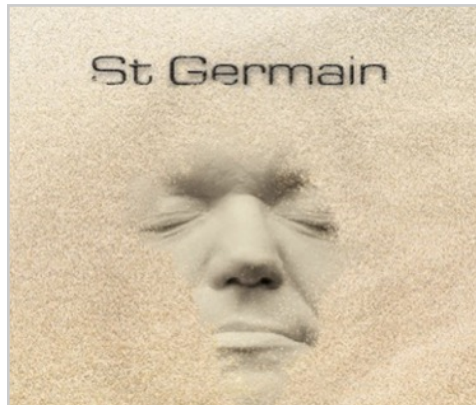


HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.

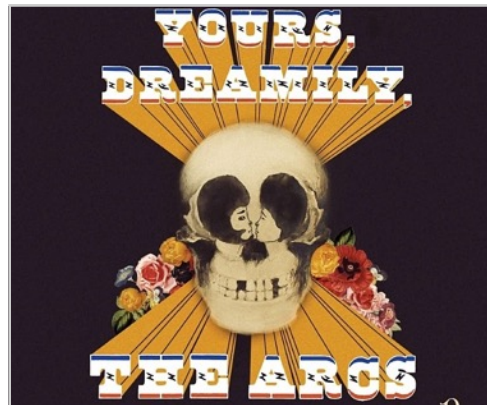


St Germain

St Germain

France

French producer Ludovic Navarre (AKA St Germain) returns after an enigmatic 15 year hiatus to once again dazzle us with his refined jazzy-house signature sound. This time around he spices it up with a variety of Malian singers and instrumentalists as well as blues voices from the past. A relaxed and thoroughly enjoyable listen.



The Arcs

Yours, Dreamily

USA

Side project of Black Keys' mastermind Dan Auerbach has had more rotation on the Highlife sound system than any other record this year. Equal parts melodic rock and rich, soulful grooves add up to one of the favourites of 2015.



Bob Dylan

1965-66 The Cutting Edge

USA

Volume 12 of Dylan's ongoing Bootleg series zeros in on the 14 month period in 1965-66 where he recorded three of his most important albums - Bringing It All Back Home, Highway 61 Revisited and Blonde On Blonde. The Cutting Edge once again showcases Dylan's diligent process of working a song, delivering a delightful array of demos, alternate takes and oddities from this exceptionally fertile period.

HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.



Alabama Shakes

Sound and Color

USA

A strong contender for album of the year. Straight out of the gate this record grabs your attention and refuses to let go. Brittany Howard's powerful voice is pure gold, wrapped up in adventurous, dynamic arrangements. A great record!

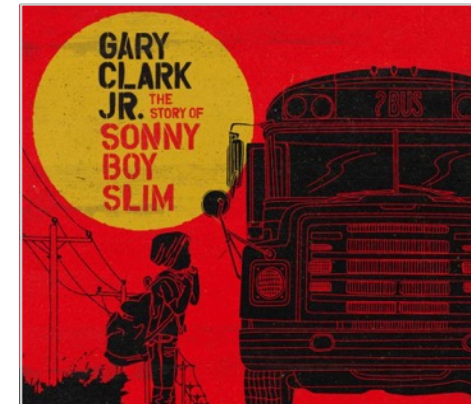


Ballake Sissoko & Vincent Segal

Musique De Nuit

Mali/France

The sophomore recording by this kora and cello duo is a magical and contemplative journey. Partly recorded on the rooftop of Ballake's home in Bamako, the album is a reminder of African music's gentler, almost classical, edge. Music of rare, subtle beauty.



Gary Clark Jr.

The Story Of Sonny Boy Slim

USA

Rising star Gary Clark Jr. adds to his impressive neo-Hendrix stylings with this ample offering of soul-filled blues and rock. An album we returned to again and again all year long.

HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.

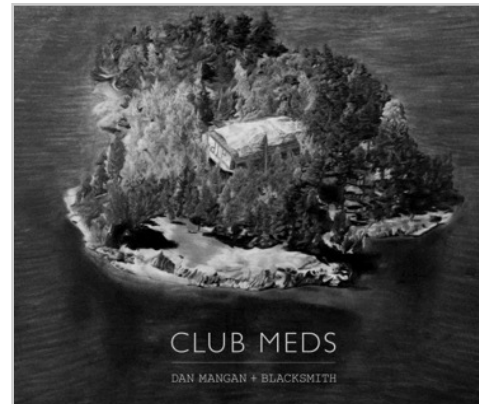


Another Fine Day

A Good Place To Be

UK

The Interchill label has been a Highlife favourite for over a decade, producing a vast array of tasty electronic sounds. Another Fine Day is UK producer Tom Green, who fashions here a world of exquisite piano melodies amidst a sea of rhythmic subtlety. Great for late night musings.



Dan Mangan & Blacksmith

Club Meds

Canada

Out of the gate way back in January, this fine recording stuck with us all year long. Mangan delivers his songs in trademark fashion, but the real shining star here is guitarist Gord Grdina whose sound burns throughout with exceptional clarity and beauty.



