

Favorite Albums of 2008

1	<b>The Seldom Seen Kid</b>	<i>Elbow</i>	Lancashire, England	alternative	perfect songwriting and playing topped with that gorgeous voice singing poetry about daily life
2	<b>Með Suð í Eyrum Við Spilum Endalaust</b>	<i>Sigur Rós</i>	Reykjavík, Iceland	ambient, post-rock	LP4 was a huge change for the Icelanders, parts of it actually sound HAPPY, and they pull it off magnificently
3	<b>Vampire Weekend</b>	<i>Vampire Weekend</i>	New York, NY	Upper West Side Soweto	debut of the year, we all knew it back in January, still sounds great, every song = potential single
4	<b>The Stand-Ins</b>	<i>Okkervil River</i>	Austin, TX	lit-rock, neofolk	was not shown as much critical love as last year's part 1, but I played it a lot and Sheff's the best lyricist in rock
5	<b>Welcome to Mali</b>	<i>Amadou &amp; Mariam</i>	Bamako, Mali	world, African	Damon Albarn helped produce this excellent record from the blind married couple, great party music
6	<b>Alight of Night</b>	<i>Crystal Stilts</i>	Brooklyn, NY	garage, shoegaze	retro-sounding drone-rock that says turn it up
7	<b>Carried to Dust</b>	<i>Calexico</i>	Tucson, AZ	Americana	Southwest border-crossing magical realists never disappoint
8	<b>Furr</b>	<i>Blitzen Trapper</i>	Portland, OR	neofolk	so shoot me, but I liked it better than the Fleet Foxes record, go Portland! (the poor man's Seattle)
9	<b>49:00 of Your Time/Life</b>	<i>Paul Westerberg</i>	Minneapolis, MN	alternative	\$.49 worth of pure songwriting genius by Replacements' frontman, no breaks, no song titles, it's a beautiful mess
10	<b>Brighter than Creation's Dark</b>	<i>Drive-By Truckers</i>	Athens, GA	alt-country	modern-day Allman Brothers make twang you can love with evocative, grown-up lyrics
11	<b>Modern Guilt</b>	<i>Beck</i>	Los Angeles, CA	alternative	I'll take a few great new Beck songs anytime while we wait for another masterpiece
12	<b>In Ear Park</b>	<i>Department of Eagles</i>	Brooklyn, NY	neofolk, experimental	sounds pretty much just like Grizzly Bear of which they are three-quarters I think
13	<b>Fleet Foxes</b>	<i>Fleet Foxes</i>	Seattle, WA	neofolk	Pitchfork made it #1 but I agree with Aquarium Drunkard, My Morning Jacket did this first and well
14	<b>Made in the Dark</b>	<i>Hot Chip</i>	London, England	electronica/dance	also out early in the year but had massive staying power, the dance record of the year for sure
15	<b>The Rhumb Line</b>	<i>Ra Ra Riot</i>	Syracuse, NY	alternative	auspicious debut by this young band from my alma mater
16	<b>Volume One</b>	<i>She and Him</i>	Portland, OR	alt-country	Actress Zooey Deschanel and M Ward surprise with a debut of songs that sound immediately like standards
17	<b>Everything that Happens Will Happen Today</b>	<i>David Byrne &amp; Brian Eno</i>	NYC/London	they don't need no genre	totally accessible modern rock from the folks who 30 years ago brought you Talking Heads
18	<b>Very Best Mixtape</b>	<i>The Very Best (Esau Mwamwaya &amp; Radioclit)</i>	London, England/Malawi	world, African pop	easy to love Afro-pop with lotsa very original and fun "covers" of some popular tunes
19	<b>Some Are Lakes</b>	<i>Land of Talk</i>	Montreal, Quebec	alternative	more Montreal indie rock, girl singer has a lovely voice
20	<b>Accelerate</b>	<i>REM</i>	Athens, GA	first "alternative" band ever	sentimental pick, I played it a lot because FINALLY they made a rock record again and it was nice to hear, go Peter

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### Honorable Mention

<b>The Black Ghosts</b>	<i>The Black Ghosts</i>	London, England	electronica/dance	featuring my dance single of the year, Full Moon, it's LOVELY (can't say that much about dance tunes)
<b>Does You Inspire You</b>	<i>Chairlift</i>	Brooklyn, NY	indie pop	can they help it if the adorable single got picked for an iPod commercial? stuff is that catchy!
<b>Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!</b>	<i>Nick Cave &amp; the Bad Seeds</i>	Hove, England	alternative	over-the-top macho ex-junkie rock with hilarity, a tight band and a lovely Aussie accent
<b>The Midnight Organ Fight</b>	<i>Frightened Rabbit</i>	Selkirk, Scotland	alternative	these guys seem to have something going on here, gotta pay more attention to this...
<b>Midnight Boom</b>	<i>The Kills</i>	US/UK	garage	Jack-and-Meg if Meg sang all the time and sounded tough
<b>Little Joy</b>	<i>Little Joy</i>	NYC	alt-Brazil/NYC surf	yet another Strokes side project that's better than the original band, this one featuring the drummer
<b>Youth Novels</b>	<i>Lykke Li</i>	Ystad, Sweden	dance pop	catchy and clever danceable indie pop from this 22-year-old Swede, produced by Bjorn of Peter, B & John
<b>Vivian Girls</b>	<i>Vivian Girls</i>	Brooklyn, NY	shoegaze, girl group revival	three not-so-pretty girls from Brooklyn make a lotta guitar noise while sorta sounding like the Shirelles