

## records


**Dark Room Notes** \* \* \* \* \*

**We Love You Dark Matter**

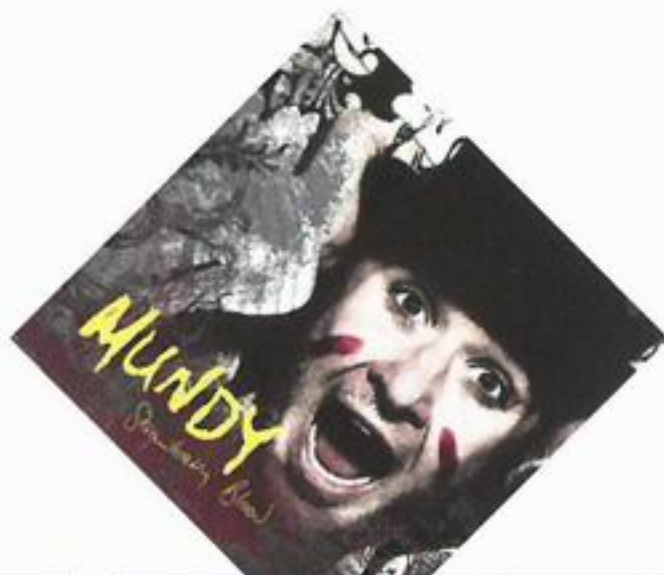
Label: Goldpillin' Records

On release: Now

Dublin-based quartet Dark Rooms Notes published their long awaited electro/synthpop debut album in April this year. 'We Love Your Dark Matter' is an ear candy straight from the first tune. Opener 'Each and Everyone of Us' combines brilliant hooks, glossy electronic beats, superb lyrics, thumping drums, and rocking guitars – just like every song. Recorded in London, DRN created an album full of energy and richness of ideas. You can certainly hear their love of 80's electro pop songs by bands such as New Order, Kraftwerk or Pet Shop Boys. However DRN's songs have a distinctive sound thanks to Ronan's enthusiastic and unique singing, clearly audible in 'Shake Shake My Ceiling'. An amazingly great new version of 'Love Like Nicotine, their debut single and second track on the record, proves their inexhaustible creativity. 'Broken Nail' has a grungy and deep electronic touch, 'ELM' is a jingling electronic pop song and Treetops' is a worthy closing with mystical piercing synth noises. 'We Love Your Dark Matter' sparkles with a detailed sound perfection and you just come back for more; press repeat, put on your dancing shoes and you will certainly enjoy the multi-layered and flawless songs by Dark Room Notes.

[www.myspace.com/darkroomsnotesireland](http://www.myspace.com/darkroomsnotesireland)

-sandra-


**Mundy** \* \* \* \* \*

**Strawberry Blood**

Label: Camcor

On release: April 17th 2009

Mundy a nice guy with a jolly m.o.r record, He's a happy chap who wants to share his joie de vivre with the rest of us. The first track is 'Waitin' for the Night to Come,' I was just waiting for it to end. Things take a turn for the better with 'Tenerife (Cruisin' Paradise), I think it's the definition of the snare drum, or maybe it's because the first song is over. He's feelin' safe / Cruisin' Paradise. Indeed, movin' along. 'It's all Yours' was inspired by a gym wall poster, 'If you can dream it you can achieve it / You've got to sow it before you can reap it / Your dreams are all yours... I'm jumping lines here but you get my drift, plenty of motivational platitudes (God Loves a Trier ?) set against an innocuous surf pop drift. Am I allowing indie pretensions run riot here? Wait, I don't have indie pretensions, I just care whether a song is good or bad. Strawberry Blood, after a five-year hiatus, carries 14 tracks, maybe Mundy and producer Joe Chester would have done better to limit the playlist and make them count. Prolific is not always preferable. In saying that I am sure there are legions that will love this record, and why wouldn't they? Mundy makes middle of the road pop, happily.

[www.mundy.ie](http://www.mundy.ie)


**Nick Carswell & The Elective Orchestra**
**Strawberry Blood**

Label: When I'm Not Around

Silly Goose Records

Out now [www.download.ie](http://www.download.ie)

5/5

A long time coming, but the first taste of Nick Carswell & The Elective Orchestra's forthcoming debut album, in the form of the single 'When I'm Not Around' is a luscious starter for the main meal, due later this year. A simple guitar opening is buoyed by a cello lift with the violin adding depth, here comes the break and we are away, Nick hasn't even started singing yet. Oh here he is, "Why's it gotta be like this / Misbehaviour gonna' feel my fist / you're gonna feel my fist again – cue plucking strings - / All you got ain't gonna be enough / Coz I ain't ever gonna be this rough again / Coz you know and I swear / I won't let you down / I'll cry and I'll bite / I'll remember and I will write it down. This is silver-tongued fighting song from one of the nicest talents in Irish music but it suits, the lyrics lead the way with the strings, percussion, bass and guitar embellishing the narrative. But the breaks, the string led breaks, on this 4 minute 11 second single are where the joy resides, the vocal rise and fall invigorated by percussion with strings plucking us on to the finish. Bloody hell, Nick & Co, give us a record, soon.

[www.myspace.com/nickcarswell](http://www.myspace.com/nickcarswell)

**Other Recommendations**
**The Rip Tide Movement**

Debut release from Dublin Blues/Rock foursome entitled 'What about the Tip Jars?' is a raucous guitar driven, beat laden affair, powered by big vocals. Catch them live Upstairs in Dolan's on Friday May 08

More album reviews online at [www.eightball.ie/magazine](http://www.eightball.ie/magazine)