

## KUT's Best of 2008

### EKLEKTIKOS' JOHN AIELLI - TOP TEN OF 2008

1. [Sigur Ros](#) – *With a Buzz in Our Ears We Play Endlessly* (XL)
2. [Brad Mehldau Trio](#) – *Live at the Village Vanguard* (Nonesuch)
3. [Damien Rice](#) – *Live from the Union Chapel* (Vector)
4. [Fleet Foxes](#) – *Fleet Foxes* (Sub Pop)
5. [Marcia Ball](#) – *Peace, Love and BBQ* (Rounder)

6. [Calexico](#) – *Carried to Dust* (Quarterstick)
  7. [Coldplay](#) – *Viva la Vida* (Capitol)
  8. [Bobby Previte and the New Bump](#) – *Set the Alarm for Monday* (Palmetto)
  9. [Toumani Diabate](#) – *The Mande Variations* (Nonesuch)
  10. [T Bone Burnett](#) – *Tooth of Crime* (Nonesuch)
- John Aielli

JAY TRACHTENBERG'S  
TOP TEN OF 2008

1. [Orchestra Baobab](#) – *Made In Dakar* (World Circuit/Nonesuch)
2. Grupo Fantasma – *Sonidos Gold* (Aire Sol)
3. [Michael Franti & Spearhead](#) – *All Rebel Rockers* (Anti)
4. [James McMurtry](#) – *Just Us Kids* (Lightning Rod)
5. [Bobby Previte & The New Bump](#) – *Set The Alarm For Monday* (Palmetto)
6. [Thievery Corporation](#) – *Radio Retaliation* (ESL)
7. [Okkervil River](#) – *The*

*Stand Ins* (Jagjaguwar)

8. [Alejandro Escovedo](#) – *Real Animal* (Back Porch)

9. [Firewater](#) – *The Golden Hour* (Bloodshot)

Listen: [Firewater live on Music with Jay Trachtenberg](#)

10. [Missy Higgins](#) – *On A Clear Night* (Warner Bros.)  
— Jay Trachtenberg

LARRY MONROE'S TOP  
TEN OF 2008  
*Alphabetical*

1. [Marcia Ball](#) – *Peace, Love & BBQ* (Alligator)
2. [Bob Dylan](#) – *Tell Tale Signs: Bootleg Series, Volume 8* (Columbia)
3. [Joe Ely](#) & [Joel Guzman](#) – *Live Cactus!* (Rack Em)
4. [Alejandro Escovedo](#) – *Real Animal* (Back Porch)
5. [Buddy Guy](#) – *Skin Deep* (Silvertone)
6. [B.B. King](#) – *One Kind Favor* (Geffen)
7. [James McMurtry](#) – *Just Us Kids* (Lightning Rod)
8. [Willie Nelson and Wynton](#)

[Marsalis](#) – *Two Men with the Blues* (Blue Note)

9. [Pinetop Perkins](#) – *Pinetop Perkins & Friends* (Telarc)

10. Lucinda Williams – *Little Honey* (Lost Highway)

— Larry Monroe

TWINE TIME & JAZZ

HOST PAUL RAY'S TOP

TEN OF 2008

1. [Steve Turre](#) – *Rainbow People* (Highnote)

2. [Gonzalo Rubalcaba](#) – *Avatar* (Blue Note)

3. [Dave Holland Sextet](#) – *Pass It On* (Emarcy)
4. [James Carter](#) – *Present Tense* (Universal)
5. [Eric Alexander Quartet](#) – *Prime Time* (High Note)
6. [Conrad Herwig](#) – *The Latin Side Of Wayne Shorter* (Half Note)
7. [Ahmad Jamal](#) – *It's Magic* (Dreyfus)
8. [Alvin Queen](#) – *Jammin' Uptown* (Nilva)
9. [Joe Lovano, Dave Liebman, Ravi Coltrane](#) – *Saxophone Summit* (Telarc)

10. [Russell Malone](#) – *Live at Jazz Standard, Volume Two* (Max Jazz)  
— Paul Ray

MUSIC DIRECTOR & LEFT  
OF THE DIAL HOST JEFF  
MCCORD'S TOP TEN OF  
2008

1. [The Heavy](#) – *Great Vengeance and Furious Fire* (Counter) Knockout soul/funk punch from this UK outfit.

