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MUSIC WE LIKE[©]

SUMMER 2022



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MONTY JONES

Founder & CEO



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TAUBE FAMILY MUSIC HALL



SAT 4/9 SEPULTURA - QUADRA TOUR
SACRED REICH, CROWBAR, ART OF SHOCK

BEHEMOTH / ARCH ENEMY FRI 5/13
NAPALM DEATH, UNTO OTHERS

TUE 4/12 CAVETOWN **SOLD OUT!**
TESSA VIOLET, ADDISON GRACE

DYING FETUS TUE 5/17
CHELSEA GRIN, BODYSNATCHER, FROZEN SOUL, UNDEATH

SAT 4/16 THE CHATS
MEAN JEANS, THICK

DESTROYER SAT 5/21
ROSALI

TUE 4/19 BLACK MIDI
INJURY RESERVE

FANTASTIC NEGRITO FRI 6/10

SAT 4/23 DRAGONFORCE
FIREWIND, VISIONS OF ATLANTIS, SEVEN SPIRES

NEW FOUND GLORY MON 8/1
20 YEARS OF STICKS AND STONES
FOUR YEAR STRONG, BE WELL

FRI 4/29 AMORPHIS
UADA, SYLVAINÉ, HOAXED

CARPENTER BRUT SAT 8/20

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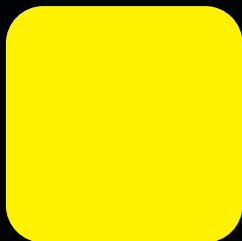
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Our award-winning series
featuring artists and tastemakers
sharing what they found
shopping at Amoeba.



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LUCY DACUS



SWAMP DOGG



FINNEAS



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MOVIES WE LIKE!



POKÉMON THE SERIES: BLACK & WHITE RIVAL DESTINIES COMPLETE SEASON

New foes, new friends, and dozens of never-before-seen Pokémon await Ash and Pikachu in this new season of the Pokémon animated series.

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TV shows, plus posters
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CLEANIN' UP THE TOWN: REMEMBERING GHOSTBUSTERS

Definitive retrospective documentary: 46 insightful and entertaining cast and crew interviews plus never before seen archive material.



DINOSAUR WORLD

The best players from around the world gather to participate in a new VR experience. The unexpected comes with every move they make in this made-up world infested with dinosaurs.



BLACKLIGHT

A government operative coming to terms with his shadowy past, Travis Block discovers a plot and finds himself in the crosshairs of the FBI director he once helped protect.



THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY

Christopher Nolan's award-winning "The Dark Knight Trilogy" includes BATMAN BEGINS, THE DARK KNIGHT and THE DARK KNIGHT RISES.

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OUR MOVIE SECTIONS AT ALL 3 STORES!**

Find a huge selection of hard-to-find titles plus movie tees, posters, books & more!



MOVIES WE LIKE!



BELFAST
Written and directed by Academy Award® nominee Kenneth Branagh; a feel-good story that reminds us that no matter how far you go, you never forget where you came from.



NATIONAL CHAMPION
Three days before the college football national championship game, star athletes ignite a players' strike; they won't compete until all student-athletes are fairly compensated.



THE KING'S DAUGHTER
A powerful king (Pierce Brosnan) seeks to extract a mermaid's life-giving force to gain immortality, but his defiant daughter (Kaya Scodelario) threatens to ruin his plans.



CYRANO
A symphony of emotions with music, romance, and beauty; re-imagining the timeless tale of a heartbreaking love triangle. Peter Dinklage, Haley Bennett and Kelvin Harrison Jr. star.



BRIAN WILSON: LONG PROMISED ROAD
An intimate journey through Beach Boys' Brian Wilson's legendary career. Featuring interviews with Bruce Springsteen, Nick Jonas, Elton John and more.



THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS
Long-awaited fourth film in the groundbreaking franchise; stars Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss in the iconic roles they made famous.



SING 2
Your favorite all-stars return along with new characters, spectacular hit songs and electrifying performances; the feel-good comedy about the healing power of music.



MARRY ME
A heartbroken pop star (Jennifer Lopez) spontaneously weds a stranger from the audience (Owen Wilson) while live on stage, but their sham marriage turns into a real romance.



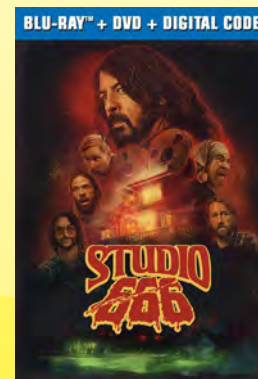
REDEEMING LOVE
From Francine Rivers' bestseller; Angel who is new to love, runs from the life she doesn't think she deserves. A powerful story of perseverance.



BELLE
From Academy Award®-nominated director Mamoru Hosoda and Studio Chizu (Mirai, Wolf Children, and Summer Wars) a fantastical, heartfelt story of growing up in the age of social media.



DOG
A super sweet film that sheds more light on the severe symptoms of PTSD that plague veterans. Channing Tatum is the lead.



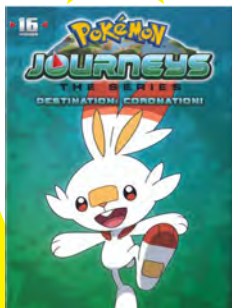
STUDIO 666!
Rock band The Foo Fighters move into an Encino mansion steeped in grisly rock and roll history to record their anticipated 10th album and find themselves grappling with supernatural forces.

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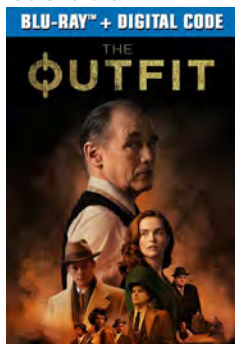
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MOVIES WE LIKE!



POKEMON JOURNEYS: THE SERIES - DESTINATION: CORONATION!

When Ash Ketchum oversleeps on his 10th birthday he ends up with a stubborn Pikachu instead of the first partner Pokemon he wanted.



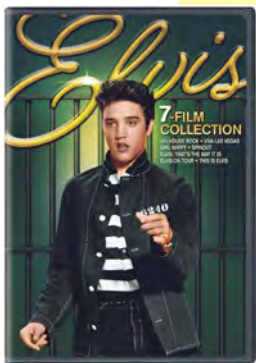
THE OUTFIT

Leonard, an English tailor who used to craft suits on London's world-famous Savile Row, ends up in Chicago, making beautiful clothes for a family of vicious gangsters.



BATMAN 4-FILM COLLECTION

Includes BATMAN, BATMAN RETURNS, BATMAN FOREVER and BATMAN & ROBIN.



WILLY'S WONDERLAND

Features 7 Elvis Presley films: JAILHOUSE ROCK, VIVA LAS VEGAS, GIRL HAPPY, SPINOUT, ELVIS: THAT'S THE WAY IT IS (Special Edition), ELVIS ON TOUR and THIS IS ELVIS.



BORUTO: NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS - KARA ACTUATION

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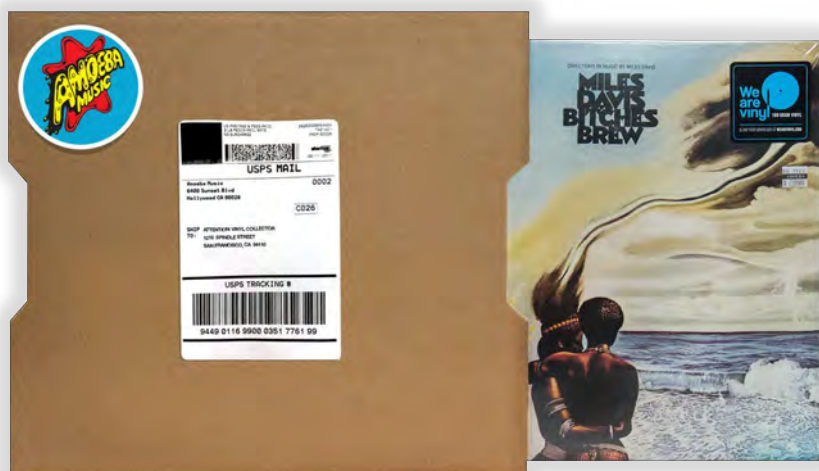
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UPCOMING CONCERTS



APRIL 22

**The Brian
Jonestown
Massacre**

APRIL 28

**Parquet
Courts**

MAY 12

Homeshake



APRIL 9

**The Band
Camino**

MAY 10

**Mild High
Club**

**The Cathedral Sanctuary at
Immanuel Presbyterian Church**

MAY 6

Passenger

APRIL 26

James Arthur

It'll All Make Sense Tour

MAY 10 & 11

Big Thief

APRIL 30

**The Mountain
Goats**

MAY 17

Goth Babe



JUNE 23

Primus

THE BELASCO



APRIL 22

Dragonforce

w/ special guests Firewind,
Visions of Atlantis &
Seven Spires

MAY 7

Good Morning

MAY 20

Destroyer

w/ special guest Rosali

JUNE 1

**Symphony X with
Haken and Trope**

**Observatory OC
Fair Grounds**

JUNE 4

Viva Socal Festival with Parkway Drive

The Black Dahlia Murder, Hatebreed, Crown the Empire + more

APRIL 28

Alex Cameron

MAY 8

nothing, nowhere

w/ special guests Poorstacy,
Guccihighwaters,
Carolesdaughter, & snarls

MAY 27

**The Exploited
With Cro-mags,
Total Chaos, &
No Consent**

LIVE NATION

UPCOMING CONCERTS

HOLLYWOOD BOWL

APRIL 15

2 Cellos

The Dedicated Tour

MAY 1

HAIM

The One More HAIM Tour

MAY 27

Steely Dan

w/ special guest
Snarky Puppy

JUNE 7

Backstreet Boys

DNA World Tour

JUNE 21

Halsey

w/ special guests
Wolf Alice & Abby Roberts

APRIL 28, 29 & 30, MAY 3

Netflix Is A Joke Presents:
Dave Chappelle
and Friends

MAY 5

Russ

JUNE 4

Rex Orange County

The Who Cares? Tour

JUNE 16

Andrea Bocelli

SEPTEMBER 12

Ben Platt



APRIL 2

Lookout Fest

Ski Mask The Slump God, \$not,
City Morgue, Trash Talk + more

MAY 13

Circle Jerks



JUNE 15

Andrew Bird and Iron & Wine



JUNE 29

Bleachers

w/ special guest
The Lemon Twigs



SEPTEMBER 16-18

Primavera Sound LA Festival

Arctic Monkeys, Lorde, Nine Inch Nails, Cigarettes After Sex, Mitski + more

LIVE NATION

APRIL 27

Snail Mail

JUNE 2

Spoon

JULY 8

Fleet Foxes

OCTOBER 8

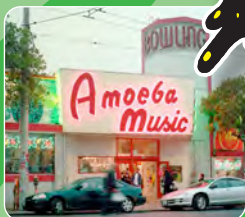
The Black Keys

w/ special guest Band of
Horses & The Velveteers

WE WANT YOUR STUFF!

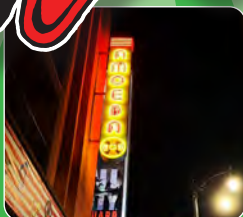
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SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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SW-M**

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Spring/Summer 2022

Amoeba Music has become synonymous with music and movie expertise from the arcane to the popular. Our staff consists of the most passionate connoisseurs of all cultural explorations.

All Amoebites were asked to list their favorite releases from the past six months and beyond. We then had a team of experts decipher their cryptic handwriting, analyze the results and compile the lists into this little book!

We hope you find the results interesting and useful. For more lists and updates on new releases, visit the Amoeblog on Amoeba.com.

A SELECTION OF OUR FAVORITES BY GENRE

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

What an adventure these two years have been... and not the fun Indiana Jones variety, but the "what's going to come around the next corner" kind. I know a lot of you are feeling that "last character standing in a slasher film" kind of vibe—all shaky and battered—but you're still doggedly stepping forward. What has been the soundtrack to your personal journey this year? What movies and books and shows have helped you keep perspective in these crazy days? This Music We Like is dedicated to life's grand adventure and all the ways we keep *living* when life is asking us to shut down.

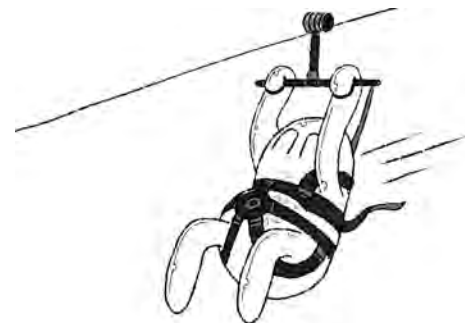
Viva Music We Like!!
 Rebecca

See you soon at one of the stores or online. Tell us about your discoveries and what's kept you going! And be sure to let us know if you find something you love in this book:
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Don't forget to look underneath the bins for extra bargains that may not be represented in the above corresponding bin. There are tons of nuggets hiding in pockets all over this store, so be sure to look all around!

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A SAMPLING OF OUR FAVORITES BY GENRE



VINYL REISSUES

A-ha – Hunting High & Low
(RHINO)

Black Keys – El Camino
(NONESUCH)

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club – Catalog Reissues (VAGRANT)

Buena Vista Social Club – Self-titled (WORLD CIRCUIT)

Daft Punk – Discovery (DAFT LIFE)

Echo & The Bunnymen – Songs To Learn & Sing (RHINO)

Erykah Badu – Worldwide Underground (UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)

Marvin Gaye – What's Going On [50th Anniversary]
(UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)

Jackson 5 – ABC
(ANAGRAM MUSIC)

Lucero – Lucero
(LIBERTY & LAMENT)

Mars Volta – Tremulant
(CLOUDS HILL)

Nirvana – Nevermind
(Geffen)

Paramore – All We Know Is Falling
(FUELED BY RAMEN)

Prince – Catalog Reissues
(SONY)

Radiohead – Kid A Mnesia
(XL RECORDINGS)

Richard Hell & The Voidoids – Blank Generation (RHINO)

Roxy Music – For Your Pleasure
(REPUBLIC)

Saint Etienne – Foxbase Alpha [30th Anniversary]
(HEAVENLY)

Sigur Ros – *Agaetis Byrjun*
(KRUNK)

**White Stripes –
Catalog Reissues** (SONY)

**Zapp & Roger –
All the Greatest Hits** (RHINO)

**Black Veil Brides –
The Phantom Tomorrow**
[red transparent vinyl]
(SUMERIAN)

SOUL

Alicia Keys – *Keys* (RCA)

**Anthony Hamilton – *Love is
the New Black*** (BMG)

Aretha Franklin – *Sparkle*
(Music From the Warner Bros.
Motion Picture) (ATLANTIC)

**Boulevards – *Electric Cowboy:
Born In Carolina Mud***
(NORMALTOWN)

**Curtis Harding – *If Words Were
Flowers*** (ANTI-)

Cynthia Erivo – *Ch. 1 Vs. 1*
(VERVE)

**El Michels Affair – *The
Abominable EP*** (BIG CROWN)

Kehlani – *You Should Be Here*
(ATLANTIC)

Ledisi – *Ledisi Sings Nina*
(BMG)

**O.V. Wright – *A Nickel and a
Nail and Ace of Spades***
(REAL GONE)

**Silk Sonic (Bruno Mars and
Anderson. Paak) –
An Evening With Silk Sonic**
(ATLANTIC)

Summer Walker – *Still Over It*
(LVRN)

The Weeknd – *Dawn FM*
(XO)

Willie Hutch – *Season for Love*
(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

**St. Paul & The Broken Bones –
The Alien Coast** (ATO)

Neal Francis – *In Plain Sight*
(ATO)

JAZZ

**Andrew Cyrille, William
Parker & Enrico Rava – *2 Blues
for Cecil*** (TUM)

Ava Mendoza – *New Spells*
(RELATIVE PITCH)

**Ben Lamar Gay – *Open Arms
To Open Us*** (NONESUCH)

**Cécile McLorin Salvant – *Ghost
Song*** (NONESUCH)

**Christian McBride & Inside
Straight – *Live at the Village
Vanguard*** (MACK AVENUE)

Craig Taborn – *Shadow Plays*
(ECM)

**David Sanford Big Band –
A Prayer For Lester Bowie**
(GREENLEAF MUSIC)

**Emma-Jean Thackray –
Yellow** (MOVEMENTT)

**Fred Hersch – *Breath by
Breath*** (PALMETTO)

**Henry Threadgill Zooid –
Poof** (PI)

**Iro Haarla Electric Ensemble
– *What Will We Leave Behind:
Images from Planet Earth*** (SVART)

**Irreversible Entanglements –
Open The Gates**
(INTERNATIONAL ANTHEM)

Jeff Parker – *Forfolks* (NONESUCH)

**John Coltrane – *A Love
Supreme: Live In Seattle*** (IMPULSE!)

**John McLaughlin –
John McLaughlin:
The Montreux Years** (BMG)



**Lady Blackbird –
Black Acid Soul** (BMG)

**Luke Stewart Silt Trio –
The Bottom** (CUNEIFORM)

**Makaya McCraven –
Deciphering The Message**
(BLUE NOTE)

**ROVA – *The Circumference
Of Reason*** (ESP-DISK)

**Sara Schoenbeck –
Sara Schoenbeck** (PYROCLASTIC)

**Steve Coleman &
Five Elements – *Live at the
Village Vanguard Vol. II*** (PI)

**Steven Bernstein –
Good Time Music
(Community Music, Vol. 2)**
(ROYAL POTATO FAMILY)

The Cookers – *Look Out*
(GEARBOX)

Theon Cross – *Intra-I* (NEW SOIL)

**Tony Malaby's Sabino –
The Cave Of Winds** (PYROCLASTIC)

**Wadada Leo Smith's
Great Lakes Quartet –
The Chicago Symphonies** (TUM)

Fazer – *Plex* (CITY SLANG)

**Robert Glasper –
Black Radio III** (CONCORD)

**Nubya Garcia –
Source # We Move** (CONCORD)



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Emily Zuzik performs at Make Music Hollywood 2019. (Photo by Tony Zimbardi)

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ROCK

Adele – 30 (COLUMBIA)

Anika – Change
(SACRED BONES)

Beach House – Once Twice Melody (SUB POP)

Big Thief – Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You (4AD)

Billie Eilish – Happier Than Ever (INTERSCOPE)

Black Marble – Fast Idol
(SACRED BONES)

Claire – Sling (FADER)

Courtney Barnett – Things Take Time, Take Time
(MOM + POP MUSIC)

Dave Gahan & Soulsavers – Imposter (COLUMBIA)

Emma Ruth Rundle – Engine of Hell (SARGENT HOUSE)

Father John Misty – Chloe & The Next 20th Century
(SUB POP)

Halsey – If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power (CAPITOL)

Hand Habits – Fun House
(SADDLE CREEK)

Idles – Crawler
(PARTISAN)

Johnny Marr – Fever Dreams Pts 1-4 (BMG)

José González – Local Valley (MUTE)



King Krule – You Heat Me Up, You Cool Me Down (TRUE PANTHER SOUNDS)

Lana Del Rey – Blue Banisters
(INTERSCOPE)

Low – Hey What (SUB POP)

Marissa Nadler – The Path of the Clouds
(SACRED BONES)

Mitski – Laurel Hell
(DEAD OCEANS)

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds – B-Sides & Rarities (Part II)
(MUTE)

Parquet Courts – Sympathy For Life (ROUGH TRADE)

Radiohead – Kid A Mnesia
(XL)

Shout Out Louds – House
(BUD FOX)

Snail Mail – Valentine
(MATADOR)

Spoon – Lucifer On the Sofa
(MATADOR)

Tori Amos – Ocean to Ocean
(DECCA)

Umbrellas – Umbrellas
(SLUMBERLAND)

War On Drugs – I Don't Live Here Anymore
(ATLANTIC)

Placebo – Never Let Me Go (Rise Records)

Let's Eat Grandma – Two Ribbons (PIAS)

Hippo Campus – "LP3" (Grand Jury)

Jack White – Fear Of the Dawn LP (Third Man)

Efterklang – Windflowers
(CITY SLANG)

Pom Pom Squad – Death Of A Cheerleader
(CITY SLANG)

Rex Orange Country – Who Cares? (PA) (RCA)

Daryl Hall – Before After
(RCA/LEGACY)

Grace Cummings – Storm Queen (ATO)

Nilufer Yanya – Painless
(ATO)

Tears for Fears – Tipping Point (CONCORD)

The Pretty Reckless – Going to Hell (CONCORD)

Seether – Vicennial
(CONCORD)

Gov't Mule – Heavy Load Blues (FANTASY)

Nathaniel Rateliff – Future
(FANTASY)

Edgar Winter – Brother Johnny
(QUARTO VALLEY RECORDS)

Red Hot Chili Peppers – Unlimited Love
(WARNER RECORDS)

Guerilla Toss – Famously Alive
(SUB POP)

Christian Lee Hutson – Quitters (ANTI-)

Dry Cleaning – New Long Leg (4AD)

Future Islands – As Long As You Are (4AD)

Half Waif – Mythopoetics
(ANTI-)

Tune-Yards – Sketchy.
(4AD)

Purity Ring – Womb
(4AD)

Thrice – Horizons/East
(EPITAPH)

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HIP-HOP

Aesop Rock/Blockhead – Garbology (RHYMESAYERS)

Armand Hammer & The Alchemist – Haram [Deluxe] (BACKWOODZ STUDIOZ)

Boora – Soundogolism 2 (HHV)

Common – A Beautiful Revolution Pt. 2 (LOMA VISTA)

Cordae – From A Bird's Eye View (ATLANTIC)

Crimeapple – Sancocho (FAT BEATS)

Doja Cat – Planet Her (KEMOSABE)

Freestyle Fellowship – Innercity Griots (BEWITH)

Gift of Gab – Finding Inspiration Somehow (NATURE SOUNDS)

Homeliss Derelix – Fraudulent 2 (HIP HOP ENTERPRISE)

Logic – Bobby Tarantino III (DEF JAM)

Mac Miller – Faces (WARNER)

Mister T – Soul Shower (COLD BUSTED)

Pink Siifu & Fly Anakin – Smokebreak EP (LEX)

Planet Asia & A-Plus Tha Kid – Cashmere Corners (AIR VINYL RECORDS)

Quelle Chris & Chris Keys – Innocent Country 2 (MELLO MUSIC GROUP)

Stro Elliot – Black & Loud (POLYDOR)

Trippie Redd – Trip At Knight (TEN THOUSAND PROJECTS)

Vince Staples – Vince Staples (MOTOWN)

Wino Willy – Grilchy Party Favors Vol. 1: Welcome Home Brother Willy (GRILCHY PARTY)

Your Old Droog – Time (NATURE SOUNDS)

Tkay Maidza – Last Year Was Weird, Vol. 3 (4AD)

ELECTRONIC

Andy Stott – Never The Right Time (MODERN LOVE)

Autechre – Chiastic Slide & LP5 (WARP)

BadBadNotGood – Talk Memory (INNOVATIVE LEISURE)

Bonobo – Fragments (NINJA TUNE)

Boy Harsher – Lesser Man (Extended Version) (NUDE CLUB)

Burial – Antidawn EP (HYPERDUB)

DJN4 – Tales Of Z (EMOTIONAL RESPONSE)

Eris Drew – Quivering in Time (T4T LUV NRG)

Floating Points / Pharaoh Sanders – Promises (LUAKA BOP)

Hye Jin Park – Before I Die (NINJA TUNE)

James Blake – Friends That Break Your Heart (REPUBLIC)

Nuron / Fugue – Likemind 06 (LIKEMIND)

Skee Mask – Pool (ILIAN TAPE)

The Bug – Fire (NINJA TUNE)

Yves Tumor – The Asymptotical World EP (WARP)

Röyksopp – Profound Mysteries (PIAS)
Out 4/29

Sophia Kennedy – Monsters (CITY SLANG)

Goldfrapp – Felt Mountain [2022 Edition] (MUTE)

COUNTRY AND BLUEGRASS

American Aquarium – Lamentations (NEW WEST)

Asleep at the Wheel – Half A Hundred Years (THIRTY TIGERS)

Billy Strings – Renewal (ROUNDER)

Cody Johnson – Human: The Double Album (WARNER NASHVILLE)

Corb Lund – Agricultural Tragic (NEW WEST)

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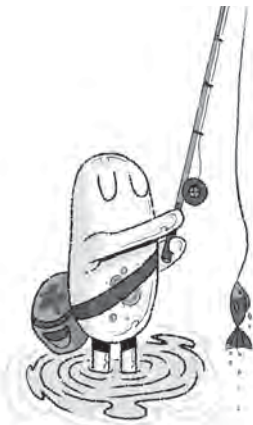
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**The Bellamy Brothers –
Covers From The Brothers**

(BELLAMY BROTHERS)

**The Infamous Stringdusters –
Toward the Fray** (AMERICANA VIBES)

**The Kentucky Headhunters –
....That's a Fact, Jack!** (BFD)

**Willie Nelson –
The Willie Nelson Family**

(SONY LEGACY)

**Willie Nelson –
A Beautiful Time** (SONY LEGACY)

FOLK

Della Mae – Family Reunion

(DELLA MAE)

**Doc Watson –
Life's Work: A Retrospective**

(CRAFT)

Dolly Parton – Run Rose Run

(BUTTERFLY)

**Jason Boland & The Stragglers –
The Light Saw Me**

(PROUD SOULS)

**Kacey Musgraves –
Star-Crossed**

(MERCURY NASHVILLE)

**Lucinda Williams –
Lu's Jukebox Vol. 3-6**

(HIGHWAY 20)

**Old Crow Medicine Show –
Paint This Town** (ATO)

**Pistol Annies –
Hell of a Holiday**

(SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE)

**Pokey LaFarge –
In The Blossom of Their Shade**

(NEW WEST)

**Reba McEntire –
REBA: Revived Remixed
Revisited** (MCA NASHVILLE)

**Sturgill Simpson –
The Ballad of Dood &
Juanita** (HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN)

**Anaïs Mitchell –
Anaïs Mitchell** (BMG)

**Aoife O'Donovan –
Age of Apathy**

(YEP ROC)

**Dar Williams –
I'll Meet You Here**

(BMG)

**Hayden Pedigo –
Letting Go**

(MEXICAN SUMMER)

**Jamestown Revival –
Young Man**

(JAMESTOWN REVIVAL)

**Josephine Foster –
Godmother** (FIRE)

Mala Oreen – Awake

(TOURBO)

**Michael Hurley –
The Time of the Foxgloves**

(NO QUARTER)

Mike Cooper – Spirit Songs

(EARGONG)

**Penny & Sparrow –
Olly Olly** (THIRTY TIGERS)

**The Lumineers –
Brightside** (DUALTONE)

**The Whitmore Sisters –
Ghost Stories** (COMPASS)

**Various Artists –
Home In This World:
Woody Guthrie's
Dustbowl Ballads**

(NEW ELEKTRA)

**Various Artists –
The Village Out West:
The Lost Tapes of
Alan Oakes**

(SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS)

**Various Artists –
Broken Hearts & Dirty
Windows: Songs Of
John Prine Vol. 2**

(OH BOY)

BLUES AND NEW ORLEANS

**Buffalo Nichols –
Buffalo Nichols** (FAT POSSUM)

**Carolyn Wonderland –
Tempting Fate** (ALLIGATOR)

**Chickenbone Slim –
Serve It To Me Hot** (VIZZTONE)

**Dumpstaphunk –
Where Do We Go From Here**

(THE FUNK GARAGE)

**Joe Louis Walker –
Eclectic Electric** (CLEOPATRA BLUES)

Jon Batiste – We Are (VERVE)

**Larry McCray –
Blues Without You**

(KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE)

**Leo Nocentelli –
Another Side**

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

**Mike Bloomfield –
The Gospel Truth** (SUNSET BLVD)

**Reverend Gary Davis –
Let Us Get Together**

(SUNSET BLVD)

**Robben Ford & The Blue Line –
Live At Yoshi's** (REPERTOIRE)

Samantha Fish – Faster

(ROUNDER)

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Sue Foley – Pinky's Blues
(STONY PLAIN)

Sugaray Rayford – In Too Deep (FORTY BELOW)

Tinsley Ellis – Devil May Care (ALLIGATOR)

Joanne Shaw Taylor – The Blues Album (KTBA RECORDS)

Son House – Forever on My Mind (CONCORD)

Kenny Neal – Straight From The Heart (RUF RECORDS)

WORLD

Angélique Kidjo – Mother Nature
(VERVE)

Arturo O'Farrill – ...dreaming in lions...
(BLUE NOTE)

El Gran Combo De Puerto Rico – En Cuarentena
(EL GRAN COMBO)

Bola Sete – Samba In Seattle: Live At The Penthouse (1966-1968) (TOMPKINS SQUARE)

Eric Jacobsen / Kayhan Kalhor / Sandeep Das / Karen Ouzounian – Blue As the Turquoise Night
(BRIGHT SHINY THINGS)

Etran de L'Aïr – Agadez
(SAHEL SOUNDS)

Gary Stroutsos – Songs for Leena: Improvisations on the Hopi Long Flute
(ARC MUSIC)

J Balvin – José
(UNIVERSAL LATINO)

Kondi Band – We Famous
(STRUT)

La Santa Cecilia – Quiero Verte Feliz
(REBELEON, INC.)

Pygmies Mbenzélé / Pygmies Aka – Days Full Of Sound - Life In The Rainforest
(I DISCHI DI ANGELICA)

Rizomagi – Voltaje Raizal
(DISASTERS BY CHOICE)

Shujaat Husain Khan / Katayoun Goudarzi / Shaho Andalibi / Shariq Mustafa – This Pale
(LYCOPOD)

The Chieftains – Chronicles: 60 Years Of The Chieftains (VERVE)

Various Artists – Nahma: A Gulf Polyphony
(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Various Artists – It's a Good, Good Feeling: The Latin Soul of Fania Records (FANIA)

Various Artists – The Paths Of Pain: The CAIFE Label, Quito, 1960-68 (HONEST JON'S)

Yat-Kha – We Will Never Die
(THE LOLLIPOP SHOP)

Imarhan – Aboogi
(CITY SLANG)

CLASSICAL

Anna Netrebko – Amata Dalle Tenebre
(DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Beatriz Ferreyra – Canto+ (ROOM40)

Cecilia Bartoli – Unreleased (DECCA)

Christian Wolff – Trio IX and Exercises (WERGO)

Clara Rockmore – The Lost Theremin Album
(MISSISSIPPI)

Daniil Trifonov – Bach: The Art of Life
(DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Eliane Radigue – Opus 17
(IMPORTANT)

Emily D'Angelo – Enargeia (DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Florence Price – Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3
(DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Loren Rush – Dans le Sable
(RECITAL)

Parker Quartet / Kim Kashkashian – György Kurtág: Six Moments Musicaux / Antonín Dvořák: String Quintet Op 97
(ECM NEW SERIES)

EXPERIMENTAL

Alva Noto – HYbr:ID Vol. 1
(NOTON)

Andrea Parkins – Two Rooms From The Memory Palace
(INFREQUENT SEAMS)

Atrax Morgue – Sickness Report
(URASHIMA)



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Controlled Death –
Black Lucifer Rising
(DEATHBEAD TAPES)

Diamanda Galás –
Diamanda Galás (1984)
(INTRAVENAL SOUND OP)

Dominique André –
Evasion (BORN BAD)

Fred Frith Trio –
Road
(INTAKT)

Grouper – Shade
(KRANKY)

Hive Mind – Elysian Alarms
(DIFFICULT INTERACTIONS)

John Zorn –
A Garden of Forking Paths
(TZADIK)

Merzbow/Prurient –
Black Crows Cyborg
(HOSPITAL PRODUCTIONS)

Michel Redolfi –
Sonic Waters,
Underwater Music
1979-1987 (SUB ROSA)

Nurse With Wound –
Surveillance Lounge
(DIRTER PROMOTIONS)

Pamela Z – Echolocation
(FREEDOM TO SPEND)



Richard Youngs – CXXI
(BLACK TRUFFLE)

St. Abdullah –
To Live A La West Pt. I
(IMPORTANT)

Various Artists –
The Harmonic Series:
Volume 2 (IMPORTANT)

METAL

Abhorrence –
Completely Vulgar (SVART)

Abstracter – Abominion
(SENTIENT RUIN)

Antediluvian –
The Divine Punishment
(NUCLEAR WAR NOW!)

Beherit – The Oath of
Black Blood (NUCLEAR WAR NOW!)

Carcass – Torn Arteries
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

Cirith Ungol – Frost & Fire
(METAL BLADE)

Cradle of Filth – Existence is
Futile (NUCLEAR BLAST)

Hulder – Godslastering:
Hymns Of A Forlorn Peasantry
(IRON BONEHEAD)

Hyperdontia – Hideous Entity
(DARK DESCENT)

Lvcifyre – The Broken Seal
(DARK DESCENT)

Mayhem – Atavistic Black
Disorder / Kommando
(CENTURY MEDIA)

Mortiferum –
Preserved in Torment
(PROFOUND LORE)

Qrixxkuor – Poison Palinopsia
(DARK DESCENT)

Spectral Wound –
A Diabolic Thirst
(PROFOUND LORE)

Tentation – Le Berceau
des Dieux (GATES OF HELL)

Wolves In The Throne Room
– Primordial Arcana
(RELAPSE)

Ghost – Impera (LOMA VISTA)

OLDIES

Ceptic Frog – Ceptic Frog
(LION PRODUCTIONS)

Chuck Berry –
Concerto In
B Goode (ELEMENTAL MUSIC)

Colin Blunstone – One Year
[50th Anniversary Edition]
(SUNDAZED)

Dion – Stomping Ground
(KTBA)

Elvis Presley –
Back In Nashville (SONY LEGACY)

Haymarket Square –
Magic Lantern
(GUERSSEN)

John's Children –
There's An Eye In The Sky
(EASY ACTION)

Little Willie John –
The Complete R&B Hit Singles
(REAL GONE)

Quatrain – Quatrain
(BONFIRE)

The Driving Stupid –
Horror Asparagus Stories
(MODERN HARMONIC)

The Free Design –
Heaven/Earth (BONFIRE)

The Luv'd Ones –
Truth Gotta Stand
(BEATROCKET)

The Mam'selles –
It's A "Bubble Gum World"
(BEATROCKET)

The Peppermint Trolley
Company – The Peppermint
Trolley Company (OUT-SIDER)

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**Various Artists –
Instrumentals Soul-Style
Vol. 3 1965-1966**
(RHYTHM & BLUES)

**Various Artists –
This Love Was Real:
L.A. Vocal Groups
1959-1964** (ACE)

REGGAE / SKA

**Bob Marley & The Wailers –
Capitol Session '73**
(MERCURY STUDIOS)

**Althea & Donna –
Uptown Top Ranking**
(SURVIVAL RESEARCH)

**Carroll Thompson –
Hopelessly In Love**
(SANCTUARY)

**Jah Thomas – Dance Hall
Stylee** (RADIATION ROOTS)

**King Jammy –
Destroys The Virus With Dub**
(GREENSLEEVES)

**Lee Perry – Black Art
from the Black Ark**
(PRESSURE SOUNDS)

**Pachyman –
The Return of...** (ATO)

**Prince Far I –
Jamaican Heroes**
(MUSIC ON VINYL)

**Scientist – Scientist Dubs
Culture Into A Parallel
Universe** (TAFARI RECORDS)

**Various Artists –
Rocksteady Got Soul**
(SOUL JAZZ)

COMEDY

**Chelsea Handler –
Evolution** (WATERTOWER)

**Barnes & Barnes –
Pancake Dream**
(DEMENTED PUNK)

**Bo Burnham – INSIDE
(The Songs)** (IMPERIAL)

**Redd Foxx –
Gettin' Down N' Dirty**
(GOLDENLANE)

**Rudy Ray Moore –
50 Years Of Cussing, Vol. 3**
(WARRIOR)

PUNK

**Amyl & The Sniffers –
Comfort To Me** (ATO)

Bad Brains – Quickness
(ORG MUSIC)

Dare – Against All Odds
(REVELATION)

**Descendents –
9th & Walnut** (EPITAPH)

Sweat – Gotta Give It Up
(PIRATES PRESS)

Turnstile – Glow On
(ROADRUNNER)

**Drug Church – Hygiene
[Indie exclusive]**
(PURE NOISE)

SOUNDTRACKS

**Alexandre Desplat –
The French Dispatch
[Original Soundtrack]**
(ABKCO)

**Angelo Badalamenti –
Blue Velvet: The Deluxe Edition**
(VARÈSE SARABANDE)

**Blanck Mass –
Calm With Horses
[Original Score]** (INVADA)

**Boy Harsher –
The Runner [Original
Soundtrack]**
(NUDE CLUB)

**Bryce Dessner /
Aaron Dessner / Matt
Berninger / Carin Besser –
Cyrano [Original Soundtrack]**
(DECCA)

**Gazelle Twin &
Max de Wardener –
The Power [Original
Soundtrack]** (INVADA)

**Hans Zimmer – Dune
[Original Motion Picture
Soundtrack]** (WATERTOWER)

Jeff Tweedy – Chelsea Walls
(OMNIVORE)

**John Carpenter /
Cody Carpenter / Daniel
Davies – Halloween Kills
[Original Soundtrack]**
(SACRED BONES)

**Leonard ven Sondheim – West
Side Story (2021) [Original
Soundtrack]** (HOLLYWOOD)

**Lin-Manuel Miranda /
Germaine Franco – Encanto
[Original Soundtrack]** (BUENA
VISTA)

Mogwai – ZEROZEROZERO
(ROCK ACTION)

**Various Artists – Sing 2
[Original Soundtrack]**
(REPUBLIC)

**Various Artists – The Velvet
Underground: A Documentary
Film by Todd Haynes** (POLYDOR)

**Various Artists – tick, tick...
BOOM! [Soundtrack From the
Netflix Film]** (MASTERWORKS)

**Various Artists – Blade Runner
Black Lotus [Original
Television Soundtrack]** (DEF JAM)

**Various Artists –
Licorice Pizza [Original
Soundtrack]** (REPUBLIC)

**Various Artists –
Summer Of Soul
(...Or, When The Revolution
Could Not Be Televised)**
(SONY LEGACY)

DVDS & BLU-RAY

MUSIC DVDS

Beatles – Beatles: Get Back
(DISNEY)

**Bee Gees –
How Can You Mend a
Broken Heart?**
(HBO HOMEVIDEO)

**Beverly Glenn-Copeland –
Keyboard Fantasies:
The Beverly Glenn-Copeland
Story** (GREENWICH)

**Brian Wilson –
Long Promised Road**
(SCREEN MEDIA)

Depeche Mode – 101
(RHINO)

**Lydia Lunch – Lydia Lunch:
The War Is Never Over**
(KINO LORBER)

**Master Musicians Of Jajouka
(led By Bachir Attar) –
Jajouka, Something Good
Comes to You** (LA HUIT)

Oasis – Knebworth 1996
(BIG BROTHER)



**Paul Motian –
Motian In Motion**
(AQUAPIO)

Pink Floyd – Pulse
(PINK FLOYD)

Sparks – Sparks Brothers
(UNIVERSAL)

Tina Turner – Tina
(HBO)

**Various Artists –
Summer Of Soul**
(20TH CENTURY FOX)

TV

Cobra Kai: Season 3

Dexter: New Blood

**Doctor Who: Tom Baker
Complete Season 6**

Mare of Easttown

**My Hero Academia:
Season 5**

**One Piece: Season 11
Voyage 7**

**Rick & Morty: Complete
Seasons 1-5**

**Snowpiercer:
Complete Second Season**

**Supergirl:
Complete Series**

The Crown: Season 4

ACTION / THRILLER / MYSTERY

Alias Nick Beal (1949)

Card Counter

No Time To Die

Pig

The Long Goodbye (1973)
[2021 Restoration]

HORROR / SCI-FI SUPERHERO / FANTASY

The Green Knight

Dune

Eternals

Halloween Kills

I'm Your Man

Last Night In Soho

Spider-Man: No Way Home

DRAMA / COMEDY

200 Cigarettes [Blu-Ray]

Belfast

Coming 2 America

Eyes of Tammy Faye

House of Gucci

In the Heat of the Night [4K]

Nightmare Alley

Spencer

The French Dispatch

The Piano [Criterion]

Wayne's World
[30th Anniversary Steelbook]

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Titane

Adoption

Drive My Car

Hive

Le Cercle Rouge [4K]

Parallel Mothers

DOCUMENTARIES

Dick Johnson is Dead
[Criterion]

Mapplethorpe

MLK/FBI [IFC]

**Muhammad Ali: A Film by
Ken Burns [PBS]**

**Roadrunner: A Film About
Anthony Bourdain**

Woodlands Dark & Days
**Bewitched: A History of Folk
Horror [Severin]**

ANIMATION / KIDS

**Batman:
The Complete Series**

Clifford-The Big Red Dog

Encanto

Flee

Luca

Paw Patrol: The Movie

Raya & The Last Dragon

Sing 2

**The Mitchells vs.
The Machines**



CLASSICS / MUSICALS

Night Has a Thousand Eyes

In the Heights

Respect

Some Like It Hot [4K]

The Apartment [4K]

Touch of Evil [4K]

West Side Story

BOOKS

LITERATURE / GRAPHIC NOVELS

Junji Ito – Uzumaki (VIZ MEDIA)

**Quentin Tarantino – Once
Upon A Time in Hollywood**
(HARPER PERENNIAL)

**Ocean Vuong – On Earth
We're Briefly Gorgeous**
(PENGUIN BOOKS)

**Amanda Gorman –
Call Us What We Carry: Poems**
(VIKING BOOKS)

**Hajime Isayama –
Attack on Titan Vol. 1**
(KODANSHA COMICS)

John Darnielle – Devil House
(MCD)

MUSIC BOOKS

Joel Selvin & Jim Marshall
– *The Haight: Love, Rock, & Revolution (Revised & Expanded)* (INSIGHT EDITIONS)

Don Letts (with Mal Peachey)
– *There and Black Again* (OMNIBUS PRESS)

Tracy Thorn –
My Rock ‘n’ Roll Friend
(CANONGATE BOOKS)

Mike Edison – Sympathy for the Drummer: Why Charlie Watts Matters (BACKBEAT)

Jennifer Otter Bickerdike –
You Are Beautiful And You Are Alone: The Biography of Nico
(HACHETTE BOOKS)

John Lurie –
The History of Bones
(PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE)

Marc Ribot – Unstrung: Rants and Stories of a Noise Guitarist
(AKASHIC)

Maria Golia – Ornette Coleman: The Territory & the Adventure
(REAKTION BOOKS)

Joel Harrison – Guitar Talk
(TERRA NOVA PRESS)

FILM BOOKS

Spike Lee – SPIKE
(CHRONICLE CHROMA)

Mel Brooks –
All About Me!
(BALLANTINE BOOKS)

Katya Tylevich –
Gus Van Sant: The Art of Making Movies
(LAURENCE KING PUBLISHING)

Jerry Seinfeld – Is This Anything? (SIMON & SCHUSTER)

Will Smith – Will (PENGUIN PRESS)

Graham Humphreys –
Hung, Drawn and Executed: The Horror Art of Graham Humphreys (KORERO PRESS)

NON-FICTION

Chuck Klosterman –
The Ninties: A Book
(PENGUIN PRESS)

Danny Jensen –
Secret Los Angeles
(REEDY PRESS)

Ben Kissel, Marcus Parks, Henry Zebrowski –
The Last Book on the Left
(DEY STREET BOOKS)

Michelle Zauner –
Crying in H Mart (KNOPF)

Anne Schwartz –
Monster: The True Story of the Jeffrey Dahmer Murders
(UNION SQUARE & CO.)

