



Best Music Of 2010: The Complete List

Use the list below to browse NPR's [best music of 2010](#) recommendations. Each critic's list is presented separately. Click on the article names to read our critics' comments about the albums.

[NPR Music's 50 Favorite Albums Of 2010](#)

Recommended by NPR Music Staff

Thomas Ades, *Tevot*

Agalloch, *Marrow Of The Spirit*

Aloe Blacc, *Good Things*

Khaira Arby, *Timbuktu Tarab*

Arcade Fire, *The Suburbs*

Erykah Badu, *New Amerykah, Pt. 2: Return Of The Ankh*

Big Boi, *Sir Lucious Leftfoot...The Son Of Chico Dusty*

The Black Keys, *Brothers*

Brooklyn Rider, *Dominant Curve*

Buke & Gass, *Riposte*

Carolina Chocolate Drops, *Genuine Negro Jig*

Regina Carter, *Reverse Thread*

Chancha Via Circuito, *Rio Arriba*

Deerhunter, *Halcyon Digest*

Issac Delgado, *Love*

Joyce DiDonato, *Rossini: Colbran, The Muse*

Flying Lotus, *Cosmogramma*

Four Tet, *There Is Love In You*

Vittorio Grigolo, *The Italian Tenor*

Gyptian, *Hold You*

Hilary Hahn, *Higdon & Tchaikovsky: Violin Concertos*

Mary Halvorson Quintet, *Saturn Sings*

Rita Indiana, *El Juidero*

Jamey Johnson, *The Guitar Song*

Jonsi, *Go*

Seu Jorge And Almaz, *Seu Jorge And Almaz*

King Sunny Ade, *Baba Mo Tunde*

Ray LaMontagne And The Pariah Dogs, *God Willin' And The Creek Don't Rise*

LCD Soundsystem, *This Is Happening*

Lower Dens, *Twin Hand Movement*

Alexander Melnikov, *Shostakovich*

Janelle Monae, *The ArchAndroid*

Jason Moran, *Ten*

Carla Morrison, *Mientras Tu Dormias*

The National, *High Violet*

Owen Pallett, *Heartland*

Sondra Radvanovsky, *Verdi Arias*

Josh Ritter, *So Runs The World Away*

Robyn, *Body Talk*

Kermit Ruffins, *Happy Talk*

Christian Scott, *Yesterday You Said Tomorrow*

Gil Scott-Heron, *I'm New Here*

Sleigh Bells, *Treats*

Esperanza Spalding, *Chamber Music Society*

Mavis Staples, *You Are Not Alone*

Sufjan Stevens, *The Age Of Adz*

The Tallest Man On Earth, *The Wild Hunt*

Titus Andronicus, *The Monitor*

Sharon Van Etten, *Epic*

Kanye West, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

Top 10 Jazz Albums Of 2010

Recommended By Patrick Jarenwattananon, [A Blog Supreme](#)

1. Jason Moran, *Ten*
2. Guillermo Klein, *Domador De Huellas*
3. Steve Coleman And Five Elements, *Harvesting Semblances And Affinities*
4. Bill Carrothers, *Joy Spring*
5. Maurice Brown, *The Cycle Of Love*
6. Mary Halvorson Quintet, *Saturn Sings*

7. Geri Allen, *Flying Toward The Sound*
 8. Fight The Big Bull Feat. Steven Bernstein, *All Is Gladness In The Kingdom*
 9. Chris Lightcap's Bigmouth, *Deluxe*
 10. Mike Reed's People, Places And Things, *Stories And Negotiations*
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[Top 10 Latin Alternative Albums Of 2010](#)

Recommended By Jasmine Garsd, [Alt.Latino](#)

1. Seu Jorge And Almaz, *Seu Jorge And Almaz*
 2. Carla Morrison, *Mientras Tu Dormias*
 3. Rita Indiana, *El Juidero*
 4. Calle 13, *Entren Los Que Quieran*
 5. Alex Cuba, *Alex Cuba*
 6. Chancha Via Circuito, *Rio Arriba*
 7. Javiera Mena, *Mena*
 8. Maneja Beto, *Escante Calling*
 9. Mala Rodriguez, *Dirty Bailarina*
 10. Alex Anwandter, *Odisea*
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[Top Ten Classical Albums Of 2010](#)

Recommended By Tom Huizenga, [Deceptive Cadence](#)

1. Shostakovich: *The Preludes And Fugues, Op. 87*
2. Sondra Radvanovsky: *Verdi Arias*
3. Thomas Ades: *Tevot, Etc.*

4. Vittorio Grigolo: *The Italian Tenor*
 5. Baltic Runes: *Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir*
 6. Victoire: *Cathedral City*
 7. Joyce DiDonato: *Colbran, The Muse*
 8. Danny Driver: *C.P.E. Bach: Keyboard Sonatas*
 9. Valentin Silvestrov: *Sacred Works*
 10. Steve Reich: *Double Sextet, 2x5*
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[Five Artists You Should Have Known In 2010](#)

