

Paul Weller – Sonik Kicks (2012)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Green* 3:03 2 *The Attic* 2:15 3 *Kling I Klang* 3:14 4 *Sleep Of The Serene* 2:01 5 *By The Waters* 3:29 [play](#) 6 *That Dangerous Age* 2:30 7 *Study In Blue* 6:38 8 *Dragonfly* 3:41 [play](#) 9 *When Your Garden's Overgrown* 3:11 10 *Around The Lake* 2:12 11 *Twilight* 0:20 12 *Drifters* 3:07 13 *Paperchase* 5:02 14 *Be Happy Children* 2:46 15 *Starlite* 3:42 16 *Devotion* 4:02

Acoustic Guitar – Aziz Ibrahim Backing Vocals – Hannah Weller, Leah Weller, Mac Weller Bass – Marco Nelson, Roger Nowell Bass, Celesta, Vibraphone [Vibes], Glockenspiel – Andy Lewis Drums – Ben Gordelier, David Nock Drums, Backing Vocals – Steve Pilgrim Drums, Percussion – Charles Rees Electric Guitar – Graham Coxon Electric Guitar, Bass, Acoustic Guitar – Noel Gallagher Electric Guitar, Bass, Backing Vocals, Celesta, Vibraphone [Vibes], Glockenspiel – Andy Crofts Electric Guitar, Bass, Drums, Piano, Mellotron, Synthesizer [Moog], Percussion, Acoustic Guitar, Lead Vocals, Backing Vocals – P. W. Electric Guitar, Drums, Acoustic Guitar, Backing Vocals – Steve Cradock Electric Guitar, Loops, Effects, Strings [Electronic] – Simon Dine

Coinciding with musical and personal upheaval – and a new partner who finally got Paul Weller (pictured, right) into David Bowie – *Sonik Kicks* is the third in a triumvirate of experimental albums that seems to be the Woking mod's answer to the Thin White Duke's Berlin trilogy. Like 2008's *22 Dreams* and 2010's *Wake Up the Nation*, Weller's 11th solo effort rampages from station to station: motorik Krautrock bleeds into to wah-wah freakouts to strings-drenched soul to pastoral psychedelia and even heavy dub, sometimes simultaneously. It's a dizzying but never baffling musical odyssey, anchored at crucial moments by more conventional songs – the imaginary Bowie-Blur collaboration *That Dangerous Age* or *By the Waters*, a soul ballad reminiscent of the Style Council and his early solo work. With the likes of the lovely *Be Happy Children* rooted in domestic bliss, fans of the more politicised Weller may miss the state-of-the-nation grumbling that inspired the *Jam* and *Wake Up the Nation*. However, you have to marvel that a 53-year-old man can still make music so brimming with adventure. --- Dave Simpson, guardian.co.uk

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