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December 2011

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Avant Music News Best of 2011

December 12, 2011 — Mike

I don't take best of lists all that seriously, as you might note if you search this site for my previous lists. However, I think it is useful to point out a bunch of releases that I think are the best of the year. So here we go.

Caveats: This list includes releases up until early December 2011. They are in alphabetical order. And, obviously, I cannot include any of the great many 2011 releases that I have not heard.

Go listen and enjoy.

Best of 2011

Anderson, Ron / PAK – Secret Curve
 Bowers, William – Soundtracks #2 (EP)
 Bynum, Taylor Ho / Sextet – Apparent Distance
 Cline, Nels / [Tim Berne](#) / Jim Black – The Veil
 Fujii, Satoko / Orchestra NY – Eto
 Gate – Deconstructed
 Gilmore, Tyler / Ninth and Lincoln – Static Line
 Gutbucket – Flock
 Inzinac – Inzinac
 Laubrock, Ingrid / Sleepthief – The Madness of Crowds
 Led Bib – Bring Your Own
 Malaby, Tony Novella – Arranged by Kris Davis
 Melvins – Sugar Daddy Live
 Microkingdom – 3 Compositions of No Jazz
 Pope, Odean – Universal Sounds
 Research Institute – TRI Sessions – Part One
 Ruins Alone – Ruins Alone
 São Paulo Underground – Tres Cabeças Loucuras
 Shipp, Matthew – Art of the Improviser
 Side A (Vandermark / Wiik / Taylor) – A New Margin
 Slumgum – Quardboard Flavored Fiber
 Spanish Donkey – XYX
 Starlicker – Double Demon (EP)
 Tarana – After the Disquiet
 Triplet – Imaginary Perspective
 Turn Around Norman – We Turn Around
 Zloty Dawai – Torso Apart
 Zs – 33 (EP)

Honorable Mentions

Accentor – Moscow, WV
 Ada Rave Cuarteto – La Continuidad
 Afuche – Highly Publicized Digital Boxing Match
 Anla Courtis – The Torrid
 Barn Owl – Lost in the Glare
 Battles – Gloss Drop
 Berne, Tim – Insomnia
 Bon, Piero Bittolo / Original Pigneto Stompers – Mucha Acustica



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Bynum, Taylor Ho / Joe Morris / Sara Schoenbeck – Next
 Centazzo, Andrea / Ballou / Barbiero /Stowe /Succi – Moon in Winter
 Chevillon, Bruno / Tim Berne – Old and Unwise
 Cleaver, Gerald / Uncle June – Be It As I See It
 Coleman, Steve / Five Elements – Mancy of Sound
 Comfort Zone – Inverted Pendulum
 Costa, Carlo / Minerva – Saturnismo
 Dauer, Benjamin – Saturation Event
 Davidovsky, Daniel / Ofer Bymel / Ido Bukelman – EFT
 Dead Cat Bounce – Chance Episodes
 Dixie’s Death Pool – The Man with Flowering Hands
 Eisenstadt, Harris – Canada Day II
 Elisha, Ehran / Roy Campbell – Watching Cartoons with Eddie
 ElSaffar, Amir – Inana
 Endangered Blood (Black / Dunn / Noriega / Speed) – Endangered Blood
 Fields, Scott / Matthias Schubert – Minaret Minuets
 Fire! – Unreleased?
Foisy, André / High Aura’d Untitled / Dusk – Latitudes (MC)
 Fore – Fore
 Fujii, Satoko / Min-Yoh Ensemble – Watershed
 Full Metal Revolutionary Jazz Ensemble – Power Trio 227C
 Gauthier, Jeff / Goatette – Open Source
 Golia, Vinny / Quartet – Take Your Time
 Halley, Rich / Quartet – Requiem for a Pit Viper
 Halvorson, Mary / **Weasel Walter** / Peter Evans – Electric Fruit
 Hilmy, Steve / Daniel Barbiero – Live at Bella (EP)
 Hum of Gnats – Purge the Weevil from Yer Midst
 Hwang, Jason Kao / Edge – Crossroads Unseen
International Contemporary Ensemble – Pintscher: Sonic Eclipse – A Twilight’s
 Song – She-Cholat Ahavah An
 Iyer, Vijay – Tirtha
 Johnston / Shelton / Mezzacappa / Nordeson – Cylinder
 Jones, Darius / Matthew Shipp – Cosmic Lieder
 Kaze – Rafale
 Korekyojinn – Tundra
 Kuhl, Tim – Doomsayer
 Laster, Andy – Riptide
 Lettow, Gunnar / Umut Cagler – Tictac
 Levin, Daniel / Quartet – Organic Modernism
 Ligeti, Lukas – Pattern Time
 Little Worlds – Book One (EP)
 Lonberg-Holm, Fred /Joan of Arc Lightbox Orchestra – The Joan of Arc Lightbox
 Orchestra Conducted by Fred Lonberg-Holm
 Mamuthones – Mamuthones
 Maroney, Denman – Double Zero
 Mecha Fixes Clock – Teoria dell’elasticità di Girolamo Papariello
Mezei, Szilárd / Trio – Tisza
 Mitchell, Nicole – Awakening
 Moraine – Metamorphic Rock
 New Risen Throne – Loneliness of Hidden Structures
 Noordzy / Freeman Imaginary Quartet – Langwidge
 Orchestra In-Stabile DIS/Accordo – Live in Hamburg
 Output: NOISE Improv Collective – A Soundtrack to the DSM-IV
 Outward Bound – The Path
 Paintings for Animals – Whale Hunter (EP)
 Pavone, Jessica – Army of Strangers
 Perhaps Contraption – Business
 Pitom – Blasphemy and Other Serious Crimes
 Planeta Imaginario – Optical Delusions
 Polack, Coen Oscar – Spectral Churches
 Rempis Percussion Quartet – Montreal Parade
 Reptet – At the Cabin
Rhinocéros, Les – Les Rhinocéros
 Rich, Robert – Medicine Box
 Roach, Steve / Brian Parnham – The Desert Inbetween
 Roberts, Matana – Live in London
 Rova – Planetary
 Rupp, Olaf / Joe Williamson / **Tony Buck** – Weird Weapons 2
 Saedi, Salim Ghazi – Human Encounter

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Sanchez, Angelica – A Little House
 Scott, Ryan / Espirit Orchestra – Maki Ishii Live
 Segger, Mark / Sextet – The Beginning
 Settles, Brian and Central Union – Secret Handshake
 Shipp, Matthew Duo with Joe Morris – Broken Partial
 Smiley, Matt Quartet – Art
 Smith, Wadada Leo / Mbira – Dark Lady of the Sonnets
 Smith, Wadada Leo / Organic – Heart's Reflections
 Smythe, Cory – Pluripotent
 Trayer – Afterlife an Abandoned Theme Park
 Van der Graaf Generator – A Grounding in Numbers
 Vandermark, Ken / Resonance Ensemble – Kafka in Flight
 Various Artists – Possible Worlds
 Vortex – Rockdrill
 Walter, Weasel – Ominous Telepathic Mayhem
 White Hills – H-p1
 Wooley, Nate / Chris Corsano / C. Spencer Yeh – The Seven Storey Mountain II
 Wooley, Nate / Scott R. Looney / D. Smith / W. Walter – Scowl
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 Zs – New Slaves Part II: Essence Implosion!

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