**From:** Don Yates

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**To:** KEXP All Staff (Dist List)

**Subject:** KEXP new music reviews for 4/25/16

Here are this week’s new music reviews – hope you have a super weekend! Don

H:

Greys – Outer Heaven (Carpark)

The excellent second album from this Toronto band led by Shehzaad Jiwani is a more expansive, dynamic and melodic take on the band's anthemic posthardcore sound, with consistently strong songs exploring themes of identity, racism, depression and other weighty subjects. Try 1, 2, 3, **4**, 5, 6, 7 & 9.--Don Yates

M:

Nothing – Tired of Tomorrow (Relapse)

This Philly band's second album is an impressive set of loud, shoegazerish psych-rock with fuzzy, effects-drenched guitars, pounding drums, soft vocals and dreamy melodies. Try 1, 2, **3**, **4**, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

PJ Harvey – The Hope Six Demolition Project (Island)

This veteran British artist's ninth album is a potent blend of rock, blues, jazz and gospel. It's also one of her more politically charged releases, with observational lyrics of war-torn and poverty-wracked lives in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Washington D.C. Try 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11.--Don Yates

King Gizzard And The Lizard Wizard – Nonagon Infinity (ATO)

This Melbourne, Australia band's eighth album finds them following up last year's gentle, acoustic-oriented release *Paper Mache Dream Balloon*with a much more aggressive and electric set of driving, riff-heavy psych-rock with buzzing guitars and keyboards, relentless rhythms and potent song hooks. Try 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

Fly Moon Royalty – Delicious Trouble (self-released)

This Seattle duo's second full-length is a well-crafted blend of slinky electro soul, gritty funk and airy R&B ballads. Try 2, **3**, 4, 6, 7, 9 & 10.--Don Yates

Hammock – Everything And Nothing (self-released)

This Nashville duo's seventh album features more prominent vocals and drums for a more forceful and immediate take on the band's atmospheric post-rock. While there are a number of typically majestic, slow-burning instrumentals, there are also some strong shoegazerish rockers. Try 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 & 14--Don Yates

L:

Julianna Barwick – Will (Dead Oceans)

This Brooklyn artist's third album features more prominent synths along with occasional other instrumentation to accompany her celestial, looped vocals on this beautifully crafted set of atmospheric ambient-pop. Try 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

Thee Commons – Loteria Tribal (Burger)

This East LA band's second full-length is a fiery blend of cumbia, psych, garage-rock and a bit of reggae, combining reverbed guitars, muscular rhythms and catchy song hooks. Try 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 & 14.--Don Yates

Culture Abuse – Peach (6131)

This San Francisco band's latest release is a potent blend of raw garage-punk and surf-inflected post-punk with fuzzy guitars, energetic rhythms, morose vocals and sunny song hooks. Try 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 9.--Don Yates

Beverly – The Blue Swelll (Kanine)

The second album from this Brooklyn project spearheaded by Drew Citron is a fine set of melodic dream-pop with fuzzy guitars, buzzing keyboards, driving rhythms and ethereal vocals. Try 1, **2**, 3, 4, 7, 9 & 10.--Don Yates

Oddisee - Alwasta (Mello Music Group)

The latest release from Oddisee, the alias of NYC-via-DC Sudanese-American MC/producer Amir Mohamed el Khalifa, also a member of Diamond District, is another standout set of fresh, soulful, smart hip-hop with a warm, organic touch. The title of the release comes from the Arabic colloquial term used to mean “the plug.” Plug in for more high-quality sounds. Free download at [https://oddiseemmg.bandcamp.com](https://oddiseemmg.bandcamp.com/). Try #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7.                                                -Alex Ruder-

Klaus Johan Grobe -  Spagat der Liebe (Trouble In Mind)

This Swiss duo's second album is a mesmerising blend of motorik German prog, dreamy psych-pop, Tropicaliia and more, with hypnotic keyboards, occasional woodwinds, propulsive rhythms, German lyrics and breezy melodies. Try 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