Cassandra Petterson –
Yours Cruelly Elvira
(HACHETTE BOOKS)

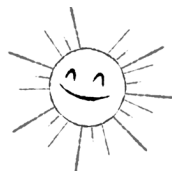
ESSENTIAL READING

Anthony Bourdain –
Kitchen Confidential (ECCO)

Joan Didion –
The White Album
(FSG ADULT)

Frank Herbert – Dune
(ACE)

Ibram X. Kendi –
How To Be An Antiracist
(ONEWORLD)



SID THE CAT

4/9 - SUPERCHUNK W/ MIKE KROL AT PAPPY+HARRIET'S
4/16 - JOHN VANDERSLICE AT THE AIRLINER
4/24 - ELECTRIC SIX AT THE SARDINE
4/26 - DENT MAY AT GOLD-DIGGERS
4/28 - NIIA AT PICO UNION PROJECT
4/29 - CHRISTIAN LEE HUTSON AT HIGHLAND PARK EBELL
5/3 - LYRA PRAMUK AT PICO UNION PROJECT
5/5 - LOU ROY AT THE AIRLINER
5/7 - L'RAIN AT PICO UNION PROJECT
5/11 - BILLIE MARTEN AT GOLD-DIGGERS
5/12 - BILLIE MARTEN AT GENGHIS COHEN
5/12 - GABRIEL KAHANE AT GOLD-DIGGERS
5/12 - ERIN RAE AT HIGHLAND PARK EBELL
5/13 - DEATH VALLEY GIRLS AT THE SARDINE
5/14 - BIG THIEF AT PAPPY + HARRIET'S
5/15 - BIG THIEF AT PAPPY + HARRIET'S
5/19 - SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE AT GOLD-DIGGERS
5/20 - THE ANTLERS AT FCC LOS ANGELES
5/21 - BEDOUINE W/ SYLVIE AT PICO UNION PROJECT
5/24 - THE BROTHER BROTHERS AT THE AIRLINER
5/26 - ADA LEA AT ZEBULON
5/27 - TASHA AT ZEBULON

...I HOPE **PEOPLE** SHOW UP!

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HEY THANKS!

TO ALL OF YOU

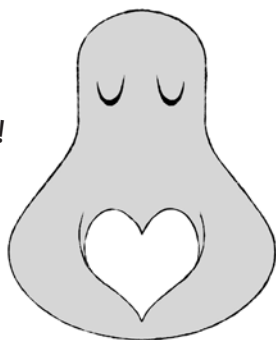
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FROM THE AMOEBLOG



by Alison Stolpa

If you're like me, you've spent a lot of time these past two years sticking close to home. Through a process that seems now both sudden and painfully drawn out, your world shrunk to your job, your apartment, your computer screen.

And now you're thirsting for adventure, for new vistas, for open stretches of time where the possibilities are endless. Sounds like... you're ready for a road trip.

Along with good snacks and good company, a good playlist is essential to the success of any cross-country voyage. The songs on your playlist should be as varied as the landscapes you'll traverse, the moods you'll find yourself in, the levels of energy your body will go through each day. (Careening down a mountainous highway: calm, please! Fighting road hypnosis on a straight, flat stretch of blacktop: coffee won't cut it.)

So, whether you're planning to hit the road from coast-to-coast this summer or you're just jonesing to give your brain a little vacation in the midst of your workday, it's time to embark on a cross-country road trip via song. We'll start out in **Los Angeles**, destination: **New York City**. It's day one and the sun is out. The open road calls and we're feeling optimistic.

Let's start off with a classic, namely **Tupac Shakur's "California Love."** Just outside of Los Angeles, we get stuck in traffic for no discernible reason. Maybe we'll switch to something a little more downbeat, say **Black Francis' "Los Angeles"** or **Lana Del Rey's "California."**

Once we hit the Nevada state line, the choice is clear. Nothing captures that old school glamour like **Elvis Presley's "Viva Las Vegas."** Or maybe, you're the type who finds the most heavenly part of the Vegas experience is leaving, in which case, **Cocteau Twins' "Heaven or Las Vegas"** may be more your speed.

If you're vibing with the dusty grandeur of the West, **Marty Robbins** is the perfect



soundtrack for your time in Utah. Cue up **"The Red Hills of Utah."** Need a bit more of a bop? Put on the **Beach Boys** ode **"Salt Lake City."**

Through the mountains to Colorado, the choice is clear: **John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High"** for the mellow vibes or **The Flying Burrito Brothers' "Colorado"** for a more wistful jam.

The road into the Cornhusker State makes for easy driving. **Bruce Springsteen** has a whole album about that. It's time for the haunting sounds of **Nebraska**.

In Iowa, we'll cheat a little bit with the Vegas-set **"Dry Cleaner from Des Moines"** by **Joni Mitchell**. Or go wild and put on

"Coming Up Close" by **'Til Tuesday**. It doesn't mention Iowa in the title, but it sure is Iowa-set!

Soon we'll leave the pastoral fields of Iowa and head into Illinois. And it's a good thing, too, because what's a road trip without a little **Tom Waits' "Johnsburg, Illinois"** is perfect for our purposes here. **Robert Johnson** is also a road trip essential, and fortunately, he recorded **"Sweet Home Chicago."**

Once in Indiana, hit play on the **Jackson 5's "Goin' Back to Indiana"** for a bit of soul or **Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers' "Mary Jane's Last Dance"** for a bit of sadness. In Ohio, cue up **The National's "Bloodbuzz Ohio"** or **The Band's "Look Out Cleveland."** Drive safely!



Roll into Pennsylvania triumphantly, soundtracked by **Wiz Khalifa's "Pittsburgh Sound (All in My Blood)."** Next, take it back to the old school with **Boyz II Men's "Motownphilly."** Not too hard, not too soft.

We're in the home stretch now as we cross the New Jersey state line. Obviously, there's a ton of Springsteen we could dive into, but we already went full **Nebraska**. Let's branch out. **Ella Fitzgerald's "Jersey Bounce"** will get your foot tappin'. Or if you're in the mood for a nostalgic ode to a long-gone amusement park, there's **"Palisades Park" by Freddy Cannon**.

And now, finally: the towering skyscrapers of NYC come into view. It's absolutely impos-

sible to choose just a handful of songs here. Ready to crank it? There's the classic classic **"(Theme From) New York, New York"** by **Frank Sinatra** or the modern classic **"Empire State of Mind"** by **Jay-Z** featuring **Alicia Keys**. Traveling further? Put on the **Beastie Boys' "No Sleep Till Brooklyn"** or **Billie Holiday's "Autumn in New York."**

Pull into your hotel, attempt to find street parking in front of your friend's place, ponder what you were thinking when you drove a car, from LA to NY, that you now have to park, as you circle the Airbnb for the fifth time. This time is precious, but all adventures must come to an end. Now, it's time for a new one.

SOMETHING'S GOING ON IN THE UK

An exploration of the latest in British Jazz

by Mark Beaver

It's been a remarkable year for jazz new releases and re-issues across the globe. Stunning new albums from bassist **William Parker**, including his heavy rock-inspired *Mayan Space Station* and his more meditative *Painters Winter*, as well as *Village Mothership*, his reunion trio with drummer **Whit Dickey** and pianist **Matthew Shipp**.

Other veterans, including **Joe McPhee** (*Blue Reality Quartet* and *Sweet Spot*), **Bill Frisell** (*Valentine*), **Andrew Cyrille** (*The News*) and **Lonnie Smith** (*Breathe*) all issued new music of the highest quality this year. Along with all the talented newcomers and truly inspired new work from the standard bearers, it's been quite a spoil of riches.

Yet, in amongst the many, many superb sessions released within these pandemic years, you would have had to see that something is happening in the UK. Top-of-the-year

lists sang the praises, again and again, of a huge outpouring of creative sound from the misty isles, mostly produced, in some shape or form by a group of associated musicians in and around London. What's more, almost all of these releases feature Jazz that is enthusiastically willing to shake the form, to bring in influences from Electronica, from Funk, from classic and modern R&B, and to embrace what, since the late '60s, has been often described as Spiritual Jazz (themes of enlightenment, social justice, humanity, equality).

In the wake of America's racial, gender and class upheavals of the last two years, it stands as a bit surprising that the strongest harvest of political, spiritual, humanist jazz comes from abroad. Not to suggest that the UK doesn't share those issues, but that there is as much if not more seed for the crop here at home.

If you're at all interested in exploring this trend, here are what, for me, have stood out as shining moments:

SONS OF KEMET – *Black To The Future* (IMPULSE)

The continuing exploits of **Shabaka Hutchings**'s quartet plus guests. It's slinky and funky and fiery. Plenty of rage and hope dueting in an Impulse-label tradition stretching back to Coltrane, Archie Shepp, Pharoah Sanders and more.

EMMA-JEAN THACKRAY – *Yellow* (MOVEMENTT)

I've got this on repeat in my life, right now. Funky, spiritual, aware, psychedelic, groovy jazz by a powerhouse instrumentalist/vocalist. Nothing about this is what it appears to be. The spirit of '70s Soul Jazz hovers about, harkening to the best of Bobbi Humphrey and Patrice Rushen. *Yellow* starts strong and just gets better through the course of the album, utilizing every tool needed to get the message across.

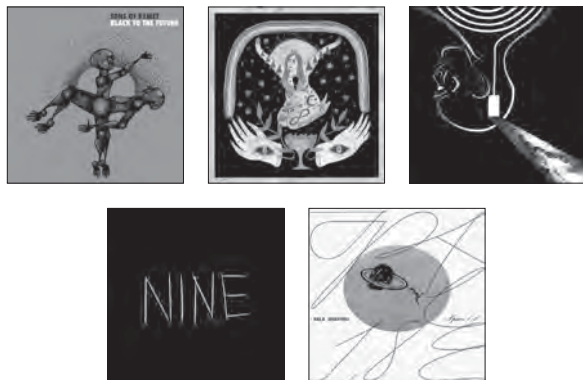


THEON CROSS – *Intra-I* (MARATHON ARTISTS/NEW SOIL)

Tuba wonder-worker from the **Sons of Kemet** crowd, merging Electronica, Hip Hop and Soul into a brand new being. He's not the first, of course, to make these connections, but in his hands, they seem to have truly merged into a cohesive and singular expression.

SAULT – *Nine* (FOREVER LIVING ORIGINALS)

Falling more in the R&B and HipHop camp, there is enough creativity and improvisation going on here to present them along the above-mentioned UK artists. Never has deep rage and pure fed-upness been so listenable. Struggle both social and personal driven along by the solid slink of beat and melody and soul. There's something here that reminds of New York's ESG, had they had all of today's knowledge and technology at hand. Also keep on eye for SAULT-vocalist **Cleo Sol**'s *Mother*.



NALA SINEPHRO – *Space 1.8*
(WARP)

Frustratingly difficult to get my hands on a hard format (LP or CD), *Space 1.8* is about as far-flung from Jazz' terminology as it can bear. Primarily built from the blocks of Ambient Electronica, it falls closer to the **Floating Points / Pharoah Sanders** collaboration that has made almost every best-of list for 2021. Equally if not more impressive in its merging of acoustic instruments and electronics, *Space 1.8* is the late-night chill we've been seeking.

**MORE FROM THE UK'S
RICH VEIN OF SOUND:**

PORTICO QUARTET

NUBIYAN TWIST

BINKER & MOSES
(Binker Golding and Moses Boyd)

ALFA MIST

NUBYA GARCIA

Jazz that is enthusiastically willing to shake the form, to bring in influences from Electronica, from Funk, from classic and modern R&B, and to embrace what, since the late '60s, has been often described as Spiritual Jazz

Esotouric

An interview with Kim Cooper
Interviewed by Alison Stolpa



Esotouric's "Crawling Down Cahuenga: Tom Waits's L.A." tour hosted by David Smay at the site of the Cosmo Alley club.
(Photo credit: Kim Cooper / Esotouric)

When I learned the theme of the latest Music We Like 'zine was adventure, I immediately knew I wanted to talk to Kim Cooper of Esotouric. Kim is a local historian and author, and along with Richard Schave runs webinars (currently) and leads tours (pre- and post-pandemic, whenever "post" may be) of LA true crime, literary, and cultural sites. With her background and wealth of knowledge, it seemed like Kim would know about some intriguing hidden musical treasures/ histories here in Hollywood...and she definitely delivered. Here's what she had to say.

AMOEBAS: DO YOU HAVE A GREAT AMOEBAS STORY?

Kim Cooper: Before launching Esotouric, I published a journal of unpopular culture called Scram. A few years after Amoeba opened in L.A., they eliminated their fanzine section, and I submitted an open letter signed by fellow zinesters asking them to bring it back—which they did! And not long after, pioneering critic Gene Sculatti (author of *The Catalog of Cool*) and I led a L.A. rock history bus tour that departed from the old Hollywood store.

IF YOU COULD REVIVE ONE LA MUSIC VENUE OF YORE, WHICH WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

The Haunted House Club at Hollywood and Vine, where acts played inside an enormous red ogre's mouth with glowing eyes and gushing smoke pots for nostrils. I feel like with a stage that ridiculous, no act could phone it in.



"There are no legal mechanisms in Los Angeles by which an historic sidewalk can be protected"

IS THERE A CERTAIN HISTORICAL MUSIC SCENE, VENUE, OR PERFORMER IN LA THAT YOU THINK HAS BEEN CRIMINALLY IGNORED?

Considering the strength of his lyrics, arrangements and proto-punk band styling, Sean Bonniwell of the Music Machine is my pick for neglected genius. And the two-minute "Masculine Intuition" is perfect for filling out a mixtape.

AS A PRESERVATIONIST, ARE THERE ANY ENDANGERED MUSIC-RELATED HISTORIC SITES FOR WHICH YOU'D LIKE TO SEE FANS/RESIDENTS ADVOCATE?

Yes! On the east side of Cosmo Street just north of Selma, behind the Ivar Theater and next to the telephone pole, there's a small, broken patch of concrete sidewalk inscribed with pretty long haired boys and girls, olive branches and the phrase "the moon is green leaves." One figure's eye is a penny dated 1956. I first noticed it while giving a Tom Waits tour with David Smay.



Kim Cooper pretending to dispose of evidence in the Barclay Hotel laundry chute. (Photo credit: Richard Schave)

I suspected—and was able to confirm thanks to a snotty syndicated 1958 column by Wallace Beene called "Those Far Out Beatniks"—that the sidewalk art is a remnant of the entrance to Theo Bikel's nightclub Cosmo Alley. That venue mainly booked folk acts, poets and edgy comics like George Carlin and Lenny Bruce, who taught the resident mynah bird to say "The Pope sucks." Then in the mid-1960s it became Bido Lito's, where Love was the house band.

While recording *Aftermath* at RCA, The Rolling Stones came by and were so impressed by Arthur Lee's song "My Love She Comes in Colors" that they stole it: "She's a Rainbow (She Comes in Colors)" hit #25 on the US charts. Later still, the club became the Sewers of Paris, a sleazy Tom Waits haunt, and the reason we stop there on our Waits tours. But because they're a gray area between public and private space, there are no legal mechanisms in Los Angeles by which an historic sidewalk can be protected. So all I can do is hope this forgotten Beat Generation relic sticks around to intrigue future generations, and that more people know it's there and keep an eye on it. When visiting Hollywood Amoeba, I hope you'll walk the four short blocks over and say hi.

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BERKELEY



JIM NASTIC

THE EX – Dignity Of Labour
(SUPERIOR VIADUCT)
Find it in: PUNK

Bärchen Und Die Milchbubis – Endlich Komplett Betrunk
(TAPETE RECORDS)
Find it in: PUNK

Jazz Spastiks – Camera Of Sound (JAZZPLASTIK)
Find it in: HIP HOP

Alternative TV – Vining Up The Senile Man (Part One)
(SPITTLE RECORDS)
Find it in: PUNK

Hollie Cook – Vessel Of Love
(MERGE RECORDS)
Find it in: REGGAE

Faze – Content (11 PM RECORDS)
Find it in: PUNK

Little Simz – Sometimes I Might Be Introvert
(AGE 101 MUSIC)
Find it in: HIP HOP

Dropdead – Demos 1991
(ARMAGEDDON LABEL)
Find it in: PUNK

Billy Nomates – Billy Nomates
(INVADA RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK

VAUGHN

I like records

War On Drugs – I Don't Live Here Anymore (ATLANTIC)
Find it in: ROCK

Sturgill Simpson – The Ballad Of Dood And Juanita (HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN)
Find it in: BLUEGRASS

Valerie June – The Moon And Stars: Prescriptions For Dreamers (FANTASY RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK

Julie Doiron – I Thought Of You
(YOU'VE CHANGED RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK

Hand Habits – Fun House
(SADDLE CREEK)
Find it in: ROCK

Japanese Breakfast – Jubilee (DEAD OCEANS)
Find it in: ROCK

My Morning Jacket – My Morning Jacket (ATO RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK

Courtney Barnett – Things Take Time, Take Time
(MOM + POP)
Find it in: ROCK

Bob Dylan – Springtime In New York (LEGACY RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK

Snail Mail – Valentine (MATADOR RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK

KEVIN

Sparkle – Sparkle (CULTURES OF SOUL RECORDS)
Find it in: SOUL

This one is not brand spankin' new, but it is a recent reissue of a slamming disco/funk record from '79, produced by the drummer from Wood, Brass and Steel. Recorded in my home state of CT, which does not get much notoriety for funky music, this record is extra special and is still a great listen a year later.

Dyke & the Blazers – I Got A Message: Hollywood 1968-1970 (CRAFT RECORDINGS)
Find it in: SOUL

Comp of some of the tightest, dirtiest funk there is! There is a comp of some of the band's earlier stuff that is also great, but this one to me is IT!!

Brian Jackson, Ali Shaheed Muhammad, & Adrian Younge – Jazz is Dead #8 (JAZZ IS DEAD)
Find it in: JAZZ

Adrian Younge & Ali Shaheed Muhammad have been doing this series of albums for a couple years now, where they team up with legendary funk/soul/jazz musicians and make a record. They are all REALLY good!! Definitely recommend to fans of soul-jazz, funk/fusion kind of stuff that's heavy on Fender Rhodes. This latest one featuring Brian Jackson, notable for working with Gil Scott Heron, is no exception. Check it out!

Candi Staton – Trouble, Heartaches And Sadness (Rare Cuts From The Fame Sessions Masters) (STATESIDE)
Find it in: SOUL

This was a Record Store Day release a couple back, but ended up getting regularly released after that (I think!). I can't believe some of these songs didn't make it onto records. Some of the best B-sides I've heard from any artist, ever. They

are put together in a wonderful sequence. One of the finest voices in '70s soul. Can't go wrong with any of her FAME records

Afro-beat Airways – West African Shock Waves Ghana & Togo 1972-1978 (ANALOG AFRICA)
Find it in: WORLD

This is one of many Analog Africa comps that has been reissued this year, and I would be hard pressed to find a bad one by this label. This one is super groovy, slightly more laid back and less blaring horns that what one may expect. Also recommend the Edo-funk, Cameroon funk, Senegal '70, and anything by this label that you can dig out of our Africa Comps. Hopefully we can keep stocking these, because they have been satisfying many ears!

Doug Carn – Adam's Apple (BLACK JAZZ / REAL GONE MUSIC)
Find it in: JAZZ

Yeah yeah yeah I know, another reissue. Not sorry! Since Real Gone Music got the rights to the Black Jazz catalog, they seem to be putting out almost everything the label released, if not all of it. Some of these titles have been available on CD and LP, but most of these were previously pretty rare. They're all also REALLY good. Cannot stress how nice the quality of these reissues are either, most important being the sound quality, which did not disappoint in the least bit.

Adam's Apple is a favorite of mine, consisting of some hard-boppy tracks (including a wild cover of EW&F's "Mighty Mighty"), some funky stuff ("Higher Ground"), and some on the more spiritual-jazz tip ("Western Sunrise"). This record has some of Doug Carn's heavier hitting tunes and a HOT band including Ronnie Laws, Big Black, and Calvin Keys (guitarist who did some fantastic records on this label too!!).

If you like this kind of stuff, also check out records from (label owner) Gene Russell, Walter Bishop Jr, Chester Thompson, Henry Franklin, Rudolph Johnson, and others! I've tried to get my hands on all of these and have not been less than satisfied by any of them.

Asha Puthli – The Devil Is Loose (MR BONGO)
Find it in: SOUL

Funky '70s disco/ soul from the fabulous Asha Puthli! Super smooth and sexy. Some heavy dance floor jammers on this, like "Space Walk," are prime DJ material.

Khruangbin – Mordechai (DEAD OCEANS, NIGHT TIME STORIES)
Find it in: ROCK

This band is on fire. Their music keeps getting better. This record is a nice mix of danceable songs and some really laid back, dreamy jams. Never lackluster, each member of the band brings something special to the table on every song, and they groove so hard!!

Tip:
Check out my band Hangtown Fry!

FELIX

*Dedicated to the mind and spirit of
Bruce Anderson*

Hahn / Fauré / Saint-Saëns / Duparc / Holmès / Franck – Music from Proust's Salons (BIS)

Featuring: Steven Isserlis / Connie Shih

Find it in: CLASSICAL

I'll admit that when I first saw the title of this recently released French composer compilation with the name "Proust" affixed and noticeable, I was intrigued. My most cherished reading experience (too many years ago) was undoubtedly spent reading all of Proust's epic seven book series entitled, "In Search Of Lost Time." But another fixated moment I had with this release was observing the photo on its digipak cover; a 1909 oil painting by Henri Gervex entitled "Une soirée au Pré Catelan." The painting exhibits a typical salon scene from the Belle Époque era; a societal arena comparable to what Proust wrote about so efficiently. Simply put, this is French society when it was at its most luxurious. And the music presented on this appealing compilation reflects what Proust's characters most likely heard while being numb to so much beauty and comfort. The cellist on this recording, Steven Isserlis, a great admirer of Proust (who on earth is not?), chose these compositions specifically for that very reason: merely to bring to light the music Proust and what his cohorts were familiar with and heard while mingling about from party to party. Both Steven Isserlis and Canadian pianist Connie Shih collaborate throughout this 83 minute gem making certain to touch upon Proust's favorite composers, not to mention, his closest friends.



And who better to kick off this Proustian journey than the composer Reynaldo Hahn? Not only a well known composer of songs and melodies but just as importantly, one of Proust's closest friends. "Variations chantantes sur un air ancien" is a 1905 evocative piece that will bring out sentimental memories to anyone within earshot. Beautifully played by Mr. Isserlis and Miss Shih with a careful and meticulous reading of what was most likely performed inside those swanky French parlors. The music is contagious with pungent feelings of possibilities for an untroubled future. "Variations chantantes..." is simply a charming piece with a nostalgic air.

The following harmonious sketch is Gabriel Fauré's "Romance," written and made popular when Proust was only 23. Its songlike nature is used more in today's concerts as an encore. Next, the somber and sad opening to "Élégie," an earlier composition of Fauré's, turns a bit wild before settling into a luxurious poetic frame of mind. Yes, these short pieces are quite moody, but ever so alluring and bewitching.

Saint-Saëns' first Cello Sonata written in 1872 was inspired by the death of his great aunt (his role models were dominated by women). His Cello Sonata was also finished shortly after the Franco-Prussian War ended leading to the sudden rise of the German state. So, no doubt, this was a difficult time for Saint-Saëns. The sonata begins with a tempestuous mood which quickly turns melancholic. Two minutes in, the wafting and floating phrases of Miss Shih's piano cools down any gloominess. Saint-Saëns here makes full use of the lower registers of both cello and piano. Yet the magical 2nd movement begins on a lighter note conjuring up nostalgic but favorable memories of what once was. Mr. Isserlis' cello phrasing throughout is in tune with human emotions. I remember reading and agreeing with a writer expressing his bafflement that so few major composers hadn't combined the voice and cello more often. Which brings me



to add that I can't think of an instrument more similar to the human voice other than that of the cello. Steven Isserlis' playing is heartfelt. In this release they even include the Cello Sonatas original final movement in addition to the revised version. Personally I prefer the original but why on earth did Saint-Saëns feel the need to revise it? Well, his mother demanded him to.

Including Augusta Holmès on this compilation was a novel move by Mr. Isserlis. Miss Holmès published some of her work under a male pseudonym just so as to be accepted in her profession. The senselessness of mankind has historically kept her hidden, just because she was born a female. Can we, as people, appear to be any more ridiculous? Anyway, "Récitatif et chant" is an engaging and alluring piece. This composition alone can instantly transport me inside a Proust novel! Miss Holmès' instrumentation is full of glamor and charm as the cello & piano sing along with a passionate longing. The closeness and weight of the cello's phrasing in contrast with refreshing clustered splashes from the writing of the piano is what's so beautiful about this lone piece of her music. Without question, Proust's intriguing love story of Charles Swann and his lover Odette de Crecy in "Swann's Way" immediately comes to my mind when listening to this engaging music.

The final piece, "Sonata in A major" made famous by César Franck, was written for violin. Here, of course, the arrangement is a bit different using a cello instead. It's amazing how adaptable the cello is for it seamlessly substitutes a permanent idea (instrument) for another. But it's the voice of the cello that is so much similar to our own human voice, which Mr. Isserlis captures so remarkably well. And Connie Shih's fabulous phrasing soars alongside with inspired energy. In the second movement (Allegro) the cello marvelously captures the mood of the human spirit with unpredictable uneasiness. Yet it wants

to calm down, for the piano has a clever way of soothing a tempestuous cello. Both players perform with astonishing refinement.

Surely the Belle Epoch era was the golden age in French history, or rather, was the air of insouciance in French history. But regardless, this CD will become a staple in my musical life. It hasn't quite matched my unforgettable years of reading Proust but it certainly has allowed me to reminisce of that era with clear focus. Oh, and as I hinted at earlier, Henri Gervex's painting (on the cover) was, in addition to the extraordinary music, a perfect snapshot of the Belle Epoch era in addition to the world which Marcel Proust knew so well, because he lived it. This release should become irresistible to any admirers of Marcel Proust. That alone should get most of you to order this magical yet thoughtful release.

Alfred Schnittke – Works for Violin and Piano

(DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Featuring: Daniel Hope / Alexey Botvinov

Find it in: Classical

Born in South Africa and raised in various European countries, the violinist Daniel Hope explains his passion for the Russian composer Alfred Schnittke in the provided booklet.

His passion for the composer began in 1989 when the violinist was only 15 and unpredictably grew until Schnittke's death in 1998. In this unusual release, Daniel Hope chooses from an array of Schnittke's compositions which span from 1963 up to 1990. These are the pieces Mr. Hope wanted us to know and chose the most famous Ukrainian pianist, Alexey Botvinov to accompany him. If anyone is unfamiliar with the compositions of Alfred Schnittke, this CD would be the most fascinating choice to make.

Schnittke had an innate sensibility to old German baroque thanks to his father's deep rooted connection to Frankfurt Germany and his mother being Volga German. From the outset the disc opens with a 5 movement piece entitled: "Suite im alten Stil" (Suite in the Old Style) composed in 1972 and begins in a sing-song fashion with a soporific bent. A sort of bedtime melody for toddlers which was surprising for me since I am more familiar with Schnittke's modern compositions. Both the first & second movements are lively and inoffensive yet the following Minuet 3rd movement is slow and melancholic but with a foot firmly rooted in German baroque. Mr. Botvinov's piano plays

ornamental phrasing (more pronounced in the 4th) while Mr. Hope's violin is ever so busy with trying to stand out. The finale is an interesting conclusion in that the sort of sweet melodic duo of both the piano & violin begins to fade away towards patches of dissonance. Easily digestible works were a required form for Soviet composers over 50 years ago. So one wonders if this sudden shift, within this specific piece, is a personal statement against Soviet oppression. Regardless, individualism and disillusionment will certainly become more pronounced in Schnittke's future compositions.

Following "Polka" and "Tango," where borrowed tradition continues, we are abruptly introduced to Schnittke's Violin Sonata which, to put it quite bluntly, is a drastic change towards dissonance. All familiar tradition which he savored is jettisoned for a more contemporary approach, embracing modern composers like Alban Berg, Bela Bartok, Shostakovich and Stravinsky. But what exactly was Schnittke's own individual style? For this writer, it's become difficult to know for I used to associate Schnittke's style with a peculiar mixture of despondency and dramatic wit. With this latest release, I believe Daniel Hope has provided us with a fresher and certainly more crisp rendition of Schnittke's music. Each of these compositions of Schnittke's were chosen by Mr. Hope for a particular purpose: namely to point out that Alfred Schnittke does not limit himself to any single idiom but instead uses his vast musical knowledge as pastiche for his own musical style. The simple fact of the matter is that Mr. Schnittke is a clever composer full of inventive surprises.

But the highlight of this Schnittke potpourri should favor this next musical sketch entitled "Madrigal in memoriam Oleg Kagan," a tribute to one of Schnittke's closest friends. Mr. Kagan, a violinist and a frequent performer of Schnittke's music, suddenly passed away when he was 44; Schnittke, at the time, was 56. This piece encapsulates the severe loss of the composer's closest friend and it most certainly shows. Written for unaccompanied violin, Daniel Hope, I'm guessing, has probably never before played the violin so intimately as he does here. Phrasing is extremely lyrical with the weight of grief throughout this contemplative but thoughtful reading.

The final track is one of the most gloomy versions of "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) that I have ever heard. I doubt this version will ever be replicated for a x-mas compilation to give out as gifts. The real question is why would Schnittke transform one of the most lovable lullabies of all

time into a nightmare? In this version, the melody becomes intentionally off-key while the piano coats the background with deep, distant dissonance of singular notes yet coupled together with the violin, they continue to carry this well-known melody like a dysfunctional metronome. The wit of Schnittke's humor is obvious to me. It's also possible that this was Schnittke's way of evoking a feeling of protest against the then current regime. In other words, a way of pushing back against Soviet bureaucratic control.

Nothing on this compilation is predictable for Alfred Schnittke's music is multifaceted and quite entertaining. His skills involved adopting old traditional music into contemporary form without concern to any one idiom. Easily one of the most underrated and overlooked composers of the 20th century. I encourage you to embrace this captivating assortment of Schnittke works. Your ears will gape with wonderment.

Grieg / Brahms / Josephine Lang / Schumann –

The Dark Night Has Vanished

(LINN)

Featuring: Catriona Morison / Malcolm Martineau

Find it in: CLASSICAL

Scottish mezzo-soprano Catriona Morison possesses one of the most appealing new singing voices I've heard in recent memory. Phrasing is concise and insatiable with clear diction that will please anyone within auditory range. It's no wonder she won the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition back in 2017 when she was only 31. Here on *The Dark Night Has Vanished* Miss Morison sings from three well-known romantic composers and one overlooked composer from the same era. All of these pieces are art songs which challenge the voice in ways that only an elite singer can tackle. Catriona Morison is the perfect songster for such a feat.





She opens singing Edvard Grieg's "Sechs Lieder" accompanied by the eminent and highly regarded pianist, Malcolm Martineau (noticing his name on the cover was the main reason I initially chose this disc). Here are six songs with texts written by various writers from Germany. These are challenging songs which require expressive sustained notes, often changing directions demanding a pliant and elastic delivery. It helps to read the German text while Miss Morison sings her lines for one will notice her amazing ability of deftness. About 40 seconds into the third song, Catriona sings this German line "Doch sagt sie: nein! auch nie." with a great deal of precision, especially as she stylishly snorts "...auch nie." Or when singing just the word "Trauten" in the following track where her noticeable trills are taut and executed with attractive clarity.

Unlike the decorative nature of baroque singing, these songs are even more marked with heartfelt emotions like the contemplative nature of the finale of Grieg's songs which are so well done by Miss Morison. The following six separate songs by Brahms are quite austere in nature which is ideal for Miss Morison's pellucid delivery. Her tone of the lower register is gorgeous to hear in these songs especially. But the song "Sapphische Ode" which is simply irresistible, demands a steady legato at the lower register and again, Catriona Morison shines here.

One of the composers which Miss Morison felt in need to add to this release is the German composer Josephine Lang. I have never heard of her before but listening to these six songs encouraged me to take notice. Although her life was rather tragic through the death of her three sons as well as her own frail health, she

has managed, regardless of the obvious obstacles she needed to face, to publish well over 100 songs. Miss Morison represents Miss Lang's songs remarkably well.

The remaining set of songs on this CD "Sechs Gedichte und Requiem" belong to Robert Schumann who composed them mistakenly thinking a poet friend of his, Nikolaus Lenau, had died. Unfortunately on the very first performance these songs were actually performed in public at one of Schumann's friend's houses and news reached Robert Schumann (who was in attendance) that Lenau had in fact died that very day. It's amazing the amount of tragedy both Robert & his wife Clara Schumann have endured in their lives for this recently mentioned tragedy unfortunately pales in comparison to many others. Although the history behind these songs are rather eerie, Miss Morison and Mr. Martineau together capture appealing expressions which are well balanced. Color in Miss Morison's vocals are subdued but pronunciation is ever so eloquently articulated.

Miss Morison's singing is the sort of delivery which the human ear can never tire from prolonged listening. Her low and even timbre is a marvel to know and grasp. And Malcolm Martineau's piano phrasing adds color as a complement to her, at times, sternness. Now I've been persuaded to seek future releases from this Scottish wonder of a singer. You, dear reader, should follow suit.

Beethoven / Wagner / Verdi
– Beethoven / Wagner / Verdi
 (DECCA)

Featuring: Lise Davidsen /
Sir Mark Elder / London
Philharmonic Orchestra

Find it in: CLASSICAL

This is the second time I've included a Lise Davidsen CD to my MWL list. Previously, her debut just two years ago on DECCA, quickly opened my eyes to her impressive confidence with heavy composers like Wagner and Richard Strauss. So much so that she sang both Strauss & Wagner songs as though she was born to sing them. Here, in her current release, the vocal range is wider with more notes toward the top of the scale. This is mainly due to the addition of Italian arias from three different composers. Also in this release Miss Davidsen is more open to allowing her vibrato to shimmer a bit more. But the simple fact of the matter is that not only is Lise Davidsen a wonderful singer but she is firmly on the path of becoming a great singer with possible iconic status. But only time will tell.

I'm in a long line of Lise Davidsen admirers who have spoken with similar sentiments as mine yet her three CDs (she has one on Chandos) are relatively new for all of us, as the public's initial introduction to her singing was a mere three years ago! But it's her resiliency in controlling sudden emotional outbursts with natural ease. Like in the aria from "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagni where beautiful phrasing gives way to sudden bursts of energy. Almost as if this energy was of a divine nature. Listen to the variety of Miss Davidsen's phrasing in Verdi's aria from "La forza del destino." Soon after the swirling expressions of the London Philharmonic whirl about, Miss Davidsen exhibits an attractive assortment of emotional impressions that will keep one's imagination busy. Her gift of exuding maturity and experience in her delivery is astonishing for such a young Wagnarian singer (she's 34) who is still in her honeymoon years as a new artist. I say Wagnarian because her delivery and tone are ideally suited for those melodramatic operatic roles.

Her rendition of Beethoven's "Ah! perfido," a concert aria he composed at 27 years old, is delivered with longer phrases from the higher register. Her voice sounds younger in this set of four songs but not without a great deal of strength and stamina. Sometimes the melodramatic nature of the aria (text and music) can match too closely with the singer's solemn delivery. This is not the case with Lise Davidsen whose spirited zeal manages to overcome the mammoth obstacles she must face.

But of course the crème de la crème of this release is Wagner's set of five songs written specifically for the female voice entitled "Wesendonck Lieder." What spectacular phrasing is heard in the initial song, "Der Engel," with an extraordinary mix of both youth and experience. Miss Davidsen's singing voice has that effect on me.

The following song, "Stehe still!" showcases the sheer intensity of how strong Miss Davidsen's singing voice really is. There's both delicacy and fierceness in this song and the fact that she can change the intensity of the song with such command is simply amazing.

Wagner wrote these songs while composing the legendary and colossal opera "Tristan und Isolde." And the third song of this specific set, "Im Treibhaus," is a sort of sketch/study taken from that opera. The music here is a scattered dose of gloom and moodiness. Miss Davidsen's delivery is pensive but ever so demonstrative.

And speaking of demonstrative phrasing, the fourth song, "Schmerzen," is a wonderful example of this. There is very little vibrato in her phrasing (not that vibrato is a bad thing) but her voice is endowed with so much might, steel and force without losing any control. Her focus and heart is unwavering with phenomenal conviction.

The final song, "Träume," another Wagner sketch while composing "Tristan," is so beautifully written and sung. The isolated horns from the orchestra alongside the shimmering violins is the epitome of the Wagner sound, reminding me of the twilight hour where thoughts are more potent than ever. Where an overpowering love in one's heart is not without a sense of dreaded trepidation. The London Philharmonic Orchestra led by Sir Mark Elder fills the recording with so much magic and power. And of course the amazing singing voice of Lise Davidsen is finally the main reason one should purchase this impressive disc. There are many operatic voices I enjoy hearing, but hers is my personal favorite. Miss Davidsen understands the nature of these songs so well. If you, dear reader, are in the hunt for a potentially legendary singing voice that is active, young and with plenty of abilities and future, well then, there is no need to look further than right here. Lise Davidsen's singing is what you really want to hear.

Steingrímur Rohloff –
Medea / Lysistrata

(DACAPO RECORDS)

Featuring: Tuva Semmingsen / Peter
Laugesen / Esbjerg Ensemble

Find it in: CLASSICAL

Steingrímur Rohloff, born in Iceland to a German father and Icelandic mother, presents, in this new release, a rather newfangled musical approach to two well-known mythical Greek heroines, namely, Medea and Lysistrata. With the





and engaging, a subtle shift towards dissonance and conflict keeps the listener focused on Medea's state of mind.

There is a bit of controlled hysteria in Medea's voice as Miss Semmingsen sings "Fate is a rat." Again, the diaphanous and delicate quality of the Esbjerg Ensemble mimics Medea's state of mind so marvelously. Is it that she is trying to control the gods (the music) or the other way around? Rohloff's composition has the unique capability of feeding the listener's imagination.

In the beginning of the final song, "I'll finish now," both the flute and clarinet with heightened horns in the background, breathe as imperceptibly as possible while both cascade downwards in unison. Semmingsen's solitary voice is clear and without vibrato while the skeletal music continues to hang down, like a shroud. The effect is frigid and stark but not without wonder and admiration.

The overture to *Lysistrata* begins eerily with strange disjointed cries from what sounds like young children. Laugesen himself then reads a brief introduction to Aristophanes' play (in Danish, of course) and then strangeness occurs. Almost a weird circus-like attack with pronounced percussion and an aggressive brass section from the Esbjerg Ensemble finishes the introduction.