2. [Alejandro Escovedo](#) – *Real Animal* (Back Porch)

Escovedo's biographical CD is a winning collaboration with co-writer Chuck Prophet, and his most powerful recording in years.

3. [Bobby Previte and the New Bump](#) – *Set the Alarm for Monday* (Palmetto)

Previte has always over-intellectualized his music, but this time out he loosens up. Jazz album of the year.

4. [Grupo Fantasma live on Music with Jay Trachtenberg](#)

Cumbia/funk/afro-beat/

salsa, effortlessly blended into a world-beat soul stew. One of Austin's best keep getting better.

5. [Dr. Dog](#) *Fate* (Park the Van)

6. [Bajofondo](#) – *Mardulce* (Surco) Further proof Gustavo Santaolalla remains one of the most creative forces in Latin music.

7. [The Black Keys](#) – *Attack and Release* (Nonesuch) Danger Mouse goes to Ohio and rocks out.

8. [Shearwater](#) – *Rook*

(Matador)

Haunting, powerful, epic, and like nothing else out there. Meiberg & Co.'s best to date.

9. [Lucinda Williams](#) – *Little Honey* (Lost Highway) Who knew she could have fun?

10. [Department of Eagles](#) – *In Ear Park* (4AD) Grizzly Bear's Daniel Rossen returns with Fred Nocolaus for more fascinating, atmospheric retro-folk/pop.  
— Jeff McCord

# FOLKWAYS' KEVIN CONNOR - TOP TEN OF 2008

1. [Alejandro Escovedo](#) –  
Real Animal (Back Porch)  
Listen: [Alejandro Escovedo  
on Eklektikos Live](#)
2. [Tift Merritt](#) – Another  
Country (Concord) Listen:  
[Tift Merritt live on Folkways](#)
3. [Hayes Carll](#) – Trouble No  
More (UMG) Listen: [Hayes  
Carll live on Music with Jay  
Trachtenberg](#)
4. [She & Him](#) – Volume

One (Merge)

5. [Coldplay](#) – Viva la Vida  
... (Capitol)

6. [Bruce Robison](#) – The  
New World (Premium)

Listen: [Bruce Robison live  
on Music with Jay  
Trachtenberg](#)

7. [Jonatha Brooke](#) – The  
Works (Bad Dog)

8. [Carolyn Wonderland](#) –  
Miss Understood  
(Bismeaux) Listen: [Carolyn  
Wonderland live on Music  
with Jay Trachtenberg](#)

9. [Belleville Outfit](#) –

Wanderin' (Self Release)

Listen: [Belleville Outfit live on Folkways](#)

10. [Maggie Walters](#) –  
Midwestern Hurricane

— Kevin Connor

WORLD MUSIC WITH  
HAYES MCCAULEY - TOP  
TEN OF 2008

1. Justin Adams & Juldeh  
Camara – *Soul Science* (UK  
/ Gambia) Robert Plant  
guitarist & West African  
fiddle player. (World Village)

2. Toumani Diabate –  
*Mande Variations* (Mali)  
Exquisite solo strings from  
the master of the kora.

(Nonesuch)

3. Franco & T.P.O.K. Jazz –  
*Francophonie* 1953-80

Congolese rumba from one  
of Africa's most popular  
artists. (Sterns)

4. Paulo Moura & Yamandu  
Costa – *El Negro del  
Blanco* (Brazil) Clarinet and  
guitar duet. (Biscoito Fino)

5. Orchestra Baobab –  
*Made in Dakar* (Senegal)

The latin lilt of their 70's heyday is still evident.

(Nonesuch)

6. Lucia Pulido – *Luna Menguante* Colombia traditional songs with chamber jazz backing.

(Adventure Music)

7. Various – *Nigeria Special – Modern Highlife, Afro-Sounds & Nigerian Blues 1970-6* (Sound Way)

8. Various – *What's Happening in Pernambuco* (Brazil) (Luaka Bop)

9. Cedric Watson – *Cedric*

*Watson* Young Louisiana  
fiddler and accordion  
player, member of the Pine  
Leaf Boys. (Valcour)

10. Tomer Yosef –  
*Laughing Underground*  
(Israel) From a member of  
Balkan Beat Box, rhymes  
with Manu Chao. (Jdub  
Records)

— Hayes McCauley

TEXAS MUSIC MATTERS'  
DAVID BROWN - TOP TEN  
OF 2008

1. Okkervil River – *The Stand-Ins* (Jagjaguwar)

Austin quintet joins Spoon in the majors with literate, hook-filled indie rock.

