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Thursday, 01/03/08

## The best of last year's noise

Nashville music-makers tell us what caught their ear in 2007.

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By Dave Paulson, Nicole Keiper and Mark Mays

Whether they were playing concert halls or packing house parties, Nashville's non-country musicians kept busy in 2007. In between the major-label debuts and CD-burner EPs, many of them found time to listen to their share of new music — be it from the world's biggest band or their next-door neighbor. We asked some of our favorite local folks to tell us what they loved (and hated) over the past year:

**FAVORITE NASHVILLE MUSICAL RELEASE OF 2007?**

Alison Krauss and Robert Plant — *Raising Sand*. It is impeccably produced/recorded and those voices sound so spookily good together. I know it's on Rounder, but I think it's local because Alison lives around the corner from me. —**BILL ELDER (THE DYNAMITES)**

Cortney Tidwell — *Don't Let Stars Keep Us Tangled Up*. It has a beautiful atmosphere, and despite many nice little details in the production, it sets itself apart from the live show with the band. I also loved the new albums by The Nobility and The Clutters. —**SAM SMITH (BEN FOLDS)**

The New Whole Usuals (Andrew Dolfie's) full-length album *Martin Moeh*. Every song is its own person. None of the titles make sense grammatically, I can't put my finger on the influences, any kind of instrument you can think of is on it and it's great. —**BROOKE WAGGONER**

January

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