In "Lysistrata's plan," subdued female voices are heard in strange rapport planning and explaining the scheme they have for their fighting men who are coming home from the war (of course Lysistrata's plan is to have the women agree to deny their men sex so as to compel them to stop the war). There is an eerie intensity to the sung phrases almost as if they were sung under a magical spell. Also it's essential to understand that Lysistrata is under intense pressure for she must persuade and convince a large group of women to forgo sex with their spouses. Lysistrata understands this as is revealed in the intensity of her delivery. Also Rohloff manages to stagger Semmingsen's voice, adding to the tension.

In "Showy women" Semmingsen's low melancholic voice amidst strange music, sings at an odd pace but with funny lyrics (sung in Danish):

*We organise
We paint
We arrange our hair
We paint our eyelids and lips
We try new shoes and sexy clothes
while they sail round on the seas....*

These lines oddly remind me of the lyrics in "Stupid Girl" by the Rolling Stones; yet here, the roles are upturned for Lysistrata finally puts her foot down, no longer wanting to play the traditional wifely role for men. The variety of not only the ensembles playing but also Miss Semmingsen's trance-like delivery is what makes this piece so entertaining.

There are no monotonous or repetitive movements as Rohloff's ideas are always fresh and bold. And Tuva Semmingsen's energy continues to shift. But towards the end of "That kind of foolishness" the ensemble cheers up and gives their heroine hope. Yet in the final movement, "Forget," the lyrics as well as the slow, prodding pace of the music reminds us that we are all unfortunately bound to repeat our hackneyed habits as Semmingsen's whispered voice repeats the Danish word "Glem" (forget) over and over again to where it begins to sound like a fleeting dream.

For me, "*Medea / Lysistrata*" was one of the most interesting finds of 2021. These molded and arranged compositions presented me with unfamiliar ways of listening. With a delicate use of electronics, coupled with the translucent effects of the Esbjerg Ensemble, Steingrimur Rohloff has formed an interesting framework for the vocals of Tuva Semmingsen to shine. Truly a work that bursts with creativity and imaginative colors. These works by this Icelandic/German composer are works that are in need of an open mind which, interestingly enough, point directly to you, dear reader.

Baciewicz / Poldowski / Szymanowski – The Polish Violin Volume 2

(CHANDOS)

**Featuring: Jennifer Pike /
Petr Limonov**

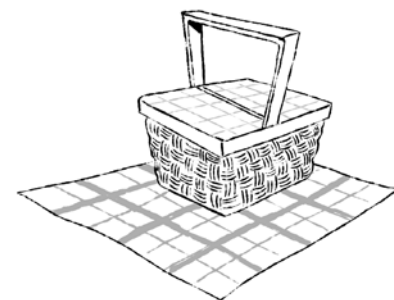
Find it in: CLASSICAL

British violinist, Jennifer Pike, who recently turned 32 years old, has undertaken quite a heavy task in this latest CD. The three Polish composers highlighted here are not the typical choices a young violinist would often choose to portray their talent. Especially for a commercial release such as this one. These are weighty and serious compositions which require not only a talent that is way beyond the ordinary but also can be quite demanding for the listener. In 2019, Miss Pike released "The Polish Violin" which this writer has not yet heard. So after listening to this release; I will now certainly want to hear it.. But for this release (Volume 2), I have never been so

enamored with such serious and demanding violin sonatas.

Miss Pike is not alone in this release. 37 year old Russian pianist, Petr Limonov, accompanies her throughout five of the six pieces on this release. In 1998 he won the Nikolai Rubinstein Piano Competition in Paris. So on this disc, Mr. Limonov has no problem with keeping pace with Miss Pike's often tempestuous playing. In Sonata, Op.9 by Karol Szymanowski, Pike's focused attention to the melodic phrases are beautiful to hear despite the vehemence it sometimes evokes. This is an impressive piece of music to hear and is greatly inspired by late Romanticism (some of the phrasing immediately reminded ME of Schumann's Violin Cto), but the playing can sound rather turbulent and poignant. She evokes these emotions with such ease! Yes, the emotions which she is conveying imply struggle and passion, but in order to effectively accomplish this to us, namely the audience, one must be scrupulous towards detail. Pike accomplishes this remarkably well.

Szymanowski's "Three Paganini Caprices" are transcribed for violin and piano. Niccolò Paganini's famous Twenty-four Caprices were written for solo violin in 1918 and Szymanowski chose to radically alter #20, 21 & 24. Keep in mind the word, "Caprices" for they signify a sudden change of mood and this is exactly what we get in these wonderful movements. The skill of dexterity in Pike's phrasing is a wonder to discern. No two lines from the violin are the same. Simply extraordinary to hear her take command with authority. It's not just the change of mood which is strongly felt within these three passages, but also the artful way she alters the pressure of the bow on the strings. Pike understands this concept of tension, relaxation, and flexibility of her bow arm for her effortlessness starts with the bow arm's ability to control tension, allowing the natural energy of her body motion to carry the music forwards. Easier said than done!





In "Sonata" by Poldowski (the name Poldowski is a pseudonym for Régine Wieniawski, daughter of composer Henryk Wieniawski) the phrasing is more pensive and rather moody. Also melancholic lyricism shifts to violent passages as Pike, again, achieves this with staggering poise. Written in 1912, this four movement piece is still heavily influenced by late Romanticism, yet German expressionism is not forgotten. The final movement is erratic and hugely unstable but both Pike and Mr. Limonov ride those tempestuous waves ever so tastefully.

Pike's only solo piece by Grażyna Bacewicz entitled "Kapryst Polski" (also known as "Polish Caprice") is a three minute boastful display at deftness. Violin pieces are an essential element of the musical output of Grażyna Bacewicz and Pike's choice here, despite its brevity, adds to the excitement of this release. If Jennifer Pike can achieve such brilliant instrumental playing of the violin at the young age of only 32, imagine what she will accomplish in the next, 10, 20, 30, 40 years? If you're looking to be entertained by a master of her instrument, I would consider you to give Jennifer Pike's release some attention. It's a no-brainer.

MICHAEL H

*DJ Megasoup on KALX & Mixcloud,
and maker of music as Selaroda &
one half of the duo Skyminds.*

Adrian Young & Ali Shaheed Muhammad – Instrumentals JID009 (JAZZ IS DEAD)

Find it in: JAZZ
Excellent 2xLP collection of instrumental jams from this duo, featuring tracks from some of the initial eight volumes in this growing series. Soul, jazz, latin, funk, Brazilian... it's all here, and it's all got that groove.

Arlo Parks – Collapsed In Sunbeams

(TRANSGRESSIVE RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Well-written songs from this interesting new UK talent. Her lyrics feature the kind of deceptively simple wisdom which takes time to set in, and it permeates these tracks. Really nice voice and production too.

Armand Hammer & The Alchemist – Haram

(BACKWOODZSTUDIOZ)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Heavy beats, heavy rhymes. Top-notch debut from this trio of modern hip hop masters who have each been at their individual crafts and have all been releasing music for close to 20 years now.

Arooj Aftab – Vulture Prince

(NEW AMSTERDAM RECORDS)

Find it in: WORLD

Gorgeous songs from this Pakistani artist, combining jazz, pop, folk, and traditional Hindustani ghazals of India. Her beautiful voice and the deep emotional resonance I feel listening to it makes this a favorite for me.

Arushi Jain – Under the Lilac Sky

(LEAVING RECORDS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

A really lovely blend of ambient modular synthesizer drones and classical Indian vocal ragas... a sublimely powerful and deeply immersive listen.

Beduine – Waysides

(THE ORCHARD)

Find it in: ROCK

Breezy folk-rock with hints of the 1970's Laurel Canyon troubadours and featuring a superb yet subtle studio band, her third album is just as charming and poignant as the first two.

Cassandra Jenkins – An Overview on Phenomenal

Nature (BA DA BING!)

Find it in: ROCK

Definitely one of my favorite song-oriented albums this year. Great introspective lyrics and really nice vocal performances. There are some lovely ambient and jazz elements that infuse the whole album, and they really set it apart from other indie and pop releases.

Chuck Johnson – The Cinder Grove

(VIN DU SELECT QUALITITEVDSQ)

Find it in: ROCK

This great local Oakland artist levels up with another amazing album of beautiful ambient pedal steel guitar explorations. This one includes some lovely cello, violin, viola, and piano as well, including contributions from Sarah Davachi and Marielle V. Jakobsons. Highly recommended!

Cochemea – Vol II: Baca Sewa

(DAPTONE)

Find it in: SOUL

Another killer set from long-time Daptone / Dap-King saxophonist and his crew of groovin' percussionists. Produced by legendary Daptone/Desco label founder Gabriel Roth, and full of funky drums and soulful sax & vocals.

Dax Pierson – Nerve Bumps (A Queer Divine Dissatisfaction)

(RATSKIN)

Find it in: ROCK

Local Oakland / Anticon legend and forever Amoeba family member Dax is back with his first proper studio album, and it's incredible. Reflecting his long journey back to finding his creative path after a terrible tour van accident over 15 years ago, this melange of electronic beats, samples, and synth melodies tells the story of someone determined to create against all odds. Successful beyond any definition of the word given his paralysis from the chest down, this album is a triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity, and it's also totally awesome music to dance to!

Derya Yıldırım & Grup Şimşek – Dost I (LES DISQUES BONGO JOE /

CATAPULTE RECORDS)

Find it in: WORLD

Fantastic album of Turkish psychedelic rock from this modern band that sounds a lot like the classic stuff from Erkin Koray, Barış Manço, and Ersen. Derya Yıldırım is incredible... she plays Turkish scales on the saz and her lilting vocals immediately pull you back to the exotic world of Istanbul in the 1970s... take a trip with this incredible record.

El Michels Affair – Yeti Season

(BIG CROWN RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUL

Another funky album from this NYC ensemble, this time with a bit of Turkish psych and Indian soul mixed in for extra flavor. The four tracks with vocalist Piya Malik are standouts, but the

whole thing is really nice, perfectly poised between upbeat and laid back, foreign and familiar, rough and smooth... a remarkable mixture of killer grooves.

Floating Points & Pharoah Sanders with the London Symphony Orchestra – Promises (LUAKA BOP)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

An incredible fusion of jazz, ambient, and classical music, very hard to categorize but easy to let it wash over you in a churning sea of truly magnificent emotions and revelations. A cosmic experience that rewards patient and repeat listens. A masterpiece of modern music from this unlikely pairing that somehow transcends the sum of the individual parts and somehow becomes even more than anyone could have imagined.

J Foerster / N Kramer – Habitat (LEAVING)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

A lovely ambient album of environmental music from this Berlin based duo. Excellent use of unusual percussion instruments that were then processed variously and filtered through modular synths to achieve a sort of ambient rhythm field that is somehow both tranquil and energizing at the same time. Really interesting debut release from these two, can't wait to hear more from them after this one really captivated my imagination.

Jane Weaver – Flock (FIRE)

Find it in: ROCK

This UK songwriter continues to evolve her sound on each album, nodding to a few new influences each time around. There's still a heavy debt to Stereolab and Broadcast here, but I also hear a bit more soul, funk, and disco. It's well integrated into her overall sound though, and therefore doesn't seem out of place amidst the already magnificent assortment of synth-pop and electronic rock.

Little Simz – Sometimes I Might Be Introvert (AGE 101)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Such a killer album from this London artist who has a really unique flow. She is joined by Cleo Soul of SAULT on one great single, and Inflo (also of SAULT) is on production for the whole thing so you know it's gonna be great. A nice mix of sounds and styles, and easily some of the best modern hip hop coming out of the UK (or anywhere, really).



Men I Trust – Untourable Album

(RETURN TO ANALOG)

Find it in: ROCK

They were a new discovery to me in 2021, but I am very glad that I found this Canadian combo. Shimmering and ethereal at times, low key grooving at others. I especially dig the jazzy, melodic bass playing, and her voice is so silky smooth... Delicate dream pop for the moments when you need music to be your friend.

Michael Harrison – Seven Sacred Names

(CANTALOUPE)

Find it in: CLASSICAL

Another fine set of mellow material in the just intonation tuning system from NYC composer Michael Harrison. Due to his use of that ancient scale, there are lots of fascinating overtones here, yielding a meditative contemporary classical release that is perfect for deep thinking and deep breathing.

Nala Sinephro – Space 1.8

(WARP)

Find it in: JAZZ

Contemporary jazz with elements of ambient music, featuring synthesizers and harps played by Nala herself. Another great artist from the current London scene, this album also features Nubya Garcia on sax, drummer Eddie Hick, and a number of other key players from the burgeoning modern jazz movement over there.

Okuté – Okuté

(CHULO)

Find it in: WORLD

This suitably raw Cuban ensemble features bass, amplified tré (a small guitar-like instrument that originated in Cuba), and a whole lot of drums and percussion. Top that off with some passionate vocals, including some based on chants to the Orishas, and you have the soulful sound of Okuté! They are signed to the Chulo label of Jacob Plasse (of Orquesta Akokán, Okonkolo, Los Hacheros, Peliroja, etc.), and this sparkling debut is well worth a listen if any of this sounds interesting to you.

Orchestre Tout Puissant Marcel Duchamp – We're OK. But We're Lost

Anyway.

(LES DISQUES BONGO JOE)

Find it in: WORLD

Incredible large ensemble from Geneva in Switzerland. This time around, they are 12-members strong, and they fuse krautrock, jazz, post punk, african funk, brass band music, and the stylish retro-pop of folks like Stereolab into a fascinating hybrid musical explosion. This one took me by surprise, and the more I listen to it the more I enjoy it. I imagine it would be a blast to see them play live too...

Orquesta Akokán – 16 Rayos (DAPTONE)

Find it in: WORLD

Fantastic follow up to their phenomenal debut from a few years ago, and another fine example of classic Cuban styles reanimated for the modern world. You can still hear the echoes of latin music legends such as Beny Moré and Perez Prado in pianist Mike Eckroth's perfect arrangements, and talented vocalist Jose "Pepito" Gomez sounds like a mixture of Beny Moré and Hector Lavoe. When the band gets swinging (which is pretty much all the time) and you close your eyes, you can almost imagine yourself back in Havana circa the 1950s, and everything is movement and joy, a flurry of dance moves and pure love for the world in a simpler time.

Pachyman – The Return of... (ATO)

Find it in: REGGAE

The best modern-era dub album I have heard since at least 2017. Yep, it's that good. All the vintage style instrumental performances along with some picture perfect analog echo and reverb makes it sound like a classic King Tubby

production from the 1970s. Honestly, it doesn't get any better than this as far as dub records go... this guy is one to watch, and I'm excited to be onboard and waiting for the next one to drop.

Pino Palladino & Blake Mills – Notes With Attachments

(IMPULSE / NEW DEAL)

Find it in: JAZZ

A fascinating modern jazz album that includes elements from funk, soul, afrobeat, and latin music. The core duo are joined by a number of special collaborators throughout, including Sam Gendel, Larry Goldings, Chris Dave, Markus Strickland, and many more. Some of the instruments use effects and processing, giving this whole thing a unique sound. I dig this one, and if you like adventurous groove based jazz, you probably will too.

Aurita Y Su Conjunto – Chambacú (MISSISSIPPI)

Find it in: WORLD

Classic mid-'70s cumbias and porros from Colombia, as sung by a young girl who was apparently only 6 years old when these cuts were recorded! Initially I thought this might be kind of gimmicky, but she's a pretty good singer and I have grown to truly love it. The backing band here are top notch, with pulsating percussion, bobbing bass, wiry guitar riffs, snaking clarinet lines, and that loping cumbia groove that is simultaneously driving and laid back. Lovingly reissued on vinyl at a fair price, this is worth tracking down. I know I'm happy to have discovered this incredible story and the delightful music that accompanies it.

Hailu Mergia & The Walias Band – Tezeta

(AWESOME TAPES FROM AFRICA)

Find it in: WORLD

One of my favorite titles to ever come out on the Awesome Tapes From Africa label, this archival release finally issues these classic 1975 recordings from the great Ethiopian keyboardist and bandleader. The music here was never released before and the material had been thought to be lost forever. I am so happy that somebody found the tapes and we are now able to have this fantastic collection of groovy instrumental Ethiopian soul jazz. If you like Mulatu Astatke, you will enjoy this too.

Juana Molina – Segundo

(CRAMMED DISCS)

Find it in: WORLD

Double-LP reissue of the incredible second album by this Argentinian musician, including a large booklet including detailed notes and photos.

Her sound is a unique mixture of folk, rock, and electronic pop, with occasionally odd meters and progressive arrangements, especially for the year 2000 when it was initially released. There are some especially cool flourishes of synthesizer that swirl within her catchy tunes, and the whole thing is easy to enjoy, but also offers enough depth to really get lost inside the magical details.

Kiko Kids Jazz – Tanganyika Na Uhuru (MISSISSIPPI)

Find it in: WORLD

Charming African guitar pop from this Tanzanian group. Recorded in Kenya in 1962 and 1965, the feel here is very typical of the Congolese sound of the time, with bouncy rumba rhythms and sweet vocal harmonies atop the guitar-led grooves. Another classic courtesy of Mississippi Records, a treasure trove of unearthed gems from a bygone era.

Manzanita y su Conjunto – Trujillo-Perú 1971 - 1974

(ANALOG AFRICA)

Find it in: WORLD

Fun, upbeat chicha / cumbia from this Peruvian maestro! Funky rhythms and killer guitar playing, mostly instrumental but a handful of vocal tracks. Can't go wrong with Analog Africa...

The Poets Of Rhythm – Discern/Define (DAPTONE)

Find it in: SOUL

Reissued now, 20 years after the initial 2001 release, this is a gem of an album. It is filled with funky modern instrumentals from a German supergroup featuring members of The Soul-Saints, Heliocentrics, Karl Hector and the Malcons, The Whitefield Brothers, and literally dozens more. It really packs a punch and makes you want to dance. Top notch quality, both musically and the vinyl pressing itself, courtesy of the fine folks at Daptone.

The Pretty Things – Live at the BBC (REPERTOIRE)

Find it in: OLDIES

Released as either a 6-CD or 3-LP set, this unearths a ton of early live radio recordings from this fantastic UK psych-rock group. Most of them are from their heyday during the mid-60s to mid-70s, with a small selection of later dates. It's so nice to hear alternate versions of a lot of the material from the classic *SF Sorrow* and *Parachute* albums, among much more. It's all in mono and the sound quality is what you might expect from radio shows of this vintage... certain sessions are

obviously taken from whatever tapes still exist, so there are some fidelity discrepancies, but it's honestly pretty solid overall, and the performances make up for what is lost on that end. If you're a fan, this is pretty spectacular.

Baligh Hamdi – Instrumental Modal Pop of 1970's Egypt

(SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Find it in: WORLD

Punchy percussive perfection from this legendary Egyptian composer. Sounds a bit like those sometimes cheesy albums of “belly dance music” but this is infinitely better than that, with lots of funky drumming, snaky synth melodies, and an overall vibe that only occasionally goes just a little over the top, but even when it does it remains fun and enjoyable. The exotic modes and harmonies of the arabic maqams are always fascinating to me, but with grooves and arrangements like these, there's so much to love beyond the scales themselves.

Grand Kalle & African Jazz with Manu Dibango – Joseph Kabasele And The Creation Of Surbourn

African Jazz (PLANET ILUNGA)

Find it in: WORLD

Another incredible archival coup from the increasingly impressive Planet Illunga label! This is another double LP set from them, and it delves further into the history of Congolese guitar pop courtesy of the short lived but important Surbourn African Jazz label. Here we get to dig deeper into the music of innovative bandleader Grand Kalle in 1961-62, with a young Manu Dibango on sax, and an even younger Docteur Nico on guitar. The music is some of the best rumba around, those buoyant churning rhythms topped with gorgeous vocal harmonies that soar above the tune. Comes with a wonderfully detailed 32 page booklet full of info and photos, and the pressing is fantastic as well. Amazing work yet again, proving that they are easily one of the best reissue labels in existence.

Hany Mehanna – Music For Airplanes: A Collection of Instrumental Showpieces and Scores for Egyptian Films and TV Series (1973-1980)

(SOUMA)

Find it in: WORLD

Another killer collection of fascinating Egyptian music... like the Baligh Hamdi collection, this one features some modal arabic scales and percussion, but leans just a little toward traditional film

music soundtrack zones, which is pretty cool if you want that kind of thing. There are definitely some amazing tracks here as well, and the whole thing is really great, with arrangements that make me wonder exactly what kind of programs and films these were made to accompany. Overall, a unique exotic retro vibe that is unique and lots of fun.

Quantic & Nidia Góngora – Almas Conectadas

(TRU THOUGHTS)

Find it in: WORLD

Colombian singer Nidia Góngora teams up with super producer Will Holland (aka Quantic) again, and the result is this wonderful album of soulful salsa, reggae, cumbia, and more. Her voice brings a rich Afro-Colombian flavor to Quantic's quality productions, and the combination is a really great fit.

Tomaga – Intimate Immensity

(HANDS IN THE DARK)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

This one is up there at or near the top for me as far as favorites from 2021. The duo of Tom Relleen and Valentina Magaletti may have produced their masterpiece just as the project ceased to exist due to Relleen's passing at the age of 42 due to stomach cancer. Such a bummer that we won't have more of this glorious din, a unique hybrid of organic avant-rock moves and alien electronic explorations, all tied together with killer percussion from one of the most interesting drummers in the business.

Vanishing Twin – Ookii Gekku

(FIRE)

Find it in: ROCK

Speaking of Valentina Magaletti, she lends her incredible drumming chops to this band too, and although this is a bit more reined in than Tomaga, there's a wonderful sense of groove here, along with some excellent songwriting. At times, they remind me of Stereolab, Broadcast, Can, and other like-minded groups, but with their own flair and style. I actually like their previous album “The Age Of Immunology” even more than this one, so check that one out as well if this floats your boat.

Wau Wau Collectif –

Yaral Sa Doom (SAHEL SOUNDS)

Find it in: WORLD

Unusual record by this sizable collective from Senegal in Africa. There are plenty of traditional West African musical elements, along with traces of spiritual jazz, Sufi praise songs, catchy pop-like melodies, dubby bass grooves, elec-

tronic rhythms, and ambient keyboard pads. It somehow simultaneously manages to sound both very classic and also quite modern, and features a very cool mixture of styles and textures that is quite unique. “Yaral Sa Doom” also means “educate the young” in Wolof, and this theme is apparently the focus of the lyrics on the album, which perhaps explains why the vocals feel like they communicate an important message and some universal truths.

Yasmin Williams – Urban Driftwood

(SPINSTER SOUNDS)

Find it in: FOLK

Incredible guitarist from West Virginia. She often plays with the guitar sitting flat in her lap, and uses alternate tunings, finger tapping, and utilizes some additional percussive textures of the guitar body, as well as the rhythm of her tap shoes to craft her own truly unique style. Her free-flowing compositions display a skillful mastery of the musical universe she has created, and the songs themselves take you to another place. Definitely a fresh new voice who has updated the concept of what solo guitar can be in this modern era.

Yola – Stand for Myself

(EASY EYE SOUND)

Find it in: SOUL

Stunning soulful vocalist from the UK who sounds like a southern gospel singer at times, and a classic Stax / Motown lady at others. The production is simultaneously modern and classic, offering enough punch to feel relevant today while also showing some reverence for the '60s & '70s arrangements that are an obvious inspiration here. Nice songwriting too, and definitely a standout voice. She can really belt it out, and you can totally feel the emotion when she's singing. Great stuff.

Yu Su – Yellow River Blue

(MUSIC FROM MEMORY)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Dubby organic electronic music (with some subtle Asian overtones) from this talented Chinese artist who is now based in Vancouver. This is her proper debut LP after a few EPs, splits, and tracks on comps. I really dig the ethereal sounds she uses, and the rhythms are groovy too... some balaeric vibes at points, and also hints of the pleasing melodic '90s output from artists like Mouse on Mars. Definitely another artist who I can't wait to hear more from, but this one bears repeat listens well, so I'll continue to enjoy it until her next release arrives.

Phuong Tâm – Magical Nights - Saigon Surf Twist & Soul (1964-1966)

(SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Find it in: WORLD

The incredible backstory behind this release almost serves to obscure the greatness of the music itself, but the tunes themselves are very good as well. Soulful, groovy early rock and roll from this Vietnamese singer, her raw smoky voice thankfully rescued from obscurity by former Oakland resident Mark Gergis. Another excellent Sublime Frequencies double LP.

LUNA

Virgo. Comrade. Just a girl forever trying to get Fiona Apple to notice her.

Female Species – Tale Of My Lost Love

(NUMERO GROUP)

Find it in: ROCK

This could be the only review I write and it would be sufficient, for this could be the only album I listened to last year and I would consider it a great year. This album tracks the group from their '60s/'70s garage sound to the country folk-pop tracks of their later years. The record gains maturity as you can hear the group evolve from the innocence of their girl group bounce to groovy garage melodies to the self-assured sound of women demanding to be heard. I love what this group represents — in a way, they are a big fat feminist what if. They ask what if during classic rock's zenith the music industry wasn't inherently misogynistic and musical girl groups were able to succeed with the ease and resources of their male contemporaries? What if women were able to transcend



the mold of the '60s girl group and challenge to be more than a singing doll, appropriately dressed and beehive upright, singing of love and men? It's not a fantasy, because they were doing it in the shadows. Numero Group begins the rectification of this oversight by retrospectively compiling Female Species' oeuvre on this sophisticated and emotional album. I'm glad that this album takes them out of obscurity and allows their lost love to be found.

Courtney Barnett – *Things Take Time, Take Time*

(MOM + POP MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

In her fourth album, our disillusioned heroine suffocating of ennui, Courtney Barnett, creates a map of the stages of growth that eventually lead one back to oneself. "Rae Street" kicks off the album powerfully yet ominously, as Barnett fights past the dreariness of her landscape and situation just to get through the day. Yet, "Oh the night" reminds us that the night is just as long — if not longer — than the day. Barnett's guitar is a weapon for resilience, for her and for us. Through the shield of her music we are able to feel as she feels — "Things take time, take time" is about growing up and growing apart. Life goes on, Barnett reminds us, but often that sort of growth just takes time (takes time).

Madeleine Peyroux – *Careless Love* (CRAFT RECORDINGS)

Find it in: JAZZ

Madeleine Peyroux is consistently effortlessly charming, and "Careless Love" demonstrates her ability to use her warm and gentle voice to transport the listener to a world of her own creation. You are no longer walking to work listening to "Dance me to the end of love," you are actually now walking along the Seine

yearning for a lost lover. The album is overall elegant and the abundance of jazz instrumentals showcases her capacity for depth and her sustained ability to captivate.

Sharon Van Etten – *epic Ten*

(BA DA BING!)

Find it in: ROCK

To commemorate Sharon Van Etten's 2010 album of survival and rebirth, she invites an assortment of her contemporaries to revisit and reintroduce the *epic* album. Lucinda Williams, Big Red Machine, IDLES and many more come together and add their own color to Van Etten's already vivid lyrics. Williams elevates the heart-breakingly vulnerable "Save Yourself" and I hate to say it, but I think that "Don't Do It" was always meant to be sung by Courtney Barnett. Nothing beats the indescribable Sharon Van Etten factor that makes her songs so identifiable, but something about this track is perfect for Barnett's tough exterior. The most outstanding evolution to a track is made by Fiona Apple, as she transforms Van Etten's "More Love" into "Love More." Independently two beautiful tracks, but Apple displays her typical capacity to create magic. I could write an entire entry purely on this track, but I won't today — I promise it's in your interest to listen.

Japanese Breakfast – *Jubilee*

(DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

This album, with Michelle Zauner at the helm, is joy prevailing and growth becoming apparent. It surprises and awakens, as Zauner's voice has a Jenny Lewis quality that professes strength in vulnerability and self-awareness. Jubilee will have the listener dancing around one track and thinking about your first breakup the next — but that feels appropriate for an album that at its core is about finding happiness in change.

Paul Jacobs – *Pink Dogs on the Green Grass*

(BLOW THE FUSE RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

This album is surprising, satisfying, cohesive and unique and I think it is perfect for sunny days. Jacobs, a cartoonist and drummer for the post-punk quintet Pottery, uses his varied skillset to creatively surround the listener with musical sound. The result lies somewhere between a children's story on psychedelics and a swim on a warm day. It's sultry and sexy, with a mystery behind every line. With 40 half-baked demos to work with, the production of this album expertly created 13 jam-packed, vibrant tracks and a record with a refreshing sound.

Ada Lea – *One Hand On The Steering Wheel The Other Sewing A Garden*

(SADDLE CREEK)

Find it in: ROCK

I was immediately drawn in by Ada Lea, especially because of the album cover. The run-on album name and the mystic feminine figure on the cover has a Fiona Apple quality that I couldn't ignore — and Lea delivers. The album is unfiltered and unequivocally honest. This album feels like growing up, leaving home, mourning love. It is still all the hope of the future and a firm acknowledgement and departure from the past.

Indigo de Souza – *Any Shape You Take*

(SADDLE CREEK)

Find it in: ROCK

Avril Lavigne meets Kill Bill meets Lauryn Hill — I can't quite pin down Indigo de Souza. There's something timeless about her badass aura that feels familiar yet unexpected. The raw emotional outpouring exposes her tortured soul and her yearning heart. But there's also something paradoxically youthful about it all, as her hysterical screaming is achingly human. In "Any Shape You Take" De Souza travels through grungy rock and ethereal tones in order to feel it all.

Wolf Alice – *Blue Weekend*

(RCA)

Find it in: ROCK

This album's opening, "The Beach" sounds like the first to a soundtrack of an idealistic coming-of-age fantasy, and the album is pretty much consistent with that image. Wolf Alice just has such a unique sound; they surprise you with every track and are constantly blending the boundaries between genres in a way surprisingly cohesive. Wolf Alice is a fairytale darkened by the realities of modernity, as they also tackle intense themes such as institutional misogyny. They're trippy, ambitious and alluring and this is confirmed once again through the album.

Iliona – *Tête brûlée* (ARTSIDE)

Find it in: WORLD

Her words are patient and intentional, gracefully on time and measured. Iliona has a François Breut quality to the mature sadness in her voice that is perfectly balanced with an airiness that envelops many of her tracks. There is something classic about Iliona's voice, and songs like "Si tu m'aimes demain" could be placed on a Françoise Hardy record. Other tracks jolt her back into modernity with the utilization of modern bedroom pop beats.

Molly Burman – *Fool Me With Flattery* (PROLIFICA)

Find it in: ROCK

Tough but tender, Molly Burman uses this EP to show off her range. She is a self-assured woman writing about men who condescend and men who creep, yet more importantly about women who grow and women who challenge the patriarchy. Molly Burman is colorful and confident and so is "Fool Me With Flattery."

E.LIT

Survival Got Me Buggin'

Serengeti – *AJAI*

(FAKE FOUR INC)

Find it in: HIP HOP

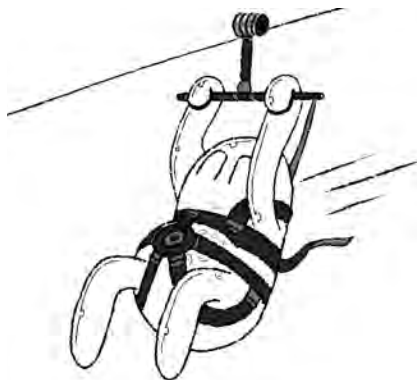
Serengeti is arguably one of the oddest and most original rappers in today's thriving indie rap scene. His albums play out as peculiar character studies that intertwine a variety of odd narratives which all occupy the same sprawling, Faulkner-esque universe in Serengeti's mind. One struggle I've had in listening to some of Serengeti's work over the years is that it can sometimes travel too deeply into his own head space, to the point where it becomes overly perplexing and difficult to decipher. But with "Ajai," Serengeti delivers a masterwork that rivals even his most heralded opus, "Dennehy." Backed by the superb jazzy musical stylings of Kenny Segal, Serengeti weaves a tale of fashion obsessions and hypebeast culture gone awry with a memorable cast of characters. The two protagonists of the story, Ajai and Kenny Dennis, are each given a half of the album to shine with their own unique rap styles and perspectives, all devised and performed by Serengeti. Easily one of my favorite hip hop projects of 2020, manufactured and distributed on deluxe vinyl that includes bonus prologue/epilogue material in late 2021.

Yungmorpheus & Eyedress – *Affable With Pointed Teeth*

(LEX)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Buzzing LA rapper Yungmorpheus has released a fair number of quality projects over the last few years, including collaborations with Pink Siifu, Dirty Art Club and Ewonee. This 2021 Eyedress-produced offering is a perfect sampling of Yungmorpheus's personality and effortless style. Eyedress's production alternates between cinematic flute arrangements and smooth synth funk, giving Yungmorpheus plenty of space to flex his voice with a mix of classic rap bravado





and keen social observations. The project is tied together by sampled readings from Jamaican-American poet Claude McKay, whose writings touch upon racial and economic inequities while simultaneously celebrating black culture and heritage. Fans of lojii, KA or Navy Blue should definitely check this album out.

Tanya Morgan – Don & Von (HIPNOTT)

Find it in: HIP HOP

This whole album is a vibe. Donwill and Von Pea have become a reliable duo when it comes to releasing hip hop albums loaded with soul, wit and personality. They mostly keep it within their tightly knit circle of hip hop friends and family, which only adds to the organic and relaxed feel of the album. The songs often highlight the genuine and playful dynamic between Don and Von, who revel in comedic braggadocio and banter but also ain't afraid to throw a curveball or two at the listener. The song "Fresh Lemonade," for example, feels like the carefree sounds of Summer until the song's young black protagonist gets the cops called on him for trying to host a lemonade stand in the wrong upscale neighborhood. Plenty of grown man raps to leave an aging hip hop enthusiast like myself thoroughly satisfied.

Zilla Rocca – Vegas Vic (CHONG WIZARD)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Philadelphia's Wrecking Crew has been emerging as a force to be reckoned with in recent years, with a super strong run of solid releases and no signs of losing steam. This 2021 solo release from Zilla Rocca is a great repre-

sentation of Wrecking Crew's sound and style, with numerous guest features and production from every member of the group along with a bunch of their close affiliates. Zilla Rocca loosely themes the album around risk-taking and his career as an aging rapper, with clever lyrics and a candid delivery that leaves you paying attention to his every word. Great beats provided by Disco Vietnam, Small Professor, The Expert, Doc Heller and DJ M-I. The track "Merv Griffin Enterprises" with Curly Castro and Alaska remains one my favorite rap anthems of 2021. Top quality product supplied by the always reliable Chong Wizard Records.

Steel Tipped Dove – Call Me When You're Outside (BACKWOODZ STUDIOZ)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Steel Tipped Dove has been a linchpin of the New York hip hop scene for years. His eclectic production has graced a wide variety of talented rappers' albums, and he's also a pro when it comes to the art of mixing and mastering people's projects. This 2021 release from Dove is executive-produced by none other than billy woods, who raps on a number of the album's cuts alongside Elucid, Fat Tony, Pink Siifu, Koreatown Oddity, SHIRT, Skech185 and Fatboi Sharif. Fielded and KeiyaA round out the affair with some lovely R&B vocals that blend perfectly with Steel Tipped Dove's artsy and atmospheric samples. The seamless sounds of a master engineer getting busy in the studio.

Clever I – Kevlar Ski Jacketz (GRILCHY PARTY)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Genuine ruggedness in its purest form. Clever I goes straight for the jugular on this album, with relentlessly aggressive flows and plenty of drunken, belligerent rap bars to blast out your armored jeep. The beats are filthy throughout, with a bunch of songs mixed so dirty that you could swear you were listening to some handwritten demo cassette found in a grimy neighborhood. Straight-up intimidating to listen to at times, in the best way possible. Another raw, ignorant sure-shot from Da Buze Bruvaz, courtesy of Grilchy Party.

Tip:

I like old B-horror movies too, here are a couple of recent killer reissues:
Ticks [4K Ultra HD/Blu-Ray] (Vinegar Syndrome)
Night of the Demon [Blu-Ray/DVD] (Severin)
Butcher Baker Nightmare Maker [Blu-Ray] (Code Red)
Killer Party [Blu-Ray] (Scream Factory)
The Kindred [Blu-Ray/DVD] (Synapse)

KURT

*I would like to dedicate this space to my friend
Gared O'Donell.*

*Gared was an incredible musician and
a founding member of Planes Mistaken For Stars.
He gave us the gift of his life, love and soul,
all with honesty and integrity. I will never be able
to express just how much it meant to me to hear
encouragement from Gerad about the music
I was making, his appreciation for my photographs
and for always taking the time to talk with me
whenever I bumped into him. He lost his battle
with cancer on November 24, 2021.
I miss him.*

Razor – Armed & Dangerous [2021 Reissue] (RELAPSE RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

Essential listening. A great mix of speed metal meets NWOBH with one foot in the thrash zone and the other foot proudly planted in Canada.

Bolt Thrower – Those Once Loyal [2021 Reissue] (METAL BLADE)

Find it in: METAL

Those Once Loyal is a heavy crushing return to form. While I have enjoyed most of Bolt Thrower's records, some just stick out more in my memory like the IVth Crusade, In Battle There Is No Law and Realm Of Chaos. This is sadly the last Bolt Thrower [R.I.P. Martin Kearns] record but what a way to go out.

Nervosa – Perpetual Chaos (NAPALM)

Find it in: METAL

I admit that this band flew under my radar as I just don't listen to a lot of thrash metal these days, but this is a wonderful album. Great protest lyrics, raw riffs with great leads, solid energy throughout, with death metal leanings and a freaking awesome vocalist. Two horns up.

Sargeist – Let The Devil In [2021 reissue] (MORIBUND RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

Black Metal From Finland, yes- it belongs in your collection.

Moonspell – Hermitage (NAPALM RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

I must be turning into a life metal poser in my old age but I actually liked this one. Hermitage channels Dark Side Of The Moon Pink Floyd era filtered through a blender of high caliber dark gothic metal.

Cannibal Corpse – Violence Unimagined (METAL BLADE)

Find it in: METAL

Death metal that is straightforward and doesn't pretend to be anything but death metal. Cannibal Corpse has never let me down and this album is no exception.

Spectral Wound – A Diabolic Thirst (PROFOUND LORE RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

This release belongs in my top 10 for the year. Spectral Wound has crafted an album that understands the history of what has come before and has taken the spiritual flame of, to create a glorious masterpiece of Black Metal.

Altarage – Succumb (SEASON OF MIST)

Find it in: METAL

"Hell Is a Place, A time, A consciousness, In which there is no love" — Johnathan Livingston Seagull. Yeah, this album sounds like that.

Steve Von Till – A Deep Voiceless Wilderness (NEUROT)

Find it in: METAL

A beautiful, poetic, ambient album full of raw emotion, this is the reimagining of the 2020 No Wilderness Deep Enough album. To quote Steve "This is how I originally heard this piece of music, without the voice as anchor or earth-



bound narrative, these pieces have a broader wingspan. They become something else entirely and unfold in a more expansive way." Mission accomplished, as I find myself mesmerized by the droning synths, lush strings and unhurried chords. This is a testament to his vision, diversity and mastering of his musical abilities. Highly recommend.

Zombi – Liquid Crystal

(RELAPSE RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

When I was living in Boston, I got to see these guys play at the Middle East (I think they opened for These Arms Are Snakes but it might have been Isis). I had no idea who they were but I fell in love with them as soon as the first song was over. You could feel the heartfelt love of Alan Howarth, John Carpenter, Goblin and George Romero blaring through the wall of '70s inspired synth driven music. I admit I have not bought any of the new albums after *Spirit Animal*. (Something about *Escape Velocity*, *Shape Shift* and *2020* just didn't gel with me. Some of it was the production some of it was the actual songwriting.) However all that changed when Zombi released *Evans City*. I could feel the magic again. *Liquid Crystal* is no different. That "it" factor is in full force, making this a very enjoyable release of 2021.

Wode – Burn In Many Mirrors

(20 BUCK SPIN)

Find it in: METAL

Burn In Many Mirrors is yet another stellar release of 2021. Ferocious blasphemous metal that shares the best of both Death and Black. Full of atmosphere and freezing cold melodies Wode delivers the goods to the metal faithful.



Ghastly – Mercurial Passages

(20 BUCK SPIN)

Find it in: METAL

This is a very enjoyable death metal release from these Finnish hellions. From the artwork to the production, it is perfect for the blazing guitar work with plenty of shred in the leads without sacrificing the brutality and aggression. I am eager to see where their art will take them next.

Portal – Avow & Hagbulbia

(PROFOUND LORE)

Find it in: METAL

I cannot remember where I read it, but Portal intended that both *Avow* and *Hagbulbia* were supposed to be played at the same time [even though they were released on two different dates]. I have done this on several occasions using both YouTube and Bandcamp to achieve this feat. Individually each album is a testament to the power that is Portal, but played together it is one of the most harsh discordant terrifying audio experiences I have had in a long time, yet I keep coming back for more and more and more of this hellish soundscape.

Satyricon – Dark Medieval Times [2021 reissue]

(NAPALM)

Find it in: METAL

There is a reason this is a canonical Black Metal Album. Buy this reissue and you will know.

