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**Sub Pop Shakes 2007's  
Buzziest Band, Signs 2010's**

When Band of Horses co-founder Mat Brooke announced Archives, his post-BOH project in 2007, he sent the Interwebs and Seattle music watchers into a tizzy. The band's four-song demo immediately picked up airplay on KEXP, positive notes in the local press, and a spot on tour with Modest Mouse. Eager to catch Band of Horses Vol. II, more people showed up to the band's first show—an opening set at Neumos—than stayed for Sera Cahoone and Tiny Vipers. Two weeks later they had a deal with Sub Pop, the label that launched Band of Horses.

But after two records did not launch the band to national prominence, as many in town expected—2008's self-titled debut and 2009's *Keep in Mind Frankenstein*, which sold 9,000 and 3,000 copies, respectively, according to SoundScan—the soft-spoken indie rockers are free agents. With the band's contract with the label up, a Sub Pop spokesperson says that “while we remain great fans of the band and those dudes, we're not releasing the next Grand Archives record.”

While the label has closed the book on one buzz band, they've picked up another. This week the label announced the details of a deal with the most talked-about new Seattle band of 2010, The Head and the Heart, a smooth indie band that mixes Americana imagery with adult-contemporary hooks. It's the most high-profile signing among Seattle's expanding herd of popular, easy-listening indie bands such as Hey Marseilles and Grand Hallway.

Even without the aid of one of the nation's most respected independent labels, The Head and the Heart sold 8,000 copies of their self-titled debut, has shared bills with Dave Matthews and Vampire Weekend, and sold out local venues, including Friday's set at Neumos.

Sub Pop will issue a remastered version of the band's self-titled debut, including the addition of live favorite “Rivers and Roads” on Record Store Day,

April 16. Grand Archives, meanwhile, are still in the market for a label to release their forthcoming record, tentatively called *Villains*.

“We're writing songs and recording steadily, though,” Grand Archives drummer Curtis Hall said in an e-mail, “so there's a good chance it could be available as early as this summer.” CHRIS KORNELIS