

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
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Underground Architects of Modern Pop Music: A “starter kit” of essential recordingsⁱ

American Composers

Rockmore, Clara, Bebe Barron, Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, Olivier Messiaen, John Cage, Louis Barron, Edgard Varèse, et al. 2000. OHM the early gurus of electronic music, 1948-1980. Roslyn, N.Y.: Ellipsis Arts.

Scott, Raymond. 2000. Manhattan research, inc [Selections]. Holland: Basta.

Conrad, Tony, Tony Conrad, Lutz Wernicke, Elke Brauweiler, Jan Tilman Schade, Matthias Bauer, Jim O'Rourke, et al. 2002. Early minimalism [Chamber music.]. U.S.: Table of the Elements.

Conrad, Tony, and Faust. 2002. Outside the dream syndicate. 30th anniversary ed. Table of the Elements.

Cale, John. *New York in the 1960s*. Anonymous. Table of the Elements. ©2006. Compact Disc.

Branca, Glenn. *Symphony No. 1 (Tonal Plexus)*. Reachout International Records, RUSCD8245. ©1983, 1998. Compact Disc.

International Pop Underground

Parks, Van Dyke. *Song Cycle*. Warner Bors. Records, 9 25856-2. ©1968. Compact Disc.

Walker, Scott. *Scott 4*. Mercury Records, 510 882-2. ©2000. Compact Disc.

Gainsbourg, Serge. *Initials SG*. Mercury Records, 063230 2. ©2002. Compact Disc.

Big Star (Musical group), Chris Bell, Alex Chilton, Thomas Dean Eubanks, Andy Hummel, Richard Rosebrough, and Jody Stephens. 1992. #1 record Radio City. Berkeley, CA: Stax.

Young Marble Giants. 2007. Colossal Youth. Wea Corp.

Beat Happening. *Jamboree*. K. Records, KCD002. ©1989. Compact Disc.

Psychotic Reactions and Garage Rock

MC5. *Kick Out The Jams*. Elektra Records, 9 60894-2. ©1969. Compact Disc.

The Stooges. *Funhouse*. Elektra Entertainment, R2 73175. ©1970, 2005. Compact Disc.

13th Floor Elevators. *Easter Everywhere*. Collectables Records, COL-CD-0553. ©1993. Compact Disc.

Silver Apples. *Silver Apples*. MCA Records, MCAD-11680. ©1997. Compact Disc.

Barrett, Syd. *The Madcap Laughs*. EMI Records, CDP 7 46607 2. ©1990. Compact Disc.

Absurdist and Eccentrics

Captain Beefheart & His Magic Band. *Trout Mask Replica*. Reprise Records, 2027-2. ©1970. Compact Disc.

The Residents. *Commercial Album*. Mute Records, CDSTUMM243. ©2004. Compact Disc.

Pere Ubu. *The Art of Walking*. Thirsty Ear Recordings, THI 57079.2. ©1980. Compact Disc.

The Red Krayola. *God Bless The Red Krayola and All Who Sail With It*. Sunspots Records, SPOT 512. ©2002. Compact Disc.

Naïve Rock

The Shaggs. *Philosophy of the World*. RCA Victor, 90926 63371-2. ©1999. Compact Disc.

Half Japanese. *Loud and Horrible*. Drag City Records, DC270. ©2004. Compact Disc.

Johnston, Daniel. *Fun*. Atlantic Recording, 82659-2. ©1994. Compact Disc.

Modern Lovers (Musical group). *The Modern Lovers*. Anonymous 2006. Sanctuary Midline. (OCOLC)ocn171287930; 1792126.

Frayed Roots

Parsons, Gram. *GP/Grievous Angel*. Reprise Records, 9 26108-2. ©1973. Compact Disc.

Drake, Nick. *Five Leaves Left*. Universal Island Records, 422 842 915-2. ©2000. Compact Disc.

Cramps (Musical group). 1989. Songs the Lord taught us. [S.I.]: I.R.S.

The Gun Club. *Fire of Love*. Slash Records, R2 79945. ©1981. Compact Disc.

Krautrock

Can (Musical group). 2004. *Ege bamyasi*. Roussillon, France: Spoon.
Faust. *Faust/So Far*. Universal Music Enterprises, 314557113-2. ©©2000. Compact Disc.
Kraftwerk. *Autobahn*. Vertigo Records, VEL-2003. ©1974. LP.
Neu! *Neu!* Astralwerks, ASW30780. ©©2001. Compact Disc.

Sound Sculptors

King Tubby, Prince Jammy, and Aggrovators. *Dub Gone 2 Crazy*. Anonymous 1996. Blood & Fire Ltd. 36308928 (1 sound disc).
Perry, Lee. 1997. Arkology. New York: Island Jamaica.
Eno, Brian. 2004. *Another green world*. Original masters. London: Virgin Records.
Sherwood, Adrian. *Never Trust a Hippie*. Anonymous 2003. Real World Records. 52099631 (1 sound disc).

