

Ear Buds



About a year ago, *The Athens NEWS* pulled the plug on Athens Ear Buds, a weekly feature that had been started about 14 months previously. The music feature chugged along healthily for most of its lifespan but toward the end began huffing and puffing and wheezing, and finally collapsed, exhausted and ready for a well-deserved vay-cay.

During the time off, AEB decided it didn't want to go back to regular work hours, but did agree to a yearly reunion where local music fans list what music they liked the best in the previous year.

That's what we're running today, with the first installment of a two-part Athens Ear Buds reunion. The second part will run on Monday. Many of our former AEB contributors provided us with their "best of" lists, and I greatly appreciate their renewed participation.

Some of the lists purport to include the best music of 2010, though most of the lists, including mine, are nothing more than the best CDs, downloads, videos, live shows or singles that we happened to enjoy in the past year.

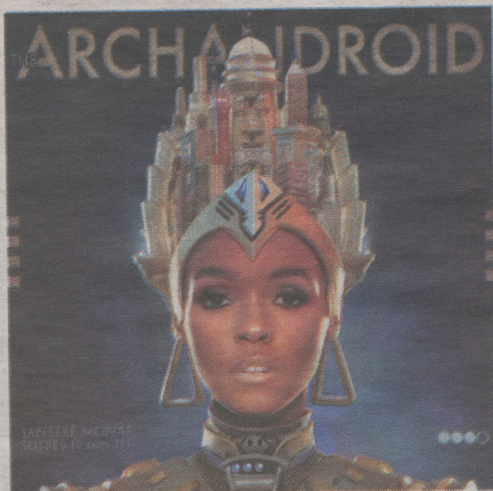
For the most part, the formatting is inconsistent since everyone had different ideas about how to list and what to list.

Also, as always, the best — and just about only — local record outlet to obtain or order most of these recommendations is Haffa's Records at 15 W. Union St.

Anywho, here goes Vol 1 of the Great Athens Ear Buds Reunion Show:

Christopher Pyle (owns Donkey Coffee and 3 Elliott Studio, and plays in the local band The Jarts). These are what he considers the Best Albums of 2010, in descending order with the best listed first:

- "ArchAndroid" by Janelle Monae
- "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" by Kanye West
- "Halcyon Digest" by Deerhunter
- "New Amerykah Part II" by Erykah Badu
- "The Suburbs" by Arcade Fire
- "Congratulations" by MGMT
- "Teen Dream" by Beach House
- "Write About Love" by Belle & Sebastian
- "All Day" by Girl Talk
- "You Are Not Alone" by Mavis Staples
- "The Promise" by Bruce Springsteen
- "I Learned The Hard Way" by Sharon Jones and The Dap-Kings
- "The Besnard Lakes Are the Roaring Night" by The Besnard Lakes
- "Lady Killer" by Cee-Lo
- "Monitor" by Titus Andronicus
- "This Is Happening" by LCD Soundsystem
- "Broken Bells" by Broken Bells



Janelle Monae's new album appears on two lists.

- "Scratch My Back" by Peter Gabriel
- "Hold You Like A Lover" by Theodore
- "Volume II" by She & Him

Paul Tescher (local record collector extraordinaire): The Strangelings... private '07... NYC band. My friend said, "Check out Richard Thompson's instrumental cover of Donovan's 'Season of the Witch'... I YouTubed it... FAB! Side bar: The Strangelings' cover of the same... and I mean WOW! Bought their CD and a DVD of them in concert... Three women, two guys... spine-tingling harmonies plus electric sitar... a mix of originals and covers.

Josh Antonuccio (a producer and engineer at 3 Elliott Studio and a certified member of the local band Scubadog). Antonuccio submitted a list of his 22 favorite albums of 2010, with some honorable mentions at the end. The 22 are listed in descending order, with the best at the top.

1. Janelle Monae: "The ArchAndroid"

This album defies classification and is one of the most grandiose and exquisitely genre-bending releases in recent times. Beckoning on traces of soul, dance, punk, lounge music and R&B, Janelle Monae walks with swagger and style through lands that only folks like Prince and George Clinton once dared to tread. For starters, begin with the masterful James Brown-esque "Tightrope," then allow her to defy your expectations and blow your mind at every turn.

2. LCD Soundsystem: "This Is Happening"

I have to admit that at first this record didn't capture me like 2007's "Sound of Silver" did, but I've really come around as the year has gone by. Once again, channeling the likes of