

THE PANEL

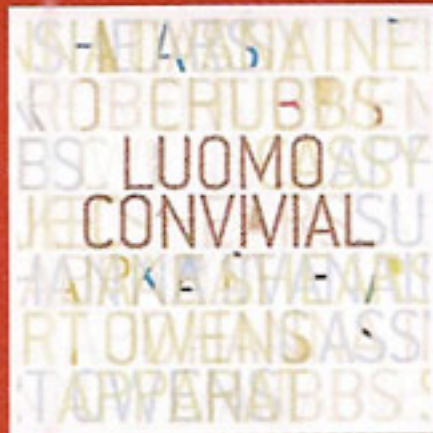
Each week we bring together a selection of tips from specialist media tastemakers



BRAD BARRETT
(*ARTROCKER/STOOL PIGEON*)

Computerclub: Before The Walls Came Down (Split)

The music shimmers and peals. Having moved on in leaps and bounds, Birmingham's Computerclub, have stripped their city of its resonant musical history and installed a strident, melodic beast in its place. This single injects a New Order-like thrill to proceedings.



ALEX MCPHERSON (*PLAN B, ATTITUDE, THE GUARDIAN*)

Luomo: Convivial (Huume)

The Finnish microhouse pioneer makes impossibly pretty pop-house. His combination of glacial electronics and emotional vocals is bewitching. This album takes this to a new level, with contributions from high-calibre singers such as Jake Shears and Robert Owens.



ROBIN MILLAR (*PRODUCER/MPG FOUNDER*)

Peace & The Presidents: It's Only Money (Jailbird)

For me this is the song of the year and the artist for 2009. In this great and timely release Peace reminds us of two things. First, there are a lot of people worse off than we will ever will be. Second, that you can make a message song and still make great cutting-edge pop



THOMAS H GREEN (*Q/THE DAILY TELEGRAPH*)

Greg McDonald Stranger At The Door (Sugartown)

If you thought somebody who can't be bothered to come up with a better stage name than this wasn't worth a listen, you'd be wrong. McDonald movingly sings his oddball tales tinged with sadness; comedy and tragedy collide deliciously, and the closing *Taxi* is a haunted epic.