



## PLUTO Sound

INFINITY

PLUTO Sound

**Eastern European electronics**

Take a walk through a corner of the Hungarian club scene with this compilation from Budapest-based label PLUTO Sound, which aims to shine a light on some of the country's most exciting upcoming producers. Things kick off very positively with IDM from oneeyedman referencing the gentler side of Planet Mu, before uplifting house from yorgos, an enjoyably punchy number from 120 dB (co-produced by PLUTO Sound founder Christopher Waver) and a similarly groove-focused outing by FALMI. Alongside a good dose of melodic house (in the very broadest sense) there are also dives into swirling electronica ('Waters Of Cadenza'), nods — big and small — to trance, dabblings with electro... it's a varied offering, as you'd expect any showcase of a country's electronic scene to be. Most importantly, it's all good stuff and pretty much all primed for the dancefloor, in one way or another. **TRISTAN PARKER**



## V/A

COD3 QR 012

Cod3 QR

**Anonymous crate bangers.**

An imprint dedicated to showcasing music that arouses curiosity, Cod3 QR launched in 2018 under the veil of anonymity, before it was revealed last year as the joint project of French auteurs Laurent Garnier and Scan X. The label's identity might no longer be a mystery, though its dedication to open-minded eclecticism continues with 'COD3 QR 012', the 12th instalment of their compilation series that throws together a stylistically disparate collection of club cuts. The conceptual hook is they're all anonymous offerings, with the respective producers not revealed until several months after release. It's a clever conceit, one clearly inspired by the label heads' passionate love of electronic music in all its forms. It's also enhanced by the strength of the selections, which here traverse the spectrum of soulful house, pulsing techno, thumping electro, and leftfield hip-hop. No filler to be found. **ANGUS PATERSON**



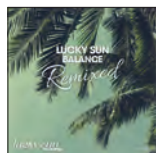
## V/A

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Chinabot

**Hybridity on display**

Five years ago, London-based sound artist Saphy Vong founded Chinabot to carve space for Asian musicians in experimental and electronic music. The artists celebrated here have roots in Cambodia, Laos, China, Korea, Japan, Bahrain, and more. Finding commonality in their differences, they characterise Chinabot's M.O. of changing the "dialogue surrounding Asian music". Accordingly, no two songs here sound alike; JPN Kasai turns to Ondo folk music for inspiration on '早苗唄 hayanae uta'; Pal Hwang Dan's contribution draws from '80s synthpop for 'Brooch Killer'; Ayankoko summons sluggish, hauntological ambience before chopping, screwing, and drilling on 'Bopen'; Nanzhen Yang stitches a sonic tapestry through field recordings on 'Associative Memory Errors'; QwentyZ throws film trailer symphonic maximalism into an electronic blender in 'Annihilation' — you get the picture. **JAMES GUI**



## Lucky Sun

Balance Remixed

Lucky Sun Recordings

**Out of balance**

London's Tom Lown dropped 'Balance' earlier this year, his second album under his Lucky Sun alias, and it's an effort fashioned with an abundance of love. Stylistically, whatever his brand of Balearic-influenced deep house lacks in distinctiveness, it makes up for with the emotions that evocatively seep through those mellow grooves. Lown knows how to work with a soulful vocal, and also sprinkled an impressive number of summery interludes throughout. 'Balance' felt heartfelt and personal, though alas, has offered limited opportunities for inspiring reworks. 'Balance Remixed' dims the emotions so it can lean into the functional side of things, which isn't the album's strongest point. Check Al Bradley's acid-heavy rework of 'Calling You In', though it's an underwhelming package overall. All the more reason to circle back to the original release.

**ANGUS PATERSON**



## V/A

Medusozoa Vol II

Tartelet Records

**Hard of healing**

Tartelet Records reaches across the globe for a melange of ambient deep cuts and downtempo healers on this warming companion to those slow January mornings. Alongside previously unreleased material from Glenn Astro, Zopelar, Max Graef and Uffe, 'Medusozoa Vol II' provides a home to the spacey pads and undulating rhythms of recent signings like ABUNAI and Athlete Whippet. Tied together by deep, cosmic frequencies, the mix gives flight to the imagination, tempting listeners on a journey through its many moods and modes while welcoming deep listening, reflection and procrastination. Cali-local Space Ghost sets the tone on '4 AM', assimilating the sounds of nature into his otherworldly synth-scapes, before rapping in Italian. Modula's 'Cala Olivera' pitches laid-back cosmic funk. Whatever this new year has in store, Tartelet have done the crate-digging for you. **OLIVIA STOCK**



## V/A

Future Bubblers 6.0

Brownwood Recordings

**Bursting with promise**

The sixth 'Future Bubblers' is probably the most important since the series' first edition in 2017, albeit for different reasons. Now that the Gilles Peterson-helmed Worldwide FM is shuttered, these compilations of new artists continue to fly the flag and provide a platform for fresh talent in the UK's leftfield scene. 'Future Bubblers 6.0' is also possibly the most eclectic to date, running the gamut from Seigfried Komidashi's spiritual jazz trip 'Voyager One, Lost' through the gossamer neo-soul of Victoria Jane's 'Good & Low-Key' to Nowsm's galactic techno 'Rough Of The Felt'. But if you're looking for a breakout star to follow Yazmin Lacey and Kayla Painter from previous instalments, our money's on Plumm: the raw soul of 'To Be A Woman (Live)' is easily the equal of Jill Scott. Her voice also soars over Zefiel's astonishing live drum & bass workout 'Crinje', to spectacular effect. **PAUL CLARKE**



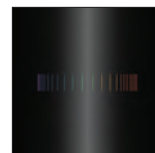
## V/A

Everything Merged Vol 2

3024

**Positive education**

Proving the old adage 'Give someone a fish and you feed them for a day, teach them electronic music production and they can make bangers for life' (or something like that), Martyn unveils another collection from the alumni of his 3024 Mentoring Program. Following on from 2021's 'It Was Always There' compilations of music produced by those the Washington DC-based Dutchman schooled during lockdown, the 'Everything Merged' series has the edge inasmuch as clubs are actually open now, meaning more opportunities to hear this music on the dancefloors it was designed for. Casting the net far and wide — from Baltimore to Barcelona, Manchester to Medellin — 'Everything Merged Vol.2' is as broad in genre as geography. 'Superseed's' roughshod bass, Padoa's chewy house groove 'Krbra' and the Pinch-style tech-dub on Kenji Ko's 'Coaxer' are quite a catch. **PAUL CLARKE**



## Exit Planet Earth

Launch

20/20 Vision

**Squiddy bleepy bleeps**

Electro track titles should be more of a thing. Behold: among the highlights on this 25-track collection of acid-electro-et-cetera is a lovely little dance tune by Sansibar called 'Tamagotchi' and before you've heard it, you know how it sounds — cute, quick, rambunctious, darting about the place like a digital pet. 'Hail The Whale (The Coexisting Mix)' by Extrawelt chugs and rumbles in Drexciyan glee, then in comes a soft, bewitching horn noise that could easily be a distant humpback. There's a fair bit going on here, nearly all of it good and inspired for the most part by the batshit goings on of the 21st Century. That's best captured by Mr Ho Xiaolin on 'No Change To How I Feel', an apocalyptic techno groan underscored by the words: "The whole world's crumbling, and we picked this time to fall... in love." **SAM DAVIES**