Trouble – Psalm 9 [2021 reissue]

(HAMMERHEART RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

Doom metal recorded in '84 by a bunch of teenagers that probably took some great acid and decided it would be a good idea to read the Bible, or something like that. What came out was a heavy doom album with great rifts, a unique vocalist perfectly suited to sing about the wrath of the lord and scary Old Testament hellfire/damnation. Don't be turned off, this is not a white metal Christian album. It is a great doom album that reminds me of sitting in a dive bar, smelling of cheap liquor, smoke and desperation. Patrons that want to be anyone but themselves, in fact wanting to be anywhere except there, but they can't escape this particular prison. They know they will never be better off and are waiting for the end. That what this album reminds me of.

Craven Idol – Forked Tongues

(DARK DESCENT)

Find it in: METAL

This is one vicious album. I can't find one thing I wish they did differently. *Forked Tongues* continues to hold my attention with each repeated listening,

as well as continues to make my heart race with the sheer ferociousness of the musicianship. Easily in my top ten of 2021.

Wolves In The Throne Room – Primordial Arcana

(RELAPSE RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

An excellent release from musicians that have been exploring their unique visions of what USBM can be for over twenty years. The atmosphere is thick on this one, with plenty of nods to the old "cascadian black metal" that WITTR forged. Make no mistake, this is not a rehash of their previous offerings. It is a band that is reaching forward, forging a new path for themselves with the ritualistic magic of music and the ancient energies. Definitely ambitious and focused WITTR have given us a great gift.

Skepticism – Companion

(SVART)

Find it in: METAL

One of the founding bands of funeral doom metal, Skepticism have been steadily releasing albums since 1992. Companion finds the band in excellent form, great production and an atmospheric heaviness throughout the entire album.

Full of Hell – Garden Of Burning Apparitions

(RELAPSE RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

Extreme music that is not afraid to take different genres in metal, combine them in a blender and spit it back at you at warp speed. I had no idea what this band sounded like when I saw them open for Drop Dead almost ten years ago, but I was a fan after their blitzkrieg set. Since then Full Of Hell has expanded and refined their brand of grind death noise hardcore metal. Be advised this is awesome face melting ear drum ruining metal that is highly addictive. Enjoy.

Slayer – Show No Mercy [2021 reissue]

(METAL BLADE)

Find it in: METAL

First, if you do not own *Show No Mercy* in some physical format, please stop reading this and go get it now. Secondly, go purchase *Hell Awaits*. Then, if your budget allows, pile in *Haunting The Chapel*. These thrashers don't mess around. Highly influential and a blue print for countless other bands. This is serious metal and still sounds as great as when they were released.

Mastodon – Hushed & Grim

(REPRISE)

Find it in: METAL

Again, another release that kinda makes me feel like "really, you liked this life metal crap," but being the poser that I am, the answer is YES. I didn't think I would really recommend another Mastodon album after *Leviathan*, but here we are. Granted the last Mastodon album I spent more than one listen to was *Once More 'Round The Sun* (which I thought was a great hard rock album with metal elements going into the whole "post" genre) but *Hushed & Grim* is a different animal. The flirtations with hard rock/"post metal"/prog rock are present but this time the metal is not in the background, the metal is strong on this one. It has real head bangers and the last two tracks just kill it. Overall a strong release and another great record to help temper the shit show of 2021.

Gaahls Wyrd – The Humming Mountain

(SEASON OF MIST)

Find it in: METAL

Hypnotic, dream like, arcane, enigmatic, *The Humming Mountain* is another gift to us from Gaahls Wyrd. The mystical seeps forth from every note weaving a spell for 23 minutes of esoteric audio bliss. I eagerly wait for what will come next.

Archgoat – Worship The Eternal Darkness

(DEBEMUR MORTI)

Find it in: METAL

Unrelenting in their brutality, Archgoat have managed to make great blasphemous shredding war metal for over thirty years. An excellent black metal release that gets what the flame of metal is all about. The production fits perfectly, and as always, the album artwork is spot on.

Marissa Nadler – The Path Of The Clouds

(SACRED BONES)

Find it in: ROCK

An absolutely beautiful and haunting album. In my top ten of 2021.

Little Simz – Sometimes I Might Be Introvert

(AGE 101)

Find it in: HIP HOP

This is one powerful album, intelligent and cathartic. Relatable and rousing, never shying away from great production that spans across many genres with finesse and elegance. I really can't sing enough praise for this piece of art. Make sure you buy this, Ok.

Armand Hammer – *Haram*

(BACKWOODZ STUDIOZ)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Another album that I have listened to over and over since it came out. Master musicians gifting us with another amazing record. Billy Woods explains this album, way better than I ever could [taken from an interview by music journalist Anthony Malone]. Woods: "I guess for me, whether you end up liking it or not, I feel confident in saying that our music is really thoughtfully crafted and is different and original. And to me, that's what hip-hop music is about. And corny or not, I'm proud of that for real. We both say we made our own sound, we do this thing that we do. And if you don't like it, it's also cool, but it's not like other people can't do this and they aren't doing it."

Charles Lloyd & The Marvels – *Tone Poem*

(BLUE NOTE)

Find it in: JAZZ

This is one of those albums that is a perfect platte cleanser for your ears. Melodic and breezy, with just the right amount of energy that keeps it from being boring. The production works well for the overall tonality with a feel of warmth and breath. As usual top notch quality from Blue Note and hats off to Charles Lloyd, Bill Frisell, Greg Leisz, Eric Harland and Rueben Rogers.

Cory Hanson –

Pale Horse Rider (DRAG CITY)

Find it in: ROCK

I keep this album on regular rotation and yet another one in my top ten for 2021. There is not one thing I do not like about this album. Full disclosure, I know nothing about the band Wand and this is the only solo album by Hanson I have listened to [apparently each album has a different sound/style, something I will explore more of when I stop listening to

this one]. I stumbled across an NPR/World Cafe Words and Music From WXPJ interview with Cory and some live takes from the *Pale Horse Rider* album. I was hooked immediately. Sitting aside the shenanigans of promoting this album, the music is a lush country rock album with touches of the psychedelic laurel canyon sound, sprinkled with just enough art school aesthetic to keep it a bit left of center. Highly recommended.

Various Artists –

All The Haunts Be Ours:

A Compendium Of Folk Horror

[Box Set] (SEVERIN)

This is noteworthy high quality item for collectors and horror buffs alike. Excellent transfers with great commentaries from knowledgeable folks. A bunch of wonderful extras, including a 126 page book, an in-depth documentary about folk horror and a copy of the soundtrack. All around an exceptional boxset that delivers the goods.

The Body – *I've Seen All I*

Need To See (THRILL JOCKEY)

Find it in: METAL

This is one prolific band. I often drift in and out with their musical offerings so I can't always attest to what each individual release sounds like but this one caught my attention. It is bleak and it is disturbing, you will either find the noise to be liberating and freeing or else you feel agitation, trapped and can't wait for it to end. I find myself drawn to this and captivated by the sonic universe The Body have created.

Morbid Saint – *Spectrum Of Death*

[2021 Reissue]

(HIGH ROLLER)

Find it in: METAL

Another essential metal album to own. This is a true gem with no filler. Get it before it's gone.

Hooded Menace – *The Triton Bell*

(SEASON OF MIST)

Find it in: METAL

Another great record from these Finnish death metalers. Hooded Menace have always managed to play a brand of death metal that leans towards an atmospheric doom sound but with plenty of riffs, twists and so forth to never get boring or slow sounding. Two horns up.



RAMO

Everything's Everything

Chris Crack –

Sheep Hate Goats

(CHONG WIZARD RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

This Chicago native hands down has the illest and funniest album and song titles in the game, and he has the rap acumen to match. Packing 18 tracks into 35 minutes each song hovers around the two-minute mark. I like that he has a lot to say but doesn't waste time. To the point and on point. Street truths with levity delivered through an L-clenched smirk.

Zilla Rocca – *Vegas Vic*

(THREE DOLLAR PISTOL MUSIC)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Philly's Dollar Casino offers the best boasted buffet served pre-dawn. Stumble through paisley-patterned rooms sticky with shattered dreams and spilled bourbon. Enjoy the one-man stage act Vegas Global calls "Hypnotizing." And for the daring few, sign up to fight a pit boss! Call your travel agent and visit now!

Nappy Nina & JWords –

Double Down (LUCIDHAUS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Oakland native/Brooklyn resident Nappy Nina stretches her lyrical abilities over a spacey beat-head bedrock provided by New Jersey's JWords. Clocking in at 17 minutes, the meaty word play combines with an electronic-laced urgency that makes it feel longer, in a great way. Looking forward to more from these two, whether together or apart.

Various Artists –

Gangster Music Vol. 2

(ALL CITY RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Once again, artist Gangster Doodles compiles a hit list of both ascending lights like Shungu, Woodie Smalls, Ovrkast (Oakland waddup!), and others with concrete mainstays like Open Mike Eagle, Teebs, M.E.D., Dam-Funk, Black Milk, Ohbliv, and many more. A truly unique packaging of beats and raps to enjoy with your afternoon bowl of Fruit Loops.

Aesop Rock & Blockhead –

Garbology (RHYMESAYERS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

We all know Aes has one of the best vocabularies on the market. What I can't figure out is how dude is able to level up with each new release. Is it magic? Vitamins and minerals? A dark pact with Noah Webster? I doubt we'll ever know, but something I'm sure of is the team-up with Blockhead is what I want every now and again. Blockhead's beats here have that storybook signature style, meaning even without Aesop's precise narration the music takes you on its own journey. It's music that forces my brain into visual overload. Couple that with Aes' professional delivery and I'm off-planet trying to avoid spaghettification, and having the best time doing it.

Moor Mother –

Black Encyclopedia of The Air

(ANTI-)

Find it in: ROCK

The embodiment of Afro-Futurism, Moor Mother refuses to acknowledge that any lane exists, and if so, only to blur those lines in the pavement. Pure creativity born through cracks in the concrete, like Mother Nature's inevitable rejection of humankind's monuments to our vanity. An eclectic trek among sensory-attacking resonance that give the feeling of being guided down a pitch black hallway with perpetual expansion, but my fingertips never leave the wall.

Gift of Gab –

Finding Inspiration Somehow

(NATURE SOUNDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Living and creating with the knowledge that his time was short, and dropping almost three months to the day after his death, "Finding..." is a bittersweet offering from this legendary independent lyricist. There's a nostalgic quality to the overall sound without feeling dated. There's a melancholy being carried by hope and encour-



agement. A message to stop wasting time. There's also songs where Gab reminds us all that his pen game and delivery is to be revered. To be remembered when discussing "The Greatest." When listening to older tracks like "First In Flight" or a new song like "Vice Grip" and you're making that "ugh" face while snapping your neck, I imagine he's there smiling, accepting those flowers. Rest in peace, Tim Parker, aka Gift of Gab.

Sault – *Nine*

(FOREVER LIVING ORIGINALS)

Find it in: ROCK

What to say about SAULT that hasn't already been said? The slightly less enigmatic ensemble headed by producer Inflo and singer Cleo Sol continues their relentless dispatch of top-shelf music that taps into our inherent need to groove, while simultaneously addressing society's ills and imparting a wish for us to do better.

Steel Tipped Dove – *Call Me When You're Outside*

(BACKWOODZ STUDIOZ)

Find it in: HIP HOP

The long-time NYC producer shined his dove-shaped light over the city and the heroes answered the call. Some of the heaviest names in the street gather around off-kilter, onion-thick layers of keys, kicks, and wind. The unnatural audio amalgamation provides excellent movement for the likes of Billy Woods, Fatboi Sharif, Pink Siifu, ELUCID, and more.

Little Simz – *Sometimes I Might Be Introvert*

(AGE 101 MUSIC)

Find it in: HIP HOP

With production from the U.K.'s other-worldly sound wizard Inflo, the magician behind SAULT, Simz finds a pocket perfect for her lyrical intro and outrospection. At once full of anxious inspiration and enriched confidence, the energy lane changes deftly between cruising and slow-lane-exit and last second skrrrrt over to the fast route. Being just over an hour, and after several upon several listens, this is a solid play beginning to end.

Kipp Stone – *Faygo Baby*

(KIPP STONE)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Cleveland has a rich history for us Hip Hop nerds who follow independent rap music. Kipp does a great job adding to that tapestry. Filled with insight to the artist's person, on and off the mic, as well as observations on the world we live in. A young man with much to say and some wisdom to say it. Solid rap music.

K, Le Maestro – *Whip Music*

(JAKARTA RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

This aptly titled album is all vibes. You could put "sexy" in front of "whip" and it would still work. Soulful synth-funk with notes of Hip Hop, but wholly its own thing. For fans of Kaytranada, Dam-Funk, and Tall Black Guy.

Various Artists – *Bushido*

(MELLO MUSIC GROUP)

Find it in: HIP HOP

With a roster like Quelle Chris, Open Mike Eagle, Oddisee, Homeboy Sandman, Georgia Anne Muldrow, Elaqent, The Alchemist, The Lasso, L'Orange, and many more, how can you go wrong? Answer: You can't. A compilation of striking songs from supreme rappers and producers. No skips.

Armand Hammer & The Alchemist – *Haram*

(BACKWOODZ STUDIOZ)

Find it in: HIP HOP

There is no doubt this is the album I listened to most in 2021. When announced, the buzz around The Alchemist working with two of the deadliest pens around was thick. Everyone knows ALC from his 20+ years of stellar production credits, but seeing the trajectory of the more clandestine duo of Billy Woods and ELUCID climb is what made me nod my head and whisper "Oh hell yeah." And as suspected, the project brought more ears to all three artists. The music Alchemist created is haunting and urgent, at times chaotic but with purpose. The writing Woods and ELUCID delivered is a layered masterclass in thought. This album is a rare gem in the rap world where repeat spins reward the listener with a new layer revealed to chew on. Billy Woods and ELUCID are making some of the most important rap music on the planet. History will play it straight.



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Cleo Sol – *Mother*

(FOREVER LIVING ORIGINALS)

Find it in: SOUL

The Lasso – *2121*

(MELLO MUSIC GROUP)

Find it in: SOUL

The Lasso – *Tri Magi*

(MELLO MUSIC GROUP)

Find it in: SOUL

Erika de Casier – *Sensational*

(4AD LTD.)

Find it in: SOUL

Hiatus Kaiyote – *Mood Valiant*

(BRAINFEEDER)

Find it in: SOUL

Kovacs The Hun – *Mirror World*

(CONTENT LABEL)

Find it in: JAZZ

Jorja Smith – *Be Right Back*

(FAMM)

Find it in: SOUL

Skyzoo – *All The Brilliant Things*

(MELLO MUSIC GROUP)

Find it in: HIP HOP

El Michels Affair – *Yeti Season*

(BIG CROWN RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUL

Brainorchestra – *Message To You*

(BRAINORCHESTRA/LOVETONES PROD.)

Find it in: HIP HOP

ewonee – *Cheel*

(COSMICSLOP INC.)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Tip:

Recommended podcasts: Dad Bod Rap Pod, Call Out Culture, Out Da Box Talks, What Had Happened Was, Can't Knock The Shuffle.

NOTES:



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HUFFLE

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experiences of the last year.*

☐ **The Beatles: Get Back (2021)** – Directed by Peter Jackson

The exhaustive Peter Jackson retake on the Beatles *Let It Be* sessions. Fascinating, frustrating, technically boundary pushing. It's seven hours of raw honest to god Beatles footage. DUH...IT'S FUCKING GREAT.

■ **The Green Knight (2021)** – Directed by David Lowery

A Christmas tale of King Arthur's court with a perfectly balanced blend of drama, mysticism and mirth. Maybe my favorite ending of any film this year.

■ **Dune Part I (2021)** – Directed by Denis Villeneuve ■ **Dune [Arrow Edition] (1984)** – Directed by David Lynch

The much beloved but flawed David Lynch version gets the upgrade it deserves while Denis Villeneuve gives us the grounded real world version, or at least the first part of it that *Dune* fans have dreamed of.

☐ **Mare of Easttown (2021)** – Created by Brad Ingelsby

A meditation on motherhood from both child/parent perspectives masquerading as a small town murder mystery. Kate Winslet has never been better, except for maybe that series they did of *Mildred Pierce*.

■ **Night Has A Thousand Eyes (1948)** – Directed by John Farrow

Cornell Woolrich's noir finally on disc in the United States. A much different take on the text, but no less effective, featuring Edward G Robinson in one of his best lesser known roles.

■ **Alias Nick Beal (1949)** – Directed by John Farrow

Very clever, nasty little noir with Ray Milland as the devil out to make his political influence known. Audrey Totter lends excellent support as his instrument of evil.

■ **Annette (2021)** – Directed by Leos Carax

■ **The Sparks Brothers (2021)** – Directed by Edgar Wright

Sparks is an American rock band based in Europe who have been around for 50 years, never rising above cult status but now getting some long overdue attention due to these two films. *The Sparks Brothers* is a tongue in cheek doc by superfan and simpatico director Edgar Wright while *Annette* is something else altogether...a polarizing rock opera in the truest sense of the word that you will either hail as one of the most exhilarating films of recent times or a totally pretentious piece of crap. Me, I am exhilarated. Currently only available as an all region Blu-Ray from Australia, here's looking forward to a wider physical release.

Tip:

We here at Amoba SF are constantly searching the world over to bring you the cream of rare and important film releases...David Lynch's *Staight Story* on Blu-Ray? We got it! Michael Mann's cult classic *The Keep*, finally officially released with the *Tangerine Dream* soundtrack on all region dvd in Australia? We got it! You got to come on in and check it out!



BOX SET WHORE

Pricey but worth it

Bob Dylan – *Springtime In New York: The Bootleg Series Vol. 16 (1980-1985)* [Box Set] (SONY LEGACY)

Documents Dylan's transition from full on fiery preacher to more measured integrated musician.

Joni Mitchell – *Archives Volume 2: The Reprise Years (1968-1971)* [Box Set] (RHINO)

When I think of Joni performing in Ottawa 1968 (a show included in this set) and looking down to see Jimi Hendrix kneeling in front of her with his reel to reel capturing this evening on tape because he is in awe of her songs, well, my head just explodes.

Neil Young – *Neil Young Archives Vol. II (1972-1976)* [Box Set] (REPRISE)

Okay, some of this repeats material he had recently released on its own, but there's enough unique material that deserves your attention to make it valuable. Hey, if you bought the other stuff beforehand, why not trade it in and grab the whole enchilada? We're here to help you make that happen.

Fleetwood Mac – *Fleetwood Mac 1969 To 1974* [Box Set] (RHINO)

The final, peak Peter Green era to the end of the Bob Welch years with some really choice unreleased on disc Danny Kirwan material make this a worthy upgrade.

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young – *Deja Vu* [50th Anniversary] (ATLANTIC)

Once again, unearthed alternates and demos carry the day and make this a must have, despite Neil Young's stinginess... Proves once and for all that Stills is/was the genius driving force in this band.

Frank Zappa – *Halloween 81: Live At The Palladium, New York City* [Box Set] (UME)

There are so many distinct different periods in the Zappa discography, but the *You Are What You Is* era has always been my personal favorite for reasons we don't have time for here. Suffice to say, dropdead chops, social satire and killer guitar solos abound here. Zappa loved Halloween, and he loved NYC and that makes a tasty sonic stew.

Manfred Mann's Earth Band – *Mananthology: 50 Years Of Manfred Mann's Earth Band 1971-2021* [Deluxe Edition Box Set] (CREATURE MUSIC)

Every MMEB single, released or unreleased spread across 4 CDs, plus 2 DVDs, one a live show from 2017 and the other a definitive history of the band. Be prepared to be blinded by the brilliance of this criminally overlooked group led by maybe the greatest arranger in the history of rock. Yeah, I said that. Prove me wrong.

Jethro Tull – *A* [Steven Wilson Remix] (PARLOPHONE)

Steven Wilson's Tull remix projects over the last number of years have forced some serious reevaluations of some of their lesser albums, *War Child* in particular, now to be joined by *A*. Don't start here, but be prepared for a pleasant surprise when you arrive.

George Harrison – *All Things Must Pass* [50th Anniversary Deluxe Edition] (CAPITOL)

Not a fan of the remix, seems totally unnecessary, but the other three CDs of demos and alternates, especially in the wake of the recent *Get Back* documentary, show that George at the time had equally, nay even superior songs that fell upon deaf ears in the Beatle camp.

Tip:
Enjoy it while it lasts.

SKWRLY D

I still have faith in you

ABBA – *Voyage* (CAPITOL)

Find it in: ROCK

40 years(40 years!) after their demise, the iconic Swedish superstars reappear for a coda to their career. Older, wiser but no less brilliant, I asked my brother, who loved this band as much as I loved the Beatles when we were kids, how is it possible? How is it possible that this album exists, let alone is as good as it is? HOW?!!!!!! To those who care, this is a godsend right now. (My brother would take issue with that statement, though not its sentiment). On and on and on....

William Shatner – *Bill* (REPUBLIC)

My stars, the Captain is 90! He's churned out a lot of so-so albums since *Has Been*, his classic work with Ben Folds, but he put extra effort into this one, and it shows. Not just a novelty, but a more reflective statement from a man at the end of his time on this earth.

Dave McMurray – *Grateful Deadication* (BLUE NOTE)

Detroit jazzier's take on the Dead catalog largely works, with his slow soul version of "Touch Of Grey" particularly resonating with this old school Deadhead.

Grateful Dead – *Fox Theatre, St. Louis, MO 12/10/71* (RHINO)

Okay, just to set the record straight...I saw the Grateful Dead more than 100 times between 1984 and 1995. Live Dead was my entry point into the possible pleasures to be found within this music, but this show was the one that convinced me on a purely musical level that there was something unique and wonderful happening here. I had a tape of the last part of the second set and it led me to get in that VW beetle with 7(!) other folks and drive 12 hours from Ohio to Syracuse to see my first show. I parked the car, stepped out and immediately ran into two of my good buddies from high school, 1500 miles away from our hometown. A good sign, I never looked back...and am still living the Dream today. This release validates it. If I could take one GD show with me when I go, as great and important to me as the shows I was witness to were/are, this night, December 10, 1971 would be my pick.

Rolling Stones – *Tattoo You* [40th Anniversary Remaster] (INTERSCOPE)

RIP Charlie Watts...Side 2 of the original release remains to this day perhaps my favorite Stones slab. Totally overlooked/underrated, maintains a singular vibe and concludes with the classic "Waiting On A Friend." Their interpretation of "Drift Away" pushes this over the line to a must have reissue.

Tip:

All good things in all good time. Don't be greedy, some things are worth waiting for.

EDGARDO

Just because you put a cat in the oven doesn't make it a biscuit

ABBA – *Voyage* (CAPITOL)

Find it in: ROCK

What a wonderful surprise indeed to have a new release from these pop icons after nearly forty years! Fittingly, as they never did officially break up. This is vintage ABBA — well-crafted hook-laden melodramatic pop with just a touch of added maturity that stays true to who they are. Most definitely recommended!! [Available on CD/LP/Cassette]

Haloo Helsinki! – *Älä Pelkää Elämää* (SONY MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

This latest release from one of Finland's most popular bands is a real delight. Elli Tiilikainen's solid vocals along with the band's instrumental prowess and versatile compositional skills create an album that's as strong as their 2014 hit *Kiitos Ei Ole Kiroksana*. A really enjoyable funky ravey rock record! [Available on CD/LP]

Orquesta Akokán – *16 Rayos* (DAPTONE)

Find it in: WORLD

This follow up to their self-titled debut continues the fresh mambo-inspired grooves that salutes the past masters of Cuban music with a modern approach. Perhaps a touch more laid back than their first, this album still features infectious grooves that won't fail to make you dance and smile. Recommended! [Available on CD/LP]

**Art Blakey And
The Jazz Messengers –
First Flight To Tokyo:
The Lost 1961 Recordings**

(BLUE NOTE)

Find it in: JAZZ

A previously unreleased recording from their first Japan tour in 1961 featuring the classic line-up of Art Blakey, Jymie Merritt, Bobby Timmons, Lee Morgan and Wayne Shorter performing a selection of their most popular tunes. Inspired playing and relatively good recording quality make this release a must have! [Available on CD/LP]

**Martha Argerich –
Live From The Concertgebouw
[Vinyl Edition]** (WARNER CLASSICS)

Find it in: CLASSICAL

First ever release on vinyl for these very exciting live performances from the late '70s & early '90s by this living piano legend. The three original EMI CDs featuring J.S. Bach, Chopin, Bartok, Ginastera, Prokofiev, D. Scarlatti, Schumann, Ravel, Mozart, Beethoven are collected on this four LP set. Ms. Argerich's musicianship and pianism are simply genius and are showcased on these great recordings!

Tip:

For superbly musical audiophile American turntables visit www.sotaturntables.com

ROSS

**The Telephone Numbers –
The Ballad of Doug**

(MERITORIO/ PAISLEY SHIRT)

Find it in: ROCK

Somebody called to say sincerity is out of style, but The Telephone Numbers didn't pick up

**The Umbrellas –
The Umbrellas**

(SLUMBERLAND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

San Francisco's darlings, 2020's answer to The Sea Urchins

Flowertown – Time Trials

(PAISLEY SHIRT)

Find it in: ROCK

Flowertown will make falling in love seem easy, and then break your heart

**Linda Smith –
Till Another Time:
1988-1996**

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Find it in: ROCK

Somewhere in between memories and dreams

**Chime School –
Chime School**

(SLUMBERLAND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Mechanical, perfectionist jangle pop

JACK

Not Kurt Cobain

**Amyl & the Sniffers –
Comfort To Me** (ATO)

Find it in: ROCK/PUNK

A little bit more produced than I normally like, but still great, especially if you like Aussie rock.

**The Muslims – Fuck These
Fuckin Fascists** (EPITAPH)

Find it in: PUNK

Fast, angry, and politically motivated. Plus, the album art has Johnny Rotten being punched on it.

Pisse – Kolrúbenwinter

(PHANTOM)

Find it in: PUNK

German post punk that incorporates aspects of techno.

**Men I Trust – Untourable
Album** (RETURN TO ANALOG)

Find it in: ROCK

The pride of the greater Quebec region, Men I Trust delivers a slower, sadder & self-reflective record at the peak of the lockdown.

**Nirvana – Nevermind
[30th Anniversary]** (GEFFEN)

Find it in: ROCK

It's hard to improve on perfection, but the bonus material is really cool.

**Strokes – “The Adults
Are Talking”** (RCA)

Find it in: ROCK

I mean... yeah, it's the Strokes. ery good softboi music. Plus, produced by Rick Rubin.



ALISON

**Various Artists – Driftless
Dreamers: In Cuca Country**

(NUMERO GROUP)

Amazing '60s country compilation from Wisconsin's Cuca Records archives. This album will leave you yearnin' for the open road.

**Karen Black –
Dreaming Of You (1971-76)**

(ANTHOLOGY RECORDINGS)

Find it in: FOLK

Karen Black, predominately known for her roles in Dennis Hopper's *Easy Rider* (1969) and Robert Altman's *Nashville* (1975) wrote and recorded original songs during the height of her film career in the 1970s. Now, for the very first time you can listen to her best tracks restored from the original tapes by Cass McCombs and the Bay Area's restoration engineer, Tardon Feathered. This emotionally raw album gives us an intimate look inside her world.

Piero Umiliani – Polinesia

(OMICRON)

Find it in: EASY LISTENING / SOUNDTRACKS

This 1975 album is my personal favorite in a series of recently reissued albums from the Italian exploitation film composer, Piero Umiliani. This album is best enjoyed with the warm ocean breeze and Mai Tai in hand.

**The Luv'd Ones –
Truth Gotta Stand** (BEATROCKET)

Find it in: OLDIES

The Luv'd Ones were among one of the trail-blazing all-girl groups from the 1960s. This album features a collection of demos and singles from their Dunwich Records era. These garage rockers from Michigan played their own instruments and paved the way for many badass female rockers to come. Long live the girl group sound!

**The Female Species –
Tale of My Lost Love**

(NUMERO GROUP)

Find it in: OLDIES

Another great '60s girl group record featuring sisters Vicki and Ronni Gossett. They were recently picked up by popular reissue and archival label, Numero Group. Another time Numero hits the nail on the head!

**Witch – Introduction
[Private Press Version]**

(NOW-AGAIN RECORDS)

Find it in: WORLD

This classic reissued Zambian psych-rock gem from 1972 will have you dancing “like a chicken!”

**Willie Dunn – Creation Never
Sleeps, Creation Never Dies**

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Find it in: FOLK

Previously unreleased tracks from '70s Native-Canadian folk singer. Dunn puts an indigenous perspective on protest songs.

DYLAN B

archaeologist, educator

**Various Artists –
Habibi Funk 015:
An Eclectic Selection
From the Arab World (Part 2)**

(HABIBI FUNK)

Find it in: WORLD

If you liked their first comp, you'll love this one! Everything they do is so good!!!!

**Various Artists –
Heroes of The Night**

(REMINDER RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Recommended to me by one of our security guards, this comp is so dang catchy!!!!

**Destroy Boys –
Open Mouth, Open Heart**

(HOPELESS RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Excellent record, but an even better live band! Vi and Alexia are surreal! Try and see them while you can before covid locks us down again forever!

Grauzone – Grauzone **[40th Anniversary Edition]**

(VWRWTFWW RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

40th anniversary edition double LP of these Swiss pioneers debut plus 9 EXTRA songs, quite a treat!!!!

Lloyd McNeill – Tori **[Reissue]** (SOUL JAZZ)

Find it in: JAZZ

Flute playing at its finest, every reissue Soul Jazz does of this guy's work is so rad!

OLIE B.

I know what I'm doing tonight

Magdalena Bay – **Mercurial World** (LUMINELLE)

Find it in: ROCK

Quite possibly the best new project to come out of this dumpster fire of a year. Despite being in the midst of a pandemic, this duo still managed to make an amazing album with some of the grooviest psychedelic pop I've heard in a long while. Now I don't consider myself much of a dancer, but two minutes into the first song I was dancing around my house like I was at the club. This is an album we all needed: something fun that'll make you dance, smile, and have a good time. Big thanks to this duo for giving that to us during a difficult time.

Les Filles de Illighadad – **At Pioneer Works** (SAHEL SOUNDS)

Find it in: WORLD/AFRICA

What started as 1 woman learning guitar in the Saharan Desert village of Illighadad turned into an amazing band making gorgeous music. The now quartet plays their own rendition of blues music with a peaceful- meditative vibe while also being lively and danceable. As someone who isn't usually a fan of live albums, this one was stunning! So much so that it's become my 2021 album of the year! Instead of putting on lo-fi hip hop when you're studying or relaxing, you should put this album on!

Ichiko Aoba – Windswept Adan (HERMINE)

Find it in: WORLD/JAPAN

Ichiko Aoba really upped the ante with this one! Her previous releases featured more acoustic guitar- centered minimalism which is a far cry from the rich chamber folk sound on this

album. The songs on here sound like they were recorded in the heart of a fairytale dreamland which were inspired by fictional characters living on the Ryukyu Islands (southwest Japanese islands that stretch from Kyushu to Taiwan). Her whole vision of this album was to create a "soundtrack to a fictional movie" which I think was effortlessly achieved. If you're a fan of Vashti Bunyan and/or Joanna Newsom, this is one you should look into.

Sarah Davachi & Sean McCann **– Mother Of Pearl** (RECITAL)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Every year it seems I find at least 1 ambient album that just moves me. This one was it. Over the past few years, Sarah Davachi has been making quite the name for herself in the minimalism world by releasing one phenomenal album after another. Sean McCann, on the other hand, has been quietly releasing miscellaneous tapes and CDs of excellent (and underrated) ambient-drone music reminiscent of Stars of the Lid since 2009. With this in mind, the material on this album features the best of both worlds: 1-2 instruments feebly playing over the natural ambience of the room and the atmospheric hiss of tape. It's stuff like this that reminds me of just how much I love experimental music. Bravo to these two.

Grouper – Shade (KRANKY)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

It's always a blessing whenever Liz Harris puts out new music, especially under the Grouper moniker. I've been following this project for years now and was thrilled to see this album come out when it did. *Shade*, in a way, is a return to form as Liz steps off the piano and gets back to playing acoustic guitar. But unlike her previous works filled with lush harmonies and reverb heavy drones, the material on here is BARREN. Most of the songs sound like she recorded them on a smartphone lying in bed or lounging in her living room and features very few overdubs. It's the most stripped back she's ever sounded yet it still sounds like something you'd expect from a Grouper album: ghostly, haunting, and beautiful.

Bo Burnham – **Inside (The Songs)** (IMPERIAL)

Find it in: COMEDY

It's not everyday that a comedy special impacts me but this one made its mark. I gotta hand it to Bo, not only was his performance entertaining and profound, the songs he wrote for this are

insanely catchy. If you didn't know any better, you could sneak a couple of these songs on the radio and they'd become instant pop hits. For days, my girlfriend and I were running around the house singing "All Eyes On Me" and "Bezoz I and II" to our cat like crazy people (sorry, Josie). It's the first time since listening to Weird Al's '90s albums that I've gone back to a comedy album numerous times throughout the year and I have yet to get sick of it (no pun intended).

Big Red Machine – **How Long Do You Think It's** **Gonna Last?** (JAGJAGUWAR)

Find it in: ROCK

Aaron Dessner and Justin Vernon of The National and Bon Iver fame, respectively, return to follow up their previous self-titled album and as you might have expected... it's heartbreaking. Along with some guests, the two managed to make an album that sounds exactly like material from Taylor Swift's *folklore* and *evermore*- Taylor, herself, even makes an appearance on two of the album's songs. The moment I heard the Elliott Smith sounding "The Ghost of Cincinnati," I immediately sought out a copy of this. And as a sucker for somber music, I ate it up. Listen to it on a grey foggy day for an optimal experience!

Have A Nice Life – **Deathconsciousness** (FLENSER & ENEMIES LIST HOME RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ROCK

It finally happened!!! This dreary masterpiece finally got a well-deserved CD reissue complete with the 70 page booklet of linear notes and disturbing literature. Even after 13 years, this double album remains one of the best post-punk/shoegaze albums to ever grace our pathetic lives. It's a shame I dropped \$200 on the original CDR pressing a mere month before the reissue came out. Oh well.

Sunset Rubdown – **Shut Up I Am Dreaming** **[Reissue]** (PRONOUNCED KROOG)

Find it in: ROCK

Another great album getting a well-deserved reissue. This is a weird one: think sad boi alt-rock with lyrics influenced by surrealism and mythology. It doesn't sound like it'd work but trust me, it does! At the very least listen to the last track which is an eight minute grandiose adventure. If you can't find a vinyl copy, check the clearance CDs section. We're bound to have a copy or two in there.



Floating Points, Pharoah Sanders, & The London Symphony Orchestra – **Promises** (LUAKA BOP)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Imagine a neo-noir film taking place in a dream... that's what this album sounds like. The combination of Floating Points' lush-atmospheric electronics and Pharoah Sanders' dynamic sax playing is a special kind of beauty. This is one of the best albums to come out of 2021. Don't miss out!

Tip:

Check out my YouTube Channel: 'What I'm Listening To' for more music I like!

RYAN

Sri Syadasti

Dominique Andre – Evasion **[Reissue]** (BORN BAD/EVERLAST)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Originally released in 1981 and currently re-issued as part of the library music series Space Oddities. Recommended obviously to library music fans. More specifically fans of the 1960-80 Nino Nardini French era. Some subtle exotica mixed with Fourth World electronics. Sits nicely next to Jon Hassell's *Dream Theory In Malaysia* also from 1981.

Emilio Aparicio Moog– **Expansion Galactica** (MENTAL EXPERIENCE)

Find it in: ROCK

Many smaller obscure releases were lost in the pandemic shuffle so this title isn't super new but



hey it was recorded in the early seventies and maybe created for the future. I stumbled across a used copy and picked it up based on the cover alone. It's been a go-to when in the mood for some roots electronics, retro knob turning. The backstory on this artist also turned out totally crazy, check it. As per the back of the record "a compilation of obscure 45s recorded using the Moog synth by Guatemalan experimental musician Emilio Aparicio."

Natural Information Society – Descension (Out of our Constrictions) (EREMITE)

Find it in: JAZZ

It wasn't until a tall can of Celtia came hurdling from the back window of a swerving dusty old Mercedes with Libyan plates and one hubcap that I knew this was not "a town with no cheer." The road from Tataouine had been mostly a flat straight affair. My driver pausing occasionally to apologize for the petrol spitting out on the floorboards that he would simultaneously be moping up in fear of losing another coat of the boat red paint that covered this Citroen Familiale relic. Beyond the Coptic Cemetery inside the walls of the Medina Mehdi folded my Dinar into his smoking hand. Mashkoo, he said, an ash just at his knuckles. Below an over established bougainvillea I pushed open a heavy wooden door. Inside, the last of the day's sun came through second floor windows, adding another complex pattern to the mosaics and dark beams. Outside, the nearest Imam finishing the call to prayer. I sat across from two sand people long beards falling from their brown burlap hoods. In

front of them each a bottle of Boukha Boukha that would slowly disappear in to the dark hoods. The pink concoction looking more fitted to hummingbird food. I can't for the life of me remember music inside the cantina just the cool slightly spicy wine & bubbling of octopus pizza. If I was to remember I'm sure the Gnawan Sintir, Harmonium and Bass Clarinet would be laying down a Sufi Raga befitting Evan Parker's snake charmer soprano. As I stood to leave a voice from within the hood said in broken English "was it worth the fifteen dollar credit." RIYL: Don Cherry, Terry Riley, Cecil Taylor.

Frank Zappa – Zappa '88: The Last U.S. Show (ZAPPA RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

The "Best Band You Never Heard Tour" as it would later be referred to was quite accurate. This release, another great peek inside 1988, includes mostly the last show as well as a few tracks from other '88 tour dates. Zappa spent his entire career trying to "STOP THE STUPID" so it's not surprising these shows included voter registration breaks as well as stage time devoted to discussing this (right to vote) idea. Just think this was thirty-three years ago and look how far we've come, oh wait. Yeah, some people only like the Mothers, cause their hair is just getting good in the back. For some it's just too many notes. If your brain requires a little more caloric voltage the entertainment to cost ratio on this tape is bitch'n. Happy Birthday Chad.

Floating Points, Pharoah Sanders & The London Symphony Orchestra – Promises (LUAKA BOP)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

By removing the fixed point you open the opportunity to measure the immeasurable. For twenty plus years I have had a hitchhiker window box. It was first filled with recycled dirt from a few old random pots. It sat out back, a forgotten project. Then lilies popped up with giant yellow blooms. As I've moved or seasons come and go, random seeds take hold and some "cool new thing" grows. Currently a thick three armed Ice Plant cascades out from the box. Note, this is not dance music, toe taping jazz or something you just put on in the background. Similar to reading, it sort of takes your full attention. Prior knowledge of any of the participants is not at all required.

Tip:

In need of a "life sentence" rabbit hole?
worldradiohistory.com

CRUZ

Black Dice – Mod Prog Sic

(FOUR FOUR)

Find it in: ROCK

Wonderful soothing noise. Electronic devices. Mechanical Brain Massage.

Glowing Brain – Brain Dust

(THE GHOST IS CLEAR)

Find it in: PUNK

Smoke beer. Drink weed. Blast this.

Egyptian Lover – 1986

(EGYPTIAN EMPIRE)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Party time. Freak on you aliens. Dig these big bad beats.

Mirror (1975) [Criterion] – Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky

Memories. Poems. Dreams. Life. Tarkovsky. Gorgeous visuals. Appreciate this powerful film on the Blu-Ray edition from Criterion.

Various Artists –

Heroes of the Night (REMINDER)

Find it in: ROCK

Check out this amazing female lead vocal punk/new wave compilation. It rocks!

Drive-In Delirium: The Final Conflict – Various (Umbrella Entertainment)

Find it in: CULT

The latest and final release in the series. Check out these rad retro trailers. Nostalgia! Fun to put on at the party. Collect them all!

TC

bio - from Greek

bios '(course of) human life'

Raymond Scott – Manhattan Research Inc.

(MUSIC ON VINYL)

Find it in: LOUNGE

Beautiful 3xLP transparent vinyl reissue of classic compositions from one of the wackiest advertisement composers of the mid-20th Century.

Marcos Valle – Marcos Valle [Reissue]

(MR. BONGO)

Find it in: WORLD/BRASIL

Reissued Brazilian Boogie album whose cover art has some of the most tantalizing fruit juices I've ever seen. Check out the single, "Estrelar."

Chai – Wink (SUBPOP)

Find it in: WORLD/JAPAN

Japanese all-girl group, Chai, is back at it with amazing electro pop rock jams!

Various Artists – Rust Side Story Vol. 24

(NUMERO GROUP)

Find it in: SOUL/OLDIES

Newest collection of chill, romantic, low-rider oldies. And it's real nice.

Ryuichi Sakamoto – Hidari Ude No Yume

(WE WANT SOUNDS)

Find it in: ROCK

2-LP reissue with additional instrumental tracks from the YMO legend!

