

uncompromising as it twists its way inside.

**Tool:** A dark, jarring descent into music as shock therapy, Tool's **Aenima** (1996) walks a perfect line between intense crunch and brooding calm. Essential alt-metal. Fans of Tool should also check out vocalist Maynard James Keenan's work with **A Perfect Circle** on their debut album, **Mer de Noms** (2000).

**Rage Against the Machine:** Revolution reigns on **Evil Empire** (1996) and **The Battle of Los Angeles** (1999), two sonic roars of innovative rap-rock with a snarling political call-to-arms laid on top.

**Ministry: Ministry (Psalm 69)** (1992)

**Stabbing Westward: Darkest Days** (1998)

### Random Realities

**The Breeders:** Kim Deal added twin sister Kelley on guitar for The Breeders' second album, **Last Splash** (1993), and pulled off the surprise smash of '93. Although the band never recorded another album together, **Last Splash** was a blast while it lasted.

**Beck:** The master of the musical quick-change transitioned from the multi-styled **Odelay** (1996) into the subtle **Mutations** (1998) and the club-hopping **Midnite Vultures** (1999) without missing a beat.

**Moby:** One of the most inspired live performers going, Moby has experimented on record with everything from rave anthems to hardcore punk. Moby's latest release, **Play** (1999), deservedly puts him atop the alternative world, as he ingeniously mixes old-time blues and gospel vocals into trance, dance and acoustic backings. Newer fans can check out the collection **Moby to the Max: The Best of Moby 1993-1998** (2000).

**Red Hot Chili Peppers:** In 1999, with guitarist John Frusciante back in the fold, the Red Hot Chili Peppers released **Californication**, a brilliant blend of funkified grooves, soaring riffs and hard-earned reflection. My pick for the best album of 1999-2000.

**Faith No More: to Angel Dust** (1992)

**The Crystal Method: Vegas** (1997)

**Fiona Apple: When the Pawn...** (1999)

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