



WMSE Picks of 2015

Posted December 23, 2015 by [Erin Wolf](#) & filed under [Top Airplay](#).

Mary Bartlein

Saturdays 6pm – 9pm / *Instrumental Saturdays*

Ken Elkinson, [Music for Commuting Vol. 7 \[12"\]](#), August Son Productions

The 3 cd box set follow up to Music for Commuting Vol. 1-6. Both of which are masterpieces of short variable tempo'd ambient tracks. Beginning his career as an acoustic pianist, Ken started his foray into electronic music a few years ago and is now one of the most prolific artists out there. I doubt the guy ever sleeps. You'll see what I mean if you take a look at his website.

Tom Caufield, [Rust of the New Babylon](#) [EP], Bohemian Embassy

This is a brilliant 22 minute long single that Tom released earlier this year. I think I have listened to this song more than I have some of my favorite Peter Gabriel songs and that is saying a lot! Tom uses looping to create a lush and hypnotic piece of music. There is magic in this slow burn track and I just adore it. Seriously it's crack for the ears! It is so good, you will feel bad that you only spent 99 cents to get it from iTunes.

Tiger Forest, [The Tides of Day and Night](#), AMAdea Records

The Tides of Day and Night is the 5th studio release from German born Gunnar Spardel aka Tigerforest. With great respect to Tangerine Dream and all the pioneers of electronic music, Gunnar is a force to be reckoned with. An insightful perfectionist in the studio, Gunnar composes and produces some of the deepest and richest electronic music of our generation. His music is so deep you could swim in it! Gunnar is also keen to find and bring in other artists that complement his music like David Helping and Eskadet, and vocalist like Amethyste and Jennifer Hershman. A true master, Gunnar stands with the best of them, I absolutely, hands down love Tigerforest. Spoiler alert: New music coming in 2016! Yay!

Mike Howe, [Lichens](#), Mike Howe Music

I have been a Mike Howe fan for a long time. Guitarist and composer, Mike has four previous releases on Real Music Records. However, Lichens is his first independent release and it is beautifully done from the cover art to the last notes. Independence (however scary that can be for any artist) suits Mike well and I look forward to more fine CDs like this one.

Jeff Oster, [Next](#), Retso Records

What can I say.....Jeff Oster is a musician's musician, all around great guy and master of the flugelhorn and trumpet. He can make them sing! Jeff could walk on stage with any band (and he often does) and fit in like the songs were written for him. Next is by far Jeff's finest album and my favorite, surpassing my first favorite album of his, the 2007 release True. Next has everything you need for some awesome listening, including Carl Weingarten! While you are there check out the music by Jeff collaboration group – Blue Eternity

Runners up:

Terra Guitarra – Firelight on Earthsign Records

Sensitive Chaos – March of the Timeshifters on Subsequent Records

AeTopus – When on 12Ton Productions

Peter Calandra – First Light on PCM Records

Dean McPhee – Fatima's Hand on Hood Faire Records

Ludovico Einaudi – Elements on Ponderosa Records