

Head Like a Kite

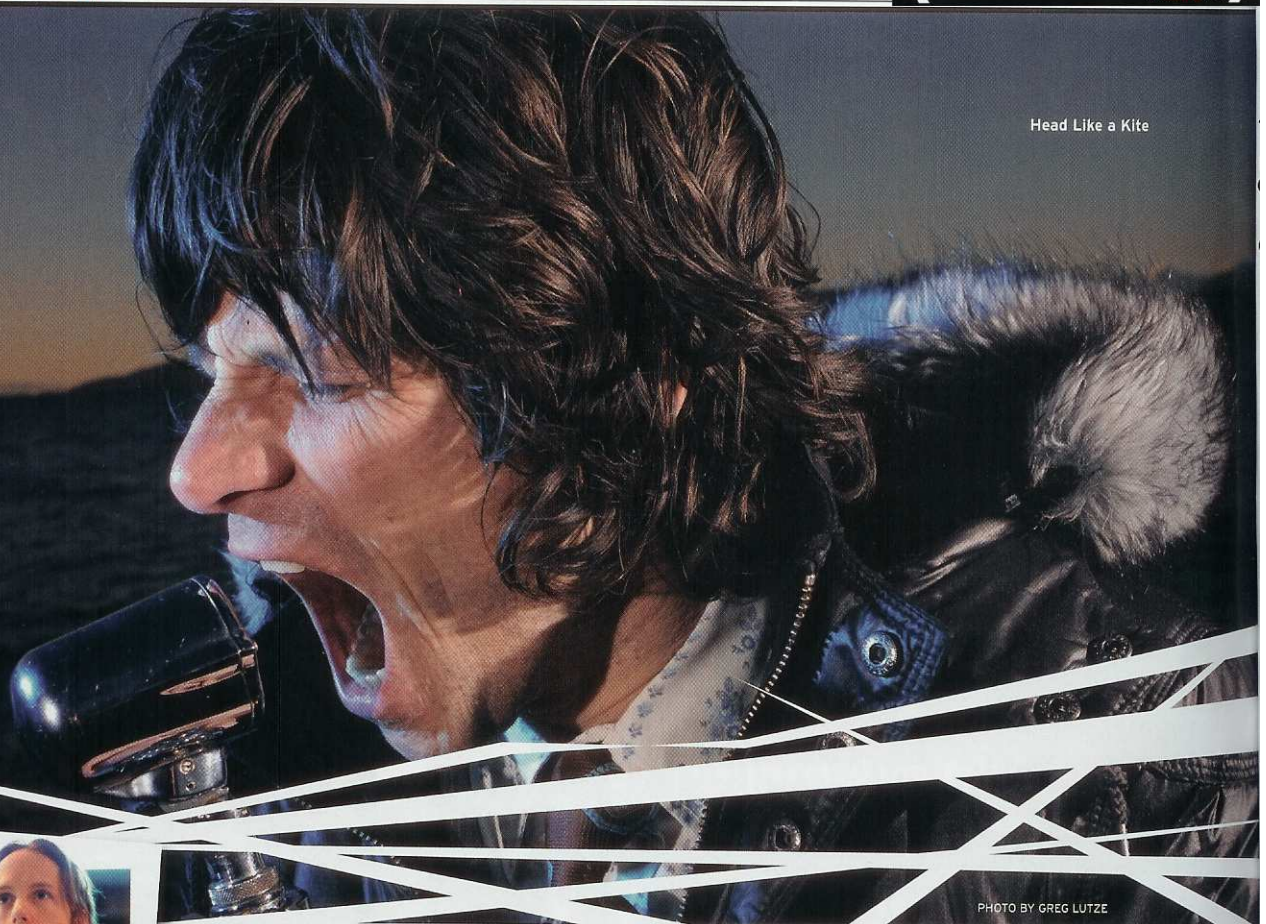


PHOTO BY GREG LUTZE



Singles 2008

KEXP DJ John Richards recounts the five best tracks coming out of Jet City this year.

I feel like every year I'm saying this was a strong year in Seattle music. But when that's the case, that's the case. This wasn't just another stellar year of music but another one filled with a great mix of genres from hip-hop to rock to country. Seattle lays claim to the year's biggest break out band Fleet Foxes and continued to produce strong efforts from established acts like Death Cab for Cutie and Damien Jurado. The songs that filled the air time on "The Morning Show" have been a reminder of how lucky we are to live in a city that's built on the voices of our local musicians! Here are my top five tracks out of Seattle this year. Although I could list hundreds.

MOONDOGGIES, "Changing" from *Don't Be a Stranger* (Hardly Art). The song of the year. This young Seattle band's debut grew and grew on me after its release this summer and now should be on the local records of the year list as well. The song "Changing" is a '70s-influenced rootsy rocker that is a great example of the changing sound of the Seattle music scene.

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE "I Will Possess Your Heart" from *Narrow Stairs* (Atlantic). That's right: Death Cab delivered an eight minute epic single to show the world what they are up to. This album was a bit darker and a bit more deep than previous efforts and this song that starts with about four minutes of instrumentation not only blew their fans away but also was a clear indicator of what radio stations had balls (i.e., skip the four minutes, you have no balls).

FLEET FOXES "He Doesn't Know Why" from *Fleet Foxes* (Sub Pop) Any of the songs from this album are a contender. The band's first official full-length channeled the same influences as Moondoggies but this is easily the best album to come out of Seattle in 2008 and the latest to represent our city to many a sold out show around the country.

HEAD LIKE A KITE "No Ordinary Caveman" from *There is Loud Laughter Everywhere* (Mush) One of the best live acts as well, Head Like a Kite created a song, "No Ordinary Caveman," that is a fine example of this rock/electronic/don't-give-a-damn-about-genre project's sound.

DAMIEN JURADO "Go First" from *Caught in the Trees* (Secretly Canadian) This emotional song (and the full release) from Jurado showed why he has been, and continues to be simply brilliant and one of Seattle's greatest treasures in the music world. If you're like myself and many others in 2008 and been through some tough shit, this is the song for you.

JOHN RICHARDS CAN BE HEARD ON "THE MORNING SHOW,"
WEEKDAYS FROM 6 TO 10AM ON KEXP (90.3 FM, KEXP.ORG)