2. Shearwater – *Rook*

(Matador) Explosive, richly textured neofolk-rock from Austin. Their best yet.

3. Leatherbag – *Love and*

*Harm* (Super Pop!) Lo-fi, hi-octane superpop led by songwriter Randy Reynolds. Sleeper of the year.

4. White Denim – *Exposion*

(Self Release) High-density,

furiously inventive, and not for the fainthearted. One of Austin's most-likely-to-succeed.

5. Hayes Carll – *Trouble in Mind* (UMG) Houstonian nearly hits the bigtime with Americana Music's 'Album of the Year'.

6. Black Angels – *Directions to See a Ghost* (Light in the Attic) Trippy, solid sophomore album by Roky Erikson's virtual godchildren.

7. Brothers and Sisters –

*Fortunately* (Calla Lily) One small step back from Brian Wilson; a giant leap closer to the Jayhawks.

8. Centro-Matic / South San Gabriel – *Dual Hawks*

(Misra) Sonically satisfying showcase for Denton's musically conjoined twins.

9. The Old 97's – *Blame it on Gravity* (New West)

Dallas' most successful alt-country band gets back on track. Solid tunesmithery.

10. The Krayolas – *La Conquistadora* (Box) San

Antonio's legendary Tex-pop quartet reincarnated and reinvented. Liner notes of the year.

— David Brown

HORIZONTES & WORLD  
MUSIC'S MICHAEL  
CROCKETT - TOP TEN OF  
2008

1. Mayra Andrade – *Navega*  
(Sterns)

A young Cape Verdean singer who was born in Cuba, lived in West Africa

and now resides in Paris, Mayra Andrade sings in Portuguese, Creole, and French and is backed by a band of mostly Brazilian musicians. The sound is a bit more lively than that of her mentor, Cesaria Evora as Mayra sings in a more African style called “batuque” rather than the bluesy “morna” of Evora. An added bonus are the song translations in Portuguese, French & English in the liner notes.

2. Bajofondo – *Mar Dulce*  
(Decca-Universal)

Second release from this Argentine electro-tango collective led by Gustavo Santaolalla, one of the most sought after producers in Latin music. Guest artists include Gustavo Cerati, La Mala Rodriguez, Nelly Furtado, Julieta Venegas and even Elvis Costello. Move over Gotan Project.

3. Chambao – *Con Otro Aire* (Norte-Sony/BMG)

One of the most unique

voices in the World is that of Maria del Mar Rodriguez (La Mari), the lead singer of this electro-flamenco group from Malaga in southern Spain. Her vocals are haunting on the opening song "Papeles Mojados (Wet Papers)" a very North-African sounding lament for the many African refugees that drown in the Mediterranean trying to cross over into Europe. The Gipsy Kings join her on one of their songs, and

traditional flamenco singer, Estella Morente, sings a duet with La Mari on “Lo Bueno Y Lo Malo (Good & Evil).”

4. Alex Cuba – *Agua Del Pozo* (Caracol)

Cuban guitarist/singer/songwriter, based in Canada, incorporates many styles of Cuban music, including Son & Nueva Trova, into his songs as well as elements of Funk and Rock. His live performance on KUT during

SXSW 2008

5. was a revelation. Lila Downs – *Shake Away* (Manhattan-EMI)

This Mexican-American singer, brought up in southern Mexico (Oaxaca) and the northern U.S. (Minnesota) brings an incredible vocal, musical and cultural range to her music and a lot of prestigious Latin American guest artists (including Mercedes Sosa, Enrique Bunbury, La Mari from

Chambao, & Ixaya Mazatzin from Cafe Tacuba) to this CD with songs in both Spanish and English in musical styles ranging from Cumbia to Klezmer to Zydeco.

6. Sergio Mendes – *Encanto* (Concord)

The artist who over 40 years ago did more to popularize Brazilian music in the U.S than anyone else, returns again with another CD produced by Will.I.Am <<http://will.i.am/>>

from the Black Eyed Peas with updated Brasil '66 classics as well as contemporary songs done with an international roster of artists including Fergie, Carlinhos Brown, Natalie Cole, Jovanotti, Juanes, Vanessa Da Mata, and others.

