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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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Best CDs of 2007

A best CDs of the year list in February? Why not? (Calendars are so 20th century.) My end of the year is always hectic. Freelance journalists are deluged with work around the holidays because staffers want to spend time with their families. Add in time with my own family and friends, a deluge of movies (my [best movies of 2007 list is here](#)) and suddenly that pile of CDs gets shoved aside until January.

So the Grammy Awards serve as my own personal deadline for compiling a list of the Best CDs of the year. You'll find a list, followed by commentary describing the artists and what I love about their albums. Record stores may be closing left and right but anyone who says there's no excitement in music just isn't listening. Soul, pop, rock, jazz, Broadway, Americana, rap, world music, country, film scores -- there's a lot to love. Enjoy!

NOTE: For the vast majority of these acts, if you want to hear what they sound like Google their name and "MySpace" and you'll get a link to their MySpace page where typically three or four songs from their current album will be available for play.

THE BEST CDS OF 2007

1. **Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings** - *100 Days 100 Nights* (classic soul)/ **Various Artists** - *The Great Debaters Soundtrack* (juke joint music)
2. **Patty Griffin** - *Children Running Through* (career-capping Americana)
3. **Radiohead** - *In Rainbows* (the world-conquering pop they were born to make)
4. **Tinariwen** - *Aman Iman: Water Is Life* (desert rock)
5. **Robert Plant and Alison Krauss** - *Raising Sand* (adult pop)
6. **The White Stripes** - *Icky Thump* (bluesy, stomping rock n roll)

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