

## **Mixmasters Round 17**

### **Chill - compiled by Mixmaster Steven Reule**

Oh yeah. Another round of mixmasters. How sweet it is. I love this stuff.

This time I have used ONLY artists that have not been in Mixmasters before, as far as I know. This method should ensure that I will not have the highest rated mix, but it is the purest of the pure. At least in my mind. After I made the mix I listened a bunch of times and it seemed relaxing but also modern and interesting. So I called it Chill.

If you want, why not listen with headphones at least once?

And once again I am trying to win the coveted "best packaging" award. Vote for me! What? What do you mean there is no such award? But I spent SO MANY HOURS.....!!

### **The songs**

**BROKEN BELLS: The Ghost Inside**

Album: Broken Bells (2010)

"Without warning, she gave up the ghost inside"

Broken Bells is a collaboration between The Shins James Mercer and Danger Mouse. DM worked on the Gnarls Barkley CDs too but this is way way better. I think this was one of the best albums of 2010. This song has gotten some radio play and it's pop-friendly, but it's better than that. Check out this album.

**THE PROCESSION: Major & Minor**

Album: Musique Magnifique (2007)

"There is a major and a minor to the key I'm singin'"

I don't know anything about this other than it is Jellyfish-style fun. It was one of about 20 songs that came pre-loaded on my MP3 player (a Sansa Fuze). I meant to use it last round and forgot that it was there. I remembered this time!

**A FINE FRENZY: What I Wouldn't Do**

Album: Bomb in a Birdcage (2009)

"My heart ticking like a bomb in a birdcage"

I really like this CD. It's female singer/songwriter stuff, a beautiful woman with a beautiful voice. But it's also a little quirky throughout and that keeps it interesting.

**VAMPIRE WEEKEND: Oxford Comma**

Album: Vampire Weekend (2008)

"All your diction dripping with disdain"

This band mixes some world influences with modern indie rock. Some of the songs on the album are more mainstream than others but it's worth getting the album. Their songs are a little different but still easily accessible. I really like this song.

**EMILY HAINES & THE SOFT SKELETON: Our Hell**

Album: Knives Don't Have Your Back (2006)

"We modernize 'till our hell is a good life"

Emily is the singer for Metric and I like that band a lot. Her voice is one of the reasons. On her solo CDs, she's stripped the sound down quite a bit. This track is a bit ominous, twisting here and there, it's a nice low-key moody tune.

**MONSTERS OF FOLK: Whole Lotta Losin'**

Album: Monsters of Folk (2009)

"One of these days I'll be left with nothin' but memories and no time"

This group is an indie supergroup of sorts with Conor Oberst and Mike Mogis (Bright Eyes), M. Ward (She & Him), and Jim James (My Morning Jacket). Some of the album is more folky, but I picked a couple numbers that rock out a little. Not a lot, but a little. This one reminds me of an updated Traveling Wilburys. And yes that is a good thing!

OWL CITY: The Technicolor Phase

Album: Almost Alice (Various Artists) (2010)

"If you cut me I suppose I would bleed the colors of the evening stars"

Owl City is one guy with some technology. But that is way cool! These days you can be your own band. This one is firmly in the realm of The Postal Service, who I used in a previous round, but a bit more mainstream. He had a big hit with the song Fireflies, so I used this lesser-known song from the Almost Alice "soundtrack". I used some other artists and songs from that album too, it's a good one. As for this, lots of bleeps and bleeps and I love that!

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK: Always Running Out Of Time

Album: Almost Alice (Various Artists) (2010)

"I should have stayed but I lost myself"

I saw this band do a few numbers last year and they were ok but not great. But this song kept getting more and more into my brain and so I used it. Now I wish I had stayed for the rest of their set that day.

RAY DAVIES: The Tourist

Album: The Tourist EP (2005)

"to the sound of livin' la vida loca"

As lead singer for the Kinks since the mid-60's (yes, really, over forty years ago!), Ray has done a lot of great songs and albums and some mediocre ones too. I picked up this 4-song EP cheap and was pleasantly surprised at how good he still sounded. Hard to believe no one has used him in Mixmasters before. I like his slightly sarcastic tone and have always liked his very British voice. And this is a nicely bitter tourist saga.

PHOENIX: Lasso

Album: Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix (2009)

"Where would you go tied up in a lasso?"