Cate Le Bon – Crab Day (Drag City)

This now LA-based Welsh artist's fourth album is a fine set of arch, psych-tinged post-punk with scratchy, angular guitars, playful keyboards, occasional sax and marimba, jagged rhythms and surreal lyrics. Try 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7.--Don Yates

Kris Orlowski – Often in the Pause (self-released)

This Seattle artist's second album is a well-crafted set of folk-tinged pop-rock combining a muscular sound with reflective lyrics and strong song hooks. Try 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 & 13.--Don Yates

The Jayhawks – Paging Mr. Proust (Sham/Thirty Tigers)

This veteran Minneapolis band's ninth album was produced in Portland by Tucker Martine and Peter Buck. The album features a more adventurous sound than usual, blending power-pop and folk-rock with elements of prog and post-punk. Try 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.--Don Yates

Lush – Blind Spot EP (Edamame)

This reunited British band's first new recording in 20 years finds them in fine form with a 4-song EP of shoegazerish dream-pop. Try 1, 2, 3 & 4.--Don Yates

Mike Adams At His Honest Weight – Casino Drone (Joyful Noise)

This Bloomington, IN artist's third album is a fine set of well-crafted pop-rock ranging from breezy power-pop to atmospheric, psych-tinged ballads. Try 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 & 11.--Don Yates

Little Scream – Cult Following (Merge)

The second album from this American-born, Montreal-based artist (aka Laurel Sprengelmeyer) is a fine set of densely layered avant-pop beginning with some slinky funk-pop and then winding down with a slew of atmospheric ballads. Try 2, 3, 5, 7 & 10.--Don Yates

R/N:

Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith - EARS (Western Vinyl)

The third album from this Orcas Island native living in San Francisco is another mesmerizing set of twinkling, cinematic compositions rooted around her mastery of the Buchla Music Easel synthesizer. Her orchestral tracks build and bloom in an organic fashion alongside the addition of Smith's own heavily-treated vocals, creating a whimsical and otherworldly sound. Try #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, #8.                                      -Alex Ruder-

Glenn Jones - Fleeting (Thrill Jockey)

The latest album from this veteran Cambridge, Massachusetts musician is a welcoming cinematic set of intimate instrumental guitar compositions influenced and indebted to the "Takoma school" style of legendary artist John Fahey. Try #1, #4, #5, #7, #8, #10.                                                           -Alex Ruder-

Konono No. 1 – Konono No. 1 meet Batida (Crammed Discs)

For their fifth album, Congolese band Konono No. 1 hooked up with Angolan/Portugese artist Batida for a rhythm-driven blend of Konono No. 1's electrified Congolese grooves with Angolan kuduro and Afro-house. Try 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 & 8.--Don Yates

Ash Koosha – I AKA I (Ninja Tune)

The second album from this Iranian-bred, London-based electronic producer (aka Ashkan Kooshanejad) is an adventurous set of densely layered and manipulated electronic grooves inflected with dubstep, hip hop, drum 'n' bass and other styles. Try 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 & 11.--Don Yates

Wire – Nocturnal Koreans (Pinkflag)

This veteran British band's latest release is a solid 8-song mini-album of expansive post-punk. Try 1, 2, 3 & 6.--Don Yates

Plants and Animals – Waltzed In From The Rumbling (Secret City)

This Montreal-based trio's fourth album is a solid set of expansive, shape-shifting prog-pop. Try 2, 4, 7 & 9.--Don Yates

MORLY - EP Collection (Cascine)

Cascine Records conveniently packages up both EPs by Minnesota vocalist/producer Katie Morley (aka MORLY) to more fully showcase her evocative, emotional, delicate take on intimate R&B/pop that's distinguished by her choral-influenced vocals and warm, spacious, skittering production. *Something More Holy* carries a stronger pop sensibility and finds her vocals more in the forefront while her *In Defense Of My Muse* EP is a more atmospheric, instrumental-heavy journey. Try #1, #2, #3, #4, #7.                                                            -Alex Ruder-

