

Adrian's August 2006 mix

1. **The Decemberists** *Bridges and Balloons* Take a band that I sort of like (the Decemerists) and a song by an artist that I don't like (Joanna Newsom) and, somehow, you get a song I really like. I like how Colin Meloy's voice sounds on this song.
2. **Sufjan Stevens** *The Mistress Witch from McClure (or, The Mind that Knows Itself)* I love my Sufjan. He put out an album of "outtakes" from *Illinois* but it can mostly stand alone as an album. I think this might be my favorite song from it. Banjo!
3. **Bright Eyes** *Landlocked Blues* This is off of one of two Bright Eyes albums from last year. One was more electronic and one was more folk—this was from the latter. It's got the imimitable Emmylou Harris singing backup vocals. I also like the trumpet solo (borrowed from "Taps").
4. **The Finches** *Daniel's Song* This is a local SF group. I saw them open for Jose Gonzalez a few months ago. They remind me a lot of the scene on the beach in *The Jerk* where Steve Martin and Bernadette Peters sing "You Belong to Me".
5. **David Bazan** *The Devil Beating His Wife* David Bazan, front man of Pedro the Lion, recently dropped the band name and is now just going by his name. This is off his first release under his own name, an EP called *Fewer Moving Parts*. Each song on the EP is recorded in full band and acoustic versions. I like the acoustic version of this one better. It's raw. I love the falsetto part at the end.
6. **The Mountain Goats** *Against Pollution* The Mountain Goats are incredible. My friend Pat reminded me of this song recently (though I loved it already—not a ton of reminding needed). It sounds great (thanks John Vanderslice). (I like the sound of the drums a lot. The high hat has a sort of cyclical louder/softer thing to it.) But the lyrics are why people love Mountain Goats song. This is a great story about a guy recounting and dealing with killing a guy in self-defense. It also has a chorus about the afterlife. I realized after I made this mix that it's one of two pretty Catholic (in some sense) song on it. See also #14.
7. **The Long Winters** *Fire Island, AK* I've been pretty impressed with the Long Winters. It's John Roderick and co and they're sometimes associated with Death Cab for Cutie (DCfC members have played on LW albums). This is an energetic and rockin' tune from their latest album, *Putting the Days to Bed*. It's densely arranged but the parts aren't muddy. The lyrics are good; the vocal melody and harmonies are good. It's just good all around.
8. **Kelley Stoltz** *Memory Collector* Another SF local band. A lot of his latest album's based off of an old, out-of-tune upright piano that came with his apartment. That's pretty good. Kelley (male) does a very good I'm-John-Lennon sometimes. He has a gift with melodies.
9. **Andrew Bird** *A Nervous Tic Motion of the Head to the Left* Andrew Bird plays violin and whistles and loops both of them. He also plays some guitar and stuff. He also has a nice voice on top of it. Sonically very interesting music.
10. **Centro-matic** *Triggers and Trash Heaps* Another band that I've been impressed with. Will Johnson has toured with the Undertow Orchestra (w/ David Bazan, Mark Eitzel, Vic Chestnutt) and that's how I first heard of him. His latest album

- shows promise. Not as much on this song but his voice is capable of being rough and sweet at the same time or he'll put sweet harmonies on top of heavily distorted guitars. Juxtaposition. This is the "single" off of *Fort Recovery*.
11. **The Soft Drugs** *Defending the Paint* The Soft Drugs is TW Walsh. TW used to be in Pedro the Lion before an apparently amicable split. This is my favorite off of the SD's first EP, just out in June. I like how he doesn't pretty up his voice. The orchestration is good too.
 12. **The Wrens** *hopeless* I heard this song shortly after it came out on an Absolutely Kosher sampler and liked it then. I finally bought the album it's from *The Meadowlands* recently and I still like this song. The repeated guitar riff and the build up of instruments are nice. A pretty harsh Dear Jane letter.
 13. **Built to Spill** *Carry the Zero* Old school indie rock here. This album came out in 1999, I think. Just a classic song that fits well in the mix. It goes well from the harder to softer parts of the song and back.
 14. **The Hold Steady** *Multitude of Casualties* The Hold Steady is a band that's grown on me tremendously. This song I liked the sound of immediately, but lyrics often take a long time for them sink in. *Separation Sunday*, which this is off of, is an album about a Catholic girl trying to deal with that and the other draws on her life. Maybe its just me, but I think everyone who grew up Catholic needs to deal with that at some point and that what the album's about. Craig Finn, the lead guy, has a unique voice and a unique delivery. The lyrics are ridiculously dense. I've seen annotated lyrics of his that show all the references and explanations, but they also work without knowing all those things.
 15. **Danielson** *Ship the Majestic Suffix* Danielson are kind of crazy. It's theatrical pop where the singings shout sing about joy and faith and the like. The lead singer is also able to sing very high pitches using a part of his mouth/ throat most people reserve for imitating a cat meowing.
 16. **ms. john soda** *A Million Times* ms john soda are a great band out of Berlin. They share member with the Notwist (buy their *Neon Golden* if you don't have it yet). They do well combining organic and electronic samples and sounds and live-recorded instruments into one nice sound bed.
 17. **Magali Souriau Orchestra** *Dersu Uzala* A bit of a left turn here into some "jazz." While I was in the jazz band at MIT, we played some tunes that Magali wrote and some that she specifically wrote for us. We played this tune and I was always sort of taken by the melody of this song. I'm a sucker of melody.