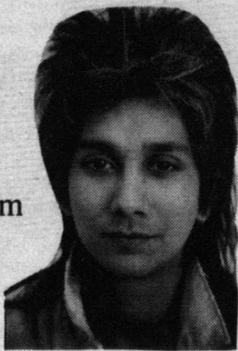


# Year in music



Raj Nigam



My top ten of 1988, in no particular order:

1. **Talking Heads - *Naked*** - Another seamless blend of intelligent pop and Afro rhythms. Their best since *Remain in Light*.
2. **Mike Stern - *Time in Place*** - A great album from the jazz-man with a rock and roll soul.
3. **Robert Plant - *Now and Zen*** - Plant's strongest solo effort to date, and his hair has never looked better.
4. **Keith Richards - *Talk is Cheap*** - What can I say that probably hasn't already been said?
5. **Various artists - *The Song Retains the Name*** - Various upcoming bands pay homage to the mighty Zep. Great concept, and decent execution for the most part.

w artist, but *Pontiac* is still a pretty good record. Lovett doesn't exactly plow any new furrows (check out Guy Clark for the original Texas-swing tongue-in-cheek folk-poet and guitar-strummer), but he deserves his spot on this list for two things.

First, anybody with hair like that who'll play in cowboy bars either has balls the size of watermelons, is terminally stupid, or has never seen the "Bob's Country Bunker" scene from the Blues Brothers' movie. Second, anybody with misogynist lyrics like "She's no lady, she's my wife" who can remain trendy must have something going for them.

***Genuine Houserockin' Music, Vol. II***, is not one of those records you get by calling 1-800-SCHLOCK. Instead, it's the best of Alligator Records' stable of hot bluesmen (and women). ***GHM Vol. III*** is also out, but I haven't got it yet - for those of you who were thinking of sending

Ornette Coleman



Charlie Parker



The Fool Killer's version of "Houses of the Holy" and The Royal Mixxers rap version of "Black Dog" stand out as personal faves.

6. **Sting - *Nothing Like the Sun*** - Okay, so he's a little full of himself. So are the SU executive and they never sold out a 10,000 seat stadium (although they're doing a heck of a number on a particular record store).
  7. **Jethro Tull - *20 Years of Jethro Tull*** - A five album set, and the best retrospective package to emerge from the barrage of big money box sets.
  8. **Los Lobos - *La Pistola y la Corazon*** - Like a breath of fresh air after the mindless commercialism of last year's *La Bamba*.
  9. **Little Charlie & the Nightcats - *Disturbin' the Peace*** - More good time party blues from one of America's premier bar bands.
  10. **Bill Bruford - *Earthworks*** - I worship this man's snot, so maybe it was a little hard to be objective. This album is nonetheless a standout.
- Honourable mentions:  
**Robert Cray - *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark***  
**The Cure - *Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me***  
**Pat Metheny - *Still Life (Talking)***  
**Stanley Jordan - *Flying Home***  
**The Shuffle Demons - *"Funkin' Pumpkin" (single B-side)***

me a tardy Christmas present. Vol. II makes my list at No. 4.

**Guns and Roses' *Appetite for Destruction*** edged into the number five slot simply by being the best Janis Joplin parody/imitation yet to come down Highway 2. As music it's... adequate. As heavy metal it's... laughable. But if you've worn out the groove on *Joplin's Greatest*, here's how her daughter might sound.

And now the worst...

I've already slammed **Dan Seals' *Rage On*** in this space, but in case you missed it, read on. Seals was part of England Dan and John Ford Coley, and somehow he managed to get worse as a country singer. No lie. Number 5.

I vaguely remember my (ex!) roommate getting his hands on a **Method of Destruction** album last spring. The horror, the horror. Number 4.

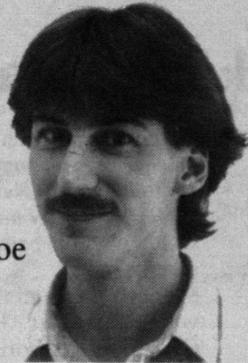
**U (Can be Pompous) 2** should have broken up after *Under a Blood Red Sky*. Don't believe me? Listen to *Rattle and Hum* for proof. At least they should have packed it in after they did "Maggie's Farm," Bob Dylan had a couple thousand grave-rolls in advance after that one. Number 3.

