

# it's a trap reader's companion volume one

As proven with the North American release of KVLR's self-titled CD earlier this year, It's a trap! is not content with simply being a webzine, albeit the best damn Scandinavian music news site in the world. The time has come for the next logical step in the evolution process. And with that, I am proud to present the "It's a trap! reader's companion volume one" compilation. Mp3s are good and fine for exposing people to new music, but I think a piece of plastic packaged in a fancy cardboard case works a heckuva lot better to get people's attention. Not only does this comp feature an amazing assortment of artists from all over Scandinavia, but it also spans a multitude of genres. There's sure to be a little something for everyone. Read on for yourself:

01. Peter Bjorn & John - It beats me every time | SWE

from the "Beats, traps and backgrounds" EP | Planekonomi | 2004

The intellectual Hives? Sure, why not? PB&J deliver some of the smartest power-pop around.

02. KVLR - Uncanny valley | SWE

previously unreleased!

Remember when indie-rock meant loud guitars? KVLR does. DuPont may have stolen their vowels, but they sure haven't stopped these guys from making amazing music.

03. Fun - Arizona spit trip | FIN

from the album "Szklarska poreba" | If Society | 2004

Once upon a time a label called Touch & Go used to put out nothing but classic records of a particular style. Fun continues that tradition, with gusto.

04. The Lionheart Brothers - I burn myself on you | NOR

from the "Colour contrast context" EP | ChewinPine | 2004

These Norwegians create some of the most amazingly dreamy pop music ever committed to tape. Pure epic bliss.

05. Kristofer Åström - The wild | SWE

from the album "Loupita" | Startracks | 2004

Kristofer has consistently put out great records, from his beginnings many years ago fronting the post-rock/hardcore band Fireside, up to the present with his burgeoning solo career. Features guest vocals from fellow up-and-coming Swedish singer/songwriter Britta Persson.

06. David & the Citizens - New direction | SWE

from the "New direction" EP | Adrian Recordings | 2003

Energetic power-pop with clever hooks and lyrics. Positively infectious!

07. Desert Planet - Return of the ninja droids | FIN

from the album "Turbo tellytunes" | Desertplanet.com | 2004

Nobody does 8-bit rock n' roll finer than Desert Planet. The soundtrack for the Nintendo generation.

08. WE - Catch electricque | NOR

from the album "Smugglers" | Nun Music | 2004

These dudes deliver the goods. We're talkin' 100% kick-ass boogie-woogie rock n' roll. Produced by Chris Goss (Mark Lanegan, Queens of the Stone Age, Auf der Maur).

09. José González - Crosses | SWE

from the album "Veneer" | Imperial Recordings | 2003

Finally, a singer/songwriter who honestly and truly deserves comparisons to the late, great Nick Drake. Simply brilliant.

10. Isolation Years - Sway | SWE

from the "Frosted minds" EP | NONS/MNW | 2003

Considered by many to be one of Sweden's finest bands, these lads from the far north deftly combine elements of country, folk, psych and rock. Everything they do is an instant classic.

11. Waver - You're gonna be fine | SWE

from the album "Population: fifteen" | Dead Frog Records | 2004

Sweden is well-known for its women and for good reason. Here's yet another fantastic, melancholy pop band with just a bit more of a feminine touch.

12. CDOASS - Speak to me | SWE

from the "Speak to me" 7" | Johnny Bråttom | 2004

After the release of a single on the highly respected Dolores Recordings (Nicolai Dunger, Broder Daniel, etc.) and a UK gig opening for The Hives, you'd think these guys would be on top of the world already. Red-hot punk-funk that adds the perfect dosage of tension and anxiety to keep things exciting.

13. Filled - Daylight chaser | SWE

from the "Heading for the ditch" demo | self-released | 2004

This band makes well-crafted pop seem positively effortless. A band to watch, for sure.

14. Jim Stärk - Morning song | NOR

from the "Morning songs" EP | Sweet Recordings | 2004

No, not another singer/songwriter, but rather a Norwegian band with a peculiar name and a solid groove. Dig that organ!

15. Carpet People - A road leading into the sun | SWE

from the album "More bad weather coming out of the rain" | Chalksounds | 2003

Most bands use the studio to add all sorts of superfluous sounds to create a huge, layered production. Carpet People take the opposite approach, stripping the material down to its most raw, pure form.

16. Thirdimension - Rear view mirror | SWE

from the album "Permanent holiday" | Hidden Agenda | 2004

From the same people who introduced The Soundtrack of Our Lives to US comes yet another amazing psych-rock band. The dubbed-out vibe on this track is perfect.

17. Koma - One of us must hang | SWE

from the album "Tsunami" | Blackstarfoundation/Fullsteam Records | 2004

Dark, epic rock that's unafraid to be both heavy and melodic - A perfect closing anthem. Featuring members from Cult of Luna and The Perishers.

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