

Holiday Gifts of Music
By Danielle Kuehnel

Mom—Toploader, *Onka's Big Moka* (2001). This Brit album is poppy but not too poppy, rockish but not too rockish, feel-good happy and oh so reminiscent of '60s hippy-dom with a modern twist. *Onka's Big Moka* is an excellent collection to help Mom relax on the way home from work.

Dad—Bruce Springsteen, *Born to Run: 30th Anniversary 3-Disc Set* (2005). Let Dad indulge with this collection of his favorite Springsteen hits. He'll be entertained two ways with this set: In addition to the three audio CDs, the set includes a DVD that features a documentary and a full-length 1975 concert.

Roommate—Franz Ferdinand, *You Could Have It So Much Better* (2005). Get your roomie something you want to rock out with, too. Scottish-bred Franz Ferdinand's sophomore album is 40 minutes of pure dance-along, sing-along, rock-along fun!

Grandparent—Michael Bublé, *It's Time* (2005). Take Grandsie down memory lane with this new album that's chock full of old, big-band favorites. If you're lucky, she'll even teach you a swing move...or two.

Significant Other—The Decemberists, *Picaresque* (2005). Show your honey your Oregon pride with this album by Portland artists. It's good for your boyfriend *or* your girlfriend, with some upbeat and politically charged songs, juxtaposed with lovey-dovey (but not too mushy) ballads sung by man's man and woman's man Colin Meloy.

Older sibling—Wolf Parade, *Apologies to the Queen Mary* (2005). Show your older, Modest Mouse loving sibling that you pay attention to their musical tastes. Isaac Brock's Canadian (but Portland recorded) side-project sounds suspiciously similar to his popular band, but who said it wasn't still *awesome*?

Younger sibling—The Thermals, *Fuckin A* (2004). If your kid sibling is one to shut everyone out with his or her loud grunge-rock music, The Thermals' sophomore album is an excellent choice. These Portlanders sound like they're straight from the garage, but so much better!

Best Friend—The New Pornographers, *Twin Cinema* (2005). This album will definitely make any listener quite happy with its energetic, playful and get-up-and-dance music, making it the perfect find for your perfect friend. The New Pornographers can't help but make you smile.

Co-Worker—Bloc Party, *Silent Alarm* (2005). Inspired by the Cure and Sonic Youth, Bloc Party's *Silent Alarm* makes an excellent addition to anyone's CD collection, especially that colleague's who desperately needs more art-punk Brit-rock on his or her iTunes.

Cousin—The Dandy Warhols, *Odditorium or Warlords of Mars* (2005). Show your out-of-town cousin what Oregon pop is all about. Portland's The Dandy Warhols' seventh (yeah, *seventh*) drug-induced album continues in their cynical, quirky, energetic quest to take over the world, one hipster at a time.

Acquaintance—Ben Folds, *Songs for Silverman* (2005). If you're not sure what sort of music to get that great person you just met, opt for Ben Folds, whose beautiful piano-infused songs combined with insightful lyrics make for a surefire hit for both guys *and* gals.