The annual RTQIE "15 of the Top Ten of 2016 (50% margin of error)"

This is hard work - you have to summon the will to imagine that your opinion matters in some way - a bit harder in the new America. That said, art nourishes us. reminding ourselves of how wide and full of possibilities the world is should also give us courage – courage to cherish, and courage to fight for the beauty of the world.

Then, you sit down and try to remember what actually appeared, scribbling each one down - this one is the best of its kind, this one captures something astounding for posterity, this is the one I didn't see coming, this is the one that I waited for and was not disappointed by, and so on. Once you’ve got the list, you put all the scribbles in a line (alphabetical, in this case) and stare at the list like a cow at a passing train.

Is there any sort of informing metaphor for all these things? Is there a bunch of stuff here that was strictly a private pleasure rather than something I thought an RTQIE audience really ought to know about?

The best cure for such wracking self-doubts is just to say, “Okay,” and send it on.

These have fed whatever you might wish to call my “soul” this year, and I expect that they will continue to do so.

with regards,

gregory.taylor

Autechre: "elseq 1-5" (Warp)
Juliana Barwick: "Will" (Dead Oceans)
Biosphere: "Departed Glories" (Smalltown Supersound)
Bon Iver: "22, A Million" (Jagajaguar)
David Bowie: "Blackstar" (Columbia)
Brian Eno: "The Ship" (Warp)
Tigran Hamasyan, Arve Henriksen, Eivind Aarset, Jan Bang: "Atmospheres" (ECM)
Marielle V. Jakobsen: "Star Core" (Thrill Jockey)
Steve Lehman: "Sélébényone" (Pi Recordings)
Mohnlace: "VLSI" (imbalance computer music)
Michael Pisaro: "the earth and the sky" (Erstwhile)
Kaitlyn Aurelia Smyth: "Ears" (Western Vinyl)
Carl Stone: "Electronic Music from the Seventies and Eighties" (Unseen Worlds)
This Heat: [the reissue series, but the first one, in particular] (Light in the Attic)
"Music of Morocco: Recorded by Paul Bowles, 1959" (Dust To Digital)

The Dave List: 22-4-16, plus...
(alphabetical)
The Amazing - Ambulance
Aziza - s/t
Bombino - Azel
David Bowie - Blackstar
Brian Jonestown Massacre - Third World Pyramid
Leonard Cohen - You Want It Darker
Rob Crow's Gloomy Place - You're Doomed: Be Nice
Dash Hounds - Eft (EP)
Dungen - Häxan
Brian Eno - The Ship
Explosions In The Sky - Wilderness
50 Foot Wave - Bath White
The Flat Five - It's a World of Love and Hope
Imarhan - s/t
Jean-Paul Jarre - Electronica I + II
Mogwai - Atomic
Bob Mould - Patch the Sky
Moving Panoramas - One
Negative Example - Negative Examples
Iggy Pop - Post Pop Depression
Post Social - Casablanca
Squarewave - A Tighter Knot
Adia Victoria - Beyond the Bloodhounds
Bonus
Hanni El Khatib - Savage Times (due 2/10/17)
The Show
Squarewave @ The Frequency
Vault Gems
The Beatles - Live at Hollywood Bowl
Appliances SFB - Green Door/Them (w/ surprise... Feat. Tom Laskin: Peerless, one of a kind vocals and grungy-ass guitar - R.I.P.)
[Also farewell 2 too many to list w/o fear of omission]

B-Side ~ Madison
Independent since 1982
B-Side Best of the Year 2016

The Result of Thousands of Hours
Spent Listening to New Music, by Steve

Top 10 — 2016:
(Alphabetical order)
David Bowie - Blackstar
Dash Hounds - Eff (EP)
Flock of Dimes - If You See Me, Say Yes
Lisa Hannigan - At Swim
Britta Phillips - Luck or Magic
Post Social - Casablanca
Quilt - Plato
Squarewave - A Tighter Knot
Teenage Fanclub - Here
Adia Victoria - Beyond the Bloodhounds

