

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](#).