Yes Phoenix is a band, not a city. Well, maybe it is a city too. I bought this album on a whim because I liked the song "Lisztomania" and then ended up liking lots of the other songs too. This one is a bit of a quirky rocker

THE RAVEONETTES: Breaking Into Cars

Album: In and Out of Control (2009)

"You keep ignoring me and the teardrops fall"

I saw this band play two sets last year and was impressed at the mix of lo-fi guitar, retro, and ethereally smooth vocals. They have a sound like the oldies but a sensibility and lyrics from today. Good to see live too, the female singer is stunning.

HOT CHIP: The Warning

Album: The Warning (2006)

"Hot Chip will break your legs, snap off your head"

I checked this CD out of the library, having heard nothing by them. The more I played it the more I liked it. The two songs on my mix by them are hypnotic and, again, lots of bleeps and bleeps, which I love! And low-key but still with some intensity bubbling and simmering.

BROKEN BELLS: Trap Doors

Album: Broken Bells (2010)

"You're preachin' to the choir so turn around, turn around"

No, it's not Metallica. I should get a point just for that. ;- ) just kidding, Kevin! Broken Bells is subtle but infectious. This one is gentle and rocking like the waves of the ocean on a nice night. I

like the way the guitar gets less and then more obvious, and the way the song just floats but stays cool.

HOT CHIP: (Just Like We) Breakdown

Album: The Warning (2006)

"All in the name of what we we're not sure"

More wonderful bleeps and bleeps. This one has a syncopated stop/start beat that carries it. I really like the semi-detached but still very cool vocals and the great techno-lite beats. Yeah, you know that's what it is. This one draws you in if you let it. Listen with headphones yet?

VAMPIRE WEEKEND: Campus

Album: Vampire Weekend (2008)

"How am I supposed to pretend I never want to see you again?"

Another track off their debut album. I have to get the new one too. Could this be The Police updated for our modern times? What can I say, I like it. It's bouncy for the first part, then the middle less so, overall upbeat and catchy. Nice bass beat too.

MGMT: The Handshake

Album: Oracular Spectacular (2008)

"You keep on trying to wash the blood from your hands but it won't go"

I was going to use their big hits "Kids" or "Time to Pretend", I hear those on the radio a lot. But in listening to the album, I ended up getting drawn to some of the other tracks, including a couple, like this one, that have more of a Bowie influence. That's Bowie from say the Diamond Dogs album or even The Man Who Sold The World album. Time and tempo changes and a wonderful weirdness.

MONSTERS OF FOLK: Say Please

Album: Monsters of Folk (2009)

Everyone gets dark, and the worst part, is the way those thoughts can please you"

One of the more "rocking" songs on the album, again reminding me of Traveling Wilburys, which is a good thing in my world. The chorus/hook is one that got stuck in my brain and wouldn't let up. Nice guitar break too. Hold out your hand ;-)

ALLYSON SECONDS: I Used To Say Your Name

Album: Bag of Kittens

"I used to live for the ringing of the telephone, I'd pick it up and hear you breathing in the dial tone"

Local songwriter/singer Anton Barbeau gave Allyson a bunch of songs for her album and worked with her on them. One of the more mainstream ones is this low-key, smooth ballad, simple yet compelling.

A FINE FRENZY: Happier

Album: Bomb in a Birdcage (2009)

"It's all to convince me that I'll be better off"

AFF is Alison Sudol, gorgeous folk-pop singer/songwriter. If you liked Ingrid Michaelson on my last mix, then pick up this AFF album. Even if you didn't...

PHOENIX: 1901

Album: Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix (2009)

"Now the future's sorted out, watch her moving in elliptical patterns"

Gotta love that album title, right? I love the way this one starts, with the electronic fuzz bass and then into the strangely syncopated vocals.

THE RAVEONETTES: Last Dance

Album: In and Out of Control (2009)

"Every time you overdose, I rush to intensive care"

Again with the retro (but current) sound. And I love this woman's voice too. I hear this song in my head for days after listening to it. Yes, in a good way.

PLAIN WHITE T'S: Welcome to Mystery

Album: Almost Alice (Various Artists) (2010)

"Blue treetops and velvet skies, you ready to blow your mind"

Yes, they do that Delilah song. But I find this one more interesting. It's another from the Almost Alice soundtrack and has a Beatlesque quality to it, with an anthemic yet slightly dark chorus.

JUSTIN FARREN: I Try to Make Good Decisions

Album: Songs From Spare Rooms (2008)

"And my Mom still buys a fair amount of my clothing"

Justin is a local singer/songwriter who does quite a variety of song styles, but I wanted to end the mix on this note. I think it makes for a nice ending. He's a great guitarist and a clever lad with a sense of humor too. See, I can lighten up!

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Just one question. What's so funny about peace, love, and understanding?

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