**Michael Jackson. *Bad***. Bad? Awful. Number 2 with a formula.

I don't know what it's called, I really don't. You see, it's advertised "only on TV," and my TV has a remote control. It's being shilled as having something to do with *Dirty Dancing*, but it's really a DISCO record. Yes folks, these are the "songs" you remember puking to! This was the music that was so bad it turned "Old Time Rock and Roll" into an anthem! Randy Newman into a "rocker"! Rod Stewart into a boring old Scottish fart who'd do anything for a buck! (No, sorry, he was that already, but do you remember "Doo Ya Theenk Ey'm Sixty"?)

The people who are marketing this, I guarantee (track them down and you'll find out I'm right), STILL WEAR WHITE POLYESTER LEISURE SUITS. The worst album of this (or any other) year.

Mike Spindloe



This year I continued to get more and more into jazz and classical music, adding further confusion as to what to play in the precious but diminishing time for serious listening.

I probably missed a lot of great music, but who can afford to buy it *all*. The following list is in no particular order, and excludes classical things, which would have made the whole process just too complicated.

1. **Charlie Parker - *The Complete Charlie Parker on Verve*** - This lavish 10-CD set was finally released this year after being promised quite some time ago by Polygram. It might be a little too exhaustive, with literally every note Parker played for Verve (including missed takes and so on),



Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson: The band celebrated 20 years by releasing a box set, but poor distribution made it difficult to find.



but essential nonetheless. The irony is that this isn't even his best stuff; that was on his Savoy and Dial sides. Now, all we need is the same sort of thing from them.

2. **Dream Syndicate - *Ghost Stories*** - These guys keep getting better and better, and still no airplay. Powerful guitar-based retro-psych.
3. **R.E.M. - *Green*** - Yes, they "sold out" and signed with WEA. But they're still great, even imbued with the color of money.
4. **Ornette Coleman & Prime Time - *Virgin Beauty*** - Ornette Follows *In All Languages* in a similar vein. Truly progressive jazz, or perhaps I was just swayed by his incredible Jazz City show.
5. **Pere Ubu - *The Tenement Year*** - Whether it sounds like elephants fucking (as a *Gateway* colleague suggested) or not, this is inspired cacophony at its most engaging.
6. **Richard Thompson - *Amnesia*** - Yet more literate folk rock from one of the best guitarists on the face of the earth. Sadly underexposed by commercial radio but universally loved by anyone who's heard him.
7. **Peter Hammill - *In a Foreign Town*** - I should confess, right away, that Hammill is my favourite artist. This, however, was a welcome return to form after his last release, which can be kindly described as instrumental noodling. This uses too many samples for my taste, but he's still the best lyricist in rock.
8. **Tracy Chapman - *Tracy Chapman*** - This slightly rotund pixie became the surprise hit of the year and why not. She sings like a bird and writes great songs to boot.
9. **Jethro Tull - *20 Years of Jethro Tull*** - This 5-record, 3 CD or cassette box set was everything a Tull fan could ask for: BBC sessions, B-sides, unreleased studio and live tracks. Admittedly retrograde, but who cares.
10. **Talking Heads - *Naked*** - The Heads summed up their career to date in what may be their finest album.

Worst album of the year:  
**Pink Floyd - *Delicate Sound of Thunder*** - This is simply a cynical, disgusting and blatant attempt to cash in on a once-proud name. There is no redeeming value whatsoever to these studio-soundalike "live" versions of greater and lesser Floyd songs. Unforgivable.

Best concerts of the year:  
**Iggy Pop**, SUB Theatre, September - The date didn't work out (though it should have) but the concert is still echoing in my head.  
**Robert Plant**, Northlands Coliseum, December  
**Melissa Etheridge**, SUB Theatre, October  
**Edmonton Folk Music Festival**, Gallagher Park, August

Civil/Mechanical Engineering present

## ENGINEERING WEEK

### WRAP-UP

FRIDAY  
JANUARY  
13

**DINWOODIE LOUNGE**  
 U.S.A. BRANCH OF THE R.O.C.  
 2nd Floor SUB  
 HOURS: 8:30 PM - 1:00 AM!  
 No Minors Age ID Required

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TICKETS: HUB, SUB & CAB INFO  
 BOOTHS: Varsity Drugs HUB Mall,  
 Jubilee Box Office, and presenting club members.  
 INFO: 432-2048

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