



18 Dialect
Atlas Of Green
(RVNG Intl)

A far future musician tries to reconstruct long forgotten music in this poignant pastoral of tape loops, vocals, acoustic and electronic sounds from Merseyside musician and Ex-Easter Island Head member Andrew PM Hunt. Steph Kretowicz said: "There's something of Laurel Halo's similarly titled *Atlas* here, perhaps reflecting a certain zeitgeist of looking to music as a means to get closer to a vanishing natural environment." (October/488)



19 Pat Thomas
The Solar Model Of Ibn Al-Shatir
(Otoroku)

The [Ahmed] keyboardist's fourth solo piano album amply demonstrated his ability to refract a wealth of influences and techniques – Islamic history, Cecil Taylor, Thelonious Monk, and more – through a minimalist lens. Peter Margasak said: "His idiosyncratic mind builds magnificent edifices through the most reduced materials... the beauty of his music – well, one of the beauties – is that it can be analysed in a million ways." (December/490)



20 Cappel
STARVE
(Plague)

The Nottingham rap artist served up a slice of heartfelt catharsis, dissecting the lingering effects of addiction and past trauma over atmospheric productions that also featured Sam Zircon, Theorist and Congi. Tim Fish said: "A remarkable piece of work that blurs the lines between musical composition and literary devices as it reimagines the construct of a hiphop album." (November/489)



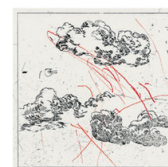
21 Mary Timony
Untame The Tiger
(Merge)

The US singer-songwriter's fifth album brought together folk and blues with a looser, more understated indie pop descendant of her 1990s group Helium. Antonio Posic said: "Although the tracks carry within them a sense of mourning... Timony's assured singing and soulful guitar leads express a desire to move forward and a calm acceptance of grief's presence in life." (June/484)



22 Fay Victor/Herbie Nichols SUNG
Life Is Funny That Way
(Tao Forms)

Saxophonist Michaël Attias, pianist Anthony Coleman, bassist Ratzo Harris and drummer Tom Rainey fleshed out innovative new arrangements by New York based vocalist Victor for this project paying tribute to the jazz composer and pianist, who died in 1963. Stewart Smith said: "In an inspired move, Victor has set lyrics to Nichols's compositions, adding new layers of meaning." (June/484)



23 Able Noise
High Tide
(World Of Echo)

Having met while studying arts in The Hague and establishing themselves as an improvisatory live act, the Dutch-Greek duo of George Knegetel (baritone guitar) and Alex Andropoulos (drums) evolved further inside the studio for their debut album, augmenting their scattered yet intimate sound with multitracking, tape manipulations and a host of guests.



24 Kali Malone
All Life Long
(Ideologic Organ)

True to its title, Malone's 12 compositions for meantone tempered pipe organ – performed by Malone and Stephen O'Malley – plus choir and brass quintet unfolded serenely, motifs and harmonic patterns emerging across the album as a whole. Julian Cowley said: "In Malone's hands, the sustained tones of the pipe organ are suggestive not of eternal bliss (nor of strenuous physical labour) but of deeply inquisitive involvement with the constitution of sound." (March/481)



25 Richie Culver
Scream If You Don't Exist
(Participant)

Throwing off the smalltown listlessness of his 2022 debut *I Was Born By The Sea* but building upon its disquieting palette of concrete-hued electronics and smoggy drones, *Scream If You Don't Exist* featured guest spots from Moor Mother and Billy Woods alongside Culver's own downbeat utterances. Louis Pattison said: "If the art [Culver] makes is often ugly, that ugliness feels tactical, a deliberate affront to a cultured sensibility that would be happier if it did not exist." (May/483)



26 Fatboi Sharif & Roper Williams
Something About Shirley
(POW)

The New Jersey MC packed a feature's worth of kaleidoscopic cinematic ambition into this ten minute single track EP created with producer Roper Williams. John Morrison said: "Sharif and Williams spin together a heady melange of ghastly vocal samples, film snippets and inspired song fragments. Don't call it horrorcore – Sharif's vision is more like hiphop's absurdist take on a Troma movie." (May/483)