Underground Architects of Modern Pop Music: A Core Collection
February 22, 2008, Newport, RI

In the summer of 2006 a new music course was launched at Youngstown State University, Underground Architects of Modern Pop Music. The course was a survey of unsung composers, experimentalists, and bands that although commercially unsuccessful by music industry standards, have proven since to be powerfully influential. The artists examined created music for its own sake and recorded and released their music on small, independent labels. In some cases they recorded in their own living rooms or basements, fostering the DIY (Do it yourself) ethic that is now transforming the music business as we know it. The course began with a consideration of the pop music industry, how “hits” are manufactured, the double-edged nature of copyright, and payola. This set the stage for analytical, critical listening, both to the innovators who were virtually unknown at the time and to the chart-topping hits of the time. The contrast between the two was profound and prompted much and vigorous discussion. What emerged is a bibliography of essential recordings, monographs, and DVDs representative of the most influential, “under the radar” artists from the late 1960’s to the early 1990’s, a core collection. Students and scholars in music and an array of interdisciplinary fields will benefit immensely from exposure to the innovations and inventions of the artists and material included here.

This Poster Session produced by Thomas Bell, Performing Arts Librarian
K – State Libraries, Kansas State University
thosbell@ksu.edu | Tel. 785.532.3366
Underground Architects of Modern Pop Music:  
A “starter kit” of essential recordings

American Composers
Rockmore, Clara, Bebe Barron, Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, Olivier Messiaen, John Cage, Louis Barron,  
Ellipsis Arts.
Conrad, Tony, Tony Conrad, Lutz Wernicke, Elke Brauweiler, Jan Tilman Schade, Matthias Bauer, Jim  
Branca, Glenn. Symphony No.1 (Tonal Plexus). Reachout International Records, RUSCD8245. ©©1983,  

International Pop Underground
Big Star (Musical group), Chris Bell, Alex Chilton, Thomas Dean Eubanks, Andy Hummel, Richard  
Young Marble Giants. 2007. Colossal Youth. Wea Corp.

Psychotic Reactions and Garage Rock

Absurdists and Eccentrics

Naïve Rock
(OCoLC)ocn171287930; 1792126.

Frayed Roots
Krautrock

Sound Sculptors
36308928 (1 sound disc).

Original Rappers
(OCoLC)ocm62893937.

New York rockers

Minimalist Funk

The Post-Industrial Wasteland

British Post-Punk
**Riot Moms and Other Angry Women**

**American Hardcore**

**Avant Punk USA**

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1 The categories and artists listed are mostly the ones used in the primary text of our course, Roni Sarig’s fine and too brief work, *The Secret History of Rock: The most Influential Bands You’ve Never Heard*, New York: Billboard Books, 1998.