

## Adrian's September 2006 mix

1. **Jay Walk Snail** *I Saw Kevin* This is an Israeli band that another KZSU DJ pointed out to me. Their album is pretty good, but this song is outstanding. It has a nice accordion waltz thing going without being cheesy.
2. **Jaime & Becky** *Midwest* They're not currently from the Midwest (they're from the Pacific Northwest) but they used to be. I like how their voices mix and the cello part is fantastic. I also relate to this sort of nostalgia for the old country.
3. **Cat Power** *Willie* Cat Power has been releasing sparse and depressing indie rock for a dozen years but earlier this year she took a bit of a left turn to release the soul-inspired album *The Greatest*, with some members of Al Green's band as her backing band. It's a nice mix of her songwriting with soul influences.
4. **Fionn Regan** *Put a Penny in the Slot* Gordon, a reader of my blog, sent me this fantastic track by the Irish artist Fionn Regan. I don't know much about Fionn other than this song. I love the voice, the melody, the orchestration. I love when the banjo comes in.
5. **Rogue Wave** *Everyday* A year before it came out, the soundtrack of the video game *Stubbs the Zombie* came out: indie rock bands doing covers of 50s tunes. I'm a fan of oldies and indie music so I was really excited. Rogue Wave was one of a few bands to deliver on the promise with this nice, but still inventive cover of the Buddy Holly original.
6. **Alexi Murdoch** *All My Days* This is a Brit sounding very Nick Drake. It's just a nice voice and melody over a good guitar part.
7. **Hayden** *Bad as they Seem* I've always liked how basic and raw this track sounded. It seemed like it was bubbling up half-formed from within the Canadian singer.
8. **Eric Bachmann** *Carrborro Woman* Eric Bachmann was the front man of seminal 90s indie rock band Archers of Loaf. After that he started the band Crooked Fingers which is much more based in folk and acoustic music. He just released his first solo album filled with stripped down acoustic guitar and his trademark rough voice.
9. **The Mountain Goats** *Cubs in Five* This song is pretty appropriate for September as it talks of baseball and football teams defying the odds. This track got a lot of play in 2003 when they reached the NLCS (eventually losing in Game 7). This remains one of my favorite Mountain Goats tunes.
10. **Elliott Smith** *Angeles* Elliott Smith could have quite possibly changed indie rock with his hushed delivery, confessional lyrics and finger picked acoustic guitar. This is one of his most memorable of his early songs. The melody has a way of working itself into your head.
11. **Swan Lake** *All Fires* I don't know much about this track or band. Pitchfork had this available for download recently. It has a number of elements that could be annoying but together they give it a forlorn quality. The repetition manages to be hypnotic without being boring.
12. **Jens Lekman** *Higher Power* Jens is a Swedish heartthrob. He writes great pop songs and has a soaring baritone voice. He is often compared to the Magnetic

- Fields or Belle & Sebastian but he does have his own sort of style. I like how almost triumphant the music is while the lyrics are in a way much darker.
13. **The Notwist** *One Step Inside Doesn't Mean You Understand* I mentioned the Notwist in my write-up for a ms john soda track in a previous mixtape and I realized I should put a Notwist song on one of these mixtapes. This is the first track off of their amazing *Neon Golden*; it's a great opening track. I like how the random plucking works itself into a full song.
  14. **the One AM Radio** *Witness* Boston/ Bay Area/ LA singer songwriter Hrishi Hirway mixes electronic elements with intimate songwriting to make his own unique sound. His vocals always sound so *close*. I should also mention this song has a great video about kickball (available on his website).
  15. **Ted Leo and the Pharmacists** *Me and Mia* Ted Leo mixes styles well, indie, punk, folk. It took a while for his music to grow on me, but now I appreciate his catchy songs.
  16. **John Vanderslice** *Pale Horse* John Vanderslice is really really nice. It also helps that he writes and, in his case just as important, he records meticulously. This song is a study in distortion.
  17. **Night Rally** *Kip Preston Thoroughly Exits the Dragon* Night Rally was a friend of mine and a few acquaintances from Boston. During their couple year existence they managed to get themselves a pretty good following. Their last show was also their first full length CD release party. Honestly, I don't particularly like the beginning of this song—that brand of sparse instrumentation under vocals isn't my thing—but once the guitars come in, it's great.
  18. **Unwed Sailor** *Ruby's Wishes* Unwed Sailor is one of Jonathan Ford's projects (others being, formerly, Roadside Monument, Pedro the Lion, Seldom). They write great bass-based instrumental indie pop. I've always enjoyed both the bass parts and how they have conventional pop structures, but are instrumental and anything but conventional.
  19. **Sigur Rós** *Hoppipolla* Sigur Rós is an Icelandic post rock band. They write somewhat minimalist crescendo-decrescendo songs with mostly non-sense lyrics. I really like the piano part that starts this song and how the entire song goes from nothing to a lot in a very short period of time without feeling overly sudden.