Buena Vista Social Club

Lost & Found

Cuba

A wonderful collection of leftovers from the original 1996 Egrem studio sessions as well as a handful of live recordings from the early 2000s. Not the cohesive perfection of the original Buena Vista album, *Lost & Found* is rather a marvelous complementary dish of classic Cuban song.

HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.



Lost In Mali

Mali

Over the years, Malian music has often dominated the sound system and year end favourites at Highlife. This speaks both to our ongoing interest in the music of Africa as well as Mali's incredible musical spirit and endurance. Lost In Mali compiles a fresh roster of current talent that has not, until now, been available outside of its borders.



Alsarah & The Nubatones

Silt

Sudan/USA

East African retro pop from US-based Sudanese singer Alsarah, 'Silt' features a fine assortment of traditional and modern sounds centred loosely around themes of migration and displacement – the Nubian tradition of 'songs of return'.



Ibeyi

Ibeyi

Cuba/France

Refreshing debut by French/Cuban twins Naomi & Lisa-Kainde Diaz (daughters of Buena Vista Social Club percussionist Miguel Diaz) is informed by equal measures of French jazz, Cuban folk and Bjork-like electronic treatments.

HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.



Leon Bridges

Coming Home

USA

The new soul revival (Lee Fields, Charles Bradley, Sharon Jones, etc.) finds a fresh charter member with the appearance of Leon Bridges, who successfully channels the spirit and tone of Sam Cook on this fascinating tribute to the pre-Motown era.

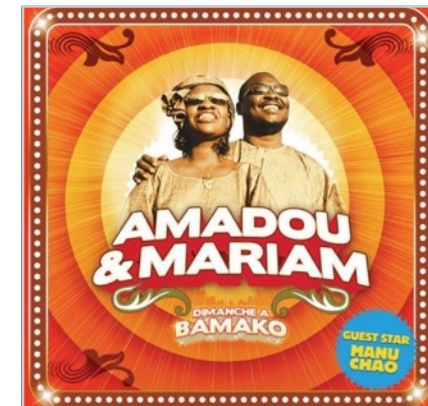


Ali Farka Toure & Ry Cooder

Talking Timbuktu (Vinyl re-issue)

Mali/USA

At long last, this absolute classic of the world music era finds its way onto vinyl for the very first time. Originally appearing in 1994 on the esteemed World Circuit label, the powerful combination of Toure's raw desert blues with Cooder's guidance and accompaniment is a match made for the ages. Sheer brilliance!



Amadou & Mariam

Dimanche a Bamako (Vinyl re-issue)

Mali

First appearing in 2005, with the mercurial Manu Chao in the producer's chair, this powerhouse of African expression remains one of Highlife's all time favourite recordings. Now available on vinyl for the first time.

HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.

HIGHLIFER'S TOP PICKS



KEVIN FINSETH

1. The Arcs – *Yours, Dreamily*
2. St. Germain – *St. Germain*
3. Alabama Shakes – *Sound & Color*
4. Bob Dylan – *1965-66 The Cutting Edge*
5. Ballake Sissoko & Vincent Segal – *Musique De Nuit*
6. Ali Farka Toure & Ry Cooder – *Talking Timbuktu*
7. Dan Mangan + Blacksmith – *Club Meds*
8. Itamar Erez & Yshai Afterman – *New Dawn*
9. Gary Clark Jr. – *The Story Of Sonny Boy Slim*
10. AlSarah & The Nubatones – *Silt*



RAUL ESPINOZA

1. Novalima – *Planetario*
2. D'Angelo – *Black Messiah*
3. Gary Clark Jr. – *The Story Of Sonny Boy Slim*
4. St. Germain – *St. Germain*
5. The Arcs – *Yours, Dreamily*
6. Buena Vista Social Club – *Lost & Found*
7. AlSarah & The Nubatones – *Silt*
8. Ali Farka Toure & Ry Cooder – *Talking Timbuktu*
9. Amadou & Mariam – *Dimanche a Bamako*
10. Genius/GZA – *Liquid Swords*



ANDY WARREN

1. St. Germain – *St. Germain*
2. Alabama Shakes – *Sound & Color*
3. Pops Staples – *Don't Lose This*
4. Jamie Woon – *Making Time*
5. Ibeyi – *Ibeyi*
6. Inna Modja – *Motel Bamako*
7. Another Fine Day – *A Good Place to Be*
8. D'Angelo – *Black Messiah*
9. Saun & Starr – *Look Closer*
10. Alex Cuba – *Healer*

HIGHLIFE RECORDS: CDS & VINYL

Excellent cross-border travel, without the bag searches.

HIGHLIFER'S TOP PICKS



BILL HOOD

1. Dead Combo – *A Bunch Of Meninos*
2. James McMurtry – *Complicated Game*
3. Bob Dylan – *1965-66 The Cutting Edge*
4. Kamasi Washington – *The Epic*
5. The Staple Singers – *Freedom Highway Complete*
6. Los Lobos – *Gates Of Gold*
7. Dollar Brand/Jazz Epistles – *Plays Sphere Jazz + Verse 1*
8. Lynne Hansen – *River Of Sand*
9. Son Little – *Son Little*
10. Anouar Brahem – *Souvenance*