming, organs and uncompromising displays of emotion... Zarathustra represents some of the best along the likes of Anasarca and The Red Scare.
2. Roky Erickson And the Aliens - The Evil One (Plus One) (Sympathy for the Record Industry; 2002)
This re-release (with extras) is *the* album for those interested in Roky Erickson's work after the 13th Floor Elevators. Roky's obsession with horror B-movies is given free reign during these tracks and there's even a few recordings from the Modern Humans call-in show in 1979 to give you insight into his love for horror flicks. If your introduction to Roky's post-13th Floor Elevators was the "Where the Pyramid Meets the Eye" tribute, this 2-disc set is a must have.
3. The Riverboat Gamblers - Something to Crow About (Gearhead Records; 2003)
These punk rockers from Denton, Texas can really rock... as evidenced by the canceling of their US tour after their bassist had the front of his face significantly rearranged by a swinging microphone during their San Francisco show. I listen to the track "What's What" before I go boozing it up with the missus; it really gets the juices flowing.
4. Peaches - Fatherfucker (Beggars XL Records; 2003)
Peaches is the sexiest-singing, dirtiest and most-provocatively sexual Canadian that I can think of. Her half-rap, half-electronica style instantly pleases with tracks like "Shake Yer Dix" and with duets like "Kick It" with Iggy Pop. Buy this album, play it around an 18+ crowd, hide your hard-on and/or wet panties.
5. Glass Candy and the Shattered Theater - Love Love Love (Troubleman Records; 2003)
I must say lead singer Ida No of Glass Candy is drop-dead sexy. 4-inch skirts, fancy underwear and a wailing vocal style that sounds like an opera diva stuffed in a barrel and rolled down a hill (that's a good thing). The other two instruments, drums and guitar, are also compellingly dark and raucous. Check out "Nite Nurses" and "The Last Time"... you'll be an instant convert.
6. The Lost Sounds - Rat Brains and Microchips (Empty Records; 2002)
These guys from Memphis, TN are really good in a way that's difficult to describe. Rock and Roll, screaming, organs and guitar riffs that wrap you up and leave you dangling over a cliff. These guys are highly accomplished (but still garage) musicians with no scruples about exploring the sonic landscape. "Blackcoats / Whitefear" and "Radon Flows" are fucking classics.

7. Beehive and the Barracudas - In Dark Love (Swami Records; 2003)

With members of Rocket from the Crypt, the PeeChees and the Red Aunts, this band could probably not be cooler or more experienced for the space they occupy. This album is a good cross-section of the best of modern Rock. Songs such as "Whip Out My Pistol" and the breathlessly-sexy "Up In Flames" are will ring throughout the underground for years to come.

8. Neurosis & Jarboe - Neurosis & Jarboe (Neurot Records; 2003)

This would probably be higher on my list but I haven't had a chance to listen to it as much as other records. The magnificent Jarboe from the Swans and one of my all-time favorite bands, Neurosis, team up to deliver an amazingly powerful, avant-garde record of darkly beautiful tracks.

9. The Vanishing - In The Bat Haus EP (Cochon Records; 2002)

The Goth Rock scene is big over here on the West Coast... and the Vanishing epitomizes this scene. This EP serves up some of the best of their work that they describe as "sci-fi horror disco" (The Vanishing and their sister band Subtonix have been known to play shows dressed like horror prom queens). My favorite is "Get In The Car" where the goth-sexy vocalist/bassist Jessie lays down the law: "Get in the car now / I want to see you on the floor! / where you belong, my love..."

10. Vaz - Dying to Meet You (Gold Standard Laboratories Records; 2003)

I'm not really sure where these guys came from... but they're really good and amazing song writers. They remind me of Sonic Youth if they had been born in the 70s and grown up to the 80s punk scene. The first track, "They've Won" is amazingly lightning fast and silky smooth at the same time... as is the last track, "Fired Eye Quit" which is the only rock song I've ever heard that makes whistling sound cool.

11. Christopher Russell - Demo (King Monolith Productions... not signed yet; 2003)

Chris is a student of mine from this past semester in my introductory astronomy class. He is a superb singer/songwriter who has a great voice and amazing production skills. His style vaguely reminds me of a Radiohead that had grown up in the American Southwest. My personal favorite is the fifth-track "Neon Signs"... it leaves me wondering what other college students with ProTools and unlimited tracks are doing with their free time. Look for Christopher Russell's site to appear soon at: <http://christopherussell.com/> and <http://kingmonolith.com>. If you'd like to hear more or get in touch with him directly, let me know at: joebeone@pobox.com.