Also Really Good!
50 Foot Wave - Bath White
A Giant Dog - Pile
A Tribe Called Quest - We Got It From Here...
All Them Witches - At the Door
Allah Las - Calico Review
The Amazing - Ambulance
Courtney Marie Andrews - Honest Life
Arbor Labor Union - I Hear You
Avers - Omega/Whatever
Aziza - s/t
Eric Bachmann - s/t
BadBadNotGood - IV
Devendra Banhart - Ape in Pink Marble
Sam Beam & Jesca Hoop - Love Letter for Fire
The Besnard Lakes - A Coliseum Complex Museum
Big Thief - Masterpiece
Bomboino - Azul
Brian Jonestown Massacre - Third World Pyramid
Nels Cline - Lovers
Morgan Delt - Phase Zero
Luther Dickinson - Blues & Ballads
Dinosaur Jr. - Give a Glimpse of What Yer Not
John Doe - The Westerner
Tanya Donelly - Swan Song Series
Dungen - Häxan
Emmy the Great - Second Love
Sam Evian - Premium
EZTV - High in Place
The Fleshtones - ...The Band Drinks For Free
Freakwater - Scherherazade
The Frightnrs - Nothing More to Say
Bill Frisell - When You Wish Upon a Star
Robbie Fulks - Upland Stories
Margaret Glaspy - Emotions and Math
Goat - Requiem
Golden Daze - s/t
Katy Goodman & Greta Morgan - Take It, It's Yours
The Gotobeds - Blood / Sugar // Secs // Traffic
The Growlers - City Club
Skylar Gudasz - Oleander
Haile and the Moon - A Million Suns
PJ Harvey - The Hope Six Demolition Project
Kristin Hersh - Wyatt at the Coyote Palace
Hinds - Leave Me Alone
The James Hunter Six - Hold On!
The I Don't Cares - Wild Stab
Ian Sweet - Shape Shifter
Imarhan - s/t
Julia Jacklin - Don't Let the Kids Win
Jim James - Eternal Man
The Julie Ruin - Hit Reset
Kacy & Clayton - Strange Country
Lambchop - Flotsam
Ray LaMontagne - Ouroboros
Lily & Madeleine - Keep It Together
Lydia Loveless - Real
Mekons - Existentialism
Minor Victories - s/t
The Minus 5 - Of Monkees and Men
Mogwai - Atomic
The Mole - Tonight's Music
The Monkees - Good Times!
Bob Mould - Patch the Sky
Mount Moriah - How to Dance
Mudcrutch - 2
Wolfgang Muthspiel - Rising Grace
The Mystery Lights - s/t

Nada Surf - You Know Who You Are
Joanna Newsom - Divers
Nice as F**k - Nice as F**k
Aiofe O'Donovan - In the Magic Hour
Okkervil River - Away
The Olympians - s/t
On Dead Waves - s/t
Beth Orton - Kidsticks
Iggy Pop - Post Pop Depression
Brigid Mae Power - s/t
Rouge Wave - Delusions of Grand Fur
Daniel Romano - Mooney
Hope Sandoval & the Warm Inventions - Until the Hunter
Ty Segall - Emotional Mugger
Sneaks - Gymnastics
Springtime Carnivore - Midnight Room
Sturgill Simpson - A Sailor's Guide To Earth
Esperanza Spalding - Emily's D+Evolution
Stephen Steinbrink - Anagrams
Sunflower Bean - Human Ceremony
Syd Arthur - Apropos
Tacocat - Lost Time
Tindersticks - The Waiting Room
Tortoise - The Catastrophist
Toy - Join the Dots
Twin Peaks - Down in Heaven
William Tyler - Modern Country
Waco Brothers - Going Down in History
Sara Watkins - Young in All the Wrong Ways
Wilco - Schmilco
Wild Nothing - Life of Piease
Wye Oak - Tween