Recommended By Kevin Cole, [KEXP](#)

Breathe Owl Breathe, *Magic Central*

Tame Impala, *Innerspeaker*

Macklemore x Ryan Lewis, *The Vs.*

The Capstan Shafts, *Revelation Skirts*

The Head And The Heart, *The Head And The Heart*

[Download The Best World Cafe Sessions Of 2010](#)

Recommended By David Dye, [WXPN](#)

Beach House

Phosphorescent

Ray LaMontagne & The Pariah Dogs

Villagers

Minus The Bear

Best Cover Songs Of 2010

Recommended By Michael Katzif, NPR Music

Damien Jurado & Richard Swift, "Be Not Fearful" from *Other People's Songs*

Cee Lo, "No One's Gonna Love You" from *The Lady Killer*

Warpaint, "Ashes To Ashes" from *We Were So Turned On: A Tribute To David Bowie*

Centenaire, "Sea Of Teeth" from *I Wish I Had A Horse's Head*

Peter Gabriel, "Flume" / Bon Iver, "Come Talk To Me" from *Scratch My Back*

5 Artists Who Transcended Jazz Standards In 2010

Recommended By Shaunna Morrison Machosky, [WDUQ](#)

Pat Metheny, *Orchestrion*

Brad Mehldau, *Highway Rider*

Rez Abbasi Acoustic Quartet, *Natural Selection*

Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra, *Portrait In Seven Shades*

Stacey Kent, *Raconte-Moi...*

Stephen Thompson's Top 10 Albums Of 2010

1. Jonsi, *Go*
2. The National, *High Violet*
3. Horse Feathers, *Thistled Spring*
4. Jeremy Messersmith, *The Reluctant Graveyard*
5. Sharon Van Etten, *Epic*

6. Eau Claire Memorial Jazz I Featuring Justin Vernon, *A Decade With Duke*
 7. Titus Andronicus, *The Monitor*
 8. Stars, *The Five Ghosts*
 9. Regina Carter, *Reverse Thread*
 10. The Heligoats, *Goodness Gracious*
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Robin Hilton's Top 10 Albums Of 2010

1. Lower Dens, *Twin Hand Movement*
 2. Deerhunter, *Halcyon Digest*
 3. Sufjan Stevens, *The Age Of ADZ*
 4. Sharon Van Etten, *Epic*
 5. Jonsi, *Go*
 6. Sleigh Bells, *Treats*
 7. The Tallest Man On Earth, *The Wild Hunt*
 8. Sea Of Bees, *Songs For The Ravens*
 9. Broken Bells, *Broken Bells*
 10. Candy Claws, *Hidden Lands*
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Bob Boilen's Top 10 (Really 9) Albums Of 2010

1. Sufjan Stevens, *The Age Of ADZ*
2. Jonsi, *Go*
3. Lost In The Trees, *All Alone In An Empty House*
4. Buke & Gass, *Riposte*

5. Surfer Blood, *Astro Coast*
 6. The Tallest Man On Earth, *The Wild Hunt*
 7. Sleigh Bells, *Treats*
 8. The Red River, *Little Songs About The Big Picture*
 9. Josh Ritter, *So Runs The World Away*
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5 Best J.S. Bach Releases Of 2010

Recommended By Brian McCreath, [WGBH](#)

Andreas Staier: *Goldberg Variations*

John Eliot Gardiner: *Cantatas, Vol. 2*

Isabelle Faust: *Sonatas And Partitas*

Jonathan Plowright: *Piano Transcriptions, Vol. 9: British Bach Transcriptions*

Simon Preston: *The Organ Works*

Carrie Brownstein's Top 10 (Plus One) For 2010

Royal Baths, *Litanies*

Kanye West, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

Best Coast, *Crazy For You*

Joanna Newsom, *Have One on Me*

Deerhunter, *Halcyon Digest*

Grass Widow, *Past Time*

Surfer Blood, *Astro Coast*

Ty Segall, *Melted*

Secret Cities, *Pink Graffiti*

Rihanna, *Loud*

T.I., *No Mercy*

The 5 Best Genre-Defying Albums Of 2010

Recommended by John Schaefer, [WNYC](#)

Clogs, *Creatures In The Garden Of Lady Walton*

The Young Scamels, *Tempest*

Laurie Anderson, *Homeland*

Sarah Kirkland Snider, *Penelope*

David Karsten Daniels & Fight The Big Bull, *I Mean To Live Here Still*

KCRW's Best L.A. Bands Of 2010

Recommended by Jason Bentley, [KCRW](#)