7. Orchestra Baobab – *Made In Dakar* (Nonesuch)  
This Senegalese band, much as the members of the Buena Vista Social Club from Cuba did in the 1990s,

re-emerged this decade bringing back their classic '70s mix of Cuban son, Congolese rumba, and Wolof-language singing over some excellent guitar and percussion. If you're a fan of the Buena Vista sound this is the African equivalent.

#### 8. *Senor Coconut – Around The World* (Nacional)

German producer Uwe Schmidt who goes under various names when he records, lives in Chile and

produces wonderful Latin dance music, often in the old style mambo of Perez Prado, or the “exotica, bachelor-pad” sounds of Esquivel or Les Baxter. On this CD, he covers some well-known hits like “Sweet Dreams” by the Eurythmics and “Kiss” by prince as well as some lesser known tunes by artists like France’s Daft Punk. And there are some Latin classics on here as well like Prado’s “Que Rico El

Mambo” and Jobim’s  
“Corcovado”. This CD will  
be a hit at any party!

9. Think Of One – *Camping  
Shaabi* (Crammed Discs)

This Belgian group seems  
to vagabond across the  
World mixing up European  
Rock and Dance music with  
the local ethnic music they  
hear in their travels. They  
have recorded in Brazil  
twice, but they have often  
returned to Morocco for  
inspiration. This CD, sung  
in French, Flemish, English,

& Arabic, resulted from an encounter with local Berber musicians who play and sing “shaabi”, or wedding party music. The musical fusion AND confusion on this CD make me want to jump on their bus for the next trip.

10. Various Artists – *What’s Happening in Pernambuco* (Luaka Bop)

The city of Recife in northeastern Brazil, has a sound of its own, far removed as it is from the

urbane sambas and bossa novas of Rio De Janeiro far to the South. Like New Orleans, it's surrounded by swamps, mangrove swamps in this case; hence the music is called "mangue beat" which we might call "swamp pop". This is yet another fine collection compiled by World Music enthusiast and Talking Head, David Byrne.

FOLKWAYS' ED MILLER -  
TOP TEN OF 2008

1. Angel Band – *With Roots & Wings* (Appleseed)
2. Joan Baez – *Day After Tomorrow* (Razor & Tie)
3. Crooked Still – *Still Crooked* (Signature Sounds)
4. Joe Ely & Joel Guzman – *Live Cactus!* (Rack 'em Records)
5. Gregory Grene – *Flipsides* (Grab Entertainment)
6. Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas – *In the Moment* (Culburnie)

7. Kathy Mattea – *Coal*  
(Thirty Tigers)
  8. Bill McNeal – *One Track Mind* (Texmuse Records)
  9. Karine Polwart – *This Earthly Still* (Hegri Music)
  10. Solas – *For Love and Laughter* (Compass)
- Ed Miller

## OVERNIGHT'S AUDREY MORTON - TOP TEN OF 2008

1. Man Man – *Rabbit Habits*  
(Anti)

I have bought only one

brand new cd in several years and this is it. Not only is it exciting and refreshing, it also makes me a little nostalgic thinking about Violent Femmes and Ministry. I usually only keep compilations or mixed cds in my car, but this one, I can listen to it for weeks at a time.

2. MGMT – *Oracular Spectacular* (Columbia)

This cd is so much fun!

*Electric Feel* takes me back to my formative years. I'm

not saying it sounds like it belongs in the '80s. Rather, it's catchy and makes me want to dance.

3. Michael Franti and Spearhead – *All Rebel Rockers* (Anti)

Never in my wildest dreams would I have put this on one of my lists. It puts a smile on my face and a groove in my step. Thank God there aren't web cams in the studio when I play this.

4. Okkervil River – *The Stand-Ins* (Jagjaguwar)

These guys (and girl) can't go wrong. They'll always be on my list.

5. David Byrne and Brian Eno – *Everything That Happens Will Happen Today* (Todomundo)

I could put *Strange Overtones* on repeat for about six days straight. It took me about three full listens to the entire cd before I decided I liked it. I probably still like *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* better. But, I'm glad they're back

together.

6. Coldplay – *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends*  
(Capitol)

Normally, I'm not a big fan. But, everytime I've played something on air, I get listeners who call up and tell me how much they like it. Me, too. It seems a little more artistic than their past work.

7. John Hiatt – *Same Old Man* (New West)

What can I say? The man just purely impresses me as

an artist and as a person. I respect him and his work over the years. His songs always make me think.

8. Tift Merritt – *Another Country* (Concord)

I enjoy her songs, lyrics and voice. This is not normally my style, but I don't think there's a bad track on the disc.

