**From:** Don Yates

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

**Subject:** KEXP new music reviews for 4-11-16

Here are this week’s new music reviews – hope you have a relaxing weekend! I hear the following one is going to OFF THE HOOK. Don

H:

Woods – City Sun Eater in the River of Light (Woodsist)

This New York band's ninth album is a beautifully crafted blend of psych-rock and folk-pop with undercurrents of Ethiopian jazz, country-rock and other styles. It's also one of their most consistently strong sets of songs to date. Try 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.--Don Yates

M:

Mr. Lif – Don't Look Down (Mello Music Group)

This Boston rapper's sixth album (and first in seven years) is a fine set combining a variety of beats from boom-bap to off-kilter with his nasal flow and incisive lyrics of personal struggle and transformation. Try 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

The Dandy Warhols – Distortland (Dine Alone)

This veteran Portland band's ninth studio album is a groove-driven, mostly low-key blend of glam, psych-rock, New Wave, folk and more. Try 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

Sulk – No Illusions (Perfect Sound Forever)

This British band's second album is a fine set of '90s-inspired rock reminiscent of Doves, The Verve, Suede and other vintage British bands, combining fuzzy guitar riffs, soaring harmonies and anthemic choruses. Try 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9.--Don Yates

L:

DTCV – Confusion Moderne (Xemu)

This LA duo's fourth album is a beguiling blend of post-punk, psych-tinged garage-rock and '60s French pop, combining fuzzy guitars and driving rhythms with politically charged lyrics sung in French (lead singer Lola G.'s native language). Try 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10. **(Band name pronounced "Detective")**--Don Yates

Tancred – Out Of The Garden (Polyvinyl)

The third album from the Minneapolis-based side-project of Now, Now guitarist/vocalist Jess Abbot is a fine set of hook-filled grunge-pop with fuzzy guitars, sparkling pop melodies and melancholy lyrics. Try 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 & 11.--Don Yates

Suuns - Hold/Still (Secretly Canadian)

This Montreal-based band's third album is a well-crafted set of minimalist, groove-driven experimental rock combining a brooding, tension-filled sound with eerie vocals and lyrics revolving around sex and spirituality. Try 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 & 10.--Don Yates

Mayer Hawthorne – Man About Town (Vagrant/BMG)

This LA-via-Ann Arbor, MI artist's fourth album is a smartly executed, occasionally cheesy set of smooth, '70s-steeped funk and soul-pop. Try 2, 3, 5, 8 & 10.--Don Yates

M83 – Junk (Mute)

The seventh album from this French artist (aka Anthony Gonzalez) is all-too-accurately named, as he excavates a variety of frothy cheese from bygone years, ranging from '70s soft-rock, easy-listening lounge-pop and '80s power ballads to kitschy disco and hair metal. Try 1, 2, 7, 9, 10 & 12.--Don Yates

R/N:

Fela Ransome Kuti and His Koola Lobitos – Fela Ransome Kuti and His Koola Lobitos (Knitting Factory)

An excellent 3-CD compilation of this legendary Nigerian artist's early recordings from 1963-69, when Fela's music evolved from jazzy Highlife to his deeply funky, hard-driving Afro-Beat. The first disc is comprised of early singles, the second features his 1965 debut album, and the third is comprised of live recordings and studio outtakes. On disc 1, try 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14. On disc 2, try 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11. On disc 3, try 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14.--Don Yates

Tim Hecker – Love Streams (4AD)

This Canadian electronic composer's eighth album is a fine set of experimental ambient drones with a densely layered sound combining often-heavily processed keyboards and woodwinds with eerie vocal fragments. Try 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11.--Don Yates

John Doe – Westerner (Cool Rock/Thirty Tigers)

The latest solo album from the X co-founder is a solid set of roots-tinged rock ranging from bluesy stompers to dusty desert ballads. Try 1, 3 (w/ Chan Marshall), 4, 5 (w/ Debbie Harry) & 8.--Don Yates

Sam Beam & Jesca Hoop – Love Letter For Fire (Sub Pop)

This collaboration between Sam Beam (Iron & Wine) and California-born, Manchester-based Jesca Hoop is a tranquil set of acoustic folk-pop. Try 2, 5, 6, 9 & 11.--Don Yates

John Congleton and The Nighty Nite – Until The Horror Goes (Fat Possum)

The famed indie-rock producer's debut full-length is a solid set of quirky, noise-addled pop-rock. Try 2, 3 & 6.--Don Yates

Vaudeville Etiquette – Aura Vista Motel (Sunyata)

This Seattle band's second album is a well-crafted set of muscular, folk-tinged rock. Try 1, 2, 4, 6 & 10.--Don Yates