Best Coast

Flying Lotus

Autolux

Fitz & The Tantrums

Ozomatli

5 New African Bands That Ruled In 2010

Recommended by Jon Kertzer, [KEXP](#)

SMOD

Nneka

Burkina Electric

Razia

Tamikrest

The Best Album Covers Of 2010

Recommended by Michael Katzif, NPR Music

Broken Bells, *Broken Bells*

S. Carey, *All We Grow*

Philip Selway, *Familial*

Suuns, *Zeroes QC*

Owen Pallett, *Heartland*

Lower Dens, *Twin Hand Movement*

Agalloch, *Marrow Of The Spirit*

Kanye West, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

The Besnard Lakes, *The Besnard Lakes Are The Roaring Night*

Land Of Talk, *Cloak And Cipher*

'All Songs' Listeners Pick The Best Albums Of 2010

1. Arcade Fire, *The Suburbs*

2. The Black Keys, *Brothers*

3. The National, *High Violet*

4. Mumford & Sons, *Sigh No More*

5. Broken Bells, *Broken Bells*
 6. LCD Soundsystem, *This Is Happening*
 7. Vampire Weekend, *Contra*
 8. Sufjan Stevens, *The Age Of Adz*
 9. Beach House, *Teen Dream*
 10. Kanye West, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*
 11. Gorillaz, *Plastic Beach*
 12. Sleigh Bells, *Treats*
 13. Jonsi, *Go*
 14. Local Natives, *Gorilla Manor*
 15. Band Of Horses, *Infinite Arms*
 16. The Tallest Man On Earth, *The Wild Hunt*
 17. Deerhunter, *Halcyon Digest*
 18. Spoon, *Transference*
 20. Yeasayer, *Odd Blood*
 21. Ray LaMontagne and The Pariah Dogs, *God Willin' and the Creek Don't Rise*
 22. The New Pornographers, *Together*
 23. Broken Social Scene, *Forgiveness Rock Record*
 24. Joanna Newsom, *Have One On Me*
 25. Cee Lo, *The Ladykiller*
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[5 Best American Contemporary Classical Albums Of 2010](#)

Recommended by Daniel Gilliam, [APM](#)

Finisterra Piano Trio, *Daron Hagen: Complete Piano Trios*

Florestan Recital Project, *Complete Songs Of Daniel Pinkham, Vol. 1*

Sinfonia Varsovia, *George Walker: Great American Orchestral Music, Vol. 2*

Da Capo Chamber Players, *Luminous Spirals: Chamber Music of Chinary Ung*

Imani Winds, *Terra Incognita*

The 5 Best Side Projects Of 2010

Recommended by Rita Houston, [WFUV](#)

Fistful Of Mercy, *As I Call You Down*

Junip, *Fields*

Black Dub, *Black Dub*

Maximum Balloon, *Maximum Balloon*

She & Him, *Volume Two*

5 Songs The Current Couldn't Stop Playing

Recommended by Mark Wheat, [The Current](#)

Trampled By Turtles, "Wait So Long" from *Palomino*

Dessa, "Dixon's Girl" from *A Badly Broken Code*

Jeremy Messersmith, "Violet!" from *The Reluctant Graveyard*

Mumford & Sons, "Winter Winds" from *Sigh No More*

OK Go, "This Too Shall Pass" from *Of the Blue Colour of the Sky*

Egon's 5 Favorite Reissues Of 2010

Recommended by Egon, [Funk Archaeology](#)

Omar Khorshid, *Guitar El Chark (Guitar Of The Orient)*

Syl Johnson, *Complete Mythology*

Various Artists, *The World Ends: Afro Rock And Psychedelia In 1970s Nigeria*

Various Artists, *California Funk: Rare Funk 45s From The Golden State*

Pastor T.L. Barrett And The Youth For Christ Choir, *Like A Ship (Without A Sail)*

[5 Jazz Reissues That Put 2010 To Shame](#)

Recommended by Nick Francis, [Jazz24](#)

Miles Davis, *Bitches Brew 40th Anniversary Legacy Edition*

Various Artists, *CTI Records: The Cool Revolution*

Tito Puente, *The Complete 78s, Vols. 1 and 2*

Wes Montgomery, *Boss Guitar*

Stan Getz and Kenny Barron, *People Time: The Complete Recordings*

[The Top 5 Chopin And Schumann Albums of 2010](#)

Recommended by Robin Gehl, [WGUC](#)

Kirill Gerstein, *Liszt, Schumann, Knussen*

Angela Hewitt, *Schumann: Kinderszene/Dauidsbundler Tanze/Sonata In G Minor*

Rafal Blechacz and The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, *Chopin: The Piano Concerto*

Stephen Hough, *Chopin: Late Masterpieces*

Louis Lortie Plays Chopin, *Vol. 1*