JAMES DILLON

33 + 45 = 78

Baligh Hamdi – Instrumental Modal Pop of 1970s Egypt

(SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Find it in: WORLD

Baligh Hamdi is one of the most important Arabic composers of the 20th Century. Very soothing and exotic music from Egypt that I'm sure you will enjoy.

Phuong Tâm – Magical Nights – Saigon Surf, Twist & Soul (1964-1966) (SUBLIME FREQUENCIES)

Find it in: WORLD

This is the first ever retrospective of Phuong Tâm. She was one of the first singers to perform and record rock and roll in 1960s Vietnam. This music was all but forgotten and the story of how this release came to fruition is fascinating. You will enjoy these wild party sounds from a different time and place

❑ **Kolchak: The Night Stalker** (1974)

Kolchak: The Night Stalker is an American television series starring Darren McGavin from 1974. He plays a reporter that always has his trusty camera and portable cassette recorder with him ready to document the supernatural events that happen around him in every episode. Episodes feature vampires, werewolves, mummies and zombies. The show had many guest stars featuring Hollywood veterans. It also featured early work by David Chase, creator of *The Sopranos*. *X-Files* fans take notice, Chris Carter said that the show influenced his own work.

🎬 **Mad Love (1935) – Directed by Karl Freund**

Mad Love is a 1935 American horror film directed by Karl Freund. It is Peter Lorre's American film debut. It is an extremely creepy and enjoyable film. One of my favorites. First time on Blu-ray thanks to Warner Archive.

Lee Perry – Time Boom X De Devil Dead (ON U SOUND)

Find it in: REGGAE

Lee Perry. Born Rainford Hugh Perry on March 20, 1936, in Kendal, Jamaica. He was a creator, innovator, and Dubator. He began his musical career in the late 1950s, selling records for Clement Coxson's Studio One Sound System and eventually recording songs at Studio One. He formed his own label, Upsetter Records, in 1968. In 1973, Perry built the Black Ark studio at his home so he could devote more time and energy to his productions. This was a magic time. It seemed that everything he touched turned to gold, producing many hits by Bob Marley and the Wailers, The Heptones, Max Romeo, Junior Murvin, The Congos, and many many more artists. He had a unique sound and vision and utilized many studio techniques that

he created and were unheard of by most music producers. After burning down his studio and leaving Jamaica, he started working with other producers and in the 1980s he started working with Adrian Sherwood of On-U Sound Records. This started an extremely fruitful period, starting with the legendary album *Time Boom X De Devil Dead*. Perry continued to collaborate with Sherwood and other artists into the present day. Aside from working with countless Jamaican artists, he also collaborated with many other musicians like Sir Paul McCartney, Keith Richards, The Clash, George Clinton, Robert Palmer, Simply Red, Terence Trent D'Arby, and The Beastie Boys.

He has many releases but a few notable ones are *The Congos*, *Heart of The Congos*; *The Upsetters*, *Super Ape*; Lee Perry, *Roast Fish* *Collie Weed & Corn Bread*; *The Upsetters*, *Blackboard Jungle Dub*; *The Heptones*, *Party Time*; Junior Murvin, *Police and Thieves*. He left this mortal coil on August 29, 2021. "Music is immortal, and the music refuse to die."

Tip:

Follow my button page [potatopotatobadges@instagram](https://www.instagram.com/potatopotatobadges)

CASS

Dean Blunt – Black Metal 2 (ROUGH TRADE)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Dean Blunt's music is a tough thing to categorize. Ever since I heard the original *Black Metal* record he released in 2014 I've been a diehard fan of his unique style. Despite its title, the music on this record touches on Lofi-Rock, Art Pop, and occasionally electronic music. The end result is a dreamy and mesmerizing experience from start to finish, with the closing track "the rot" possibly being the most moving piece of music I heard in 2021.

Godspeed You! Black Emperor – G_d's Pee AT STATE'S END! (CONSTELLATION)

Find it in: ROCK

I won't lie, *Godspeed* is one of my favorite bands of all time and I absolutely love and would recommend anything from their stacked catalogue. However this newest record is truly a special one. *Godspeed's* approach to Rock music is emotional, experimental and enormous, with crashing walls of orchestration and guitars alongside more calming, tension build-

ings moments. The songwriting on this record is more memorable and ambitious than their past few, making it one of my favorites in their discography. Check this out and try to catch them on their upcoming tour, as they are a band you truly don't want to miss live.

Black Midi – Cavalcade (ROUGH TRADE)

Find it in: ROCK

On Black Midi's sophomore record, the band takes a slight left turn towards Jazz and Progressive Rock. The songs here feel more structured and dynamic, with the addition of a horn section rounding out the sound even further. Acts like King Crimson and Amon Duul II come to mind, as well as a bit of Mahavishnu Orchestra, yet they still have a sound that is uniquely their own. While their debut record was more Noise Rock inspired, they still maintain that same jammy chaotic energy that caused them to turn so many heads in the first place. For a band that was already so innovative and forward-thinking in the first place, I could not ask for more from this bold new record.

Pan-Amerikan Native Front – Little Turtle's War

(NUCLEAR WAR NOW! PRODUCTIONS)

Find it in: METAL

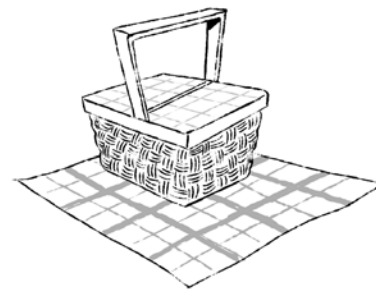
There is a bit of a movement going on in US Black Metal right now with a handful of Indigenous American artists taking inspiration from their native culture. Projects like Ifernach, Maleficent, and Kuka'ilimoku are incorporating imagery and lyrical themes from their respective native heritage to make some of the fiercest Black Metal you can find. Pan-Amerikan takes these themes even further with a concept album about one of the greatest victories in Indigenous American history, the Battle of the Wabash River. The riffs on this are blistering and noisy with some relentless drumming behind them. While second wave acts like Mayhem and Mutilation come to mind, there is also a healthy dose of early Bathory in the guitar tone and speed of these tracks as well.

Mortiferum – Preserved In Torment

(PROFOUND LORE)

Find it in: METAL

On their sophomore album, Mortiferum solidify their spot as one of the brightest new Death Metal bands out there. The riffs on this are seismic and punishing, with a heavy dose of Doom Metal influence coming through the songwriting. Early Death/Doom bands like



Autopsy and Incantation are certainly an influence, but the recording is uniquely modern with its huge cavernous sound. While this new record is mostly business as usual for Mortiferum, there is definitely a noticeable improvement to the soloing and song structures. I was lucky enough to catch these guys live in an auto shop right before Covid hit and let me tell you, the sheer brutality of that performance has lasted me since then.

Sun Ra – Lanquidity (STRUT)

Find it in: JAZZ

I am still a newcomer to the world of Jazz music, but I can thank this album for opening the door for me. Sun Ra's astral approach to Jazz music is seemingly second to none, with this album already so deep into his career proving that he was ready to reach even higher into the cosmos. The playing on this album is dripping with psychedelia and is often quite hypnotizing. Artaukatune's drumming tends to lock onto a specific repetitive groove for each track as Sun Ra and the rest of the band provide one tripped out solo after another. While this record was originally released in 1978, this 2021 reissue proves that this sound hasn't dated at all and finally gives it the enhanced mix/production it deserves. I would recommend anyone listen to this mysterious Jazz opus, as it's truly one of a kind.

FEEDBACK

The new *Matrix* movie rules

Total Hell – Total Hell (GONER RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

The album cover has a grim reaper flipping the bird on it. This shit fucking rips.



Swirlies – They Spent Their Wild Youthful Days In The Glittering World Of The Salons

(TAANG! RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

I love this band!!!!!!!!!!!!!! One of my biggest musical influences. Shoegazey indie rock with lots of noisy bits and weird tape effects and sweet singing and it is just so good!

Jozef Van Wissem / SQÜRL – Only Lovers Left Alive

(SACRED BONES)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

This soundtrack is another huge influence on me. Spooky, desolate, noisy guitar; spooky, desolate, noisy lute (!) plus a tripped-out version of Wanda Jackson's "Funnel of Love." RIYL feeling like a cool vampire.

Jenny Hval –

Girls Against God (VERSO BOOKS)

This book is so nuts. Jenny Hval is my hero. This novel is about black metal and witches and art and film and it'll make you wish you were reading it deep within a Norwegian Forest. Prepare to be WOWed!

Rachel Yoder – Nightbitch

(DOUBLEDAY)

On the cover of this book is a giant picture of a '50s housewife hands holding three big slabs of meat. That's how this book feels. An artist has a baby, quits her job, and then thinks she's turning into a dog. This book is a wild ride! RIYL weird shit.

VINNIE ESPARZA

Dues paid.

Various Artists – The Key to Our Love Vol. 2 (SYMPHONICAL)

Find it in: SOUL

Another helping of impossible-to-find lowrider 45s. As brilliant as Vol. 1.

Gregory Isaacs – Storm 7" (VP)

Find it in: REGGAE

Gregory's early '80s anthem finally available on a nice loud 45.

Errol Dunkley – Darling Ooh

(REAL GONE)

Find it in: REGGAE

Much needed reissue of this landmark album. Super deep.

Ibrahim Khalil Shihab Quintets – Spring (MATSULI)

Find it in: JAZZ

Reissue of an impossible-to-find 1968 jazz album from South Africa. A must for fans of spiritual jazz.

Ernest Ranglin – In The Rain

7" (EMOTIONAL RESCUE)

Find it in: REGGAE

Brilliant Cover of the Dramatics classic. Limited 7".

JEFF

Edo.G & Insight Innovates – Edo.G & Insight Innovates

(BRICK RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Limited edition!

Breeze Brewin – Hindsight

(MATIC/FATBEATS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Breeze Brewin of the Jugganots

THX1312 – I Have An Alibi, I Was Out Killing Cops

(DEATHBOMB ARC)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

You won't be disappointed



Gravediggaz – 6 Feet Under

(CLEOPATRA)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Limited edition reissue!

Saigon – The Greatest Story Never Told (SUBURBAN NOIZE)

Find it in: HIP HOP

10 Year Anniversary! First time on vinyl! RSD 2021

AZ – S.O.S.A. (QUIET MONEY)

Find it in: HIP HOP

First time on vinyl!

Rodrigo y Gabriela – Jazz EP

(ATO)

Find it in: WORLD

Check all their releases!

Sinead O'Connor –

Rememberings (SANDY COVE)

Crock of Gold –

A Few Rounds With

Shane MacGowan –

Directed by Julien Temple

Doc about the Pogues singer.

LOU

Fluids – Not Dark Yet

(HELL'S HEADBANGERS)

Find it in: METAL

Depraved (not for the faint of heart).

Cerebral Rot – Excretion of Mortality

(20BUCKSPIN)

Find it in: METAL

Filthy

Mystifier – Göetia

(NUCLEARWARNOW)

Find it in: METAL

2021 Reissue of a classic.

Hyperdontia – Hideous Entity

(DARK DESCENT)

Find it in: METAL

Crushing.

Archgoat – Worship the Eternal

Darkness (DEBEMUR MORT)

Find it in: METAL

Sinister

ROOTS MUSIC MAVEN

vinylbeat.com

Wee Willie Walker –

Not In My Lifetime (BLUE DOT)

Find it in: SOUL

Not In My Lifetime might be the best soul album since the '70s. Back in the day, the first cut, "Don't Let Me Get In Your Way" would have been a Top 40 hit. From the infectious introductory Sitar Guitar riff through the catchy refrain, it's simply a powerhouse tune. The whole album sounds great and is loaded with good hooky tunes that we've come to expect from songwriter Christine Vitale. Willie died just days after he finished recording, but you wouldn't know it from listening. His cheerful gritty voice is strong. There's also punchy horn arrangements, a funky rhythm section, smooth background vocals, and Anthony's tasteful guitar parts. Folks, there is great soul music outside of Brooklyn!

Tony Molina – Confront The Truth

(SLUMBERLAND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Tony Molina was a punk rocker, but he's exploring new directions on his last few albums. *Kill the Lights*, which preceded this album was a brilliant mash up of influences from Big Star to Buffalo Springfield. On *Confront The Truth* he adds some Beatlesque sounds, like on the tune "I Don't Want To Know," and I'm even hearing some Simon & Garfunkel influences on other tunes. I hope this doesn't scare anybody away because Tony has his own thing. One of which is his song lengths. He usually presents a great melody and sometimes a bridge, and then after one minute he moves on to the next tune. Another thing is his luscious harmonies and great hooks. Love his projects!

Los Lobos – Native Sons

(NEW WEST)

Find it in: ROCK

Another great album from my favorite band, Los Lobos. This one is mostly covers of California artists from many different eras and styles of



music. What makes this album so enjoyable is that there are few "obvious" choices. The tunes range from country rock (Buffalo Springfield and Jackson Browne) to L.A. rock (Beach Boys) to early pachuco and low rider (Lalo Guerrero, The Premiers and The Jaguars) to many points in-between. It's a double LP and a great romp through our local musical history.

Jimmie Widener – I'll Be Satisfied (RED BARN)

Find it in: COUNTRY
The late 1940s into the early '50s, was the Golden Age for Western Swing. The bands rocked and swung, and the solos were hot. The music was borrowed from country, big band, rockabilly, blues and pop. Jimmie Widener was one of the better guitarists and vocalists, but more importantly he surrounded himself with other great players, such as Joaquin Murphy on steel and Tiny Moore on electric mandolin. This LP compilation features 18 of his tunes and is lovingly done with lots of information and great pictures.

Various Artists – The Bakersfield Sound (BEAR FAMILY)

Find it in: COUNTRY
Collecting '50s and '60s Bakersfield music has long been a passion for many country music fans. We really appreciate Bear Family for producing this definitive eight CD plus 200 page book collection. And they got it right! All the small labels are represented like Tally, Bakersfield, Pep, Mar-vel, Rose, Starview and Mosrite. Featured are The Maddox Brothers & Rose, Bobby Austin,

Dick Curless, Barbara Mandrell, Bobby Durham, Billy Mize, Herb Henson, Harland Howard, Bill Woods, Joe Maphis, Cliff Crofford, Jean Shepard and of course Buck Owens, Bonnie Owens, Merle Haggard, and many more. If you like no frills, no BS, honky-tonk music with lots of twang, this is your box set.

Tip:
Get your shots and stay safe!

TONY C

*I wouldn't want to live in a world
without salt.*

Mick LaSalle – Dream State - California In The Movies (HEYDAY)

SF Chronicle reviewer LaSalle delivers a really entertaining treatise on the reality and unreality of the Hollywood starmaking machine in the republic of CA...with hunks of NoCal flavor to keep us locals entertained!

Don Letts – There and Black Again (OMNIBUS PRESS)

Best known for fueling the obsession with reggae that many of the first wave of London punks reveled in, Letts is a master storyteller (and name dropper!) who chronicles his musical journey from there to Kingston & NYC with a relentlessly positive attitude when faced with prejudice & negativity... this one sucks you in!

Tracey Thorn – My Rock'n'roll Friend (CANONGATE BOOKS)

A fascinating account of the 38 year friendship between Thorn and the famously feisty Lindy Morrison, drummer with Aussie cult heroes The Go-Betweens... a lot of ground is covered, including the omnipresent reality of rock mansplaining, and how to deal...

Mike Edison – Sympathy For The Drummer - Why Charlie Watts Matters (BACKBEAT)

A man with little taste for the limelight, Charlie Watts nevertheless had the best seat in the house during The Stones' halcyon days...Edison (himself a drummer) gets into why the Stones needed Watts, and also branches out into music culture in general...this is a real treat for Stones fans and all!

Joel Selvin & Jim Marshall – The Haight: Love, Rock & Revolution (Revised & Expanded) (INSIGHT EDITIONS)

A fantastic look at the Haight in its Summer of Love warts'n'all heyday, with Marshall's stunning (and often ugly) photos ably accompanied by Selvin's prose.

Tip:
Get out & see some shows asap, people!

SHERYL

Classical Guru

Florence Price: Symphonies 1 and 3 (DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON) **Featuring: Philadelphia Orchestra/ Yannick Nézet-Séguin –**

Find it in: CLASSICAL
Florence Price (1897-1953) is the first African-American woman symphonist to be featured on a major classical label. Symphonies 1 and 3 reflects an array of folk tunes, spirituals, and gospel music from her childhood.

C.P.E. Bach – Sonatas & Rondos (HYPERION) **Featuring: Marc-Andre Hamelin** **Find it in:** CLASSICAL

Hamelin gives a solid performance and displays his gifts for technique, control, and sensitive interpretation.

Frédéric Chopin – Complete Nocturnes (DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON) **Featuring: Jan Lisiecki** **Find it in:** CLASSICAL

Romantic piano solo music.
A brilliantly fresh interpretation of these timeless beloved pieces is always welcome, and Jan Lisiecki does just that. For vinyl lovers a 2-LP box set is forthcoming in 2022.

Josquin & the Franco-Flemish School (WARNER CLASSICS) **Find it in:** CLASSICAL

34 CD Box Set. Recordings from 1965-2000.
A must have set for Renaissance music lovers. Performed by the finest ensembles of early music. A treasure trove of Renaissance Choral works.

Beethoven: Complete Piano Concertos **Featuring Krystian Zimerman, and- Simon Rattle leading the London Symphony Orchestra** (DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON)

Find it in: CLASSICAL
Zimerman takes a new and thoughtful approach from his earlier recordings of these concertos with Leonard Bernstein. The set comes with five LPs. Also available as a 3-CD set and a 3-CD/2-Blu-Ray video limited edition of these performances.

ALLEN

Floating Points, Pharoah Sanders, London Symphony Orchestra – Promises (LUAKA BOP) **Find it in:** JAZZ

John Coltrane – A Love Supreme – Live in Seattle (IMPULSE!) **Find it in:** JAZZ

Renee Rosnes – Kinds of Love (SMOKE SESSIONS) **Find it in:** JAZZ

Lindsey Buckingham – Lindsey Buckingham (RHINO) **Find it in:** ROCK

He might be the biggest asshole in rock, but he can still write a good tune, dammit.

Henry Threadgill Zoooid – Poof (PI RECORDINGS) **Find it in:** JAZZ

Robert Plant & Alison Krauss – Raise the Roof (ROUNDER) **Find it in:** ROCK

It rarely rises above a slow boil, but they pick great tunes and sing with wisdom, and that counts for a lot.

Pat Metheny – Side Eye NYC VI.IV (MODERN RECORDINGS) **Find it in:** JAZZ

Metheny uses the small group format to showcase tunes from throughout his career, including



all the way back to his first album; James Francies and Marcus Gilmore help him bring life to a broad spectrum.

Kate McGarry & Keith Ganz Ensemble – *What to Wear in the Dark* (RESILIENCE MUSIC ALLIANCE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Nowadays, McGarry seems content to reconstruct and recontextualize tunes she likes, turning Steely Dan's "Barrytown" into a neat statement about "us vs. them" and "The 59th St. Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)" into a call for clearing the mind from life's anxieties. She makes them sound so vital and pretty, I hope she and husband Ganz would keep at it.

Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers – *First Flight to Tokyo: The Lost 1961 Recordings* (BLUE NOTE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Find it in: JAZZ

Roy Hargrove/Mulgrew Miller – *In Harmony* (RESONANCE)

Find it in: JAZZ

James Brandon Lewis/Red Lily Quintet – *Jesup Wagon* (TAO FORMS)

Find it in: JAZZ

The avant-garde improvising is great, but it doesn't catch fire until side two, when Lewis introduces themes and melodies that the musicians can sink their teeth into. Love the interplay between saxophonist Lewis and trumpeter Kirk Knuffke.

ABBA – *Voyage* (CAPITOL)

Find it in: ROCK

Not sure what's more startling: the ring of depth and wisdom in Agnetha and Anni-Frid's voices after all these years, or the words "screw you" in an ABBA song.

Veronica Swift – *This Bitter Earth* (MACK AVENUE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Find it in: JAZZ

She's got a good voice, and great musicianship, but her real superpower is song selection. She raids the Broadway and Brill Building songbooks to spotlight racism and physical abuse; she uses her Ronstadt-like A&R powers to program "As Long As He Needs Me" after "He Hit Me (And It Felt Like a Kiss)" to clarify the deadly synergy of a toxic relationship. Individually, the songs please; together, they impress.

CAPTAIN CLOUD CITY

So many years at record stores

Marianne Faithfull – *Montreux Years* (BMG)

Find it in: ROCK

A collection of live tracks from 1995-2009 recorded at the Montreux Jazz Festival. Restored and remastered, you can hear every perfect raspy vocal. A time capsule of her brilliant work.

Marc Almond – *Enchanted [Deluxe Edition]* (CHERRY RED)

Find it in: ROCK

Find it in: ROCK

A remastered version of this 1990 long out-of-print Marc Almond classic, with the addition of a DVD featuring the promo videos from it. A synth-pop/cabaret tour de force.

Nation Of Language – *A Way Forward* (PIAS)

Find it in: ROCK

A modern synth-pop masterpiece. This made me dig out my old OMD discs!

Lorde – *Solar Power* (UNIVERSAL)

Find it in: ROCK

Lorde continues with her unsettling pop style, but with a more mellow vibe.

Cat Power – *Covers* (DOMINO)

Find it in: ROCK

Have you seen the video of "I'll Be Seeing You"?! Wow-Chan Marshall does covers like the colonel does chicken- "right"!

SHONA

Burnt Sugar, the Arkestra Chamber – *Angels Over Oakanda* (BSC)

Find it in: JAZZ

Burnt Sugar, the Arkestra Chamber brings it every time! Drawing from a diverse range of influences, they swing, rock, and lay down the funk with a message. Rest In Power Greg Tate, may his memory be for a blessing.

George Cables – *Too Close For Comfort* (HIGH NOTE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Let us give the supremely underrated jazz pianist George Cables his flowers while he's still here, making real nice post-bop trio albums in his '70s.

Aretha Franklin – *Sparkle* (ATLANTIC/RHINO)

Find it in: SOUL

Aretha Franklin and Curtis Mayfield really appreciated and respected each other's talent and artistry, and together they made an amazing album (not a soundtrack) of music Curtis wrote for the movie *Sparkle*. Queen Aretha made so many good records, that this one sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. Back on vinyl for the first time since 1976!

Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers – *First Flight to Tokyo: The Lost 1961 Recordings* (BLUE NOTE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Find it in: JAZZ

These long lost live recordings from their first trip to Japan sound fucking amazing, and there's some stellar performances of classics like "Moanin'." Every configuration Art Blakey put together of the Jazz Messengers was good, and this band is a great one: Lee Morgan, Wayne Shorter, Bobby Timmons, Jymie Merritt.

Ismael Rivera con Kako y su Orquesta – *Lo Ultimo en la Avenida* (CRAFT)

Find it in: WORLD/SALSA

Find it in: WORLD/SALSA

Maelo was one of the all-time great soneros, and this 1971 album showcases just how great he and timbalero Kako were together. Remastered from the original analog tapes and reissued in a 50th anniversary heavyweight vinyl edition. I dare you not to dance to this.

DOC

picture of cat, my special boy

Hyperdontia – *Hideous Entity* (DARK DESCENT)

Find it in: METAL

It's been cool to watch Hyperdontia progress over the last handful of years. Where 2018's *Nexus of Teeth* bore the strong influence of then-frontman David Torturdød (not a bad thing, Phrenelith rules), *Hideous Entity* sees his replacement, Mathias Friborg making his presence equally felt. He's got a knack for writing catchy melodies that shine through the labyrinthine riffing without sacrificing intensity or venturing into the cheesier realms of "melodic" death metal that distinguishes his other projects, Sulphurous and Taphos to name a couple, and his contributions here make this a death metal record that'll worm its way into your brain and stick around for a while.

Mortiferum – *Preserved in Torment* (PROFOUND LORE)

Find it in: METAL

Mortiferum return with a killer slab of atmospheric doom death metal that'll keep your head moving for the full 40 minutes. Whereas their first record had a more modern style of production, here they employ a much more stripped-down approach that lets the riffs speak for themselves and the results are spectacular. It's amazing how much more effective death metal is when the drum kit sounds like an actual drum kit and not a triggered, plastic mess. Alright, I'm getting off my soap box now, this record rules, blah blah blah.

Venefixion – *A Sigh from Below* (IRON BONEHEAD)

Find it in: METAL

HELL YES!!! After a small but formidable string of releases, Venefixion come correct with their first full-length offering. This is death metal that

hearkens back to the earliest days of the genre, when bands crept out of the primordial ooze of thrash and speed metal, lurching further into sonic extremity, unconstrained by buzz words and pointlessly rigid sub-sub-genre constraints. In other words, death metal as it should have always been and should always be.

Tentation – *Le Berceau des Dieux* (GATES OF HELL)

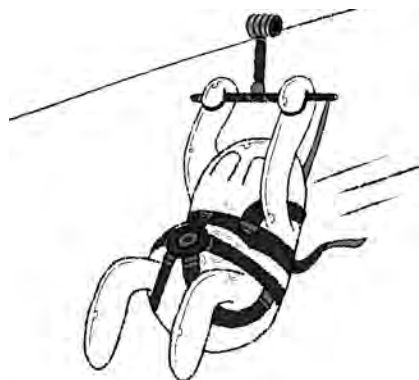
Find it in: METAL

There's a lot of retro heavy metal that's been coming out these last 10-15 years. While I'm glad people are paying tribute to the old school, for me most of it does absolutely nothing. Maybe I'm getting older, maybe bands are figuring out how to do it right, maybe it's a little bit of both, but this year was the first time I've really dug a good chunk of what's been seeping up from the underground. Tentation's first full-length being the first that caught my ear. The French quartet doesn't reinvent the wheel, but they play to their strengths remarkably well and avoid the missteps of their 80's obsessed contemporaries, all while staying true to the spirit of old school heavy metal. Highly recommended if you're looking to pad out the soundtrack to pounding cheap beers with your mates.

Tower – *Shock to the System* (CRUZ DEL SUR)

Find it in: METAL

More killer retro heavy metal. Tower play a speedy kind of heavy metal that'll send chills down your spine courtesy of vocalist Sarabeth Linden. The rest of the band are no slouches either, but the vocals are really what set these guys apart. Her voice is fucking awesome. It is rock 'n roll incarnate. It's raspy, soulful, and her melodic choices are excellent. Also, I am a sucker for dueling guitar solos and they are all over this record and they are positively shredding.



Antediluvian – *The Divine Punishment*

(NUCLEAR WAR NOW!)

Find it in: METAL

Surreal, dizzying and utterly bizarre. Antediluvian return with their best effort to date by a longshot. Occupying the middle ground between black, death, and doom metal and borrowing equally from Amon Duul II and Neurosis, *The Divine Punishment* stands as a dense and daunting obelisk in tribute to the mysteries of the beyond. Not for the faint of heart.

SEAN

Irish drinker, Jewish thinker

Curtis Harding – *If Words Were Flowers*

(ANTI-)

Find it in: SOUL

I was lucky enough to find out about Curtis when his first LP, *Soul Power*, was released in 2014. I've been a fan ever since. One of the finest purveyors of contemporary soul and R&B out there.

🏠 The Many Saints of Newark (2021) – Directed by Alan Taylor (based on David Chase's characters)

A must-see for all Sopranos fans. The hype focused on Michael Gandolfini as young Tony, but the real protagonist is Dickie Moltisanti, Christopher's father, played by Alessandro Nivola. Ray Liotta is also as chilling as ever.

The Mars Volta – *LP Reissues* (WARNER BROS.)

Find it in: ROCK

Their first four albums are available on vinyl again for the first time in years. At the very least ya gotta have *De-loused in the Comatorium* and *Frances the Mute*.

📖 Cassandra Peterson – *Yours Cruelly, Elvira: Memoirs of the Mistress of the Dark*

(HACHETTE)

As a young monster kid, Elvira was a huge part of my, ahem, awakening. At turns funny, touching, and tragic, this memoir is a wonderful read from a true legend.

Lou Reed – *Set the Twilight Reeling* (WARNER BROS.)

Find it in: ROCK

Available on double LP (with an etched 4th side) for the first time ever. In my opinion, this was his last truly great album.

RORY MUSIL

Former Bill's Records & Audio employee

Micky Dolenz – *Dolenz Sings Nesmith* (7A)

Find it in: ROCK

Reimagined versions of Michael Nesmith's First National Band classics. Essential if you ever liked anything by one or more Monkees. Filed under oldies but this is as timeless/contemporary as anything released last year.

Matt Berry – *The Blue Elephant*

(ACID JAZZ)

Find it in: ROCK

2021's best psych/prog/glam/pop album. No category adequately fits. Extremely inventive, you hear something new with each listen. A great taster for his *Gather Up* box set.

Tom Jones – *Surrounded By Time* (S-CURVE)

Find it in: POP VOCAL

Criminally ignored in the US, this album went to #1 in the UK. At 81 years old, Jones' voice is stronger & more expressive than ever. The song selection is adventurous, from a ponderous Bob Dylan's "Not Dark Yet" to a storming shout through Malvina Reynolds' "No Hole In My Head." Consistently fascinating and surprising.

Joan As Police Woman, Tony Allen & Dave Okumu – *The Solution Is Restless*

(PIAS)

Find it in: ROCK

Free form improvisational sessions recorded shortly before Nigerian drummer Tony Allen's passing. During the lockdown, Joan created song structures, lyrics and vocals from excerpts of those sessions. The results are a fresh & fascinating addition to Joan As Police Woman's exceptional catalog. Buy them all!

Willie Nelson – *The Willie Nelson Family*

(LEGACY)

Find it in: COUNTRY

This album is straight from the heart. A mixture of standards and Willie Nelson originals, the highlight is a version of George Harrison's "All Things Must Pass" sung by Lucas Nelson with Willie on harmonies. It's all so simple and seemingly effortless. In reality it's pure genius. In that big bin full of Willie Nelson records, this would be an easy one to ignore. Don't do it! It's arguably his best album in a decade.

PHILBERT

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

April Magazine – *If The Ceiling Were A Kite: Vol 1* (TOUGH LOVE)

Find it in: ROCK

The best band in San Francisco. They encapsulate everything good about Bay Area Music.

Various Artists – *Heroes of the Night* (REMINDER)

Find it in: ROCK

Great compilation of U.K. synth pop obscurities.

Clara Rockmore – *Lost Theremin Album*

(MISSISSIPPI RECORDS)

Find it in: 20CL

Haunting and beautiful. Theremin is a nice instrument.

Tangled Shoelaces – *Turn My Dial: M Squared Recordings & More 81-84* (CHAPTER MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

Most earnest sounding band. The group is made up of teens and this album was recorded at home.

Black Unity Trio – *Al-Fatihah*

(GOTTA GROOVE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Wildly nice free jazz

Chime School – *Chime School*

(SLUMBERLAND)

Find it in: ROCK

Andy Pastalanec is a jangle genius.



ZOE PAOLI

Chai – Wink (SUB POP)

Find it in: WORLD

All girl pop band from Japan

Esoteric – Esoteric vs. Japan

(FLY CASUAL)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Hip hop fused with Japanese pop culture from the 1980s

Brain Eno – Here Come the Warm Jets (VIRGIN RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Avant-garde rock in the 1970s

Apex Twin – Selected Ambient Works 85-92 (R&S)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

A fusion of ambient techno and electronic dance music

Les Rallizes Dénudés – Blind Baby Has Its Mothers Eyes (PHOENIX)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Japanese psychedelic rock

EMILIUS P

soooooo...confused? thanks

Linda Smith – Till Another Time: 1988-1996 (CAPTURED TRACKS)

Find it in: ROCK

A retrospective collection of Linda Smith's work, one of my favorite artists ever. Sparse and pretty home recordings, she has wonderful releases on Slumberland, too. <3

The Umbrellas –

The Umbrellas (SLUMBERLAND)

Find it in: ROCK

Stunning San Francisco jangle from some of Amoeba's finest employees!

Telephone Numbers –

Ballad of Doug

(MERITORIO/PAISLEY SHIRT)

Find it in: ROCK

.....pretty much the dopest tunes in existence.....not to be missed.....

April Magazine – If the Ceiling Were a Kite Vol. 1 (TOUGH LOVE)

Find it in: ROCK

Lovely and atmospheric pop songs from San Francisco that make my heart sing!

Akiko Yano –

Ai Ga Nakucha Ne

(WEWANT SOUNDS)

Find it in: WORLD/JAPAN

Akiko Yano is a total legend and this is one of her best records. Plus the cow on the cover! Get outta town!

Magic Roundabout – Up

(THIRD MAN)

Find it in: ROCK

Teens from the '80s making jangly rough-around-the-edges songs, recordings recently unearthed by Ian Masters from Pale Saints. Wow!

GUILLERMO

You can find me slinging tunes from behind a pair of turntables around town but most definitely at my long running Sweater Funk party every 2nd Saturday at The Knockout.

XL Middleton x Delmar Xavier VII – XL Middleton x Delmar Xavier VII

(MO FUNK)

Find it in: HIP HOP

L.A. funk mainstay XL Middleton dropped this gem of an album towards the latter half of 2021, just in time to do some quick SF dates before Omicron shut that kind of thing down for the winter. It features the G funk leaning beats and heavy on the mod wheel keyboard licks

XL is known for, but it features the MC skills of an unknown rapper by the name of Delmar Xavier. Attentive listeners will hear a familiarity in Delmar's voice and may guess at DX's true identity, none other than XL Middleton himself. Makes sense since Delmar raps about his love for Pasadena and looking out for one another, two things that are very close to XL's heart. So yeah, producer, musician, singer, rapper, owner of the Mo Funk label, record store owner... XL is killing it these days! Highly recommended!

Dax Pierson – Nerve Bumps (A Queer Divine Dissatisfaction)

(DARK ENTRIES)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Ex-Amoeba employee? Artist on legendary indie experimental hip hop label, Anticon? Dax Pierson did all of that. Dax also spent over a decade recovering from a paralyzing accident that made them rethink life and how to continue with music, the details of which can be found online and you should seek it out but know that this is the result of perseverance on a level that is mostly unheard of. Dax pushed through so much struggle to create this heavy listener of a techno album, and it's so fucking listenable. I've had this on regular rotation on the turntable at home and on my music player in my pocket. It's made navigating this city during the worst of 2021 somewhat tolerable. It pretty much lives on the end cap in the electronic dept so check there or his card in electronica. Thank you Dax, and thank you Dark Entries!

Str4ta – Aspects

(BROWNSWOOD RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

A British Jazz Funk revival album from two guys that I trust to get it right, legendary Jazz-dance DJ Gilles Peterson and Incognito's jazz steeped leader, Jean-Paul Maunick aka Bluey. Both of these guys have been on top of their game for 40 years, so expect only the best from this album, you won't be let down. Featuring the talented members of Incognito, the playing is top notch, funky, tight with plenty of fantastic playing that'll keep your jaws on the floor but enough funk to keep the dance floor moving. I saw SF techno veteran Jonah Sharp drop this last year to a room full of smiles! This record does that kind of thing, you need that in your life.

R+R=Now – Live (BLUE NOTE)

Find it in: JAZZ

Really, you should have bought R+R=Now LP by now, if you haven't, go grab that and get familiar, then put this on and have a smoke of something mind expanding. Yeah, that's nice, right? Both

albums feature the talents of an amazing band, led by Robert Glasper and joined by Christian Scott, Terrace Martin, Taylor McFerrin, Derrick Hodge & Justin Tyson. Expect the funky, hip hop and rnb informed playing from Glasper, along with some genuinely funny stange banter and then let the band add in some of that magic that come only come from a live performance and you can't go wrong. As evident in "Perspectives/Postpartum" a medley of sorts but I prefer the term "blend" of two songs written by Christian Scott and Taylor McFerrin respectively. Both songs are magical but put together back to back is some potent shit you need to keep in your back pocket just in case. Plus I still keep this live version "Needed You Still" on repeat these days, it's very necessary. Such a great record, go ahead and grab it.

MARK

Julia Shapiro – Zorked

(SUICIDE SQUEEZE)

Find it in: ROCK

Great guitar jams blended with plenty of horns.

The Umbrellas – The Umbrellas (SLUMBERLAND)

Find it in: ROCK

Awesome local band's first full length. Poppy goodness aplenty.

Telephone Numbers – The Ballad of Doug

(MERITORIO/PAISLEY SHIRT)

Find it in: ROCK

Amazing new record from Amoeba's own Thomas Rubenstein.





■ **Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982) [Criterion]** – Directed by Amy Heckerling
It's about time this classic gets the Criterion treatment.

■ **Bruce Lee: His Greatest Hits [Criterion]**
Bruce Lee, 5 film box set, lots of extras. Brilliant

SHAHAN

Talking Heads – This Must Be The Place (Naive Melody) Full Length Version 12” (SIRE)
Find it in: ROCK
This may be a simple two track 12”, but it has one of the sweetest love songs of all time on it. The full version even.

Young Guv – Guv I & II (RUN FOR COVER)
Find it in: ROCK
With a Guv III coming out in March 2022, now is a fine time to listen back to this collection of finely crafted pop songs.

Camper Van Beethoven – Take The Skinheads Bowling 12” EP (ROUGH TRADE)
Find it in: ROCK
One side is dedicated to the title track, the other is five songs perfectly suited for PA play in a bowling alley located somewhere around Haight and Stanyan.

Bygones – By- (SARGENT HOUSE)
Find it in: ROCK
Music that's both art and athletic. Two of Sacramento's most virtuosic musicians got together and made something that's exhausting to even listen to.

Brian Eno – Here Come The Warm Jets (EDITIONS EG)
Find it in: ROCK
“Needles In The Camel's Eye” would make a good football chant. Is there anyone who's doing that? That's my team. Go team!

MEOWGAN

(*) / 〰 〰) / ♪ ♪ ♪ \ (〰 〰 \ *) ♪ ♪ \

Rosali – No Medium (SPINSTER)
Find it in: ROCK
When I first listened to this record I was warmly reminded of the great Richard and Linda Thompson's anthem “I Want to See the Bright Lights Tonight,” only with more turbulent undertones. Members of David Nance Group give this album heavy gusts of electricity that carry it home, straight to the soul, much like your favorite Crazy Horse record. I can't recommend this enough; it really has something special to offer for everyone.

2nd Grade – Wish You Were Here Tour Revisited (DOUBLE DOUBLEWHAMMY)
Find it in: ROCK
Oh man, I love this record SO much. I never get tired of it, it really has been a joy to listen to over the past year since when I fell in love with this band's first record, “Hit to Hit.” This is some feel-good college rock straight out of Philly, filled to the brim with hooks and lyrics that snatch at your heart strings over and over again. Will you listen to the A-side version of “Favorite Song” that is a bit softer, or will you choose the more rocking version on the B-side? Power pop gems for every mood? I am here for it!!!

Linda Smith – Till Another Time: 1988-1996 (CAPTURED TRACKS)
Find it in: ROCK
Homespun compositions of songs that belong in the early Cherry Red catalog alongside lo-fi pioneers Marine Girls. Linda Smith writes captivating songs that are intimate and far far

away at the same time, with her hushed vocals peaking out in-between angular guitar lines that create a unique sound that only she could pull off so coolly and independently. I think she is so inspiring and I'm very glad that Captured Tracks put out this collection of incredibly special music.

Tangled Shoelaces – Turn My Dial: M Squared Recordings, and more 1981-84 (CHAPTER MUSIC)
Find it in: ROCK
These songs are vibrant and free, unchained by the burdens of life, worry and age! Maybe that's because they were literally crafted by kids, who were between ages 10-14 growing up in Australia during the time of these recordings. This band had a short lifespan but I am so grateful to have infinite spins of goodness on my turntable with this perfect gathering of songs that I can always turn to when I'm feeling down.

April Magazine – If the Ceiling Were a Kite: Vol. I (TOUGH LOVE)
Find it in: ROCK
Gifted songs floating just beneath that warm tape hiss that feel like a nice long hug. These musicians are all based out of San Francisco and they have kindness in their hearts that matches their individual talent. I will always treasure the many shows I've been swooned by Kati's basslines in a crowd at, say, the Makeout Room, along with Mike's careful drumming and Peter and David's ethereal dueling guitars, and now I can forever remember those very special times with this collection of undeniably lovely songs.

Maxine Funke – Seance (A COLORFUL STORM)
Find it in: ROCK
Contemplative and secluded music that sounds like a candle illuminating a dark room. These songs are delicate and carefully woven, and they led me down a spiral of Funke works, mind you there are plenty more albums to get lost in that she has crafted over the years. Fans of Alastair Galbraith and Sibylle Baier listen closely.

Chime School – Chime School (SLUMBERLAND RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK
Chiming indeed! Fans of early Creation/C-86/ guitars/motorcycles, get a load of this! Andy is a sweetheart from SF who writes classic songs

with charming lyrics and melodies to match. There is something significant about this record that sets it off from the rest of the bands trying to capture this sound, I can't tell you why... You'll just have to listen and find out for yourself! Pure magic!