16 More 2016 Golden Greats
(Alphabetical order)
Amber Arcades - Fading Lines
Haley Bonar - Impossible Dream
Case/Lang/Vaeg - s/t
Leonard Cohen - You Want It Darker
Wilder Deitz Group - Child's Play
Drive-By Truckers - American Band
Alejandro Escovedo - Burn Something Beautiful
Fruit Bats - Absolute Losers
The Flat Five - It's a World of Love and Hope
Heron Oblivion - s/t
The Jayhawks - Paging Mr. Proust
Charles Lloyd & the Marvels - I Long To See You
Angel Olsen - My Woman
Miranda Lee Richards - Echoes of the Dreamtime
Anders Swan - State of the Baritone
M. Ward - More Rain

Good Shows (chronological order)
Modern Mod farewell show w/Surgeons in Heat;
Trophy Dad; Post Social @ High Noon Saloon
The Exile Project does The White Album @ HNS
Martin Courtney w/EZTV @ The Selt
Waco Brothers @ Kiki's House of Righteous Music
Aaron Scholz w/Wendy Schneider & Jeff Jagelo @ Mother Fool's
Moving Panoramas w/Dash Hounds @ Mickey's
Bob Mould w/Fury Things @ The Majestic
Paul McCarthy @ Target Center MPLS
The Jayhawks @ The Barrymores
Dungen w/Boogarins @ HNS
A Giant Dog w/Dash Hounds + Heather the Jerk @ Mickey's
Wilder Deitz Group CD release party @ a house
Roscoe Mitchell Trio @ Arts & Literature Laboratory
Post Social w/Pollinators @ UW Union Terrace
Adia Victoria w/Dash Hounds + Tin Can Diamonds @ Frequency
Seasaw w/Milkweed & Slow Pub @ HNS
The Baseball Project @ a cul-de-sac in Sun Prairie
Post Social CD release party @ HNS
Eric Bachmann @ Kiki's House ORM
Wilco w/Kurt Vile @ Breese Stevens Field
Squarewave @ Shank Hall MIKE
Glass Coats + Dash Hounds dual CD release w/Milkweed @ HNS
Dolores reunion @ HNS
Mavis Staples w/Wyatt Tyler @ Majestic
Julia Jacklin w/Dash Hounds + Automatically Yours @ Frequency
Dash Hounds w/Slow Pub @ Union Terrace
Nick Lowe w/Josh Rouse @ Stoughton Opera House
Squarewave @ Frequency
Aziza (Lionel Loueke, Chris Potter, Dave Holland,
Eric Harland) @ Union Theater
Teenage Fanclub w/Gam Evian @ HNS
Henry Rollins @ Barrymores
Robyn Hitchcock w/Emma Swift @ Stoughton Opera House
SCOTT COLLINS’ FAVORITE ALBUMS OF 2016
(in no particular order)
Writer of the music blog Synesthesia
DJ/Host of Savage Radio on WVMO-The Voice Of Monona

"Eff" (EP) by Dash Hounds
...And The Anonymous Nobody" by De La Soul
"Commotimes" by Field Music
"A Tighter Knot" by Squarewave
"Love & Hate" by Michael Kiwanuka
"Good Times!" by The Monkees
"Casa Blanca" by Post Social
"A Moon Shaped Pool" by Radiohead
"Emily's D+ Evolution" by Esperanza Spalding
"Weezer" (The White Album) by Weezer

2016 MVP ROBERT GLASPER
Miles Ahead" (soundtrack) composer/producer
"Everything Is Beautiful" with Miles Davis
"ArtScience" The Robert Glasper Experiment
"Black America Again" by Common on which Glasper appears as
composer/performer throughout

RUNNER-UP FOR ALBUM OF THE YEAR
"We Got It From Here...Thanks 4 Your Service" by A Tribe Called Quest

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
"Blackstar" by David Bowie

7 and 7 Is by Pete
Oakkervil River - Away
The Figgs - On the Slide
Case/Lang/Veirs - s/t
Drive-By Truckers - American Band
Shovels & Rope - Little Seeds
The Heavy - Hurt & the Merciless
Frankie Lee - American Dreamer

