

BANDS TO BUCK UP TO

If you're like us, you already miss the sun and are developing a wicked case of Seasonal Affective Disorder. Well, forget light therapy, throw away those vitamin D tablets, turn off that sad bastard music you're listening to and get an earful of these bands, guaranteed to cure your winter blues.

ALL GIRL SUMMER FUN BAND

SOUND: 1960s girl group/pop punk

It's all in the name – what was intended to be a group of girls playing fun songs over one summer is still going strong a decade later. This Portland-based band released their third album, *Looking Into It*, this past September. If their song “Later Operator” doesn't put a smile on your face, we're pretty sure you're dead inside.



- “LATER OPERATOR”
- “CANADIAN BOYFRIEND”

LES SEXAREENOS

SOUND: Surf rock/rhythm & blues/garage punk

This Montreal-based quartet's second (and ultimately final) album, *14 Frenzied Shakers*, was re-released earlier this year. Though they disbanded in 2002, Les Sexareenos' particular brand of full-tilt-boogie rock sounds just as fresh and alive today. Frontman Mark Sultan has since formed The King Khan and BBQ Show, while “Work with Me” Annie plies her electronic organ skills for Montreal's Sunday Sinners – but neither project can match the raw energy of Les Sexareenos.



- “EVERYBODY SEXAREENO”
- “HEY NOW, HEY NOW”

NOAH AND THE WHALE

SOUND: Folk rock/twee pop

Hailing from London, England, Noah and the Whale released their freshman album, *Peaceful, the World Lays Me Down*, in September. Though they produce their share of melancholy songs about heartbreak, with lyrics like “It will be love, love, love, all through our bodies / And love, love, love, all through our minds,” their message is an upbeat and positive one. And with their delightful homemade music videos found on YouTube, they're currently our favourite new UK export to kick back to.



- “5 YEARS TIME”
- “2 ATOMS IN A MOLECULE”

THE GO! TEAM

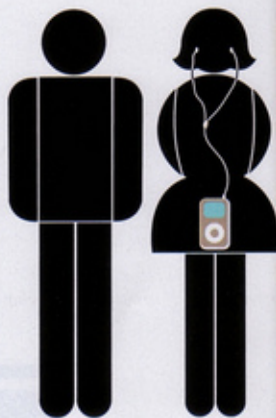
SOUND: Indie rock/electropop

This six-piece band from Brighton produces bouncy dance tunes that are part pep squad cheer, part schoolyard chant, set to the score of a 1970s blaxploitation film. In 2008, The Go! Team released their latest single, “Milk Crisis,” and contributed to the charity album *Songs for Survival* for the organization Survival International. When you hear their music for the first time, it fills a void you didn't realize you had. Start tapping your toes to the Team.



- “LADYFLASH”
- “DOING IT RIGHT”

An Open Letter to iPods



Dear iPod,

We're taking the time to write you this letter in the hopes that you will comply with this one simple request: quit crotch-blocking us!

No matter where we are, you are ready to thwart our attempts to meet new people. You, with your smudged veneer and beady little earbuds... We see a cute redhead on the bus – bam! There you are pumping Rihanna into her ears. See a hot emo guy at a café – bam! He's off in his own world, listening to Bright Eyes. And you've had the gall to invade the gym! How are we supposed to get any if you're making it impossible to start a conversation?

Oh, we know you and your little friends think you're the centre of the universe – you come out of your box all white, shiny and futuristic. You think you're hot shit, but let us tell you something, that shine won't last. No, pretty soon a big black thumbprint is going to develop on your face and it will never come off. Then your owner is going to start looking around at new iPods and decide that you're too bulky to schlep around anymore, and then you'll wish you had an ally – someone to dissuade them from replacing you. Someone to say, sure you want a new iPod, but do you really need one? We could have been allies, but we don't know your owner – we never got an opportunity to talk to her, because you were hogging her head for the whole damn train ride home!

So, enjoy shuffling through those same old tired playlists while you can, because your days are numbered.

We hate all that you represent,

Strut