The Reds, Pinks and Purples – Uncommon Weather (SLUMBERLAND/TOUGH LOVE)
Find it in: ROCK
If Glenn is going to put out a record every year, at this rate you can just expect it to be in my top picks. Masterful and elegant sophisti-pop that is confident as it is true.. This stuff is really, really good and I think everyone would agree. Each song plays out as a scene of some movie that exists between dreams and reality, focusing on the bittersweet aspects of life, and the fleetingness of it all. “Fog pop” at its finest.

SOPHIA

Shakey Graves – Shakey Graves and the Horse He Rode In On (DUALTONE)
Find it in: FOLK
This album made me want to go camping, in a good way.

The Front Bottoms – Ann (WUAKASKOLE RECORDS)
Find it in: ROCK
My high school anthems are on this album, good 'ol emo music.



Various Artists – Juno

[Soundtrack] (RHINO)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACK

Just reissued, best soundtrack ever!!!

Angel Olsen – Burn Your Fire For No Witness

(JAGJAGUWAR)

Find it in: ROCK

Sunday night ritual

Tip:

I also recommend the following not so easy to find titles: Guided By Voices' 7" w/ "Red Chair"; "Let's Be Enemies" by Everyone Asked About You, or Sprain's self-titled EP

JOHN.T

Nightmare Alley (1947) [Criterion]– Directed by Edmund Goulding

Tyrone Power and Joan Blondell star in this ultra-dark carny-noir favorite, newly restored for the Criterion Collection. Dug the new Guillermo del Toro remake? Well, time to check out the original.

Gemini (1999) – Directed by Shinya Tsukamoto

You may be familiar with *Tetsuo The Iron Man*, but if that's all you've seen of Tsukamoto's work you are missing out. *Gemini* is a highly underrated flick that still incorporates some of the director's kinetic camera work, but sprinkles it into an otherwise atmospheric classic horror tale. Loosely based on a 1920s short story by Japanese horror author Edogawa Rampo.

Untold Story (1993) – Directed by Herman Yau

Hong Kong introduced a rating system only in the mid 1980s, Categories I,IIa,IIb and III. CATIII films are often shockingly violent and/or perverse. *Untold Story* aka *The Eight Immortals Restaurant* aka *Human Pork Buns*, is possibly the most famously grotesque of all Hong Kong films. Loosely based on a real massacre of an entire family at a Macau restaurant. Anthony Wong gives a truly unhinged performance of an extreme psychopath that is not for the faint of heart. While this film being on Blu-ray in the US is special enough, this disc also includes an informative feature length documentary on Category III cinema featuring a bevy of film scholars and

folks involved in their making. If a movie called *Human Pork Buns* sounds up your alley, then this is highly recommended. If it does not... then I'd steer clear.

The Green Knight (2021) – Directed by David Lowery

Are you a fan of *Excalibur* and wish there were more kinda-artsy Arthurian legend movies? Well you are in luck. Probably a bit too slow for the mainstream audience it was being advertised to, I think this is a great looking, well acted, serious take on Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. There just aren't enough fantasy films being made these days of any caliber above straight to video.

Yokai Monsters Collection (1968-1969, 2005) – Various directors and Takashi Miike

The original three Yokai Monsters films from the late '60s are delightful examples of traditional Japanese folklore run amok. The 2005 Miike film ramps things up with even more monsters, and a delirious combo of practical and CG effects to make a made-for-the-whole-family extravaganza. Fun stuff. My favorite might be the monster that is just an umbrella with a face. While the limited edition box is out of print, a new standard edition of the box is coming out while this publication is at the printers.

Day of the Beast (1995) – Directed by Álex De La Iglesia

A great early Horror Comedy from the best genre director in Spain. There is just so much energy and vitality to his films that make them endlessly watchable to me. A priest discovers the exact date that the Antichrist will be born and cajoles a heavy metal fan and a fake TV psychic to go on a spree of "gore, sacrilege and twisted humor" (San Francisco Examiner) to prevent the apocalypse. Fun stuff. If you liked this, we also recently received Iglesia's 2013 *Witching & Bitching* (a horrible English-only title for *Las Brujas de Zugarramurdi*) which is another off the rails horror comedy in which a group of armed robbers once again fend off the apocalypse from a group of Basque witches.

Surf II (1984) – Directed by Randall M. Badat

When the Vinegar Syndrome label started in 2012 I knew one day they would release one of my favorite stupid '80s gross-out comedies, *Surf II*. And that day finally arrived in 2021. A 2-disc edition chock full of special features (yes, there are four audio commentaries, no, no one will

ever listen to four audio commentaries for this movie) including a never before seen director's cut which oddly has less boobs but more surfing. Featuring an early performance from Eric Stoltz, Eddie Deazen and late '60s/'70s comedy "stars" Ruth Buzzi, Lyle Wagoner and Ron Palillo. Incredibly silly stuff previously only on VHS.

Blood for Dracula (1974) – Directed by Paul Morrissey

Also known as Andy Warhol's *Dracula*, this is the companion piece to *Flesh for Frankenstein* (also hopefully available by the time of publication) directed back to back in Italy in the early '70s. Udo Kier plays both titular roles with mind melting enthusiasm and Jersey Boy Joe Dallesandro oozes brainless masculinity with great aplomb. These films are cult favorites for a reason.

Long Day's Journey Into Night (2018) – Directed by Bi Gan

A gorgeous arthouse flick from China. You'll never quite know if you are seeing the past, present or a dream in this mysteriously romantic bit of visual poetry. This film received state-side attention for its last half which consists of one, nearly hour long, single-take shot in 3D. Blu-ray comes with both the 3D and 2D versions. Made me think of *In the Mood For Love* if it was directed by Tsai Ming Liang.

Tex Avery Screwball Classics (1940s-1950s)

There are now three volumes of Tex Avery cartoons, some of the greatest ever made from the '40s and '50s. Collect them all!

Get Crazy (1983) – Directed by Allan Arkush

Malcolm McDowell, Daniel Stern, Ed Begley Jr., Mary Woronov, Clint Howard, Paul Bartel, Linnea Quigley, Fabian, Lee Ving and Lou Reed star in this completely bonkers rock 'n' roll '80s doozy. I'm going to steal someone's letterboxd review: "Zu Warriors from the Magic Mountain of concert films." Sounds about right.

Censor (2021) – Directed by Prano Bailey-Bond

In 1980s England there was a film censorship program that designated films as "Video Nasties." This meta-horror film is set in a government film censor's office where a young woman must constantly review the nastiest bits



of violence and sex so as to excise them for distribution. This takes a toll on the poor lass as she dwells on a past trauma. Things just go from bad to worse and you as the viewer are in for a treat. Stars Niamh Algar from *Wrath of Man* and HBO's *Raised By Wolves*. Recommended for fans of arthouse horror cinema. An outstanding directorial debut.

Saint Maud (2019) – Directed by Rose Glass

Another excellent directorial debut from a UK based female director. These ladies are killing it over there. A dark tale of extreme religious fervor gone wrong.

Solid Metal Nightmares: The Films of Shinya Tsukamoto

Eight features and two shorts from the man behind *Tetsuo the Iron Man*. An amazing box set and great companion to that stand-alone *Gemini* you just picked up.

Memories of Murder (2003) [Criterion] – Directed by Bong Joon-Ho

Before *The Host* and *Parasite*, Bong directed one of the best of an excellent run of gritty thrillers being made around the turn of the century. This one is dark. Thanks Criterion!

The Sparks Brothers (2021) – Directed by Edgar Wright

A stylistically interesting music doc on one of the more enigmatic art-rock bands of all time. A great introduction for the newcomer, but seeing as how even old fans know little about this duo it's an excellent treat for the die-hard fan as well.



DYLAN TIDYMAN- JONES

polytherian.bandcamp.com/releases

Hailu Mergia & The Walias Band – Tezeta

(AWESOME TAPES FROM AFRICA)

Find it in: WORLD

No known copies of the original cassette, recorded and released in Ethiopia in 1975, have ever surfaced online — but thankfully Mergia held onto his own copy! This is what I'm listening to in the mornings.

L'Rain – Fatigue (MEXICAN SUMMER)

Find it in: SOUL

Must be listened to, to be heard.

Sarah Davachi – Antiphonals (LATE MUSIC)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

If you like somber, minimal drone. I found this on the turntable often in the evening as I was winding down, reading, reflecting on the day.

Floating Point, Pharoah Sanders – Promises (LUAKA BOP)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

An experience. Reminded me to listen to Sanders' *Karma* again.

Grouper – Shade (KRANKY)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

I learned long ago not to listen to Grouper depressed — but if I'm feeling alright, I can swim in Harris' sorrowful atmospherics pretty well, without too much danger of drowning.

GABUCHAN

Vidiot!

Mr. Bungle – The Night They Came Home (IPECAC RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ROCK

An excellent live recording of Mr. Bungle's Halloween pay-per-view from 2020. Filmed live at the Eureka public library with the core trio of Mr. Bungle (Dunn, Patton & Spruance)

and thrash legends Dave Lombardo and Scott Ian. Mr. B renders a scorching version of "The Wraging Wrath of the Easter Bunny Demo" with all the intensity and silliness we've grown to love. Complete with covers of Seals and Crofts' "Summer Breeze" and a shredding version of Van Halen's "Loss of Control." An awesome document of an intimate pandemic show not to be missed.

Converge & Chelsea Wolfe – Bloodmoon•I (EPITAPH)

Find it in: ROCK

An incredible collaboration between Converge and Chelsea Wolfe. Brutal, melodic, dark, and triumphant. Music for end times, or music to call upon end times? Either way it's a real treat! Have some! My fav song as of this writing is Coil.

New York Ninja (2021) – Directed by John Liu

(VINEGAR SYNDROME)

New York Ninja is a lost film brought to life by the fine folks at Vinegar Syndrome. Within the amazing vault at Vinegar Syndrome HQ, reels of an unmade movie are discovered. No call sheet, no credits, no audio. It is revealed to be one of the last movies from the late '70s early '80s martial arts kicker extraordinaire, John Liu (*Secrete Rivals 1-3*). After scanning the reels the film seems incomprehensible and incomplete. So editor Kurtis Spielert makes it his mission to create a new movie from the ashes of this failed attempt. Enlisting the voice talent of VS alum: Don "The Dragon" Wilson, Cynthia Rothrock, Leon Issac Kennedy, Linnea Quigley and the one and only Michael Berryman (*The Hills Have Eyes* and *Theatre of Pain*-era Motley Crüe videos). In *NY Ninja* you'll find incredible locations, fights galore, melting villains and '80s movie punks to the max! A cinematic miracle you should not miss!

Nightmare Alley (1947) [Criterion] – Directed by Edmund Goulding

Stan (Tyrone Power) is an ambitious carney looking for the next big con. As he uses more than slight of hand to advance his career he finds himself as the main attraction of a big city night club act. Can he avoid the biggest con of all or will he end up back where he started. This classic noir has been given the golden treatment from the fine people at Criterion. Don't miss this atmospheric tale of darkness, betrayal, and hard reckonings.

Shaw Scope Volume 1 [Arrow Video] – Directed by Cheng Cheh, Ti Lung, David Chiang, Gordon Liu

Arrow's first collection of Shaw brothers Kung Fu movies is quite the ass kicker. 12 spectacular films are included in this first volume: *King Boxer*, *The Boxer from Shantung*, *Five Shaolin Masters*, *Shaolin Temple*, *Might Peking Man*, *Challenge of the Masters*, *Executioners from Shaolin*, *Chinatown Kid*, *The Five Venoms*, *Crippled Avengers*, *Heroes of the East* and *Dirty Ho*. This seventies offering of Shaw Brothers films will satisfy any kung fu enthusiast or thrill seeker. The movies are presented in both Mandarin and '70s English dubs. Loaded with extras you will feel as if you have earned your black belt once consuming this amazing tournament of blood, sweat and hi-ya!

AUDRA WOLFMANN

Meaning junky.

The French Dispatch (2021) – Directed by Wes Anderson

I know many find Wes Anderson pretentious and precious. I'm a fan, and I can also admit that his films have pretentious and precious moments. However, those moments are intentional and inspired, and I love them. *The French Dispatch* is one long stream of precious moments, each more beautiful than the last. I'm excited to get the Blu-ray so I can pause the film at various points and examine the elaborate set dressing in the frame.

Anderson is at his best when he allows himself time to build a character in a continuous narrative. Unfortunately, he doesn't give himself time



Eyes of Fire (1983) – Directed by Avery Crounse

A great example of Folk Horror set in pre-independence colonial America. While on the run a group of early settlers take refuge in an isolated valley that the local Native population are too frightened to enter. And for good reason! Spooky forests and witchcraft ensue.

Rebels of the Neon God (1992) – Directed by Tsai Ming-liang

Finally! The first Tsai Ming-Liang film on Blu-ray in the US since 2013's *Stray Dogs*, Tsai's feature length debut. *Time Out* says "No director since Fassbinder has such insight into the lives of lost young men in crumbling inner cities as Tsai Ming-liang delivers in this devastating first feature." Hopefully there are more releases to come from this new label.

Titane (2021) – Directed by Julia Ducournau

I liked *Raw*, but didn't love it. However it certainly made me curious about what this director would do next. And wow, what a doozy! Sure there are some immediate comparisons to Cronenberg's *Crash*, but this film is way more warm and personal than the chassis steel cold of the Ballard adaptation and quickly moves on to its heartbreaking relationship drama core.

Tip:

Don't see the movie you are looking for, come talk to us in the movie room about special ordering your favorite flicks!

in *The French Dispatch*. Instead he has compiled a collection of vignettes about the kooky writers and artists who contribute to the publication called, of course, *The French Dispatch*. The film lacks the depth of his others, but it's a beautiful showcase of amazing actors in outrageous situations.

Weird Al Yankovic & Osaka Popstar – Beat on the Brat (DEMENTED PUNK)

Find it in: ROCK

Weird Al and Osaka Popstar teamed up for this epic Record Store Day exclusive 12" split maxi single. In tribute to the Ramones, there are four versions of "Beat on the Brat," plus Al's live performance of "I Wanna Be Sedated," and Osaka Popstar's live versions of "Blitzkrieg Bop" and "The KKK Took My Baby Away." Besides being the wackiest tribute to the Ramones ever made, the cover art is by Neil Camera, the artist for Topps' Garbage Pail Kids! Finding this album is like finding the Nerdy Holy Grail.

Quote time: Al says, "I selected 'Beat on the Brat' by the Ramones, because I truly believe it's the most upbeat, danceable song about child abuse ever written."

Woodlands Dark and Days Bewitched: A History of Folk Horror [Severin]– Directed by Kier-La Janisse

Finally, a comprehensive documentary about my favorite genre of film! Kier-La Janisse has created a masterful exploration of international Folk Horror, covering more than 200 films dealing with rural occult lore. Three hours has never flown by so fast thanks to mesmerizing film clips and quality interviews with film critics, directors, and historians. Thank you Severin Films and Kier-La Janisse for widening my scope of this creepy cool genre. My list of must-sees has grown to triple digits.

Last Night In Soho (2021) – Directed by Edgar Wright

Edgar Wright's time-bending psychological ghost thriller is like nothing I've ever seen before. Twists, turns, Kinks' songs...this film is truly an original! Set in both modern day London and in the swinging '60s version, Edgar Wright slyly casts luminaries from British film and past with Rita Tushingham (*The Knack... and How to Get It*), Diana Rigg (*The Avengers*), Margaret Nolan (*Goldfinger*), and Terence Stamp (*Modesty Blaise*).

Basket Case (1982) [Standard Special Edition Blu-ray] – Directed by Frank Henenlotter

My favorite conjoined twin trash horror classic gets the Blu-ray treatment! Belial has never looked so gloriously lumpy. Come for the 4K restoration by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), stay for the Blu-ray extras like the new *Basket Case*-inspired animated short and Frank Henenlotter's short film from 1972, *Slash of the Knife*.

Tip:

Check out my podcasts: "Retrophilia" and "Speakeasily vs the '80s."

ZACK

@swalk415 first Mondays 4-6pm
on Lower Grand Radio.

Various Artists – For The Love Of You, Vol 1 and 2 (AOTN)

Find it in: REGGAE
<3

Lee Perry – Black Art From The Black Ark (PRESSURE SOUNDS)

Find it in: REGGAE
Collection of rare and unreleased cuts.

Carroll Thompson – Hopelessly In Love [40th Anniversary Reissue]

(SANCTUARY)
Find it in: REGGAE
40th Anniversary reissue. Lover's rock

Various Artists – Black Riot: Early Jungle Rave and Hardcore

(SOUL JAZZ)
Find it in: ELECTRONICA
Heavy duty ragga jungle comp from Soul Jazz

Porter Ricks – Biokinetics

(MILLE PLATEAUX)
Find it in: ELECTRONICA
Double vinyl reissue with a new cover design. Dub Techno!

Joy Orbison – Still Slipping Vol. 1 (XL)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA
My favorite new dance album.

My Bloody Valentine – You Made Me Realise EP

(CREATION)
Find it in: ROCK
Finally available again on vinyl

Armand Hammer and The Alchemist – Haram

(BACKWOODZ STUDIOZ)
Find it in: HIP HOP
My tune!

KERRY

Amoeba SF hip-hop buyer.

Best hip-hop vinyl reissues of 2021

Hieroglyphics – Hiero Oldies Volume One

(HIEROIMPERIUM)
Find it in: HIP HOP
First official pressing of most if not all tracks.

Bachelors – Wine Cellar 12" EP

(MELON BIN)
Find it in: HIP HOP
Six songs from their 2000 LP available on vinyl for the first time.

Digital Underground – Sex Packets (TOMMY BOY/TNT)

Find it in: HIP HOP
Lovingly pressed on 2-LP for the first time.

RZA – Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (music from the motion picture) (SACRED BONES)

Find it in: HIP HOP/SOUNDTRACK
Soundtrack by Wu-Tang's Rza. First official pressing after a handful of bootlegs.

Esbe – Bloomsday

(COLD BUSTED)
Find it in: HIP HOP
A second vinyl pressing after the OG 2018 became pricey for a very good reason.

Cold World Hustlers – Iceland

(NORTHCYDE/COLDWORLDHUSTLERS)
Find it in: HIP HOP
Remastered and pressed at 45 RPM. Sounds amazing.

Too Short – Life Is... Too Short

(DANGEROUS MUSIC/RCA)
Find it in: HIP HOP
Foundational album, back in print for the first time in years.

KMD – Mr. Hood

(GET ON DOWN/ELEKTRA)
Find it in: HIP HOP
Sorely needed repress, maybe the first one that sounds worthwhile.

Ultramagnetic MC's – Critical Beatdown [expanded]

(MUSIC ON VINYL/NEXT PLATEAU)
Find it in: HIP HOP
Fantastic 2xLP repress of an undisputed classic.

The Roots – Do You Want More?!!!!!! (Geffen)

Find it in: HIP HOP
One of the albums more conspicuously unavailable on vinyl of the last 30 years finally gets its turn in this 3-LP set.

Tip:

Some reissues that are harder to find: San Quinn - *Live N Direct*, I.M.P. - *Ill Mannered Playas and Back In The Days*, I I I 5 - *Fiendin' 4 Tha Funk*, Ghetto Children - *'90s Unreleased, Demos & Rare Tracks*, VA- *Samurai Champloo - The Way of the Samurai*



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HOLLYWOOD



ANGELA

DJ and Amoeba employee mostly focused
on dance music, world and hardcore
punk stuff. Host of radio show:
Technodelic on Moonglow Radio
every other sunday!
<https://moonglowradio.net/>

Tirzah – Colourgrade

(DOMINO)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Overmono –

Diamond Cut / Bby 12"

(XL RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

amazing single both sides!!

Merauder – The Minus Years

(UPSTATE RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Doris – Did You Give The World Some Love Today Baby

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Find it in: JAZZ

1970s LITA Reissue

Rochelle Jordan – Play With The Changes

(YOUNG ART RECORDS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

what all dance pop stuff should be like

**Keiji Haino, Jim O'Rourke,
Oren Ambarchi – Each Side
Has A Depth Of 5 Seconds A
Polka Dot Pattern In Horizontal
Array A Flickering That Moves
Vertically** = 一辺が5秒の深さ 横
に並ぶ水玉模様 上下に移動する
点滅 (BLACK TRUFFLE)
Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

ROBERT-ORACLE

So Dark So Cold So Metal...
or whatever

Crowne – Kings in the North

(FRONTIERS)

Find it in: METAL

Hook driven melodic rock, just this side of metal.
Blistering solos, soaring vocals. Perhaps a bit slick
but that's par for the course for this label. there
is very little filler here. I can easily recall many of
the melodies and choruses after listening. Heavy
A.O.R really but recommended if you like well
crafted melodic songs.

Circus Maximus – 1st Chapter

(REMEMBER RECORDS)

Find it in: METAL

Ok Ok I know prog-metal can be heavy on
"speed of light" instrumentation and light on
actual songs, but such is not the case with the
1st Chapter. While there is no shortage of spec-
tacular playing and singing there are songs here.
In fact if you cut out all the instrumentation
you are left with catchy songs and triumphant
choruses. Yes yes there are 10 minute songs but
it's worth it

Anathema – We're Here Because We're Here (KSCOPE)

Find it in: METAL

This band began life as part of the doom/gothic
metal scene prevalent in the mid to late '90s.
They have since morphed into a less metallic
darker more emotional somewhat mopey Wish
you were Here era Pink Floyd, for lack of a
better comparison. These songs will punch you

right in the gut if, like myself you have a penchant for bleak dreamy songs about struggle, redemption and death. I'm over simplifying but if you've slept on this band, now is the time.

**Fate's Warning –
Long Day Good Night** (METAL BLADE)
Find it in: METAL

On recent albums Fate's Warning, while maintaining their prog icon status have taken a bit of an emotional turn lyrically (as on most of their recent albums). They have more to say than the dragon lore typically associated with the genre (not a slight). The album ranges from atmospheric lengthy pieces to shorter tracks that make a mood stick. This is still metal but they utilize more of the palate than most. Ray Alder turns in his usual phenomenal performance, fully in control of his well worn tenor. This came out in 2020 with little fanfare and no tour, so you may have missed this one. Recommended if you're a fan or new to the band.

**Simone Snaith –
Between the Water and the
Woods** (HOLIDAY HOUSE)

Hey can you read? Do you like to read? Sure you do. If you've read this far you are probably into metal and all the trappings. Do you like Whip wielding knights? Ferocious beasts?... magic? Yeah I thought so. All can be found in the aforementioned book. Although I am not necessarily the demographic this book is aimed at, I thoroughly enjoyed this read. It is a hero's journey (see Joseph Campbell...go ahead look him up... I'll wait) full of self discovery, knight battles, beasts and magic. Author Simone Snaith wonderfully describes places and things in a way that allows you to fully immerse yourself in this world. This book pairs nicely with power metal, although I'm not so sure the author would agree.

ZACHARY BOUVION

*Experimental Music /
Underground Metal Buyer*

**Tharmazegethuzan –
Necroglyph Triptych**
(DEATH MANIFESTATIONS)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Collecting three cassette releases to form a complete opus of murky Black Ambient. Raven caws, hazy distortion washes, Dr. Phibes-ian organ trill, and Black Metal vocal gurgle create a masterful vision of true ominous ambience. Walking the same malefic path as *Cețaji dădace din Munții Orăștiei*, the more ritualistic Michael W. Ford projects (thinking specifically of *Darkness Enshroud*), and the artists affiliated with the French Garde Noire circle (Atrium Malum, VzörbrëzV, Concordia Diaboli...). Absolutely NOT Dungeon Synth.

Mittvinter – Vinterdrøm
(ANCIENT MEADOW)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Nearly lost to obscurity, Ancient Meadow has rescued and brought forth this 20-year-old classic of Old-School orchestral Dungeon Synth. This Austrian project produced dazzlingly little material. This new cassette edition collects the full EP, plus an audio presentation of the score for "Inverno Sogno" — a 22-minute promotional film produced to accompany the original CD-ROM release. As an added bonus this release also includes a DVD of that same film — a solitary hooded wanderer traverses a snowy countryside before descending into a Medieval ossuary/catacomb. Truly unique for its time (half a Decade after the first wave), but clearly inspired by Mortis' Era-I material, *Depressive Silence* and early Uruk-Hai (with whose mastermind Hugin, Mittvinter would later release a split 12").

**Various Artists – The Sound of
Sadism** (HOSPITAL PRODUCTIONS)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Hospital graces us with the first ever (double) vinyl presentation of this classic International Power Electronics compilation. Compiled by Jonathan Canady (Deathpile) and originally released by Crowd Control Activities in 1999, *Sound of Sadism* features a cross-section of artists then working in harsh Post-Industrial

Power Electronics. Particularly well-represented is the Italian faction, featuring material from Atrax Morgue, Sshe Retina Stimulants, lugula-Thor and a scorching track from lesser-known Dead Body Love alias Discordance. The American heavy hitters are also in top form, spotlighting Skin Crime, Con-Dom, Slogun, and Richard Ramirez' Black Leather Jesus amongst many others.

Subklinik – Neuroskizm
(CLOISTER RECORDINGS)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Founded in 1995, Death Industrial master Chad Davis' Subklinik project had a massive outburst of productivity in recent years — new releases, classic reissues, reactivation of dormant project Torturcide (now known as C.R.E.D.O.) and a return to live performance at a SF gathering I was lucky enough to attend. *Neuroskizm* is four tracks of new material demonstrating his mastery of Death Industrial/Dark Ambient sounds that explore the same bleak vistas as his earliest work on Slaughter Productions, but also featuring a surprising foray into a slightly more rhythmic/beat-oriented vein, maybe recalling Esplendor Geométrico, Cabaret Voltaire, or Throbbing Gristle (think "United").

**Controlled Death –
Requiem for The Boundless
Flesh** (URASHIMA)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Maso Yamazaki (Masonna) continues to pump out exquisite darkness under his new moniker Controlled Death. A flurry of grim emanations was recently capped off with this decadent five 7" collection, housed in one of Urashima's trademark engraved wooden boxes. Requiem is a well-rounded demonstration of this project's manifesto of pitch-black synth pulse with hauntingly obtuse vocal scree, buried under an ocean of lo-fi distortion. Also check out the VERY recently released, *Demonic Trip Through Hell* (Deathbed Tapes) — consisting of two side-long sojourns accompanied by a VHS edition featuring suitably occult imagery.

**Eroticism – Guiltless
[Lathe-Cut 7"]**
(INITIATION SERVICES)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Two darkly erotic frolics on this highly limited lathe-cut single. Throbbing synths accompanied by libidinous grunt and moan. Eroticism truly takes pleasure into its own hands, producing what it calls Indulgence Electronics. A wildly voyeuristic experience in sound. Initia-

tion Services is currently producing a perfectly curated aesthetic of sensual depravity and deviant vice.

**Eurocrypt of Christopher Lee
(2021) [Severin Films Box Set]**

A 10-disc trove of Lee's more absurd 1960's European fare. Gothic horror far more overtly skewed towards the excessive, as only the Europeans could do it. Particularly enticing is 1967's *Torture Chamber of Dr. Sadism*, which seems to bear no connection to its title, but is an overload of shocking color and ghostly set-design. German and Italian impressions of Hammer Horror and Corman's Poe films, riffs on Le Fanu's erotic vampire classic Carmilla, debauched Victorians, an obscure outing by Lee as Sherlock Holmes, and 20+ episodes of a Polish Horror anthology hosted by Lee himself. As always, contextualized by Severin's bounty of commentaries, documentaries & ephemera.

Nordvargr – Pyrrhula
(COLD SPRING)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

First-time vinyl issue of Henrik "Nordvargr" Björkk's Ambient classic from 2008. Cavernous dark electronics and disembodied vocals float over blurred orchestral stabs and thunder crashes. Proving somewhat of a departure from his harsher early work with Black Industrial titans Mz.412 on Cold Meat Industry, *Pyrrhula* is no less foreboding. Interestingly this was originally released in the same year as his collaboration with Merzbow.

**Det Kätterska Förbund –
Lidaverken Del I: Att I Våldet
Förgås** (COLD SPRING)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Breathtaking debut from the masterful Swedish duo of Henrik Björkk (Nordvargr) and Thomas Ekelund (Trepaneringsritualen). A true hybrid of both acts' industrial electronics and ritualistic stomp. Ekelund's gruff vocals are instantly recognizable on several tracks. My first hearing of reanimated Stooges anthem "We Will Fall" made me gasp out loud — an epic opening to my top album of 2021. (Cassette issued by Cloister Recordings, 2022.)

**Ifernach – Capitulation of
All Life** (TOUR DE GARDE)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Released in the dying throes of 2021, Ifernach's newest full-length is thunderous Black Metal chaos of the highest order. Firmly situ-





ated in the vanguard of North America's Indigenious/First Nation BM scene along with Pan-American Native Front (with whom Ifernach released a split last year). I found this release far more unrelenting than previous outings which leaned on more pastoral atmospheric movements intercut betwixt the tracks (the synth work does begin to show itself towards the album's finish). The drums are brutal and vocals as raw as ever, but Capitulation's recording/mixing sounds far superior to earlier works. Very contemporary sounding, but in clear debt to the originators of True Scandinavian Black Metal.

Death Find – Vacant (ATTIC SHRINES)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Death Find is the post-mortem incarnation of Dark Ambient/Dungeon Electronics project Magic Find. Never sticking to the true Dungeon Synth model, Magic Find has always exhibited a more experimental streak with its epic-length pieces, cacophonous distortion and overall damaged Lo-Fi aesthetic. Death Find goes even further into Death Industrial's cold minimalism. Like a massive machine trawling the wastelands, the overall tone is bleak and abrasive – completely devoid of humanity. Not surprisingly Magic/Death Find has a true sympathy and has collaborated with the Vorvadoss project from The Seer (Vrörsaath/Atrocity Altar label). Interested in seeing where this goes and how it will distinguish itself from Magic Find proper. I was also really impressed by the tape entitled "Cicatrici Orribili (Veil Of Razors)" released on the same label, possibly by a related (same?) project Geolwe.

Atrax Morgue – Sickness Report (URASHIMA)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Many cornerstones of 1990's noise culture have been making their way onto vinyl in recent years. Slogun on Phage & Hospital, Masonna all over the place, a deluxe Orphx Box Set and Smell & Quim's *Cosmic Bondage* on Hospital, Merzbow's *Relapse* catalog, and of course Urashima's on-going Atrax reissue campaign. *Sickness Report* is probably Marco Corbelli's most well-known title via its massive distribution reach when originally dispersed on CD via Relapse Records' Release imprint in 1996. *Sickness Report* is a true classic of Death Industrial/Power Electronics wizztth the full breadth of Corbelli's techniques on display. Gurgling synth textures interrupted with blown-out splutter, squealing feedback blasts, maybe some tortured vocals buried so far under fuzz as to render them unrecognizable(?). The majority of Atrax's most potent recordings appear to have been performed in single takes or over short time periods with very little tinkering – creating truly expressive works that build and develop over the course of his too short career, while still capturing snapshots of his own personal turmoil across various stages. Also reissued this year was the massive 2CD+2LP presentation of *Close to A Corpse* (also on Urashima) and *Paranoia* (on Old Europa Café).

Jonathan Briley – Complete Works (DIOPHANTINE DISCS)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Meticulously compiled 7 Disc Box Set containing all six of Sleep Chamber associate Jonathan Briley's ultra-rare Industrial tapes, originally released on the legendary Broken Flag (UK) label, and (Sleep Chamber's home label) Inner-X-Musick in the mid-80s. The seventh disc is a collection of compilation tracks from Broken Flag, Inner-X and RRRRecords' classic 1985 collection "God Bless America." A recommended deep-dive into an unsung player in the highly insular circle that would spawn today's Noise/Power Electronics scenes - for fans of early American Industrial sounds such as Lustmord, Hunting Lodge, Robert Turman, Controlled Bleeding...

Tip:

Read: Braquemard: The Clavicle of Gilles de Rais by Martin Bladh

Watch: Reservation Dogs (FX on Hulu)

Listen: Twitch of the Death Nerve / The Rialto Report Podcasts

*Eagerly awaiting the imminent arrival of Vinyl-on-Demands' monstrous Nekrophile Rekords Box Set

A.J. BRIGGS

I've been listening to mostly singer songwriters and rock artists of the '70s since the last Music We Like. There were a couple of new releases of some old stuff and as always, some revisits of some old records that I've indulged in. Here are my 10 most listened to albums recently.

Rolling Stones – Goats Head Soup [4-LP Super Deluxe Box Set] (INTERSCOPE)

Find it in: ROCK

Goats Head Soup is a very underrated album in my opinion. Originally released in 1973, it contains the hits "Angie" and "Heart Breaker." My personal favorites are "Coming Down Again," "Winter" and "Can You Hear The Music." I think the album has a dark yet beautiful vibe to it overall. What really makes this box set though is the 2-LP Brussels affair (the live show from Brussels in 1973). It's so great! The 4th LP with B sides, rarities and demos is pretty cool too.

Jerry Garcia Band – Jerry Garcia Band (ROUND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

This is an incredible live 5-LP record set. The songs were recorded in the spring and summer of 1990 at the Warfield in San Francisco. Every song is just great! This has definitely been my favorite listen these days.

Grateful Dead – Olympia Theatre, Paris, France 5/3/72 (GRATEFUL DEAD)

Find it in: ROCK

Another favorite! Just can't get enough Jerry! The *Europe 72* record has always been my favorite Dead album, so to get one of the full shows from that tour on vinyl has been a real treat.

Greg Allman – Laid Back (CAPRICORN RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Laid back describes this album perfectly. It is a very laid back album with some really nice songs. My favorites are his version of Jackson

Browne's "These Days" and his different take on his own "Midnight Rider." "Please Call Home" is pretty great too. Very beautiful record.

Van Morrison – Veedon Fleece (WARNER BROS.)

Find it in: ROCK

Van Morrison made some really beautiful records in the '70s and this is definitely one of them. Every song is great! Just drop the needle and listen!

Van Morrison – Hard Nose Highway (WARNER BROS.)

Find it in: ROCK

Again, just another beautiful record, all the way through!

Bruce Springsteen – The Legendary 1979 No Nukes Concerts (SONY LEGACY)

Find it in: ROCK

I can't believe this has only now been made available. Anyway, what a great album. Recorded live over two nights in Madison Square Garden in 1979 for Musicians United For Energy. Classic Springsteen performances. So much energy. So much passion. Love The Boss!

Jim Croce – You Don't Mess Around With Jim (ABC RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

What a great album. Been listening to this one a lot lately. It has the hits "Operator" and "Time In A Bottle" on it. Very nice listen.

Paul Simon – There Goes Rhymin' Simon (COLUMBIA)

Find it in: ROCK

Many different styles on this record. Gospel, Dixieland, Reggae. It's really great. I love how diverse Paul Simon is and how influenced he is by so many different types of music. He's a real gem to me. I love every song on this album.

Gene Clark – White Light (A&M RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Very pretty record! "For A Spanish Guitar" is my favorite track here but, every song is gorgeous!



PEGGY

Durand Jones & The Indications – Private Space (DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: SOUL

Sweat – Gotta Give It Up

(PIRATES PRESS)
Find it in: PUNK

Curtis Harding – If Words Were Flowers

(ANTI-)
Find it in: SOUL

Mannequin Pussy – Perfect EP (EPITAPH)

Find it in: ROCK

Jeff Rosenstock – No Dream (POLYVINYL RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Khruangbin & Leon Bridges – Texas Moon (DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

Wet Leg – Chaise Lounge 7" (DOMINO)

Find it in: ROCK

Dan Ozzi – Sellout: The Major-Label Feeding Frenzy That Swept Punk, Emo, and Hardcore 1994-2007 (DEY STREET BOOKS)

CIGGY BOP

Richard Hell & The Voidoids – Blank Generation (RHINO)

Find it in: PUNK

A classic for all generations (not just the blank ones)!

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard – Demos & Rarities

(FUZZ CLUB)

Find it in: ROCK

Like sketches but with sound!

Ramones – Rocket To Russia

(RHINO)

Find it in: PUNK

Ain't no stopping the CRETINS FROM HOPPING!

Amyl & The Sniffers –

Comfort To Me (ATO RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Punk Rawk

Illuminati Hotties –

Let Me Do One More (HOPELESS)

Find it in: ROCK

Really solid record from a really solid band!

Spiritualized –

Ladies And Gentlemen We Are Floating In Space (FAT POSSUM)

Find it in: ROCK

A lot of reissues on my list but I had to include this because it's too great not to!

Oasis – Knebworth 1996

(BIG BROTHER)

Find it in: ROCK

Amazing live show from an amazing band at the top of their powers!

ALEX CHANAY

Vinyl/CD/Books/Movies floor guy.

I write and perform songs under my own name.

MT Hadley – Empty (PIAS)

Find it in: ROCK

Satoshi Ashikawa – Still Way (Wave Notation 2)

(WRWTFWWW)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Hiroshi Yoshimura – Green

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Ryo Fukui – My Favorite Tune

(WRWTFWWW)

Find it in: JAZZ

Eberhard Weber –

The Following Morning (ECM)

Find it in: JAZZ

Various Artists –

Essibons Special 1973-1984 // Ghana Music Power House

(ANALOG AFRICA)

Find it in: WORLD

Steve Hiatt –

Down On the Road By the Beach (BEWITH RECORDS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

The Rules Of The Game (1939) – Directed by Jean Renoir

One of the greatest and most influential social satires ever written. Gets better with every viewing.

Playtime (1976) – Directed by Jacques Tati

Tati is one of the greatest directors to ever do it. This is the visually ambitious peak of his career.

Stray Dog (1949) – Akira Kurosawa

I love Kurosawa's crime movies, including *HIGH AND LOW* and *THE BAD SLEEP WELL*.

Good Morning (1959) – Directed by Yasujiro Ozu

A lovely comedy. A great entry point into Ozu's filmography.

Tip:

My favorite new activity of the year is attending 35mm film screenings hosted by American Cinematheque at the Los Feliz 3.

RANISIA

South Central Representative.

Taco Aficiando.

Ya Favorite Auntie.

Moses Sumney – Live From Blackalachian

(TUNTUM)

Find it in: ROCK

Choice Tracks: Colours, Plastic, Me In 20 Years

Snoh Aalegra – Temporary Highs In The Violet Skies (ROC NATION)

Find it in: SOUL

Choice Tracks: In Your Eyes, Neon Peach (featuring Tyler, The Creator), Tangerine Dream

BADBADNOTGOOD – Talk Memory (XL)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Choice Track: Beside April (featuring Karriem Riggins and Arthur Verocai)

*I mean, honestly this entire album is pretty solid.

Leon Bridges and Khruangbin – Texas Sun (EP)

(DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

Choice Track: Midnight

The Weeknd – Dawn FM (XO/REPUBLIC RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUL

Choice Tracks: Gasoline, Sacrifice

Nas – King's Disease II (MASS APPEAL)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Choice Tracks: 40 Side, Rare, Nobody (featuring Ms. Lauryn Hill)

JMSN – Heals Me (WHITE ROOM RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUL

Choice Tracks: Rolling Stone, Love 2 U

Khruangbin and Leon Bridges – Texas Moon (DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: SOUL

Choice Tracks: Chocolate Hills, B-Side

**Tyler, The Creator –
Call Me If You Get Lost**

(COLUMBIA)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Choice Tracks: WUSYANAME (featuring YoungBoy Never Broke Again and Ty Dolla \$ign), LUMBERJACK, WILSHIRE

BRIAN DAVIS

tonight I say, we must move forward,
not backward; upward, not forward;
and always twirling, twirling, twirling
towards freedom...

Peel Dream Magazine –

Agitprop Alterna (SLUMBERLAND)

Find it in: ROCK

**The Reds, Pinks & Purples –
You Might Be Happy Someday /
Uncommon Weather**

(SLUMBERLAND / TOUGH LOVE)

Find it in: ROCK

Paul Weller – Fat Pop (Vol. 1)

(POLYDOR UK)

Find it in: ROCK

**Ducks Ltd. – Get Bleak /
Modern Fiction** (CARPARK)

Find it in: ROCK

Flock of Dimes –

Head of Roses (SUB POP)

Find it in: ROCK



**Faye Webster –
I Know I'm Funny haha**

(SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Find it in: ROCK

**Sierra Ferrell –
Long Time Coming**

(ROUNDER)

Find it in: COUNTRY

Goat Girl – On All Fours

(ROUGH TRADE)

Find it in: ROCK

**Molly Burch –
Romantic Images**

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Find it in: ROCK

**Margo Price – That's How
Rumors Get Started** (LOMA VISTA)

Find it in: COUNTRY

**Esther Rose –
You Made It This Far**

(FATHER/DAUGHTER)

Find it in: ROCK

**Art d'Ecco – In Standard
Definition** (PAPER BAG)

Find it in: ROCK

Eve Adams – Metal Bird

(BASIN ROCK)

Find it in: ROCK

**Various Artists –
The Sun Shines Here:
The Roots Of Indie-Pop
1980-1984** (CHERRY RED)

Find it in: ROCK

**Various Artists –
Musik Music Musique 2.0:
1981 - The Rise Of Synth Pop**

(CHERRY RED)

Find it in: ROCK

**Colin Blunstone – One Year
[50th Anniversary Edition]**

(SUNDAZED)

Find it in: OLDIES

**The Flys – Today Belongs To
Me: The Complete Recordings
1977-1980** (CHERRY RED)

Find it in: PUNK

**Various Artists –
Cafe Exil: New Adventures
In European Music 1972-1980**

(ACE)

Find it in: ROCK

**Various Artists – Choctaw
Ridge: New Fables Of The
American South 1968-1973**

(ACE)

Find it in: COUNTRY

**Barbara Lewis –
Don't Forget About Me:
The Atlantic & Reprise
Recordings** (SOULMUSIC.COM)

Find it in: SOUL

PAYTONWHAT

Hold my drink, I need to go dance

Cat Power – Covers (DOMINO)

Find it in: ROCK

**Destroy Boys – Open Mouth,
Open Heart** (HOPELESS)

Find it in: ROCK

One of my modern favorites- just let me scream, jump around, and destroy things... Been described as elevated early 2000s poppunk if that moves you.