SHOWS:
Oakkervil River @ Fine Line MPLS
The Figgs @ House of Rock, Eau Claire & Kiki's House ORM
Teenage Fanclub @ High Noon Saloon
Sawdust City Limits Festival
Eau Claire Music Festival
The Tallest Man on Earth @ The State Theater (Eau Claire)
"Stage Fright - A Recreation of The Last Waltz Concert" @ The Lismore (EC)

17 from '16 by Ralph
David Bowie - Blackstar
Neil Young - Earth
William Bell - This Is Where I Live
The Monkees - Good Times!
M. Ward - More Rain
The Jayhawks - Pacing Mr. Proust
Alejandro Escovedo - Burn Something Beautiful
Iggy Pop - Post Pop Depression
Savages - Adore Life
Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith - Ears
Dinosaur Jr. - Give A Glimpse of What Yer Not
Brian Eno - The Ship
Leonard Cohen - You Want It Darker
Drive-By Truckers - American Band
Esperanza Spalding - Emily's D+ Evolution
Nels Cline - Lovers
Squarewave - A Tighter Knot (Local)

B-Side Best of the Year 2016

DJ-Sides
1. Tom Verlaine - Tom Verlaine / Dreamtime (2LPs on 1CD reissue)
2. Brian Eno - The Ship
3. Lee Hazlewood - Cowboy in Sweden (1st official CD reissue)
4. Ian William Craig - Centres
5. Radiohead - A Moon Shaped Pool
6. Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds - Skeleton Tree
7. The Chills - Kaleidoscope World (2LP reissue)

Colleen's Five
Kalispell - Printer's Son
The Handsome Family - Unseen
Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds - Skeleton Tree
Jeff Buckley - You and I
Josh Garrels - The Light Came Down

Alex's Hastily Assembled and Largely Arbitrary Best of 2016 List
David Bowie - Blackstar
Low - Lifetime of Temporary Relief
Sturgill Simpson - A Sailor's Guide to Earth
The Jayhawks - Pacing Mr. Proust
Iggy Pop - Post Pop Depression
Bob Mould - Patch the Sky
A Giant Dog - Pile
Case/Lang/Veirs - s/t
Beyoncé - Lemonade
Teenage Fanclub - Here
The Julie Ruin - Hit Reset
Dinosaur Jr. - Give A Glimpse of What Yer Not
Drake - Views
Angel Olsen - My Woman
Dash Hounds - Eff (EP)
Julia Jacklin - Don't Let the Kids Win
Nocturnal Habits - New Skin for Old Children
A Tribe Called Quest - We Got It from Here...
Margo Price - Midwest Farmer's Daughter
Regina Spektor - Remember Us to Life
B-Side Favorites 2016

Leading the pack with 7 votes — the starman, the legend, the immortal:

David Bowie

Tied for second with 5 votes each — 2 local bands: 1 rookie, 1 veteran:

Dash Hounds - Squarewave

Six artists earned 4 votes each for third place:

A Tribe Called Quest - Case/Lang/Veirs - Leonard Cohen - The Jayhawks - The Monkees - Post Social

These are worth mentioning since they got more than two votes each (3 votes):

The Amazing - Bombino - Nick Cave - Dinosaur Jr. - Brian Eno

PJ Harvey - The Julie Ruin - Bob Mould - Angel Olsen - Iggy Pop

Sturgill Simpson - Esperanza Spalding - Adia Victoria - M. Ward

Notice: The B-Side Best of the Year list represents independent opinions of current & former B-Side employees, plus two invited guests, in this case radio DJs. Our rules: No sharing of voting plans with each other; list as many albums as we feel like. Our intent is to share enthusiasm for new music in hopes you might investigate and support some worthy art for general life enhancement. That’s it. Thank You for pushing B-Side to 34 years and beyond!

Special note from Steve — To the hundreds of customers, co-workers, friends & family who selflessly pitched in during my medical crisis...

Everlasting thanks for your overwhelming generosity,
you all have helped ensure even more longevity
for this little old music shop in Madison.
Open since 1982. Peace.

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