



Various Artists: *Sur La Mer Samp-le-mer* (5 Rue Christine)

“Can’t you see that the band is here?” asks 5RC label henchman Slim Moon after a series of bleak questions. His contribution to the *Sur La Mer Samp-le-mer* appears third, but could serve as the introduction. “Can’t you see?” Perhaps not, if you are part of the majority. 5RC prides itself on unique offerings, or as they put it: “5RC is about having the confidence to know that this music is better, even if a million Coldplay fans would disagree with you.”

If there is a consistent thread to the songs presented here, it is the refusal of each artist to fit neatly into a particular genre. It’s arguable whether one can create a truly new version of rock music, but one *can* eternally offer up their *own* unique vision, a mix and match of all that came before them. Whether it’s The Advantage mining old video game soundtracks for cover material, Amps for Christ’s banjo-bluegrass-space-rock, the complex cute skronk of Deerhoof, the riveting drum virtuosity of Hella’s Zach Hill on the album’s best track, or the goofy prog of the (sadly) defunct The Planet The, 5RC inhabits this notion.

A few moments of dull overindulgence distance this sampler from perfection (the half-assed piss-take by The Punks being the glaring example), but overall it paints a portrait of a label well worth exploring. For those already inducted, 5RC has kindly included ten exclusive tracks. (www.5rc.com)

7 Blips out of 10

By J. Pace

9/2006