

Guitar Red

My favorite albums of 2008

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Two Cow Garage *Speaking in Cursive*

A lot of good albums were released this year and I had the pleasure of listening to a good number of them. Of course, I couldn't possibly include all the great albums I heard over the course of 2008. So, I have pared my list down to a manageable number. Without further ado, here are my five favorite albums of 2008.

1. Two Cow Garage *Speaking in Cursive* - This band from Columbus, Ohio, just keeps getting better. Micah Schnabel and Shane Sweeney write honest songs about relationships, life on the road, friends, etc. Every song on the album is good, with my favorite being "Bastards and Bridesmaids." It's the sort of song that when you play it in your car, you want to open the windows, and pump your fist as you sing along. I like this album a little more every time I listen to it.
2. Emmylou Harris *All I Intended to Be* - Emmylou Harris is one of the best artists out there, and she did not disappoint with her latest release. With a combination of originals and covers like "Kern River" and "Old Five and Dimers," she shows once again why she is one of the best in the business.
3. Guitar Red *Lightnin' in a Bottle* - Guitar Red is known as a street musician in his hometown of Decatur, Georgia. His debut album is classic blues. It sounds like the sort of stuff that you would hear coming from someone's front porch. The man picks a mean guitar and can sing the blues because he's lived the blues.
4. Hipbone Slim and the Knee Tremblers *The Sheik Said Shake* - This is not only one of the best albums I heard this year, but also one of the most interesting. This band is a little bit rockabilly, a little bit blues, and a whole lot garage. One thing is certain. You'll want to take the sheik's advice and shake when you listen to this one.
5. Dropkick Murphys *The Meanest of Times* - Sometimes, you can tell how much you like an album by how much you loan it out to people. This album spent a

considerable amount of time in the hands of my friends. Dropkick Murphys combines fist-pumping, boot-stomping rock and roll with intense lyrics about the Department of Social Services, losing friends, and getting in trouble as a kid. Spider Stacy (The Pogues) and Ronnie Drew (Dubliners) appear as guest vocalists on this album.