

# Best Of 2015



The Best of 2015 as compiled by Tamara Harris and Uther Blakwhel:



## **THEESatisfaction *EarthEE***

The Seattle duo follow-up 2012's *AwE NaturalE* with ambient meditations on ancestry, post-Blackness and the destruction of planet earth.



[youtube id="H5zRKAoDHBc"]

## **Murs & 9th Wonder *Brighter Daze***

The collaborators reunite for their sixth project of relentless boom-bap soul and a brilliant Pharcyde cover.



## **Oddisee *The Good Fight***

The DMV rapper releases more self-reflective, head-nodding hip-hop and proves again why he belongs to the rare club of emcees who are also producers.



### **Kendrick Lamar *To Pimp A Butterfly***

A fiercely pro-culture jazz/rap/soul collection of songs about politics, love and colorism.



### **Thundercat *The Beyond/Where The Giants Roam***

The bassplayer/songwriter appeared on Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp A Butterfly* and still completed a mini-album of buoyant George Duke-inspired fusion.



### **Talib Kweli *Fuck The Money***

Kweli criticizes capitalism and encourages listeners to pursue their dreams and gave the whole thing away for free.



### **Junglepsy *Pregnant With Success***

The New York rapper collaborates with producer Shy Guy again and has more candid raps about love and sexuality.



### **Green Velvet and Carl Craig *Unity***

Chicago and Detroit dance music veterans make hard, classic techno/house for 2015.



### **The Alabama Shakes *Sound & Color***

Lead singer Brittany Howard channeled Etta James and Aretha Franklin to take her band into soulful rock territory and made an album that could bridge the gap between Black radio and rock radio.



### **Terri Lyne Carrington *The Mosaic Project Love and Soul***

The jazz drummer expands on the first Mosaic project with another stellar lineup of all-women vocalists. A modern cover of "Come Sunday" from Natalie Cole possibly her last collaborative appearance.



### **Maysa *Back2Love***

Maysa and Chris "Big Dog" Davis made a good summer album of uptempo and laidback R&B.



### **Tuxedo *Tuxedo***

Mayer Hawthorne and Jake One re-ignite '80's R&B as if they never left the era.



### **Van Hunt *The Fun Rises, The Fun Sets***

The low-key R&B artist quietly released one of the warmest albums of the genre that maintained the tradition while moving forward at the same time.



### **D'Angelo *Black Messiah***

One of the biggest comebacks ever touting love and revolution.



### **The Internet *Ego Death***

Their third studio album and magnum opus of honest love songs inside plush rhythms led by Syd The Kyd's soft alto.



### **Tunde Olaniran *Transgressor***

*Transgressor* is a new modern day Hip Hop/Electro classic that firmly cements Tunde as the long lost brother Santigold and M.I.A never knew they had and always wished for!



### **The Game *The Documentary 2.0***

*The Documentary 2.0* is dark, brutally honest and compelling as a sequel and autobiography to NWA and Compton's first born son The Game.



### **The Game *The Documentary 2.5***

*The Documentary 2.5* is the final conclusion and sequel that is a darker, yet self-reflective urban soundscape that actually reveals the history of the Bloods and Crips feud and the Game's struggle to keep his soul intact.



### ***Ibeyi Ibeyi***

World soul from the spiritual and pan-African travels of twin sistersÂ Lisa-KaindÃ© Diaz and Naomi Diaz.



### ***Blur The Magic Whip***

A moody, melodic, vibrant and sonic Â masterpiece that interweaves through synth pop, hip-hop, and indie rock. This is a record that was worth waiting over 10 years for!



### ***Death N.E.W.Â***

*New* by Proto-punk pioneers, *Death* is a poignant, philosophical, spiritually declarative yet reflective record that questions our state of being and actions we human beings have made while reminding us that change is inevitable and positive if we so chose!



### ***The Dears Times Infinity Volume OneÂ***

*Times Infinity Volume One* by The Dears is a supremely written indie rock CD that Â opens up as a Â love letter that turns into a Dear John letter and finishes with a last will and testament.



## **A Tribe Called Quest *People's Instinctive Travels And The Paths Of Rhythm 25th Anniversary Edition***

A foundation of the Native Tongue movement with new mixes from Pharrell, J.Cole and Cee-Lo Green.



## **Illa J *À Illa J***

Illa J's self titled solo debut CD delivers as a diary of a young man who has a firm grip on his musical career but still struggles with matters of the heart, lust, and loss. Illa J takes you on a majestic, sonic Hip-Hop ride through outer space fueled with superb bass and soul production by the Potatohead People!

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# **Green Velvet & Claude Vonstroke Announce First U.S. Tour**

[youtube id="EhXp8FPeboE"] Chicago house legend Green Velvet aka Cajmere and San Francisco by way of Detroit-based producer and DJ Claude Vonstroke are going on their first official tour after making a variety of past appearances together. The tour will serve as a launching pad for their new Get Real productions that will celebrate classic house and techno. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

## Get Real Tour Dates:

Dec 26 – Exchange, Los Angeles

Dec 27 – Beta, Denver

Dec 30 – Russell Industrial Center, Detroit

Dec 31 – Reaction NYE, Chicago

Jan 2 – TBA, Brooklyn

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# Green Velvet & Carl Craig- Unity Album Stream

Legendary Chicago house producer Cajmere channels his Green Velvet persona and adds his usual bottom-bouncing beats to Carl Craig's operatic space vision together creating their *Unity* album. Craig's esteemed roots as Detroit's most important second wave techno producer play well with Green Velvet's humid dancefloor mandate. *Unity* is available for purchase via [Beatport](#).

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# Green Velvet & DJ Gant - Check U Out

[youtube id="5oE5px4KINQ"]

Green Velvet and DJ Gant pump up the BPMs for their dance track ["Check U Out."](#)