



by Paul Murphy

The ten records that made the eighties for me, in no particular order:

1. Husker Du - Zen Arcade

The first, and definitive, record to try to mix the rage and intensity of hard-core with the melodic sensibilities of folk and pop.

2. David Sylvian - Brilliant Trees

Sylvian's first solo record, his first without makeup, is a striking blend of esoteric ECM-jazz and lyrical angst. Its quiet, haunting beauty makes it an *Astral Weeks* for the eighties.

3. Tom Waits - Rain Dogs

Waits' painfully soulful vocals, the ever-amazing guitar of Marc Ribot and the junkyard percussion of Michael Blair add up to almost an hour of bliss.

4. Jr. Gone Wild - Less Art, More Pop

After a few years of considered judgment, this record remains great because of its writing. "Slept All Afternoon," "Why I Hate the Sixties," and "Fine Scotch" are still brilliant.

5. John Adams - Harmonielehre

More variety than Arvo Part and more meat than Philip Glass, this is a profoundly moving work which weaves minimalism and Mahler into a seamless architectural.

6. The Pogues - If I Should Fall From Grace With God

The Pogues are in fighting form on this album with Shane McGowan at his prime.

by Richard Thornley

Richard Thornley is program director for FM88 CJSR.

1. Sonic Youth - Evol

Just changed my life and the way I listen to music.

2. The Fall - This Nation's Saving Grace

The most awesome post-punk, minimal tirade ever.

3. NoMeansNo - Sex Mad

It made a real bid for Canadian music as a vital, progressive force.

4. Big Black - Atomizer

Sets the brutal tone for the last four years of the eighties.

"Bottle of Smoke" is pure genius.

7. Joe "King" Carrasco and the Crowns - Bordertown

This underground Tex-Mex/junk-organ king delivers a record which manages to be both loony fun and politically conscious. "Who Buys the Guns (That Kill the Nuns)" is more insightful about Central America than anything U2 has ever done.

8. The Cowboy Junkies - The Trinity Sessions

A record that captures a particular mood better than any other. Their originals are strong, but it is their languid covers, uncovering the melancholy and the menace in the originals, that make this record great.

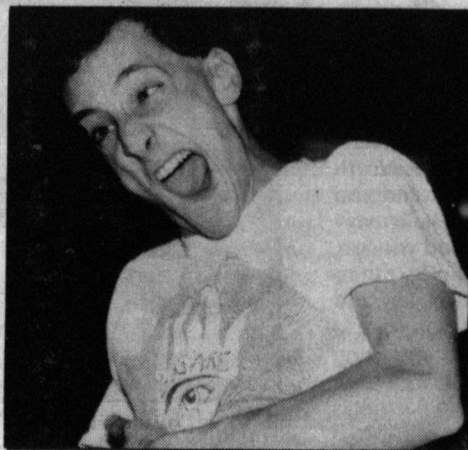
9. No Means No - Small Parts Isolated and Destroyed

Any one of this Victoria jazz-core powertrio's records qualifies for this list. This one is especially good, as it manages to synthesize pummeling bass-and-drums aggro with an expansive creative vision.

10. Color Me Psycho - Pretend I'm Your Father

This record, from the defunct Calgary group, sports an exceptionally gruesome cover and some of the hardest rocking, tightest garage-rock on the planet.

Close runners-up: Jerry Jerry - *Road Gore*; Philip Glass - *Koyaanisqatsi*; The Pixies - *Surfer Rosa*; Elvis Costello - *King of America* Los Lobos - *How Will the Wolf Survive*; Branford Marsalis - *Trio Jeepy*; Motorhead - *Orgasmatron*; Jesus and Mary Chain - *Psychocandy*.



Clive Oshry

5. Minor Threat - Out of Step

Left-wing, straightedge hardcore.

6. Lou Reed - The Blue Mask

His whole career in one record.

7. Husker Du - Zen Arcade

A punk band does "The White Album."

8. The Smiths - The Smiths

Set the tone of UK indie pop for the whole decade.

9. Squirrelbait - Squirrelbait

The best straight-ahead, teenage rock band ever.

10. Current 93 - Swastikas for Noddy

Just a personal fave. Twisted so far out of shape that you don't know it's folk music.



by Ron Kuipers

I know I'm gonna hate myself for doing this. Next week I'll be cringing at all the great albums I've forgotten to include. Whatever, I've picked ten LPs that were, for myself, the most impacting, important, and enjoyable of the eighties. Here goes (in order):

1. Husker Du - Zen Arcade

An absolute classic. Takes North American hardcore into a realm of extreme brilliance. Breaks all boundaries in the genre by adopting outside influences.

2. Sonic Youth - Daydream Nation

Mixes cyberpunk lyrics with noisy, muddy rock and original sounds. Hard to feel what this band is about. Still amazing.

3. Bad Brains - Rock for Light

Bad-ass rasta dudes. Not as impacting in the hardcore genre as *Zen Arcade*, but a crucial LP none the less.

4. Public Enemy - It Takes A Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back

Could be considered as the extreme expression of everything hip hop can and should be. Then came NWA...

5. Metallica - And Justice For All...

Coulda picked any LP from these frisco dudes. At this point, however, *Justice* seems to define what the band is about.

6. Voivod - Dimension Hatross

The *Zen Arcade* of metal. Breaks boundaries in the genre by adopting jazz and other influences. So much lurks beneath this album it's amazing.

7. U2 - The Unforgettable Fire

U2's best album. Credit much of its success to the atmosphere created by producers Eno and Lanois.

8. Talking Heads - Remain in Light

The influence of this band hardly needs mentioning. Again, coulda picked any album. Just that this one's my favourite.

9. The Cure - The Head on the Door

The pop band of the eighties, no questions asked (sorry Morrissey). This LP demonstrates that fact with no weak cuts. Each song is phenomenal.

10. The Smiths - The Smiths

The Smiths' first album. This means you enjoyed it more 'cause you weren't yet used to, or sick of, Morrissey's whining. Like someone said, "All he needs is a cheeseburger and a good fuck."

Honourable Mention goes to: REM, Joy Division, New Order, X, Minor Threat, Black Flag, Soundgarden, The Pixies, Mudhoney, and Pussy Galore (for cool album titles like *Dial M for Motherfucker*).



by Ian McGillis

After fruitless days spent pondering such unquantifiable qualities as "importance" and "influence," I've decided to cop-out and simply list my most-played albums for each year of the decade. Most of them, conveniently enough, happened to have been quite important and influential. Here they are in reverse chronological order:

1989: New Order - Technique

1988: The Pogues - If I Should Fall from Grace with God

1987: Proclaimers - This is the Story

1986: The Smiths - The Queen is Dead

1985: Prefab Sprout - Two Wheels Good

1984: The Blue Nile - Walk Across the Rooftops

1983: R.E.M. - Murmur

1982: Elvis Costello and the Attractions - Imperial Bedroom

1981: The Clash - Sandinista

1980: Joy Division - Closer

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