9. The Cure – *4:13* (Geffen)

Came in just under the deadline. I first listened to the Cure in middle school and loved them. Then, I fell

out of love for a decade. I'm back and so are they.

We've all grown up.

10. Adele – 19 (Columbia)

Here's my guilty pleasure.

It's a deep dirty, dark secret. I can't describe why it made my list. It may be wrong, but it feels good to me. It's the equivalent of calling in sick to work when you're not, eating the greasiest potato chips in bed, followed by a cheap chocolate candy bar and watching sappy movies.

— Audrey Morton

OVERNIGHT'S RICK  
MCNULTY - TOP TEN OF  
2008

1. Dr. Dog – *Fate* (Park The  
Van)

2. The Heavy – *Great  
Vengeance and Furious  
Fire* (Counter)

3. Al Green – *Lay it Down*  
(Blue Note)

4. Grupo Fantasma –  
*Sonidos Gold* (Aire Sol)

5. Bajofondo – *Mar Dulce*  
(Surco)

6. Jamie Lidell – *Jim* (Warp)

7. Was (Not Was) – *Boo!*

(Ryko)

8. Nomo – *Ghost Rock*

(Ubiquity)

9. JJ Grey & MOFRO –

*Orange Blossoms* (Alligator)

10. Andre Williams & The

New Orleans Hellhounds –

*Can You Deal With It?*

(Bloodshot)

— Rick McNulty

TEXAS MUSIC MATTERS  
AND SONG OF THE DAY'S

# ANDY UHLER - TOP TEN OF 2008

1. Shearwater – *Rook*  
(Matador)
2. My Morning Jacket – *Evil Urges* (ATO)
3. White Denim – *Exposion*  
(Self Release)
4. Leatherbag – *Love & Harm* (Super Pop!)
5. Okkervil River – *The Stand-Ins* (Jagjaguwar)
6. Bon Iver – *For Emma, Forever Ago* (Jagjaguwar)
7. The Black Keys – *Attack & Release* (Nonesuch)

8. The Hold Steady – *Stay Positive* (Vagrant)

9. Department of Eagles – *In Ear Park* (4AD)

10. Fleet Foxes – *Fleet Foxes* (Sub Pop)

— Andrew Uhler

TEXAS MUSIC MATTERS'  
LAURIE GALLARDO - TOP  
TEN OF 2008

1. The Black Angels – *Directions To See A Ghost* (Light in the Attic)

2. The Raveonettes – *Lust, Lust, Lust*

3. The Rosebuds – *Life Like*
  4. My Morning Jacket – *Evil Urges*
  5. White Denim – *Exposion*
  6. The Black Keys – *Attack & Release*
  7. The Black and White Years – *The Black and White Years*
  8. Okkervil River – *The Stand-Ins*
  9. Fleet Foxes – *Fleet Foxes*
  10. Firewater – *The Golden Hour*
- Laurie Gallardo

# MATT REILLY'S TOP ALBUMS OF 2008

1. TV on the Radio – Dear Science (DGC)
2. Marco Benevento – Invisible Baby (Hyena)
3. Santogold – Santogold (Downtown)
4. Blitzen Trapper – Furr (Sub Pop)
5. My Morning Jacket – Evil Urges (ATO)
6. The Whigs – Mission Control (ATO)
7. Raphael Saadiq – The

Way I See It (Columbia)

8. Annuals – Such Fun (Ace Fu)

9. The Rosebuds – Life Like (Merge)

10. Lack Thereof – Your Anchor

— KUT Staff

## KORY COOK'S TOP ALBUMS OF 2008

1. T Bone Burnett – Tooth of Crime (Nonesuch)

2. Ray Davies – Working Man's Cafe (New West)

3. Bobby Previte and the

New Bump – Set the Alarm  
for Monday (Palmetto)

4. Akron/Family – Love is  
Simple (Young God)

5. The Blind Boys of  
Alabama – Down in New  
Orleans (Time Life)

6. Charles Lloyd Quartet –  
Rabo De Nube (ECM)

7. Dr Dog – Fate (Park The  
Van)

8. Okkervil River – The  
Stand-Ins (Jagjaguwar)

9. Thao – We Brave Bee  
Stings and All (Kill Rock  
Stars)

10. King Khan and the  
Shrines – The Supreme  
Genius of King Khan & the  
Shrines (Vice)  
— Kory Cook