

# CC recommends: New popular music

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

December 4, 2009

Today, another gift list from "[CC recommends](#)" in the December 15 issue of the *Century*: my list of popular music selections. Here's the list from the magazine; go [here](#) for my comments:

[\*Curse Your Branches\*](#), by David Bazan

[\*Townes\*](#), by Steve Earle

[\*Monsters of Folk\*](#), by Monsters of Folk

[\*Yonder is the Clock\*](#), by the Felice Brothers

[\*Together Through Life\*](#), by Bob Dylan

[\*Come O Spirit!\*](#) by Bifrost Arts

And here are some additional choices:

[\*Lost Channels\*](#), by Great Lakes Swimmers. Very pleasing folk-rock with some country leanings. Lots of nice close harmony.

[\*Noble Beast\*](#), by Andrew Bird. Pop music's best violinist and whistler also writes quirky and distinctive songs and has a hot-shot band.

[\*Life on Earth\*](#), by Tiny Vipers. Jesy Furtado's melodies are minimalist but catchy; her spare guitar is moody and captivating.

[\*Hold Time\*](#), by M. Ward. Another solid solo effort from the songwriting monster of Monsters of Folk.

[\*Beware\*](#), by Bonnie Prince Billy. Will Oldham's post-punk country is warm, strange and gorgeous.

[\*Popular Songs\*](#), by Yo la Tengo. Veteran indie rockers are as eclectic as ever but can still bring the straight-ahead thrash.

[\*Veckatimest\*](#), by

Grizzly Bear. Psycho-pop band's sweet harmonies pull off the rare feat of recalling the Beach Boys without simply mimicking them.

*Songs of Leonard Cohen*, by

Record Club. Beck and friends' experimental re-imagination of Cohen's 1967 classic. This one's not for sale but well worth a listen [here](#).