FOETUS

LOVE

Jim Thirlwell and Michael Gira have evolved along similar paths over the years. Both were early proponents of explosively harsh noise rock and both have mellowed considerably in the latter stages of their careers. Thirlwell’s Foetus recordings have run the gamut of industrial experimentation, so it’s only natural to detect a certain softening in his recent outings. Love, Thirlwell’s first full-length since 2001’s Flow, is a relatively straightforward affair (for Foetus, at any rate), finding the auteur in a darkly cinematic frame of mind. Moments of swirling melodicism are followed (and sometimes swallowed) by waves of dissonance and crashing orchestration, like a Vulcan mind meld of Moby and the Residents. Like much of the Foetus gone before, Love is disturbing and satisfying in all the right ways. —Brian Baker

TheBirdmanGroup.com

SLEATER-KINNEY

SPOON / THE RAVEONETTES

KAISER CHIEFS / KASABIAN

BRITISH SEA POWER / ANNIE

AUTECHE / FOUR TET / DUKE SPIRIT