

## Adrian's July 2006 mix

1. **Laura Veirs** *Where Gravity is Dead* Laura Veirs is a Seattle-based singer and songwriter. She started out largely playing alone with a sampling pedal for her guitar and voice. She's developed this style where she's mastered these songs with lots of looping parts, though she now often plays with a full band. I like this one off of her latest album, *Year of Meteors*, for the main guitar part and its hypnotic quality.
2. **Beirut** *Scenic World* This is a pretty atypical song from Beirut. Most of their songs are heavily influenced by Balkan brass bands. This one has a little of that, but it's mostly an electro-pop song with this guy's vocals on top. The guy is Zach Condon, a 19 year old out of Albuquerque-via-Brooklyn who dropped out of school and traveled Europe when he was 16. This band's been a music blog favorite of late.
3. **Karl Blau** *Into the Nada* Karl Blau's a prolific songwriter, producer and musician (he plays in Laura Veirs' tour band sometimes) out of the Northwest. He writes and records an eclectic mix of songs. He has a monthly subscription CD-r series (*Kelp*) that often sees him releasing a bunch of songs, but he also gets contributions from other artists. This song's off of a proper album of his that came out earlier this year. It's a bit of a island Motown thing. It's fun.
4. **Elvis Perkins** *While you were Sleeping* I don't know a ton about Elvis Perkins, but this is a nice folksy song with a good melody and a nice build-up of instrumentation toward the end. Off of an album called *Ash Wednesday*.
5. **Iron & Wine** (*Waiting for*) *Superman* This is a great cover of the Flaming Lips song. I haven't been in much of an Iron & Wine mood for a bit, but I like this song plenty still. It's a great song and a good arrangement.
6. **Bob Dylan** *Boots of Spanish Leather* I've been on a bit of an early-Dylan kick lately, largely centered around the album *The Times They Are A-Changin'* which this song is on. I like early Dylan in part because of the close ties to traditional American and Anglo-American folk music and ballads and this song is right in line with that tradition. I believe the song even was melodically inspired by an arrangement of *Scarborough Fair* which is itself an Anglo-American ballad.
7. **José González** *Crosses* Argentinean-Swede playing indie rock songs on classical guitar. He also has a great dark and slightly rough voice. He's known for his cover of *Heartbeats* (by the Knife) that appeared in the Sony Bravia bouncing balls in SF commercial. This is my favorite of his originals.
8. **Soft Drugs (or TW Walsh)** *Start without Me* TW Walsh was in Pedro the Lion for a couple years up until recently, until he left to pursue the Soft Drugs and spend more time with his family. He wrote *Start Without Me* and it appeared on PtL's *Achilles Heal* album, one of the few PFL songs that wasn't written by David Bazan. I sort of like this demo version better. "Roll me overrrrrr..."
9. **Nada Surf** *Your Legs Grow* I guess most people know Nada Surf for their one hit but I didn't even know about that when I heard their newest album *The Weight is a Gift*. It's got some good indie pop on there and I think this is my favorite song from it. Good arrangement (possibly due to Death Cab for Cutie's Chris Walla producing) and a good melody.

10. **The Reindeer Section** *Where I Fall* Reindeer Section is the side project of Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol. It generally has contributions from other Glasgow bands like Belle and Sebastian and Mogwai, but this particular song is pretty stripped down.
11. **Oh No! Oh My!** *Women are Born in Love* Oh No! Oh My! is a band out of Nashville. This isn't a very representative or even my favorite song, but I'm always in the mood for a swirling guitar riff and a group chant.
12. **Arcade Fire** *Headlights Look Like Diamonds* Before they release *Funeral* they released a self-titled debut EP. This is one of my favorites off of that. Energy to spare!
13. **Bottom of the Hudson** *Riot Act* I heard this one at the radio station and I liked the similarity to mid-90s indie rock (Seam/ Sebadoh).
14. **Lily Allen** *LDN* Lily Allen's from London (or LDN for short!). I like how the awesome old-school sample she uses here. A great summer song.
15. **Dert (Bilal&Erykah Badu vs. Jose Gonzalez)** *The Light* Dert did this mash up of Bilal and Erykah Badu's *The Light* and Jose Gonzalez's *Heartbeats*. I like the juxtaposition of the beat with Jose's soft fingerpicking. There's about 30 seconds of silence at the end. I don't know why. Sorry!
16. **The Black Heart Procession** *Exit Out* From a benefit compilation for the Shanti Project which I found because of the Sigur Ros tracks on it. The band's from San Diego. It's got a nice lead-in and build.