



ASSOCIATION OF
INDEPENDENT MUSIC

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UK Independents Dominate Top Ten Critics' Albums

UK Independents Produce "Best Albums Of The Year"

UK Independent-signed acts have produced seven out of the top ten most critically acclaimed albums of 2009 as voted for by 34 national music magazines, newspapers, listings guides and radio stations – and compiled by HMV's Poll of Polls.

New York-based psychedelic indie dance act Animal Collective claimed the top spot in the Poll with their album "Merriweather Post Pavilion", released this year on Domino to massive critical acclaim.

The other six independent albums in the top ten were:

- The XX, **The XX** (Young Turks)
- Dirty Projectors, **Bitte Orca** (Domino)
- Grizzly Bear, **Veckatimest** (Warp)
- The Horrors, **Primary Colours** (XL Recordings)
- Fever Ray, **Fever Ray** (Rabid Records)
- Wild Beasts, **Two Dancers** (Domino)

Domino achieved the most appearances in the list by an independent label, with five albums in the top 50. 4AD also appeared several times, with both Big Pink's "A Brief History of Love" and Future of the Left's "Travels With Myself and Another" listed. 20 different independent labels appear in the list in total.

Overall, albums by artists on UK independent labels accounted for half of the top 50 albums of the year in the HMV chart, reaffirming the vitality of the UK independent sector and its ever-improving ability to nurture essential new music by exciting breakthrough acts.

AIM CEO, Alison Wenham, says: "*It's fantastic to see so many independents dominating this list of 2009's greatest releases. It's a testament to the quality and diversity of the independent music sector in the UK, and the vital role independents play in discovering and nurturing new talent.*"

The results reinforce a triumphant end to 2009 and a strong start to 2010 for the UK independent sector with indie-signed acts such as Devlin (XL) and The Drums (Moshi Moshi) appearing in the prestigious BBC Sounds of 2010 list.

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About The Poll Of Polls

HMV's Poll Of Polls takes into account data from 34 individual end-of-year lists published in national music magazines, newspapers, listings guides and radio. The order of albums is based firstly on the total number of nominations an album receives as "Best Album Of The Year". Secondly, if more than one album receives the same amount of nominations, the positions achieved in each poll are added together and the album with the lowest overall total comes higher up in the Poll Of Polls.

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About AIM

AIM is a not-for-profit trade body established in 1999 to represent the UK independent music industry. Now in its 10th year, AIM acts for over 90% of the independent market, with over 800 members from small start-ups to the largest and most respected independents in the world. AIM promotes this exciting and diverse sector globally, leveraging the sector's power as a fifth major to enable its members to grow, grasp new opportunities and break into new markets.

AIM oversees an independent sector whose artists have claimed four Mercury Music Prizes in a row (2003 – 2006) and earned two thirds of all nominations between 2005 and 2008. Artists signed to UK Independents also scooped a quarter of all available prizes at the 2008 Brit Awards, with an independent-signed act grabbing "Best British Group" for the fourth year running. This confirms the sector's undoubted lead in A&R.

The independent sector regularly accounts for 30% of all UK artist album awards (silver, gold, platinum/multi-platinum). In 2009, independent albums made up half of the fifty "best albums of the year" according to the UK music press, and independents claimed seven of the top ten releases.

Artists signed to AIM member labels include: Adele, Amadou & Miriam, Animal Collective, Arctic Monkeys, Basement Jaxx, Big Pink, Bjork, Bloc Party, Bon Iver, Coldcut, Enter Shikari, Fleet Foxes, Franz Ferdinand, Friendly Fires, Future of the Left, Grizzly Bear, Jack Penate, Jarvis Cocker, Jay Sean, Jose Gonzalez, Justice, Katie Melua, Lost Prophets, M.I.A., Maximo Park, Mr. Scruff, Radiohead, Reverend And The Makers, Rodrigo Y Gabriela, Roots Manuva, Royksopp, Seasick Steve, Sufjan Stevens, Super Furry Animals, The Cribs, The Futureheads, The Horrors, The Prodigy, The Raconteurs, The Strokes, The White Stripes, Vampire Weekend, Wild Beasts, The XX and thousands of others.

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