



Single of the week

The Toy Band

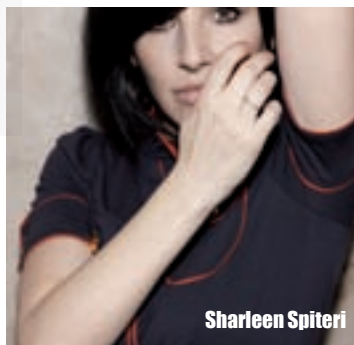
Possibly
(Boy Scout Recordings)

Singing over nothing but an acoustic guitar and a flute, lead singer Jamie tells us about missing someone he loves, falling asleep in his clothes and watching cookery programmes. If that sounds humdrum, it's because it is, but The Toy Band manage to take the tedium of everyday life and make it into something touching and impossibly tender. Possibly the sweetest lullaby ever written by four strapping boys from Cardiff. ★★★★★

Annie

I Know Ur Girlfriend Hates Me
(Island)

With a song title like that, the chances are that ur English teacher hates you too, Annie. Like a less sexy version of the Pussycat Dolls' 'Don't Cha', this your-girlfriend's-a-jealous-cow track lacks real raunch and venom, but nevertheless makes for pleasant pop. The slow-building melodies from this beautiful Swede will probably hook themselves into your head. ★★★★★



Sharleen Spiteri

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All The Times I Cried
(Mercury)

Every time I wander over Primrose Hill I see Sharleen gallivanting around looking lovely. But she's abandoned the green acres of North London for the studio and come up with a Nancy Sinatra style love song. Sharleen is in good voice, the piano chords are striking and the strings are sweeping. Fans of 60s pastiche pop (a la Duffy) will find much to enjoy here. ★★★★★

Chicane vs Natasha Bedingfield

Bruised Water
(Modena Records)

Oh Natasha, what are you up to now? Her single 'I Bruise Easily' wasn't bad – she even walked around a two star hotel dressed as a geisha in the video. But 'Bruised Water', is a cobbled together Frankenstein's monster of a remix. Firstly, water doesn't bruise – a 5-year-old could tell you that. Secondly, Chicane exhumes 'Saltwater' and sews it together with a bit of Enya, making the whole thing sound like a British Airways advert from the 90s. ★★★★★

Kind Of Girl

Slave To Your Charms
(Trak2r Records)

Do you remember the Wannadies? They were a gaggle of Swedes who smiled in the face of melancholy and wrote choruses that were as infectious as syphilis. Judging by 'Slave To Your Charms', Kind Of Girl are a similar, if less melodious, outfit. The sexy, throb of the bass guitar in 'Slave To Your Charms' promises a horny slab of ero-electro, but it's not quite as fun as the tunes their Scandinavian rivals, Alphabeat, are pumping out. ★★★★★

Boyz gets another top DJ to dig around in their box - this week **Nick Tcherniak** gives us his Fantastic Five.



1 'Time to Werk' (Matthew Dekay Mix)

Bit Crushers ft Medusa Fire
Chuggy tribal beats, old school keys, rumbling base and a hypnotic vocal stating it's 'Time to werk!' Superb!

2 'Move Your Body' (Jessie Garcia Mix)

The Grower ft Corey Andrews
New Jessie Garcia version of the classic Marshall Jefferson house tune.

3 'Feelin' 4 You'

DJ Chus & Peter Gelderblom
Great vocal track with a distinct tribal drive. This will be big for me over the summer.

4 'Lost and Found' (Eddie Kidd Mix)

Peyton
A brilliant new vocal from Peyton, over hypnotic electro blips and warm synths.

5 'Aright' (Nicole Moudaber Mix)

James Doman
More down tempo than my other selected tracks, but it's summer, so you've got to have some time to chill and groove! Lovely soulful use of the vocal and shuffling percussion.

Albums



Lazenby

The Loft Years
(Absolute)

Stylish, accessible and fronted by the delicious Sarah, Lazenby have cult-hit written all over them. At times, Sarah's voice has a graceful lilt similar to Erykah Badu and tracks like 'Touch Me Hold Me' manage to be chic, pounding and experimental at the same time. Yes, they may look pretty, but there's a grit to Lazenby that could help them stick around. ★★★★★

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