Original Rappers

U-Roy. *Dread In Babylon*. Virgin Records, CAROL 1683-2. ©1990. Compact Disc.
The Last Poets. *The Last Poets*. Fuel Records, 302 061 226 2. ©©2002. Compact Disc.
Watts Prophets (Musical group). *Things Gonna Get Greater*. Anonymous 2005. Water. (OCoLC)ocm62893937.
Scott-Heron, Gil. *Small Talk at 125th and Lenox*. Anonymous 1993. Flying Dutchman. 32753889 (1 sound disc).
Iceberg Slim. *Reflections*. Anonymous 1994. Infinite Zero. 34352177 (1 sound disc).

New York rockers

Suicide. *Suicide*. Mute Corporation, 9104-2. ©©2000. Compact Disc.
Television. *Marquee Moon*. Elektra Records, R2 73920. ©2003.
The Feelies. *Crazy Rhythms*. A&M Records, 75021 5319 2. ©©1980. Compact Disc.
DNA. *DNA on DNA*. Anonymous 2004. No More Records. 56975826 (1 sound disc).
Swans. *Children of God/World of Skin*. Young God Records, YG02. ©1997. Compact Disc.

Minimalist Funk

Trouble Funk (Musical group). 1982. *Drop the bomb*. Englewood, N.J.: Sugar Hill.
ESG. *ESG, a South Bronx Story*. Anonymous 2000. Universal Sound. 47749288 (1 sound disc).
Liquid Liquid. *Optimo/Successive Reflexes/Liquid Liquid/Live From Berkeley Square*. Mowax Recordings, MWO78LP. ©©1997. LP.

The Post-Industrial Wasteland

Throbbing Gristle. *The Second Annual Report of Throbbing Gristle*. Mute Corporation, 61093-2. ©©1991. Compact Disc.
Einstürzende Neubauten. *Strategies Against Architecture*. Mute Corporation, 61677-2. ©©1997. Compact Disc.
Chrome. *Half Machine Lip Moves/Alien Soundtracks*. Touch and Go Records, T&GLP#58CD. ©1994. Compact Disc.
The Birthday Party. *Prayers On Fire*. 2.13.61 Records, 74465 99691 2. ©©2000. Compact Disc.
Big Black. *The Rich Man's Eight Track Tape*. Touch and Go Records, TG94CD. ©1992. Compact Disc.

British Post-Punk

Public Image Ltd. *Second Edition*. Warner Bros. Records, 3288-2. ©1979. Compact Disc.
Wire. *Pink Flag*. Pink Flag Records, PF11. ©©2006. Compact Disc.
Buzzcocks. *Singles Going Steady*. EMI Records Ltd. 7243 5 34442 2 8. ©©2001. Compact Disc.
The Fall. *This Nation's Saving Grace*. Beggars Banquet Records, BBL 67 CD. ©1985. Compact Disc.
Gang of Four. *Entertainment!* Warner Bros. Records, R2 78428. ©2005. Compact Disc.
Swell Maps. *Jane From Occupied Europe*. Secretly Canadian Records, SC109. ©1980. Compact Disc.
Throwing Muses (Musical group). *In a Doghouse*. Anonymous 1998. Rykodisc.

Riot Moms and Other Angry Women

Lunch, Lydia. *Queen of Siam*. Atavistic Records, ALP77CD. ©/©1998. Compact Disc.
Contortions, Teenage Jesus and the Jerks, Mars, and Dna. 2005. No new york. Russia: Lilith.
X-Ray Spex. *Germ Free Adolescents Expanded*. Sanctuary Records, CAS 36202-2. ©/©2005. Compact Disc.
The Slits. *Cut*. Koch Records, KOC-CD-9672. ©2004. Compact Disc.
The Raincoats. *The Raincoats*. Geffen Records, DGCD-24622. ©/©1993. Compact Disc.

American Hardcore

Germans. *(MIA):The Complete Discography*. Slash Records, R2 79954. ©/©1979, 1983. Compact Disc.
Black Flag. *Damaged*. SST Records, SST CD 007. ©/©1981. Compact Disc.
Dead Kennedys. *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables*. Cherry Red Records, MFO 42909. ©/©1980. Compact Disc.
Minutemen. *Double Nickels On The Dime*. SST Records, SST CD 028. ©/©1989. Compact Disc.
Hüsker Dü (Musical group). 1984. Zen arcade. Lawndale, CA: SST Records.
Bad Brains. *Bad Brains*. Reachout International Records, RUSCD8223. ©/©1996. Compact Disc.
Minor Threat. *Complete Discography*. Dischord Records, Dischord 40. ©/©1980. Compact Disc.

Avant Punk USA

Wipers. *Is This Real?/Youth of America/Over The Edge*. Zeno Records, Z-005. ©/©2001. Compact Disc.
Mission of Burma. *Vs*. Ace of Hearts Records, RCD 10340. ©/©1982, 1997. Compact Disc.
Flipper. *Blow'n Chunks*. Reachout International Records, RUSCD 8271. ©/©1984/2001. Compact Disc.
Slint (Musical group). 1991. Spiderland. Chicago, IL: Touch and Go.

ⁱ 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.