D.K. - Island Of Dreams (Antinote)

The second album from this Parisian electronic producer under his D.K. alias is a sublime set of nostalgic 80s-influenced synth-heavy instrumental soundscapes that mix New Age, downtempo, Balearic, kosmische, ambient, and house styles in blissful, transcendent fashion. Try #1, #3, #4, #5, #6.                                                            -Alex Ruder-

μ-Ziq - Aberystwyth Marine (self-released)

Influential veteran UK electronic musician Mike Paradinas (aka μ-Ziq, also the driving creative force behind the boundary-pushing Planet Mu label) ranks alongside his friends Aphex Twin and Squarepusher as the leading figures during the rise of IDM and drill'n'bass during the mid 1990s. Earlier this year he shard this new album exclusively on Bandcamp that was recorded circa 1996 and 1998 between *Lunatic Harness* and *Royal Astronomy*, two of the strongest albums in his deep catalog. *Aberystwyth Marine* yields a refreshing nostalgic blast to the intricate, complex, head-spinning, and surprisingly melodic style that defined that time period. Try #2, #4, #6, #9, #10, #13, #14.                                          -Alex Ruder-

Nicholas Krgovich - The Hills (Crystal Math)

The sophomore album from LA-via-Vancouver, BC artist Nicholas Krgovich (pronounced KER-ga-VITCH, formerly a member beloved indie bands No Kids, Gigi, and P;ano) is another solid set of breezy cinematic pop with a soulful R&B

Streak. Try #2, #3, #7, #9, #10.                                          -Alex Ruder-

Benedek - Coolin' EP (Leaving)

The latest release from Los Angeles producer Benedek (real name Nicky Benedek) is a smooth set of West Coast-flavored funk, house, and experimental beat rhythms that leads off with the killer laidback G-funk vibe of the title track. The beats get more spacious and exploratory as the set goes along, closing out with the epic jazz-tinged number "Angelus Vista." Benedek's next full-length album is due out later this summer. Try #1, #2, #4.

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Kyson - A Book Of Flying (Friends of Friends)

The sophomore album from Australian electronic producer and vocalist Jian Kellett Liew (aka Kyson) is a beautiful set of lush, introspective vocal-laced ambient/folk with a gentle electronic touch, carried by blissful, atmospheric soundscapes and his romantic, intimate vocal style. Try #1, #2, #4, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10.                                        -Alex Ruder-

The Riffbrokers – Facing Away From It (Unsmashable)

This Seattle band's latest release is another fine set of roots-tinged power pop. Try 1, 2, 4, 6 & 7.--Don Yates

Sleepy Genes – Sleepy Genes (self-released)

This Seattle trio debuts with a solid 7-song mini-album of punkish power-pop. Try 1, 2, 4 & 6.--Don Yates

Various Artists - Ultra-High Frequencies: The Chicago Party (The Numero Group)

Super funky compilation that digs into the early 1980s disco scene in Chicago that revolved around *The Chicago Party*, a regional 23-episode TV show similar to "Soul Train" that documented the sound and style of popular CopHerBox II nightclub. While some of the vocal performances are a bit lackluster, the grooves are immediate and infectious. Try all, especially #1, #2, #3, #5, #8.

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Sorority Noise – It Kindly Stopped For Me EP (Topshelf)

This Connecticut band follows up their impressive second album (2015's *Joy, Departed*) with this atypically quiet 4-song EP of intimate, acoustic-oriented songs reflecting on mental illness and mortality. Try 1, 2 & 4.--Don Yates

Astronautica - Gemini (Alpha Pup)

The sophomore album from Los Angeles electronic producer and emerging vocalist Edrina Martinez (aka Astronautica) is an expansive set of late-night grooves that bounce between sultry R&B, gliding house, and a wide range of pillowy instrumental beats, accented by her own airy, ethereal vocals. Try #1, #2, #7, #9.

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