**Silvana Estrada –
Marchita** (GLASSNOTE)

Find it in: WORLD

Just heard Estrada's Tiny Desk concert and highly recommend doing the same. This is one of those albums that reminds you how gorgeously human it is to express ourselves through sound. Will be singing along harmoniously with this one for a while.

**Richard Hell & the Voidoids –
Blank Generation** (RHINO)

Find it in: PUNK

**King Gizzard & the Lizard
Wizard – Demos & Rarities
[blue vinyl]** (FUZZ CLUB)

Find it in: ROCK

Yeah, King Giz comes out with a record every three minutes, but have you heard this one???

**Ramones – Rocket to Russia
[clear reissue]** (RHINO)

Find it in: PUNK

Punk classics spinning all day.

**Beach House –
Once Twice Melody** (SUB POP)

Find it in: ROCK

Another great one from them; great for easy listening or chillin with your amoebites.

Gang of Four – 77-81 (MATADOR)

Find it in: ROCK

**Raincoats – Raincoats
[40th Anniversary]**

(KILL ROCK STARS)

Find it in: ROCK

**Various Artists –
Pop Psychedelique: Best of
French Psychedellic Pop**

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Find it in: WORLD

Aretha Franklin – Aretha

(ATLANTIC)

Find it in: SOUL

Lou Reed – Transformer (SONY)

Find it in: ROCK

**Josie & the Pussycats (2001) –
Directed by Harry Elfont and
Deborah Kaplan**

Duh.

Garbage – Garbage (ALMO)

Find it in: ROCK

Everything I want to be, just a great album to jam to, fam.

Tip:

Stay safe y'all and check out Mitski's new single, too! If you wanna see MUCH more of what's playing on repeat, check my spotify! <3



KATIE

uuuuu

Exit Order – Exit Order

(SIDETWO RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Powerplant – People in the Sun

(DREAMLAND SYNDICATE)

Find it in: PUNK

Deli Girls – I Don't Know How to Be Happy

(SWEAT EQUITY)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Red Lorry Yellow Lorry – Blow

(RED RHINO, SITUATION TWO)

Find it in: GOTH / INDUSTRIAL

Martin Dupont – Hot Paradox

(FACTEURS D'AMBIANCE)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Bell Hooks – The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and

Love (WASHINGTON SQUARE PRESS)

hooks' passing in December of last year made me reflect on how instrumental her work has been in my life, and while I consider all of her books essential reading, *The Will to Change* had a particular impact on me. When I first read it years ago, it completely transformed my view of patriarchy and reshaped it into a deeper, more complex understanding. To put it simply, it brought a sense of empathy that I had lacked and

didn't consider needed prior. While great on its own, I recommend reading it in conjunction with *Communion: The Female Search for Love*. Rest in peace to one of our truly great theorists, activists, and authors.

Porridge Radio – Every Bad

(SECRETLY CANADIAN)

Find it in: ROCK

KARA

Cate LeBon – Pompeii

(MEXICAN SUMMER)

Find it in: ROCK

Andy Shauf – Wilds (ANTI-)

Find it in: ROCK

Nice Cave & Warren Ellis –

Carnage (GOLIATH RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Mon Laferte – 1940 Carmen

(UNIVERSAL)

Find it in: ROCK

Courtney Barnett –

Things Take Time, Take Time

(MOM + POP)

Find it in: ROCK

Moses Sumney – Grae

(JAGJAGUAR)

Find it in: ROCK

Helado Negro – Far In (4AD)

Find it in: ROCK/WORLD

Mdou Moctar – Afrique Victime

(MATADOR)

Find it in: WORLD

Khruangbin & Leon Bridges –

Texas Moon EP (DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK/SOUL

Wet Leg – “Chaise Longue” 7”

(DOMINO)

Find it in: ROCK

Will listen on repeat until their self-titled full length comes out in April...

Zola (2020) – Directed by Janicza Bravo

The Power Of The Dog (2021) – Directed by Jane Campion

Barb & Star Go To Vista Del Mar (2021) – Directed by Josh Greenbaum

MEGGIE

Amyl and the Sniffers – Comfort to Me (ATO RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Death Valley Girls – Street Venom [Reissue]

(SUICIDE SQUEEZE RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Kacey Musgraves – Star-crossed (MCA NASHVILLE)

Find it in: COUNTRY

Bomba Estéreo –Deja

(SONY MUSIC LATIN)

Find it in: WORLD

Demi Lovato – Dancing with the Devil

(ISLAND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

L7 – The Beauty Process: Triple Platinum [25th Anniversary Reissue]

(REAL GONE MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

The Distillers – Live in Lockdown (RISE RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

The Linda Lindas – The Linda Lindas EP

(IN THE RED RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Lizzo – “Rumors”

(NICE LIFE RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Josie and the Pussycats (2001) [20th Anniversary Edition Blu-Ray] – Directed by Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont

The best movie of all time!

JON

ekulu – unscrew my head

(CASH ONLY)

Find it in: PUNK

the chisel – retaliation

(LAVIDA ES UN MUS)

Find it in: PUNK

jade dust – jade dust ep

(EXTINCTION BURST)

Find it in: PUNK

JUNGALERO

10 new/reissued vinyl soundtracks from 2021

Stephen Trask – Hedwig & The Angry Inch [Original Off-Broadway Cast]

(ATLANTIC)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Various Artists/Abigail Mead – Full Metal Jacket (DEATH WALTZ)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Various Artists – LateNight-Tales: Presents At The Movies

(LATENIGHTTTALES)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Wojciech Kilar – Bram Stoker's Dracula

(MUSIC ON VINYL)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Various Artists –

Jackie Brown/Death Proof

(WARNER RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Tito Arevalo –

Mad Doctor of Blood Island

(REAL GONE MUSIC)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Nino Rota – *Fellini's Amarcord*

(CAM SUGAR/DECCA)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Various Artists –

Something Weird-Greatest Hits

(MODERN HARMONIC)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Various Artists –

Licorice Pizza (REPUBLIC)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

LISA

Still crazy after all these years.

I'm always late to the party if I come at all. I watched *ALL IS LOST* sometime at the end of 2019. Made in 2013, it's about a man who gets lost at sea. There is almost no dialogue (51 spoken words according to wikipedia). The soundtrack is amazing to me. Somehow, it gives voice to the ocean and its paradoxes. It was going to be on my MWL list then. And like so many things I was expecting, it suddenly wasn't a possibility. Now as I think about the last two years, I think that soundtrack encapsulates many aspects of the pandemic as I have experienced it (so far).

Opening with "Excelsior" and "All is Lost," there is an elegance, a sort of grandeur. Much like March of 2020. We were alone together. Remember watching TV and seeing the empty freeways, cities that seemed to have been abandoned? We were suspended, waiting. In many ways, some of us still are. For people lucky enough to sit out without being financially obliterated, many took stock—reflecting on the life we had been living and questioning the priorities that had been driving us. During the first few months there was a quality that seemed to be shared. But we slowly fractured and many of us fell into a crucible, a reckoning.

The impulse to barricade was compelling. And in our fortresses, the echoes of our fears and anxiety lowed like cattle, amplified in the solitude. This is the sound of "The Infinite Bleed," "The Invisible Man," and "Pulse of the Weight." Together, they are a suite of foreboding, voicing the menace of the unknown and the unpredictable. The isolation. The vastness. We are adrift, gently rocking between nostalgia and anxiety, battling sea sickness as the awareness dawns of the chasm between now and then. There will be no return. "Dance of Lilies" is the moment between Delta and Omicron, opening hopefully and then jarring off track with dissonance. "The Instincts of Boredom" pulls us back into the fear. At some point though, we get to "Somewhere in the Midnight of Summer." There is a lightness that appears after you walk through a valley. And perhaps more to the point, a letting go that happens when you realize that indeed not only is the world as we knew it forever altered, but that there is very little we can do about it on a systemic level. I hope that as we all reorient, we all can find the thing that brings us buoyancy and help us stay afloat. The word amen is commonly understood to mean "so be it." It is the title of the final track of the soundtrack. We don't have that closure yet. But if you want an aural companion that is up to the task of being a part of your interior interior design, one that can embody the emotional spectrum of the last two years, this soundtrack is worth considering.

Here are a couple of songs that were my little lifejackets more recently.

BIG RED MACHINE. The album's title is accidentally apt; *How Long Do You Think It's Gonna Last?* Here are the songs that killed me: "Reese" The opening line that says it all: *What you could have been, what you would have been, well it ain't no problem now.* Our plans have been upended and obscured, like when you shake a snow globe. Hard to see the tableau that was clear just a moment before. I literally listened to this song over 100 times and still love it. Not sure which compels more- the arrangement or the lyrics. "New Auburn" breaks my heart every time I hear it as well. With the pain of recognition. Time is not linear if you can bear to know it. The National is the gift that keeps on giving, and Aaron Dessner and Justin Vernon are like bread and butter. So, so good together. And Anais Mitchell stuns me. She has a new album out soon: I can't wait to listen to more of her work. **Find it in** Rock

BRANDI CARLILE "Throwing Good After Bad" from *In These Silent Days*. Here's the line that captured me: *You got a beautiful mind and the soul of a coyote. Hunger drivin' you mad, throwin' good after bad.* Hunger for certainty, hunger for meaning—that is what I hear. Safety is the biggest mirage of all. I always see it shimmering out in the distance and head in that direction. But isn't chaos the new normal? And wasn't it always the elephant in the room? Ms. Carlile is the real deal. Some of the songs on her new album are a little too "big" for me. It's the little ones that pack the sucker punch. **Find it in** Rock.

DON'T LOOK UP Streaming on Netflix. A biting, hilarious satire. Not revelatory, but so comprehensive in its cynicism. Leonard DiCaprio's character asks, "Didn't we have it all?" In so many ways I do, and I barely can understand how lucky I am most of the time. But if you're still reading this, this is for you. Everyone who makes Amoeba a part of their L.A. You're the yin to the yang.

You are my redemption. So many lovely people. Such a complex, beautiful chunk of humanity. You challenge me, you teach me, you talk with me. Being part of Amoeba has helped me grow in so many ways. And you remembered us. When we reopened, the expressions of welcome, of reunion, of relief, came in waves. It was amazing and still is. That so many people include us in their life, consider us a shared space is deeply humbling. To be a part of that dynamic is such an honor. The energy that you collectively bring is my lantern. It illuminates my next step and beckons in the distance like a beacon. Thank you. Whatever music you like, I'm not sure it matters. I think that listening is the key for us all. See you soon.

Tip:

2022, please don't be an asshole.



PETE MAJORS (DOOMDEATH)

lover of cats...hater of man

Darkthrone – Eternal Hails...

(PEACEVILLE)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Lamp Of Murmuur – Submission and Slavery [Cassette]

(BLACK GANGRENE PRODUCTIONS)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Shape Of Despair – Return To The Void

(SEASON OF MIST)

Find it in: METAL

Carcass – Torn Arteries

(NUCLEAR BLAST)

Find it in: METAL

Steve Moore – Analog Sensitivity

(BEWITH RECORDS)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Skepticism – Companion

(SVART)

Drown – Утоплення

(VIGOR DECONSTRUCT)

Find it in: METAL

Low – Hey What

(SUB POP)

Find it in: ROCK

Old Tower – The Old King Of Witches

(HOSPITAL PRODUCTIONS)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Dream Unending – Tide Turns Eternal

(20 BUCK SPIN)

Find it in: METAL

**Failing Lights – New Year’s Day
Dark Ambient [Cassette]**

(HOSPITAL PRODUCTIONS)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Poison Ruin – The First LP

(URGE RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Jean “Valnoir” Simoulin –

Analogue Black Terror:

Volume II (NUCLEAR WAR NOW)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Grouper – Shade (KRANKY)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Can – Live In Stuttgart 1975

(MUTE RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Dold Vorde Ens Navn –

Mørkere (LUPUS LOUNGE)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Loscil – Clara (KRANKY)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Bongzilla – Weedsconsin

(HEAVY PSYCH SOUNDS)

Find it in: METAL

Vorpall Sword – Omens

[Cassette]

(RISING BEAST RECORDINGS)

Find it in: METAL

Sediment – Endorphin

[Cassette] (CHONDRITIC SOUND)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Floating Points, Pharoah

Sanders & The London

Symphony Orchestra –

Promises (LUAKA BOP)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Melanie Nissen – Hard + Fast

(BLANK INDUSTRIES)

Old Nick – Iam Vampire Castle

[Cassette] (GRIME STONE RECORDS)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Alessandro Cortini –

Scuro Chiaro (MUTE)

Find it in: EXPERIMENTAL

Rainforest Spiritual

Enslavement –

Flying Fish Ambience

(HOSPITAL PRODUCTIONS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

A Winged Victory For

The Sullen – Invisible Cities /

Le Città Invisibili

(ARTIFICIAL PINE ARCH MANUFACTURING)

Find it in: ROCK

Koldovstvo –

Ни царя, ни бога =

Ni Tsarya, Ni Boga

(BABYLON DOOM CULT RECORDS)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

JKININKI –

The Opaque World

[Cassette] (RISING BEAST RECORDINGS)

Find it in: BLACK METAL

Cemento – Killing Life

[Cassette] (IRON LUNG RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Tip:

QAALM “Resilience and Despair” out Spring 2022!

MEZZY MEZZ

Film guy that also likes Music

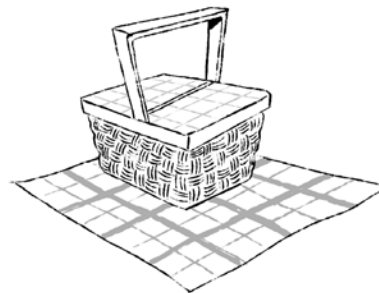
Notorious B.I.G. –

Ready To Die [Reissue] (BAD BOY

RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Biggie Small’s debut album has been reissued in a very nice 2-LP set. Highlights include the ubiquitous “Big Poppa,” “The What?” (with a Method Man feature), “Suicidal Thoughts” and “Warning” (which with its succinct runtime holds the distinction of my most rapped song in the shower). “Who Shot Ya,” which came out after the album’s original release, is included here as a bonus track and is one of his finest moments.



JM

PJ Harvey & John Prine –

Dance Hall at Louse Point

(ISLAND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

BRYCE

I enjoy long walks to the refrigerator.

Aaliyah – Aaliyah

(BLACKGROUND RECORDS & VIRGIN RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUL

First off, RIP Baby Girl!

Second, this is a corner stone R&B album!

Yes, I used exclamation marks for the past two sentences because I feel THAT passionately about this record.

This was originally released right before her death in 2001. Anyone into music during that time knows her death shook a lot of the music industry. Even Mariah Carey included a chapter in her memoir dedicated to Aaliyah and her impact on Carey, our community, and music in general.

Start to finish, this is a wonderful album exploring her womanhood over rhythmic beats, melodies, and amazing production. From her singles; “More Than A Woman,” “We Need A Resolution” (first single), “Try Again” (featured in *Romeo Must Die* film—yes, she was an actress too!) all the way to her last video “Rock The Boat.”

Special songs I believe worth listening to are “What If” (very Prince and Janet Jackson inspired), “I Can Be” (yes SZA she was ‘on the side’ first), and “I Care 4 U.”

The reason I included “I Care 4 U” is because she recorded that song for her previous record “One In A Million” with Timbaland and Missy (her main team). It was recorded too late so they held it until this album and you can’t tell it was five years prior.

**Coming To America (1988) –
Directed by John Landis**

This is a timeless comedy that I recently revisited because *Coming 2 America* was being released for streaming. This film has had a huge culture impact, being referenced/sampled by Snoop Dogg as well as NaS and Ludacris. And it’s not referred to as a “cult classic” because it’s mediocre so I highly recommend watching this film as well as the sequel.

**Candyman (2021) –
Directed by Nia DaCosta**

If “keep my name out yo’ mouth!” was a person, it would be CANDYMAN.

BRIANNE

Black Marble – Fast Idol

(SACRED BONES)

Find it in: ROCK

Cold Cave – Fate In Seven

Lessons 12” (HEARTWORM PRESS)

Find it in: Rock

Converge & Chelsea Wolfe –

Bloodmoon: I (EPITAPH)

Find it in: PUNK

Creux Lies – Goodbye Divine

(FREAKWAVE)

Find it in: ROCK

FACS – Present Tense

(TROUBLE IN MIND)

Find it in: ROCK

Fotocrime – Heart Of Crime

(PROFOUND LORE)

Find it in: ROCK

IDLES – Crawler (PARTISAN)

Find it in: ROCK

John Prine – Live At The Other End Dec. 1975 (RHINO/ATLANTIC)

Find it in: FOLK

Riki – Gold (DAIS)

Find it in: ROCK

Emma Ruth Rundle – Engine Of Hell

(SARGENT HOUSE)

Find it in: ROCK

Sisters Of Mercy – BBC Sessions 1982-1984

(ELEKTRA)

Find it in: ROCK

MONALISA

Dublab DJ, record hoarder,
music lover, rhythm runner, two step
instigator, and curled crusader
on a never ending quest to rescue ears
and dance floors from the “blahs”

Khruangbin – Mordechai

(DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

You should already know about them, but if you don't, you better find out... instrumental funky, jazzy, good stuff! I fell in love with their album *Con Todo El Mundo* and I've been riding the wave ever since. Another fantastic release

Sault – 5/7/Nine/Rise/Black Is

(FOREVER LIVING ORIGINALS)

Find it in: SOUL

Sault is a mysterious collective of folks making really good music... they have five albums and I'm recommending them all because they're all equally dope.

Cleo Sol – Mother

(FOREVER LIVING ORIGINALS)

Find it in: SOUL

Cleo Sol is one half of Sault & her album is amazing just like all of theirs are. Their album 7 is on this list already, but there's also 5, 9, *Rise* and *Black Is*. Just get them all. Trust me.

Mannish – Audio Sedative

(90S TAPES/HHV)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Import reissue of a very dope and slept on hip hop release from 1995 featuring Jive (Scotty) & Jeckyl (now Dngr of Gumbo), two of LA's finest emcees.

Thundercat – It Is What It Is

(BRAINFEEDER)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Thundercat is an incredible musician, and a dope human being. I own all of his albums and you should too!

Blu – The Color Blu(e)

(NATURE SOUNDS/NEW WORLD COLOR)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Blu's formula is consistent, and this is another great release by him... and I'm not just saying that because he's my cousin... listen for yourself.

Khruangbin & Leon Bridges –

Texas Sun (DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

I wasn't a huge fan of Leon Bridges but this collab with Khruangbin got me to like him. They sound great together and there's another project coming from them (yaaaay)

**Freestyle Fellowship – To Whom It May Concern**

(KEY SYSTEM RECORDINGS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

In 1991, Aceyalone handed me a vinyl copy of this album and it changed everything that I thought I knew about hip hop. For those that don't already know, Freestyle Fellowship are considered to be legends and pioneers of the Los Angeles underground hip hop scene. In their own words, they will tell you that they are not your ordinary rappers... not just emcees, but lyrical musicians, spittin' rhymes, jazz & poetry with styles that have often been poorly imitated, but never duplicated.

Freestyle Fellowship – Inner City Griots

(BEWITH)

Find it in: HIP HOP

The sophomore album by LA's underground champions... more of the same jazz inspired flows that made them masters of their craft.

Mother Freedom Band – Cutting The Chord

(BEWITH)

Find it in: SOUL

Really funky soul record from 1976, originally on All Platinum and reissued by BeWith. The original cover is different from the reissue, but the record still sounds amazing!

Sa-Roc – The Sharecropper's Daughter

(RHYMESAYERS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

One of the absolute dopest female emcees in the game right now. I'm sure she would be getting more exposure if she was more vulgar or physically exposed, but I'm hoping that this Queen's lyrics and delivery are able to shine above the stereotypes.

Bacao Rhythm & Steel Band – 55 / Serpent's Mouth / Expansions (BIG CROWN)

Find it in: SOUL

I listed all three albums because they're all full of really good steel band style covers of popular hip hop & R&B songs... I feel like they get even more creative with each release.

Tip:

<http://www.dublab.com/djs/monalisa>

IRIEL

Vagabond of Noise.

Bassist of Xtine &

The Reckless Hearts

Ganser – Just Look At That Sky

(FELTE RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Hell of an album. Hell. Of. An. Album.

Public Practice – Gentle Grip

(WHARF CAT RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Deeper – Auto-Pain

(FIRE TALK)

Find it in: ROCK

Chicago's decorated scene delivers another post punk hit of an album with Deeper's *Auto-Pain*.

Suzi Moon – Call The Shots

(PIRATES PRESS RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Suzi Moon clearly shoots not for the moon, but for the stars. *Call The Shots* is prime 2021 punk.

Bob Vylan – We Live Here

(VENN RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

This was my most listened to album of 2021. It will be my most listened to album of 2022

TV Priest – Uppers

(SUB POP)

Find it in: ROCK

Drain – California Cursed

(EPITAPH)

Find it in: PUNK

Your next essential punk album.

Yard Act – Dark Days

(TUGBOAT)

Find it in: ROCK

Meandering lyrics lead you through catchy riffs and deliver you onto a sucker punch chorus time and time again through *Dark Days*.

Tip:

Check out @showlist.la for all free shows in Los Angeles. Updated Daily.



RYAN N

Mayor of Flavor Country

■ **Once Upon A Time In China Trilogy (1991) [Criterion]– Directed by Tsui Hark**

Something along the lines in scope of *Pirates of The Caribbean* or *Indiana Jones* franchise tied in with legitimate history that won't make you question the allegiances of everyone involved.

■ **The Red Shoes (1948) [4k] – Directed by Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger**

This movie is one of the nicest looking things ever photographed. This release is the nicest looking possible iteration of one of the nicest looking things that has ever existed. I would purchase a brand new TV to watch this if I was living a completely different lifestyle.

■ **Dream A Little Dream (1989) – Directed by Marc Rocco**

Featuring: The Coreys (Haim & Feldman)
Finally restored for new generations of rockers, perhaps the purest manifestation of The Coreys on the silver screen. Harry Dean Stanton & Piper Laurie are here too, making this truly a film from another place.

■ **Kids In The Hall: Brain Candy (1996) – Directed by Kelly Makin**

The plot of this movie, which revolves around a wonder depression drug that brings temporary meaning to a world going through the motions

during the death rattle of '90s capitalism, just rubbed people the wrong way in 1996. People just didn't want to laugh at that sort of thing yet, and this movie remained a cult concern for even fans of the show. Nowadays this is prime time network TV. Plays better now than it did then. Newly restored for Blu-Ray.

■ **Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins (1985) – Directed by Guy Hamilton**

Portions of this movie have aged in a way that baffles the mind. But the rest of it is a ridiculously over the top pilot movie for a franchise we sadly never got. Put Fred Ward in an *Expendables*, you cowards.

■ **2LDK (2003) – Directed by Yukihiro Tsutsumi**

A zany violent surprisingly funny tale of two roommates. Both actresses, up for the same part, living together in close quarters. And things escalate quickly! A mid-2000s DVD fave newly restored in the US for the first time.

OTIS

*Musican (Saxophone)/ Composer/Katalyst/ Thelonius Monk Institute
(aka Herbie Hancock Institute)
Alumni/ UCLA/CSUN*

Katalyst – Nine Lives (ALPHA PUB/ NEW GALAXY)

Find it in: JAZZ
Nine piece Jazz band from Inglewood California making a buzz right now.....They dope =D They play at the Townhouse Del Monte Speakeasy every month. 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9pm, and 4th Thursday of each month.

Linaformia – Yung (DOME OF DOOM RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP
Local LA artist from Leimert Park....she dope =D Check her event out every first Thursday of the month called "chefs kiss," in Leimert Park. She always does a set with her band, and then features other local artist around LA.

MNDSGN – Rare Pleasure (STONESTHROW)

Find it in: HIP HOP
If you don't know about this record...then shame on you lol.

Harriett (ill Camille & Damani Nkosi) – Harriett (HHV)

Find it in: HIP HOP
Local LA Hip Hop Group...For the Culture!

Makaya McCraven – Deciphering The Message (BLUE NOTE RECORDS)

Find it in: JAZZ
Though considered a Jazz record, it's basically a LoFi beat tape, and it's FREAKIN AMAZING!.... and Makaya is an epic drummer.

Sons of Kemet – Your Queen is a Reptile (IMPULSE)

Find it in: JAZZ
Band making Big noise in the UK right now! Super pocket, Caribbean Influenced, Afro Beat Jazz...they dope.

Ivan Ave – Helping Hands (JAKARTA RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP
Dope Rapper, and MNDSGN Produced all the beats.

Iman Omari – High-Loops & Higher-Loops [Cassette]

(FRESH SELECTS)
Find it in: HIP HOP
Local LA beat maker/singer....He's dope.

Kiefer – When There's Love Around (STONESTHROW)

Find it in: JAZZ
Local LA piano player. LoFi madness!

Swarvy – Stunts Vol. 1-4 (FAT BEATS)

Find it in: HIP HOP
My favorite Album, but anything he does is Amazing!

Live – Couldn't Wait to Tell You... (IN REAL LIFE MUSIC)

Find it in: SOUL
U WILL LOVE HER!!!!

Jonah Levine – Attention Deficit (ALPHA PUB/ NEW GALAXY)

Find it in: SKA
Local LA artist, Great composer!

Kamaal Williams – Wu Hen (BLACK FOCUS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA
Electronic Artist from the UK. You will enjoy!

Jeff Parker – Suite for Max Brown (INTERNATIONAL ANTHEM)

Find it in: JAZZ
Chicago Legend...He's the man. He plays live at ETA in highland Park (LA) quite often.

(SONGS BY) THOM

Amoeba  music floor staff & 7"

/  pricer by day ...

Songwriter / musician by night ...

Joni Mitchell – Archives – Volume 1: The Early Years (1963-1967) & Volume 2: The Reprise Years (1968-1971) (RHINO)

Find it in: ROCK
Each volume is a 5-CD / book box set. Features tons of early demos & live recordings. Essential for Joni fans!

Seam – Headsparks (NUMERO GROUP)

Find it in: ROCK
Vinyl reissue of Seam's 1st album. Noisy early '90s indie rock from Chicago. Featuring Mac from Superchunk on drums!

Magnetic Fields – The House of Tomorrow 12" (MERGE)

Find it in: ROCK
This 5-song 12" EP was originally released as four songs on a 7" in 1992. Each song is a repetitive loop consisting of guitars, bass, keyboard, cello & drums. Stephin Merritt sings his own songs (Susan Anway sang on the first two albums). First time on 12" vinyl ...

Versus – Let's Electrify! 12" (TEENBEAT)

Find it in: ROCK
This 6-song EP from 1993 was originally on CD only. Continuing in the vein of their earliest recordings (see *Dead Leaves*) *Let's Electrify!* rocks! Songs blast off & gently hum with Richard & Fontaine singing together & alone... First time on vinyl ever !

Casiotone For The Painfully Alone – *Etiquette / Vs. Children*

(ORDINAL)

Find it in: ROCK

Originally released on Tomlab in 2006 & 2009 these two albums have been recently reissued. On both of these albums Owen Ashworth moves beyond the lo-fi approach. Employing his usual keyboards, beats & vocals with guest musicians / vocalists to enhance his cinematic character driven songs! Buy 'em now !

Tracy Shedd – *Blue*

(TEENBEAT / FORT LOWELL)

Find it in: ROCK

Tracy Shedd's debut album *Blue* came out in 2001 on CD. It features nine songs of lovely guitar & piano driven songs. First time on vinyl & it's blue ...

Tip:

Check out Songs by Thom (songsbythom.bandcamp.com)

ALEXA

Just Head Guitarist

Rudimentary Peni –

Great War (SEALED RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Solid new release from Rudimentary Peni. Featuring amazing artwork by Nick Blinko.

Arthur Verocai –

Arthur Verocai (MR. BONGO)

Find it in: WORLD

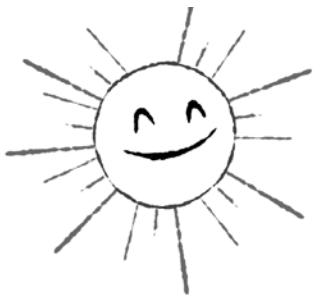
Great reissue of Arthur Verocai from Brazil.

Swell Maps – *MayDay Signals*

(EASY ACTION)

Find it in: ROCK

Raw previously unreleased recordings from Swell Maps!



Get Crazy (1983) –

Directed by Allan Arkush

Finally this film has been released! Incredible cast featuring Lee Ving of Fear, Lou Reed, and Malcom McDowell.

Surf II (1984) – Directed by

Randall M. Badat

Excellent new release from Vinegar Syndrome!

Surfer zombies and punks!

CHARLES

god bless texas

Miranda Lambert,

Jack Ingram & Jon Randall –

Marfa Tapes (RCA NASHVILLE)

Find it in: COUNTRY

Great country songs recorded around a campfire without all the bullshit modern production.

John Prine –

Live At The Other End,

Dec. 1975

(ATLANTIC)

Find it in: FOLK

Greatest live country album since Townes at the Old Quarter.

FRIDA

Shannon & The Clams –

Year Of The Spider

(EASY EYE SOUND)

Find it in: ROCK

Japanese Breakfast –

Jubilee (DEAD OCEANS)

FIND IT IN: ROCK

Mannequin Pussy –

“Control” (EPITAPH)

Find it in: ROCK

Dinosaur Jr. –

Sweep It Into Space

(JAGJAGUWAR)

Find it in: ROCK

Snail Mail – *Valentine* (MATADOR)

Find it in: ROCK

Taylor Swift – *Red*

(Taylor's Version) (REPUBLIC)

Find it in: ROCK

Amyl and The Sniffers –

Comfort To Me

(ATO RECORDS, LLC)

Find it in: PUNK

Claïro – *Sling* (FADER & REPUBLIC)

Find it in: ROCK

Surfbort – *Keep On Truckin'*

(INNER FREAK RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

MARINA – *Ancient Dreams*

In A Modern Land

(ATLANTIC)

Find it in: ROCK

DOMINIK ROTHBARD

My top 30 albums of 2021

I. Mother Mother – *Inside*

(MOTHER MOTHER MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

Mother Mother has been under a lot of people's radar. This is their eighth album and most accomplished. Their ramshackle brand of theatrical glam pop was always fun, if not a touch superficial, but Mother Mother have honed their craft and created an album of depth and nuance. *Inside* has peaks and valleys, it's an emotional journey with hooks hiding around every corner when you least expect them. Tracks like "Weep" and "The Knack" have no business making sense on the same album, yet they do. There's not a dull track on this album, and it actually made me go back and appreciate their previous seven LPs more. This is a special album.

2. Information Society –

Oddfellows (HAKATAK INTERNATIONAL)

Find it in: ROCK

I'm genuinely surprised how high Information Society got on this list. Yes, I've loved them since 1988 when they soundtracked my summer with "What's On Your Mind (Pure Energy)." And yes, the follow up LP *Hack* in 1990 changed my life and electronic music forever. And again, yes,

I've enjoyed everything they've put out since to varying degrees, but this album was entirely unexpected. It's basically the perfect synthpop record. Every song has had its moment to be my "favorite track from the album" It's just a warm, complex, weird and exciting album. InSoc's unique hybrid of freestyle and new romantic has never been replicated, so every track is unmistakably them, while they continue to push the boundaries of electronic music deep into their third decade of existence.

3. Said The Whale – *Dandelion*

(EVERYTHING FOREVER)

Find it in: ROCK

Canada's nicest rock trio are back with their seventh album, and first self-released record. Being free of a label hasn't altered the STW sound one bit. This short, nine song LP bursts with positivity, yet the songs aren't twee or timid, they explode like the Arcade Fire fueled on Pixy Stix. Take "Anything For You" a three and a half minute whirlwind that explores the phrasing of its titular phrase endlessly and hypnotically and the song builds to an unforgettable crescendo. The world needs more Said The Whales.

4. Duran Duran – *Future Past*

(TAPE MODERN/BMG)

Find it in: ROCK

I'm always dubious of a new Duran Duran album. To me, an '80s diehard, these guys are like my Beatles. It's important to me they make the right moves for the legacy, and only few albums ago, these guys couldn't put a foot right. I'll always be hard on Duran Duran, they're one of the first bands I ever fell in love with. And they made terrible records like *Thank You* and *Red Carpet Massacre*. But they've been on a bit of a high lately. 2010's *All You Need Is Now* is solid and 2015's *Paper Gods* had some very high highs. Somehow, this one is even better, and might be my favorite Duran album since 1997's *Medazzaland*. Yeah, I go hard with these guys. Collectors' note, if you're getting this album, go out and buy yourself a CD player because the ultimate version of the album is only available on the deluxe CD with five tracks not on the vinyl. And these tracks are essential.

5. Tot Taylor – *Frisbee*

(THECAMPUS)

Find it in: ROCK

Tot Taylor was very busy in the eighties. He managed and wrote for chanteuse's like Mari Wilson and Virna Lindt and released their music on his own Compact Organization label under the pseudonym Clark Mono while also



releasing an album of his own every year. The nineties were a lot quieter for Tot, with only one album of pop songs getting released, and then only in Japan. Well, after a twenty year absence from the music world, Tot Taylor has returned with a phenomenal album that only he could've recorded. From defending Yoko Ono (on lead single "Yoko Oh" or lamenting the return of his heroes in "This New Abba Record," Frisbee is a fun, thoughtful album overflowing with melody and clever lyrics.

6. Momus – *Athenian* (DARLA)

Find it in: ROCK

Athenian is (debatably) Momus' 35th album (counting *The Happy Family* and *Momusmcclymont*) and (arguably) one of his best. Certainly one of his most optimistic records. Last year's Momus album (which also figured high in my year end chart) was all about his experience contracting Covid at the beginning of the pandemic. The fear and isolation permeated that disc, but this year's *Athenian* sees him reunited with his girlfriend, with a new lease on life. Still a lingering cough remains, in tracks like "Doomscroll," "Zooming" and "Horrorworld," but over the sixteen tracks featured here, we see Momus embracing life with a new vigor, and that energy has translated to his songwriting. Few artists are this compelling after thirty something albums.

7. Subshine – *Vega Vega*

(HQINDIE/APOLLON)

Find it in: ROCK

How Subshine isn't huge confounds me. Every single song they record sounds like a huge radio hit. "Different Light" sounds like The Weeknd mixed with Twin Shadow. There's an obvious nod to the '80s, as evident from their cover of Talk Talk's "Happiness Is Easy" which closes out the album. The band started life as Lorraine and

had the minor hit "I Feel It" in the mid 2000s, then soon changed their name to BlackRoom and subsequently lost a lot of their following. Now they're Subshine, and they're as sharp as ever. Get into them before they change their name again.

8. John Grant – *Boy From Michigan*

(PARTISAN RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

There is no one like John Grant. There will never be another. His voice. His lyrics. His delivery. His synths. He's one of a kind. And also he's beautiful and I proposed marriage to him at a live gig once, and wasn't necessarily turned down. This is a dense album. It's really just for John Grant fans. It's moody, the songs are long. *Boy From Michigan* nearly maxes out a CD, but who plays those anymore, right? This album feels like an autobiographical map through JG's life. He's a beacon for those who feel alienated by their own community. Even his missteps are glorious and fascinating, but they are rare. Telling someone to start at this album is like telling someone to start at Season 7 of *Buffy*. I recommend becoming a fan of John Grant.

9. Jenny Wilson – *Mästerverket*

(GOLD MEDAL RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ROCK

Jenny Wilson is one of my favorite artists of all time. This is her second album in Swedish, and I'm certain if I could understand the lyrics it would be higher on this list. Her vocals flutter, her melodies build and her arrangements surprise. I've been so taken with this album I could probably sing it phonetically, though I'd have no idea what I was singing. "Tänk Om Nåt Händer" is my song of the year.

10. Frida Hyvönen – *Dream Of Independence*

(RMG/GRAMMOFON)

Find it in: ROCK

It's been a nine year wait for a new English language album from Frida Hyvönen. Her crystalline voice now sounds a bit wiser, but otherwise little has changed. Her lyrics, at times simultaneously heartbreaking and hilarious, are as sharp as ever. "A Funeral In Banbridge" is an obvious highlight, but every single song reveals its charm after two or three spins. Considering English is not her native tongue, it's interesting that Frida probably has one of the best grasps of the language out of everyone on my list.

11. Tom Sanders – *Only Magic*

(MOSHI MOSHI)

Find it in: ROCK

Tom Sanders is the former frontman of Tap Tap, and Pete And The Pirates, and current frontman of Teleman. All three groups hold a special place in my heart, so I was delighted to find out that Sanders was releasing his first solo album. *Only Magic* takes the best from all three of Sanders projects and distills them into something that only he could make. It's succinct, ten tracks, each of them with something wonderful and unique to offer. The title track closes out the album with one of his strongest songs yet.

12. Danny Elfman – *Big Mess*

(ANTI)

Find it in: ROCK

Danny Elfman was supposed to debut a solo show at Coachella in 2020, but obviously that was not to be. It did, however, afford Danny Elfman the time to hone his new stage show and come up with a few new tunes for it. Eighteen to be precise. Though one track is a reworking of the Oingo Boingo classic "Insects" it's not at all similar to the original. Every second of this album is overflowing with ideas. Some of them incredible, some of them a bit annoying, but it's the fact that Elfman didn't shave down the sharp edges, or confine himself to one genre, or ten neat pop songs, is what makes *Big Mess* so exciting.

13. James – *All The Colours Of You*

(NOTHING BUT LOVE MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

This is James' pandemic album. There's fear and anger in the lyrics. It opens with the line "We're all gonna die." It's hard to say this is an optimistic album, although it's very upbeat. James are best when there's something to be up in arms about,

and while they don't reach the dizzy heights of the peak (*Pleased To Meet You* is a masterpiece) they come pretty damn close, especially on the title track.

14. Glasvegas – *Godspeed*

(GO WOW MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

Honestly never thought we'd hear from these guys again, but I'm so glad we did. Their debut is an undisputed classic but the following two albums were met with a mixed response by almost everyone but me. I loved them. Their unique mixture of angular guitars and Phil Spector inspired wall of sound production pairs so well with Rab Allen's rambling morose vocals. "Dying To Live" shows them at their most urgent.

15. We Are Scientists – *Huffy*

(100% RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Nothing changes in the word of We Are Scientists. Single "Contact High" could've come from any one of their seven studio albums. That's both the bad news and the good news, as every song here is as catchy and fun as the ones on their debut album. They still retain their Wire meets Devo energy. Their videos are still inventive and wacky, and the songs still never approach four minutes. If you've liked basically anything from these guys in the past, this album is for you.

16. Canceled The Astronauts – *Vertical Learning Curve*

(BANDCAMP)

Find it in: ROCK

The fourth album from Scotland's Canceled The Astronauts, presented as a series of twenty intimate demos. When CTA first began, they sounded like a happy chirpy version of The Strokes, but a lot has changed in a decade, and now their three minute pop songs have more in common with Nick Drake. Beautiful low fi stuff.

17. David Devant And His Spirit Wife – *Cut Out*

(KINDNESS RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ROCK

Britpop also-rans DD&HSW have been relatively quiet following their very noisy 1997 debut. This, their fourth album, shows that things haven't changed much in the mind of Mr. Devant (aka Mikey Georgeson). Every hand gesture is art, every chorus is the opportunity for a brilliant play on words, every song has to hit hard. A surprising and welcome return.

18. Art D'Ecco – In Standard

Definition (PAPER BAG RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Art D'Ecco is a Canadian man of mystery. His birth name remains unknown, but his anthemic glam rock is spreading faster than whatever covid variant is running rampant at the time of publishing. Everyone I've played Art D'Ecco's third album for has taken note of its name. These are infectious undeniably hooky tracks borrowing equally from the '70s and '80s to make something that's genuinely very current.

19. Getting The Fear – Death Is Bigger (1984-85)

(DAIS RECORDS)

ROCK

It's hard to say if this one should count. It was recorded in 1984/5 but not released until this year. I'm counting it, otherwise you wouldn't be reading about it. Quick history lesson: Punk band Southern Death Cult split with lead singer Ian Astbury who left and took the "Cult" part of the name. The rest of the SDC formed Getting The Fear with Bee (aka Paul Hampshire, androgynous frontman for new romantics Panache) and released one single, the brilliant "Last Salute" before breaking up and partially reforming as Into A Circle. I believed these sessions to be lost to time, so this record's very existence is worthy of a place on the list. Also, it's ten tracks of great post punk you never knew you needed. Seek it out!

