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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE  
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

## The Top CDs Of 2006

Finally! But who cares what the calendar says? Are "best of" lists just something to do around Christmas and New Year's? No, they're guides, reminding you of music you like but haven't listened to in a while and suggestions for albums you should check out. I sometimes stumble on a "best of" list from years ago and find myself pulling out an album I haven't played in ages or -- just as often -- heading to the store. I hope this list will do the same for you. First you get a list of my 50 favorite CDs of the year, then my favorite boxed sets, my favorite singles and my favorite reissues. And for being so patient, you get a quick look at my early favorites for 2007. That's followed by the same lists all over again, but with notes describing the music, what I like about them and so on. Enjoy. (And remember, if you google a band's name and MySpace, you can usually find a website with three or four songs to sample to see if any artist might appeal to you before buying.)

### THE BEST CDS OF 2006

1. **Corinne Bailey Rae**/*Corinne Bailey Rae* (tie)  
**James Hunter**/*People Gonna Talk*
2. **My Chemical Romance**/*The Black Parade*
3. **Bob Dylan**/*Modern Times*
4. **Arctic Monkeys**/*Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*
5. **Midlake**/*The Trials of Van Occupanther*
6. **Roseanne Cash**/*Black Cadillac* (tie)  
**Johnny Cash**/*American V: A Hundred Highways*
7. **Solomon Burke**/*Nashville*
8. **Cat Power**/*The Greatest*
9. **Bruce Springsteen**/*We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions -- American Land Edition*
10. **Drake Bell**/*It's Only Time*
11. **The La's**/*BBC In Session*

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