

OFFT EMPO^{#1}

Garrett Kelly (of Seattle)

MOUNTAINSS (seattle) - Frantic bass&drums, w/ Billy on saxophone; dude is blowing so hard sometimes the mouthpiece just pops right out of his mouth. That - or someone from the audience is trying to tackle him only it's like he's a little demon creature that has just hatched & is covered in butter & he's only got one goal in life: play the most fucked up shrill on a horn that one can.

[<http://facebook.com/pages/Mountainss/164211730281530/>]

Santee (seattle) - Grunge Fleetwood Mac. Heather's strong voice, backed by brother playing lead guitar and Shanti swaying & playing drums standing up. Often find myself singing "who is the devil?" at my desk at work and once got called on it by a coworker thinking I was descending into schizophrenia.

[<http://myspace.com/stickandmoon/>]

Eric Ostrowski (seattle) - Old school experimental violinist just came out w/ rad (and cheap!) new album called "P.S. You Owe Me" featuring artwork from his daughter Hazel. James Burns of Cold Lake described one track as "Clothes dryer full of drums hurtling off of a cliff". Strangely approachable but oh so very fucked up.

[<http://endsound.com/erico/>]

Ryan McCormick (of Vancouver, BC)

Bad Fate (vancouver, bc) - With 'This Olympic City,' Bad Fate wrote what should have been the official anthem of Vancouver 2010. Highly recommended for anyone who likes guitars that shred faster than speed-skaters. [<http://badfate.bandcamp.com/>]

Chris-a-riffic (vancouver, bc) - This jolly old man could be anyone's favourite uncle. He used to play keyboard but now he mostly just sings and claps his indie-gospel-pop music. If you see him play, you'll likely be singing along too. The graffiti on the bathroom wall says it all: "Chris-a-riffic is God." [<http://myspace.com/brisariffic/>]

Brave Irene (vancouver, bc) - Having played a humble two concerts since their founding last year, this band has already attracted the attention of the notable Slumberland label which is releasing their debut album March 15. Much-hyped as the latest project from US indie favourite Rose Melberg, what the bloggers don't know is that this is also a veritable super-group of Vancouver artists featuring members of Apollo Ghosts, Collapsing Opposites, Unreliable Narrator, and Faux Amis among other bands.

[<http://www.myspace.com/braveirene/>]

Anita Sparrow (of Vancouver, BC)

i make earthquakes (vancouver, bc) - I make earthquakes is created by the politically aware and crafty Beshele Caron. Recently Dan loan(bad fate) Caitlin Gilroy(unreliable narrator) and Nicole Caron(katie and the lichen) have joined to create a bad ass super group. If you like maple syrup, feminism, and quilting you will loose it over I make Earthquakes. [<http://www.myspace.com/imakeearthquakes/>]

Geoff Traeger (of Seattle)

Pitted Youth (olympia) - Oly Hardcore. Friends of HPP. Female/Male trade-off vox. Bit of a posi vibe, loud as hell, real nice guitar work. High intensity live performance with some fist pumping moments. Their "Youthanized" tape is emblazoned with sharpie-drawn Rainier cans. Shit-fi living room recording quality. I can't get enough of what they're dishing out, but "normal people" may have no appetite.

[<http://pittedyouth.blogspot.com/>]

The Family Stoned (olympia) - Olympia-based Sabbath/Neil Young worship with some weirdo hardcore-kid 'tude. This band damaged my hearing at a sparsely attended show in Bellingham. Druggy riffs pummeled to infinity + occasional group vox + simple hypnotic leads. Demo tape is stuck in my car's cassette deck. It's definitely the water.

[*minimal internet presence*]

Clyde Petersen (of Seattle)

Dave End (san-francisco) - has been my biggest inspiration this year. Dave lives in San Francisco and is my hero. Dave is a flaming genderqueer babe, song writer, performer, and inspiration for queers everywhere. I hope when I grow up, I'm as brave and amazing as Dave End. Check out: "And by Queen". It will be your new favorite song.

[<http://myspace.com/daveend/>]

Jonathan Cunningham/DJ Wordlush (of Seattle)

The Physics (seattle) - I personally dig the physics because all three members make amazing hip-hop without really trying. The groups producer, Justo, and the two emcees, Thig Natural and Monk Wordsmith, all have really intense careers and just make music in their very limited spare time. Yet it's some of the best hip-hop in Seattle. Listen to any of their projects and talk with hip-hop legends in Seattle like Vitamin D, Jake One, and others and they all agree. The Physics are the shit.

[<http://myspace.com/realphysics/>]

Gabriel Teodros (seattle) - Gabriel is one of the most true-hearted musicians I've ever met. He's got morals and he doesn't bend on them. He mostly does all-ages shows because he believes in the all-ages movement and barely even books 21+ shows. He says it and he lives it. The kids are the future. He also is a solid emcee that raps about raw emotion better than any other emcee that I've met. Worldwide. He taps into insecurities and the things most men don't want to touch with his material and helps men, women, and anyone that has ever felt marginalized feel at home within his music.

[<http://gabrielteodros.blogspot.com/>]

WD4D (seattle) - It's amazing to me that WD4D isn't recognized nationally and internationally for the electronic wankery and dubstep genius that he creates. He's one of the best dubstep and electronic producers in the Northwest and he's a very humble dude. No ego whatsoever, which is rare in the world of music today.

[<http://soundcloud.com/wd4d/>]

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Low Hums (seattle) - Eternal cosmic desert twilight.

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iji (seattle) - NW's best contemporary good-feeling pop band. Don't capitelize the first "i". It's all or nothing.

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