

Adrian's December 2006 mixtape

1. **Detachment Kit Ricochet** This band is named after a throw-away line from *Groundhog Day*. Anyway, I like this song a lot. I think this is the only song I've played twice in a row on my radio. I like the echoey guitar and the plaintive vocals.
2. **Band of Horses** *The Funeral* Band of Horses is a new band from the ashes of the solid Seattle band Carissa's Weird. This is off of their debut album. It's not always easy to do a slow song right.
3. **Great Lake Swimmers** *Moving Pictures Silent Films* This is from the debut album by this awesomely named Canadian band. That album was recorded in an old silo, so it has this great reverb (and some crickets) throughout. It goes well with his voice and soft guitar.
4. **Jason Anderson** *O Jac* Jason Anderson formerly went by Wolf Colonel. He's in the sort of Bright Eyes camp of songwriters. He writes nice songs, sings them honestly and records them flawed.
5. **Neil Halstead** *Martha's Mantra (For the Pain)* A soft, lo-fi-ish song about a religious girl that's a sadist. Interesting song, but I really like the melody and the singing. Halstead's the frontman of the Mojave 3. (A "plaster" in British speak is a band aid.)
6. **Mates of State** *Along for the Ride* Possibly my favorite song from this husband-and-wife duo. It's just great all around. I like pretty much all aspects of it. I like the guitar solo particularly.
7. (8, 9) **Girl Talk** *Hold Up, Too Deep, Smash Your Head* A trio of songs from this Pittsburgh-based sample artist. I really needed to include three songs in a row from his album *Night Ripper* for you to get the feel of the flow he has. I love a number of moments among the many, but doesn't love the Elton John under Biggie Smalls?
10. **Diana Ross** *Little Bright Star* This starts the Christmas music portion of the mix tape. I like Christmas music. Well I like *good* Christmas music. This song is wholly Motown and also Christmas music. It's a great song first and a Christmas song second, I feel.
11. **Smokey Robinson and the Miracles** *It's Christmas Time* Smokey Robinson's voice really sells this one. It's so supple. I also like the simple piano chords.
12. **Darlene Love** *Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)* This is a song from *A Christmas Gift for You from Phil Spector*. Spector didn't like albums but this was going to be his first real album and his greatest success. America, though, fresh from JFK assassination didn't buy the album for Christmas of 1963. It still has some great stuff on it, including this song written for the album (and which has since been covered a number of times).
13. **Stevie Wonder** *One Little Christmas Tree* Another great melody on another Motown Christmas song.
14. **Sufjan Stevens** *Sister Winter* Sufjan recently *Songs for Christmas* a 5 EP box set of Christmas songs. This is possibly my favorite. I can't even describe it, I like it so much.
15. **Pedro the Lion** *First Noel* Pedro the Lion's David Bazan has been recording and releasing Christmas 7"s for a few years now. This is a song from the 2003 7"

(which I dubbed over myself, hence the crackles and noise). It's a pretty simple song but Bazan's voice sounds really good on it and, I might be mistaken, but I think there are some lyrics in there that aren't in the original.

16. **Low** *Just Like Christmas* Uncharacteristically fast and upbeat for this normally slowcore band, but I like it anyway. From their great *Christmas* EP, one of the great indie rock Christmas records.
17. **Jens Lekman** *Run Away with Me* Not everyone likes Christmas. Jens writes an upbeat song about running away from one's family for Christmas. Off of his USA October 2005 tour EP.
18. **Snow Patrol** *When I Get Home for Christmas* Just a nice indie rock Christmas song.
19. **Pedro the Lion** *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* Another one off of the Christmas 7"s from Pedro (again dubbed to mp3 by me). This is a sort of haunting song in general and Bazan's voice definitely helps that feel. Listen for some extra lyrics in this one too.