20. Fiat Lux – Twisted Culture

(SPILD RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

In 1984, Fiat Lux recorded what should've been one of the seminal dark new wave records of its time. The album was shelved by Polydor, and only a few glittery gothy singles remained. In 2019, thirty five years later, that album was released by Cherry Red, and the surviving Fiat Lux members reunited to record an album that was way better than it had any right to be. Two years later, they're back at it again, delivering an album of awesome new wave pop anthems.

21. Garbage – No Gods No Masters

(INFECTIOUS MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

It feels like the world's collective anger has finally caught up with Shirley Manson's and that means it's the perfect time for a new Garbage album. Indeed this is topical, timely, and menacing. The main takeaway is that Garbage were right. We have entered into the society they warned us about decades ago, and they're

back to say "I told you so." This is the most compelling Garbage has been since 2001 when they released the genius *Beautiful Garbage* (out now in a mega deluxe 20th anniversary box).

22. Bodies Of Water – Is This What It's Like

(THOUSAND TONGUES)

Find it in: ROCK

Arcade Fire meets the Polyphonic Spree produced in collaboration with Father John Misty and Abba. Does that make sense? It shouldn't, and neither should Bodies Of Water. They sound like a million things at once and that adds up to a sound that's completely their own. Album opener "Every Little Bird" can explain what I mean better than I could. Five albums in and Bodies Of Water are as interesting as ever.

23. Marina – Ancient Dreams In A Modern Land

(ATLANTIC)

Find it in: ROCK

Hyperactive, candy coated, rainbow colored pop for the thinking kids. I personally didn't think Marina was able to channel her inner sugar frenzied child again. After her debut, her albums have gotten more and more... sanitized? Not sure that's the right word, but this one feels like it's got Marina's sticky fingerprints all over it. Listening to this album for the first time is like that scene in *Clockwork Orange*. The hooks will bounce around your head for days, but you'll have no recollection of how they got there in the first place.

24. Loney Dear – A Lantern And A Bell

(REAL WORLD RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

After dabbling with the hipster circuit for a while on Sub Pop, Sweden's Loney Dear (aka Emil Svanängen) settled down on Peter Gabriel's Real World label, and this is his second album for them. It's short. Nine songs, and just under 28 minutes, but the songs are huge. Quiet but huge. Few people can create something so intimate and yet anthemic as "Habibi (A Clear Black Line)." This is another one for the twee kids.

25. Maximo Park – Nature Always Wins

(PROLIFICA)

Find it in: ROCK

This is the Maximo Park I like. Less angry, more focused on melody. At times Maximo Park can feel like they're screaming at us, desperate to convert us to their way of thinking, whatever that might be. But the paranoid, romantic, jittery Maximo Park of yesteryear is back and surprisingly, this is the most consistently enjoyable

album of their fifteen year career. "Versions Of You" is the hit single the band has been threatening to write since they formed. The UK agrees, as it's their highest charting album since their debut (#2).

26. Luke Haines – Setting The Dogs On The Post Punk Postman

(CHERRY RED)

Find it in: ROCK

The Auteurs frontman and Black Box Recorder mastermind has been quietly releasing short, wry, bitter, sardonic, extremely British albums every other year for the past decade, and they've all had their own unique charm. This one finds the old coot having as much fun as he did on his solo debut, *Off My Rocker At The Art School Bop*. A group of experimental Japanese psychologists are developing this album into a five act play, so... look out for that?

27. Nation Of Language – A Way Forward

(PIAS)

Find it in: ROCK

Drawing so deeply on their early '80s new wave influences, it would be easy to confuse Nation Of Language's second album as some lost relic from 1981. The OMD comparisons are obvious, but the band borrows just as much from Kraftwerk while maintaining their Brooklyn hipster vibe. It's hard to dislike modern day synthpop when it's done with as much reverence as it is here.

28. Crowded House – Dreamers Are Waiting

(BMG)

Find it in: ROCK

Mitchell Froom. He is a key ingredient to Crowded House's unique sound. He produced their first three albums, and he's back producing and also now as a full time member. Alongside Froom and longtime member Nick Seymour, Neill Finn is joined by his sons Liam and Elroy. Even Tim Finn (get him back please) gets a cowriting credit on "Too Good For This World" but it's "To The Island" that stands out most. The catchiest Crowded House tune since the Woodface era. Hope it's not another eleven year wait between albums.

29. Aimee Mann – Queens Of The Summer Hotel

(SUPEREGO RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Aimee Mann looks to the past on her tenth album. These are songs intended for a stage

adaptation of *Girl Interrupted*. Sonically it sounds like her work on the *Magnolia* soundtrack, the arrangements are similar and her singing has that plain, enigmatic quality that much of her early work has, only now the songs are more complex, they take longer to settle in, and therefore longer to leave you.

30. Chris Garneau – The Kind

(CREEPY CRAWLER)

Find it in: ROCK

Chris Garneau could either be described as the working man's ANOHNI or the queer Jeff Buckley. His appeal lies in delicate, barely there ghostlike vocals paired against sparse arrangements. This, his fifth album, is his strongest since his 2009 breakthrough *El Radio*.

BRAD

Deserta – Every Moment, Everything You Need

(FELTE)

Find it in: ROCK

Mitski – Laurel Hell

(DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

Beach House – Once Twice Melody

(SUB POP)

Find it in: ROCK

caroline – caroline

(ROUGH TRADE)

Find it in: ROCK

Widowspeak – Jacket

(CAPTURED TRACKS)

Find it in: ROCK



SIMONE SIREN

Fantasy author & Turning Violet singer

❑ The Nevers – Created by Joss Whedon

Kind of like a cross between *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* and *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, this is an exciting series about women (and some men) in Victorian England who receive mysterious magical abilities. Action-packed, lots of good characters.

🎧 Marc Wasserman – Ska Boom! An American Ska & Reggae Oral History

(DIWULF PUBLISHING)

A fun history of the first reggae and ska bands in the U.S., told from the players' and fans' perspectives. Lots of cool stories from artists like The Boxboys, Heavy Manners and The Untouchables.

Amyl & The Sniffers – Comfort To Me

(ATO RECORDS)

Find it in: PUNK

Amyl & The Sniffers knocked out a solid follow-up to their 2019 self-titled album. Amy Taylor's lyrics keep getting more interesting and funnier, and the rock n' roll energy never stops. Highlights are "Security," "Maggot" and "Knifey."

🎧 Patrick Rothfuss – The Name of The Wind

(DAW BOOKS)

The first of *The Kingkiller Chronicle*, this is a well-written fantasy tale from 2007 that is part Bildungsroman and part story within a story. Excellent worldbuilding and a main character you can root for.

Queensrÿche – Rage For Order (EMI)

Find it in: ROCK

I recently discovered this goth-leaning album from 1986 by Queensrÿche and really love the mix of their prog-metal sound with New Romantic and goth rock influences. My favorites are "Walk in the Shadows" and "I Dream in Infrared."

The Cranberries – Everyone Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We & No Need To Argue

(ISLAND RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

I revisited The Cranberries' first two albums this year, and discovered new favorites from their debut like "Waltzing Back" and "Not Sorry." "Dreaming My Dreams" is a sweet little gem on *No Need To Argue*, which for me is nostalgic for the high school years.

ELEANORE

Indie publisher, artist, writer, photographer, all-around renaissance nerd.

Garbage – No Gods No Masters

(INFECTIOUS MUSIC)

Find it in: ROCK

If you're a longtime fan, you know what you want from Garbage, and you can depend on them to deliver after all these years, which in tumultuous times I personally find somewhat comforting. That they do so on what's arguably their best album in years is the surprise icing on the cake. Shirley delivers direct and impassioned lyrics that address all manner of issues that might be weighing on your mind with as much gusto as ever, and there are some great shades of Depeche Mode and New Order laced throughout that fit in perfectly among all the other myriad influences the band have always carried and built on. A solid and rewarding listen that I enjoy more each time I revisit it.

Various Artists – Music from Vanilla Sky

(REAL GONE MUSIC)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

I don't care whether it's a popular opinion or not (it never has been, though it seems there's been some recent reappraisal going on, at least), I've always been a fan of Crowe's *Vanilla Sky*. It's a cliché to consider the music in a Cameron Crowe film one of its strongest points, but in this case that's as true as ever. There are classic staples like Peter Gabriel, R.E.M., Radiohead, and Jeff Buckley, but then he threw some curveballs in there with Sigur Rós, Mondo 77, and Afrika Bambaataa. Sadly not every track in the film

so packed with music could possibly fit onto a compilation limited by vinyl time constraints, but there's plenty to enjoy here. This latest white/orange swirl pressing is going fast, as it should be, and I won't be surprised to see the whole limited run go quickly.

🎬 The Card Counter (2021) – Directed by Paul Schrader

Leave it to Paul Schrader to release a film concerned with the atrocities committed at Abu Ghraib and the psychological damage done to one of the men directly involved on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 — king shit. That it's just as tense, gripping, intense, at times hard to watch, yet at others surreal and almost soaring as his also excellent *First Reformed* should be no surprise, but I feel like this one flew under the radar. Whether it was general lack of moviegoing during pandemic times or just the heavy subject matter, I'm not sure, but this features possibly Oscar Isaac's best performance yet, with fantastic work from Tiffany Haddish and Willem Dafoe as well. Can you escape your past and seemingly unforgivable actions by shirking as much human contact as possible through numbers, gambling, and isolation? Or are all our lives inevitably intertwined no matter how far we attempt to withdraw? No action goes unpunished, and no connection is inconsequential here. Highly recommended.

🎬 Deadly Friend (1986) [Shout! Factory]– Directed by Wes Craven

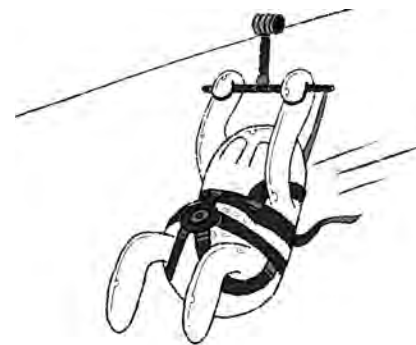
Those who know of this one at all probably mostly remember it for the infamous scene featuring a basketball and an exploding head (and understandably so), but it's ripe material for revisiting and appreciating for much more than that, thanks to the fantastic new Blu-ray release of Craven's underappreciated teen horror comedy from 1986 from staple boutique label Shout! Factory. Despite the obvious hijinx that ensue when a teen genius decides to cause shenanigans with a robot buddy he invented, there's some deeper ideas at work under the fun, shocks, and gore, as was always the case with Craven; in this case, maybe there are consequences to treating a girl you've got a crush on like a doll you can control? Not the best idea, bud! It's got plenty along the vein of the themes, particularly dreams, that Craven always had his strongest interests and image work in, and if you haven't seen it, this is a great way to finally give it a shot.

🎬 Legend (1985) [Arrow Video Collector's Edition] – Directed by Ridley Scott

Quite possibly the most glittery film ever made, and I say that with great and deep affection. There are literally scenes where it appears some PA is standing just out of frame, throwing in more handfuls of it, and it's incredible. Gauzy, hazy, dreamy, absolutely stunning imagery, and if you've somehow never seen this one, this is as good as it's ever going to look. Unicorns, devils, dwarves, desire, temptation, fear, and magic. If there were ever a studio set I wish I could step back in time and visit just to soak it all in, it might be the one that this absolute vision by Ridley Scott was built on in the mid-80s. Featuring one of Tim Curry's grandest and most iconic roles, it's a fantasy classic, and Arrow have put together a beautiful set celebrating it the way it deserves. If you don't already own it, this is definitely the edition to scoop up while you can.

🎬 Spider-Man Trilogy (2002/2004/2007) – Directed by Sam Raimi

Just in time for all the multi-verse concerns of the latest Spider-Man films, here's a perfect set for revisiting the (in my opinion) best of them all, the original Sam Raimi *Spider-Man* trilogy. Raimi's horror roots peek through in all the best ways, his love of the source material shines in the pops of color and dynamic shots, and the cast of heroes, friends, family, and villains remains the strongest overall, despite all the remakes/reboots to follow. Danny Elfman's score helps the friendly neighborhood hero soar, and Spidey as he appeared on the screen 20 years ago remains the ultimate big screen version of him in my book. We can never keep this one in stock, because there's just no bettering the modern classics.





Perfect Blue (1997) [Shout! Factory Steelbook] – Directed by Satoshi Kon

If you somehow haven't yet seen Satoshi Kon's debut masterpiece of psychological horror, this edition is absolutely worth nabbing while you can. Ever since Shout! Factory first brought *Perfect Blue* to blu-ray at last a few years ago, it has featured in our store's Top 5 best selling movies almost every single week, unless we can't restock it in time for it to reclaim its spot the following week. And with good reason: if you want to see who Aronofsky, Nolan, and so many others have been stealing from for decades, look no further than Kon, who died far too young, yet did nothing but create masterpieces every time out of the gate. (Yes, this means you can't miss if you also pick up *Paprika*, *Millennium Actress*, *Toyko Godfathers*, or *Paranoia Agent*, either, all of which are now finally widely available.) That he started his directorial career with something as influential, flawless, and unforgettable as this is nuts. If you're late to the party with his work, there's no better place to start.

Duran Duran – *Future Past* (BMG)

Find it in: ROCK

Duran Duran's 15th album, and one of their best. The group sound as strong as ever, and this is my personal favorite release of theirs since *All You Need Is Now* back in 2010. I've listened to it plenty since it came out late last year, but "Anniversary" is one that sticks in the head and doesn't let go (though it's not alone in that catchy status on this record). A definite must for any fan.

Megan Abbott –

The Turnout (G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS)

If you're a fan of Abbott's style of byzantine relationship drama amidst sneakily murderous

plotting, her latest, centered around the world of a family-owned private ballet academy, might sound like a bit of a niche interest point (and confession: as a former dancer, even if I did hate ballet, that was probably what drew me most to it at first), the story is engaging enough that I think any mystery fan would find something to enjoy here. If you know Abbott, you know what you're getting, and I mean that in the good way. I'm pretty picky about most contemporary fiction these days, but she's a solid bet and does not disappoint here.

David Duchovny – *Truly Like Lightning*

(FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX)

Yes, that David Duchovny. If you happen to know he was studying to become a literature professor before he ended up acting in *The X-Files*, it might be somewhat less shocking to discover that he's turned out to be, in his later years, an extremely engaging novelist as well. His latest is his fourth, and not a single one of them has been like the one that preceded it, something delightfully refreshing in the world of books these days. This new novel centers around a former Hollywood stuntman who starts his own religious settlement/family out in the desert, remaining largely undisturbed by the modern world, until a stranger from his previous home city ends up stumbling onto his property in the middle of the night and breaking the seal of isolation and silence on the bubble he's painstakingly created, forcing him and his family back into a society that's entirely alien to their children. It might sound melodramatic, but it's anything but; wild, philosophical, and full of complex and fascinating characters butting up against one another in all sorts of ways. If you haven't read him before, he's the rare actor-turned-novelist who actually delivers the goods. With this (and the previous *Miss Subways*), you can't miss. Can't wait to read whatever he writes next.

Titane (2021) – Directed by Julia Ducournau

If you enjoyed *Raw*, you'll love this (and if you haven't already seen *Raw*, absolutely seek it out). Like her first film, Ducournau doesn't just fixate on body horror; she examines various relationships through the lens of it and the fallout of violence and existing as a societal other. The comparisons to Cronenberg's magnificent *Crash* are understandable, but misplaced. Come for the shocking bits, stay for the surprisingly tender, sad, and at times sneakily uplifting moments that build to the extremely unique climax. One of the past year's very best.

CAPTAIN COOL

*Captain Cool's interests include
calligraphy, sword fighting,
interpretive dance, archaeology,
piña coladas, alchemy, horseback riding,
pumpkin picking, teleportation, mixing
it up, holding doors open for ladies and
listening to sweet jams.*

Kishi Bashi – *151A* (JOYFUL NOISE)

Find it in: ROCK

With beautiful violins, heartfelt lyrics and sweet beats this album is truly a transcendental experience!

Polo & Pan – *Caravelle*

(HAMBURGER RECORDS)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

Juicy, hypnotic beats that will put wind in your sails and carry you back to the mainland!

Amon Duul II – *Yeti*

(PURPLE PYRAMID)

Find it in: ROCK

Punchy guitar licks that never let up with a falsetto voice that will carry you to the gates of Valhalla!

120 Days – *120 Days*

(SMALLTOWN SUPERSOUND)

Find it in: ROCK

Gloomy, catchy electronic beats sure to inspire!

Deafheaven – *Infinite Granite*

(SARGENT HOUSE)

Find it in: ROCK

Enveloping hard rock tones that immerse you into the fuzz and beauty of Deafheaven.

GEORGE

Belly – *The Bees* (4AD)

Find it in: ROCK

A collection of Belly's B-sides, covers and oddities spanning their entire career. The band just celebrated their 30th Anniversary as a band and to mark the occasion have decided to release this amazing compilation. Best tracks are "Sweet Ride" and their cover of The Flying Burrito Brothers "Hot Burrito #1."

LiliPut/Kleenex –

First Songs (KILL ROCK STARS)

Find it in: ROCK

First songs is the perfect LP to re-listen or perhaps discover this legendary/pioneering Swiss feminist art-punk band from the '70s. This collection of early songs are a riot with exuberant energy which takes cues from Gang of Four. If you like energetic bass, skittering pop rhythms, and slashing guitars than this might be up your alley.

Nirvana – *In Utero* (2013 Mix)

(Geffen)

Find it in: ROCK

Nirvana fans have been searching high and low for many years for a Steve Albini mix version of *In Utero*. Now for the first time on Vinyl you can own it. Grohl, Novoselic and Albini worked to put together the 2013 mix for *In Utero*'s 20th Anniversary. Fans will notice the small differences in both mixes right away. Kurt Cobain's favorite albums were The Pixies' *Surfer Rosa* and The Breeders' *POD* both recorded by Albini and here we have the closest thing to a true Albini mix before Geffen decided to re-mix it to make it more radio friendly and how the band really wanted *In Utero* to sound like.

BRAT REPUTATION

*Film critic/screenwriter/worshipper
at the altar of John Cassavetes and
Julian Casablancas (but I'm a girl so
it's cool) :) Also BRAT on Letterboxd!*

The Vaccines – *Back In Love City*

(AWAL RECORDINGS)

Find it in: ROCK

The English rock band is back (in *Love City*) with their fifth record, this one a glitzy concept piece inspired by cinematic dystopias. "They'll bury us in leather at Hollywood Forever," croons lead singer Justin Hayward-Young on "Headphones Baby," a high-energy, semi-ironic ode to movie stars and fatalism. Highly recommended for Arctic Monkeys fans -- particularly the tracks "Wanderlust" (rock'n'roll!) and "Pink Water Pistols" (wistful love song).



Lucy Dacus – *Home Video*

(MATADOR RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

This one's for the girlies who are irrationally nostalgic for the hometown they hated! Singer-songwriter Lucy Dacus (whom you may recognize as one of the members of boygenius, featuring Phoebe Bridgers and Julien Baker) proves her knack for authentic lyricism: "All I need for you to admit is that you never knew me like you thought you did," she sings on "Brando," an intensely relatable track about being friends with a film guy who just wants to use you as a receptacle for his own tastes.

Michelle Zauner – *Crying in H Mart* (KNOPF)

In her new memoir, indie-artist Japanese Breakfast (aka Michelle Zauner) chronicles her experience with growing up Korean-American in stark-white Oregon, her passion for rock music and Asian cuisine, and how her fraught relationship with her mother changed after a devastating terminal cancer diagnosis. A warning in the form of a text from my Korean mom after I recommended it to her: "The H Mart book is too sad for me. I am having a hard time reading it now. It's so sad..."

Titane (2021) – Directed by Julia Ducournau

This French feminist body horror from the phenomenal Julia Ducournau won the Palme d'Or at Cannes last year, though it was unfairly omitted from the Oscars shortlist. Titane was my personal favorite of 2021, though it holds

a somewhat unfair reputation for being too brutally gruesome. It's definitely disgusting, but it's also surprisingly tender—a sensitive case study in how far empathy and love can be pushed... while also being about a serial killer who gets impregnated after having sex with a car.

Jonathan Fire*Eater – *Tremble Under Boom Lights*

(MEDICINE)

Find it in: ROCK

Had never heard of Jonathan Fire*Eater until reading *Meet Me In The Bathroom* by Lizzy Goodman last year (see review). A precursor and direct influence of The Strokes, this indie-rock band's 1996 debut album is drenched in scuzzy reverb, bolstered by the late Stewart Lupton's jagged, charismatic delivery. Recently, some Amoebites and I were discussing the all-time best debut albums, and when I timidly suggested this one, I'm pretty sure I scored some coolness points. (sunglasses emoji)

Josie and the Pussycats (2001) – Directed by Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont

Having recently received a long overdue upgrade from DVD to Blu-Ray for its 20th anniversary, this satirical send-up of the capitalist music industry has also been honored with a critical/cultural re-approval and renaissance. Next Up: A retroactive Best Original Song Oscar for "Pretend to Be Nice," and a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Parker Posey as villainous record label SheEO Fiona!

Lizzy Goodman – *Meet Me in the Bathroom: Rebirth and Rock and Roll in New York City 2001–2011*

(DEY STREET BOOKS)

An absolute essential for anyone enamored with the alt-rock scene of early 2000s New York City, this oral history features the direct perspectives from those who really lived it, such as The Strokes (the title is taken from the eponymous track off *Room on Fire*), Yeah Yeah Yeahs, LCD Soundsystem, Interpol, The White Stripes, and many more. Read up quickly, as a 4-part documentary adapted from the book premiered at Sundance earlier this year! An excerpt to get you going — Jack White: "Julian [Casablancas] stayed at my house and slept in my childhood bedroom, even wore my pajamas. He came into my room in the middle of the night thinking it was the bathroom and we laughed."

EDUARDO

Composer/Coffee Lover/Movie Buff

The Beach Boys – *Feel Flows: The Sunflower & Surf's Up Sessions, 1969 - 1971*

(CAPITOL)

Find it in: ROCK

The Beach Boys found themselves at a crossroads in the early 1970s. It was clear that their candy-stripe wearing, fun loving personas of the '60s were behind them. The major change was that their creative mastermind Brian Wilson, was slipping into mental illness and reclusiveness from the world. As a result, the rest of the group finally stepped into the limelight with their new manager Jack Rieley and their collective songwriting talents finally having an opportunity to shine. As a result *Feel Flows* highlights some of the most creative stuff the group ever recorded, ending up on their *Sunflower* and *Surf's Up* albums, the former of which is still one of the greatly underrated Rock records. Highlights include Dennis Wilson's songs "Forever," "Slip on Through," and "It's About Time." Al Jardine and Mike Love's folk numbers "Big Sur" and "Lookin' at Tomorrow" are show stoppers. America's Band shows a side that we rarely get to see and it is glorious. The 5-disc set is exhaustive in its inclusion of all sorts of music from this period and makes it easy to see why The Beach Boys were one of the few American bands to survive the British Invasion.

Zodiac (2007) – Directed by David Fincher

David Fincher's masterpiece examines obsession through the eyes of its three main characters as they each attempt to find an elusive killer. San Francisco *Chronicle* Reporter Paul Avery (Robert Downey Jr.) investigates a series of killings in which a man calling himself "Zodiac" claims responsibility and has supposedly hidden his identity in cryptograms sent to local newspapers. On the official side, San Francisco PD Inspector Dave Toschi (Mark Ruffalo) takes on the case when a cab driver is killed in a residential neighborhood. Completely removed from both of these sides is SF *Chronicle* cartoonist Robert Graysmith (Jake Gyllenhaal), who gives in to the "siren song" of the mystery of Zodiac's identity. Using a beautiful color palette, keep an eye on the way Fincher and Cinematographer Harris Savides use the color blue to show Graysmith's emotional state as all three characters' lives are slowly

dismantled by their obsession with finding the killer. Another great highlight of the film is the soundtrack with music by Marvin Gaye, Three Dog Night, and Vanilla Fudge, amongst others. You'll never hear Donovan's "Hurdy Gurdy Man" the same way again.

Tip:

Support your local library!

THICK THIGHS X STAGE DIVES

J. Balvin – *Jose*

(SUEOS GLOBALES, LLC)

Find it in: WORLD

Turnstile – *Glow On*

(ROADRUNNER)

Find it in: PUNK

Knocked Loose – *A Tear in the Fabric of Life* (PURE NOISE)

Find it in: PUNK

Sweat – *Sweat 7"* (PIRATES PRESS)

Find it in: PUNK

Pick it up, and jam that sh!t

Olivia Rodrigo – *SOUR* (Geffen)

Find it in: ROCK

Beach Bunny – *Honeymoon*

(MOM + POP)

Find it in: ROCK

Punch Brothers – *Hell on Church Street*

(NONESUCH RECORDS INC.)

Find it in: COUNTRY



BZ

Semi-pro music aficionado

Sloppy Jane – *Madison 12"*

(SADDEST FACTORY RECORDS / DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: FOLK

Sloppy Jane's debut album, *Madison* was truly one of the most unique and special albums I have ever come across. Not because it debuted via Phoebe Bridger's label Saddest Factory / Dead Oceans or because Phoebe used to play in Sloppy Jane when they were a goth punk band some years ago. No no no. It's because it was written in a cave in the mountains of W. Virginia by one Haley Dahl, who is the type of gifted artist we are lucky enough to come across every so often. Haley and team had to drill a hole in the ground to run electrical cords through the top of the cave so they could actually plug in to play and record. What resulted was an absolute masterpiece with haunting acoustics, full orchestra, compelling (and sometimes wit laden tongue-in-cheek) lyrics and a conceptual arrangement of beautiful songs from start to finish. I recommend this album for anyone that loves music because if you truly do it's nearly impossible not to appreciate.



DVDs

■ *Elvira's Haunted Hills (2001)*
– Directed by Sam Irvin

■ *Pig (2021)* – Directed by
Michael Sarnoski

■ *The Sparks Brothers (2021)* –
Directed by Edgar Wright

■ *Zola (2020)* – Directed by
Janicza Bravo

IRENE

Mod...A Way of Life

MUSIC

Marvin Gaye –
What's Going On
[50th Anniversary]

(UMVD)

Find it in: SOUL

Otis Redding –
Best of Otis Redding (ATLANTIC)

Find it in: SOUL

Various Artists –
Summer of Soul
[Soundtrack] (SONY)

Find it in: SOUNDTRACKS

Depeche Mode – *101* (RHINO)

Find it in: ROCK

MARYANN

Morgan Wade – *Reckless*

(SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE)

Find it in: COUNTRY

Yola – *Stand for Myself*

(EASY EYE SOUND)

Find it in: SOUL

Strand of Oaks –
In Heaven

(GALACTICANA RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK

Jonsi – *Obsidian* (KRUNK)

Find it in: ROCK

■ **Ashley C. Ford –**
Somebody's Daughter:
A Memoir

(FLATIRON BOOKS)

BENNETT

scalpygonzales1@bandcamp.com

Michel Waisvisz – *Crackle*

(FMP RECORDS)

Find it in: ELECTRONIC/FREE JAZZ/EXPERIMENTAL

This album is outtathisworld like nothing I ever heard. Absolutely bonkers electronic sounds ripping like the best of saxophones. It's vicious but it's funny, totally unpredictable but clear in its vision. It came in through the mighty Rick Frystak collection that hit the floors in November so it's not gonna be so easy to find (I coulda made a whole list of the gems from there) but I just had to include it as one of the wildest additions to my library this year.

Saitana – *Jenakuru*

(TOOTH FACTORY RECORDS)

Find it in: SOUL/ROCK/SOUTH AFRICA

Where would we be without re-issues like this? It's one of the best parts of living in this decade, no joke. This is some seriously heavy-hitting, unbelievably heavy-hitting South African Soul. Turns your whole self into one big breaking heart that hurts so good.

Red Lights – *Red Lights*

(IN THE RED RECORDS)

Find it in: ROCK/POWER POP

How extremely cool to have some demo recordings from a 20 year old Jeffrey Lee Pierce in his pre-Gun Club Band. He had IT in a big way even then and these 5 songs are gems. Deep and sad and clanging and great.



Hailu Mergia & The Wailas Band – *Tezeta*

(AWESOME TAPES FROM AFRICA)

Find it in: JAZZ/FOLK/ETHIOPIAN

We sell a lot of these so maybe the secret's already out, but I'd like to throw my hat in the ring and say this one is worth all the hype. It's beautiful. Serious but light. It makes you think and feel till you don't know the difference between the two. Every player is in it to win it and Mergia is a real poet. Originally released in '75, re-released in '21 by the wonderful Awesome Tapes From Africa.

FRANKIE DELMANE

Back for another brief info-encounter

The War on Drugs – *I Don't Live Here Anymore*

(ATLANTIC)

Find it in: ROCK

One of the most boring bands I ever witnessed working at The Hollywood Bowl was The War On Drugs. Middle of the road, average, snooze inducing indie shlock I wouldn't cross the street to spit on. Yet, I love the title track to this LP. After many listens I determined I like it for its absolute unoriginality and nostalgia baiting that seems to plague many as we reach- nay, pass- middle age- in this era. It may be the most perfect distillation of Gen X's teenage radio life. Nothing here is original- from the stolen lyrics, to the musical moves- all lifted from more compelling sources- who also suffered comparisons to past riffs and cuts. The obvious Tom Petty vocal, the oh so apparent musical baiting from Don Henley's "The Boys Of Summer," or the ambient feel of "Life in A Northern Town" — to the way the guitar steals itself from numerous 80s pop hits- jumbled and arranged to sound old and classic, yet new to your ears and- far more importantly- new to everyone under 30. Bruno Mars- who I call the Human Karaoke Machine- is quite good at this type of imitation- the product of a product of a product- but this one sort of goes the extra inch in possibly being its own baby while being someone else's. Most popular music has always operated this way to some extent, but some operate better when solely doing this. Even Eno was a thief!



📺 **Psycho Goreman (2020) – Directed by Steven Kostanski**

This one was a bit off putting and annoying at times, but nearly worth it. I'd say it's a horror movie mainly for 12 year olds, but I enjoyed the full on Troma meets Cannon Films universe it so lovingly emulates. Lots of dumb rubber monsters exploding in goo and guts and blood and fangs, gross outs for the sake of gross outs, weird for the hell of it, silly for nowhere else to go. As if *The Toxic Avenger* merged with *The Power Rangers* trapped in *The Goonies*- by way of *The Gate*. If you can connect those dots the vision is clear.

☐ **Creepshow Series – Seasons 1, 2, 3 (SHUDDER)**

The most recent re-boot of the *Creepshow* brand finds its form in a series that I have been enjoying very much lately. Three seasons available thus far, each one containing some great, some good, some dumb tales- all directed and constructed in the 1980s style of practical effects of grotesque gore and ambling humor. Like its obvious predecessors — its namesake, along side *Tales From The Darkside*, *Freddie's Nightmares*, *Tales From The Crypt*, *Friday The 13th* — this is purely television horror- nothing all out brilliant or truly gasp inducing, but cure all enough for genre fans needing a jolt of the familiar tropes that ooze and slime and bleed and regurgitate, as well as saying a little something along the way. They do drop in some topical content- Season One's first episode is a killer, Season Two's "Public Television for The Dead" a great homage to the *Evil Dead* franchise, and the final episode of Season Three a smart gross out featuring a disembodied head flying around eating people. The Creep introduces each tale in morbid, rotting fashion- and though not always strictly frightening, it's a good bit of fun.

🐧 **Elvis Costello – Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink (PENGUIN)**

This book is interesting in that it very much reflects the man's music — wordy, jumbled, pointed — his youthful recollections actually one of my favorite aspects- the other stuff so public in many ways it wasn't as new to this head. It made me go back into the catalogue and sink into some of those wonderful tunes. The guy really is an original. You can drop into his entire body of work at any time and come up a gem. As a stylist his reach becomes limited, yet still wide enough to affect any music fan anywhere. And that's a rare chance. Good stuff.

🎵 **Ted Templeman – A Platinum Producer's Life In Music (ECW PRESS)**

Ted Templeman is the exact '60s "head" that Frank Zappa describes as the kind of A&R/ Producer who helped create the middle of the road music that was wheeled and dealt and implanted in to the popular culture of the 1970s- that "hippie" all the square business men listened to on what should be the next hot poop (he was birthed from the band Harper's Bizarre). Granted, the entire decade was populated by many various great things- but nobody poured more money and grease into the system than Warner Brothers—and guys like Ted crafted a certain style of above average rock and pop music that spoke to the most mainstream of people- a comfortable backdrop to a shag carpet world.

None of what Ted has to say is any more remarkable than the records he produced. No subtext, no excited depth, no uncovered amazement. Just good, solid stories, told cleanly, neatly. Edifying, yet somewhat anti climactic. Informative, enjoyable. But somehow it left me wanting, and slightly annoyed. I like his work with Van Morrison and Captain Beefheart—good stories, but observations not necessarily revealing, though entertaining. The Van Halen stuff is quite riveting. A worthy read, but not a wealthy one.

🛁 **Bathtubs Over Broadway (2018) – Directed by Dava Whisenant**

I found this very very entertaining, and possibly the ultimate record nerd experience. The fact you can see Don Bolles and Jello Biafra as excited participants lends to the hilarity and joy of this thing—a documentary about Industrial Musicals and the souvenir vinyl records that

were made as tokens of appreciation for being a part of whatever corporate event paid for and put on as entertainment at their annual conventions or sales meeting events to excite and ignite their employees. An obsession only the head comedy writer on *The Late Show with David Letterman* could put enough weight on to get this lavish production made—it's funny, affecting, and beautifully details what good benevolent obsessions can do for the soul.

EDWARD

SONGS

Israel "IZ" Kamakawiwo'ole – "Over the Rainbow"

Edith Piaf – "La Vie En Rose"

Scars on Broadway – "Guns Are Loaded" from Dictator (SCARRED 4 LIFE)

Manu Chao – "Desaparecido" from Clandestino (ARK21)

Slipknot – "Unsainted" from We Are Not Your Kind (ROADRUNNER)

Joji – "Nitrous" from Nectar (88RISING MUSIC)

REBECCA

Chooses Love

☐ **The Beatles: Get Back (2021) – Directed by Peter Jackson**
Fascinating. Watching John and Paul create songs right in front of your eyes kicked in a whole new "Beatles phase" for me.

📺 **Don't Look Up (2021) – Directed by Adam McKay**

This chilling dark comedy left me feeling so very sad and helpless. But, you know, sometimes you ought to feel that way if anything is going to change, right?

KAREN

Apparently adversity is a creative muse. So much amazing art and music has come out of these last couple of years.

in no particular order and without any elaborations, here is a list of worthwhile endeavors:

Bakar – Nobody's Home (EPIC)
Find it in: ROCK

Cleo Sol – Mother (FOREVER LIVING ORIGINALS)
Find it in: ROCK

Indigo Sparke – Echo (SACRED BONES)
Find it in: FOLK

Jenevieve – Division (JOY FACE)
Find it in: SOUL

Seratonos – Love & Algorithms (ROUGH TRADE)
Find it in: ROCK

Elvis Costello and The Imposters – The Boy Named If (CAPITOL)
Find it in: ROCK

Yola – Stand For Myself (EASY EYE SOUND)
Find it in: SOUL

Orla Gartland – Woman on the Internet (NEW FRIENDS MUSIC)
Find it in: ROCK
this song: "You're Not Special, Babe"

Mereba – Azeb EP (INTERSCOPE)
Find it in: HIP HOP

Quadry – They Think We Ghetto (BUFFALO PUBLIC SERVICE)
Find it in: HIP HOP

Ryan Sambol – Gestalt

(PERPETUAL DOOM)

Find it in: ROCK

Fly Anakin – Frank (LEX RECORDS)

Find it in: HIP HOP

caroline – caroline

(ROUGH TRADE)

Find it in: ROCK

Mach-Hommy – Dump Gawd:

Triz Nathaniel (SELF-RELEASED)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Wet Leg – Wet Leg (DOMINO)

Find it in: ROCK

Stromae – Multitude

(INTERSCOPE)

Find it in: ELECTRONICA

check out his “what’s in my bag” episode on Amoeba.com

Adele – 30 (COLUMBIA)

Find it in: ROCK

Leo Nocentelli –

Another Side [Reissue] (1970)

(LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Find it in: NEW ORLEANS

Various Artists –

Country Funk Vol. 3

1975-1982 (LIGHT IN THE ATTIC)

Find it in: COUNTRY

John Prine –

Catalog Reissues (OH BOY)

Find it in: FOLK

St. Vincent – Daddy’s Home

(LOMA VISTA)

Find it in: ROCK

Liars – The Apple Drop

(MUTE)

Find it in: ROCK

Japanese Breakfast –

Sable (MASTERWORKS)

Find it in: ROCK

Arooj Aftab – Vulture Prince

(NEW AMSTERDAM)

Find it in: WORLD

L’Rain – Fatigue (MEXICAN SUMMER)

Find it in: ROCK

Vijay Iyer – Uneasy (ECM)

Find it in: JAZZ

Krolok – Funeral Winds &

Crimson Sky (OSMOSE)

Find it in: METAL

Don Trip – Pray God’s Not

Watching (SELF-RELEASED)

Find it in: HIP HOP

Khruangbin & Leon Bridges –

Texas Moon (DEAD OCEANS)

Find it in: ROCK

Brittany Howard – Jaime

(Reimagined) (ATO)

Find it in: ROCK

Low – Hey What (SUB POP)

Find it in: ROCK

Lucy Dacus – Home Video

(MATADOR)

Find it in: ROCK

The War on Drugs – I Don’t

Live Here Anymore (ATLANTIC)

Find it in: ROCK



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THE AMOEBBA COLLECTION CHECKLIST

Use this checklist of essential records to build your collection... but, of course, leave room for new "must haves" as it continues to grow!

Our criteria: \$50 bucks or under, nothing too rare or out of print, no greatest hits records and mostly studio albums.
How many do you have? What are you missing?

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AC/DC
<i>Highway to Hell</i> (1979) | <input type="checkbox"/> BEASTIE BOYS
<i>Licensed to Ill</i> (1986)
<i>Paul's Boutique</i> (1989) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADOLESCENTS
<i>Adolescents</i> (1981) | <input type="checkbox"/> THE BEATLES
<i>Abbey Road</i> (1969)
<i>Let It Be</i> (1970)
<i>Revolver</i> (1966)
<i>Rubber Soul</i> (1965)
<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i> (1967)
<i>The White Album</i> (1968) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND
<i>At Fillmore East</i> (1971) | <input type="checkbox"/> BELLE & SEBASTIAN
<i>If You're Feeling Sinister</i> (1996) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
<i>Merriweather Post Pavilion</i> (2009) | <input type="checkbox"/> CHUCK BERRY
<i>The Great Twenty-Eight</i> (1982) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APHEX TWIN
<i>Selected Ambient Works 85-92</i> (1992) | <input type="checkbox"/> BIG STAR
<i>#1 Record</i> (1972)
<i>Radio City</i> (1974)
<i>Third/Sister Lovers</i> (1978) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCADE FIRE
<i>Funeral</i> (2004) | <input type="checkbox"/> BJORK
<i>Homogenic</i> (1997)
<i>Post</i> (1995) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE B-52'S
<i>The B-52's</i> (1979)
<i>Wild Planet</i> (1980) | <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK FLAG
<i>Damaged</i> (1981) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANGELO BADALAMENTI
<i>Twin Peaks [OST]</i> (1990) | <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK STAR
<i>Mos Def & Talib Kweli Are Black Star</i> (1998) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ERYKAH BADU
<i>Baduizm</i> (1997) | <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK SABBATH
<i>Black Sabbath</i> (1970)
<i>Paranoid</i> (1970) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BAND
<i>The Band</i> (1969)
<i>Music From Big Pink</i> (1968) | <input type="checkbox"/> MARY J. BLIGE
<i>What's the 411?</i> (1992) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAUHAUS
<i>In The Flat Field</i> (1980) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BEACH BOYS
<i>Pet Sounds</i> (1966)
<i>The Smile Sessions</i> (2011) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEACH HOUSE
<i>Teen Dream</i> (2010) | |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLONDIE
<i>Parallel Lines</i> (1978) | <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN DEATH
<i>Only Theatre Of Pain</i> (1982) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLUR
<i>Parklife</i> (1994) | <input type="checkbox"/> CIGARETTES AFTER SEX
<i>Cigarettes After Sex</i> (2017) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOARDS OF CANADA
<i>Music Has the Right to Children</i> (1998) | <input type="checkbox"/> THE CLASH
<i>The Clash</i> (1977)
<i>London Calling</i> (1979) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BON IVER
<i>For Emma, Forever Ago</i> (2007) | <input type="checkbox"/> COCTEAU TWINS
<i>Head Over Heels</i> (1983)
<i>Heaven or Las Vegas</i> (1990) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DAVID BOWIE
<i>Hunky Dory</i> (1971)
<i>The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars</i> (1972) | <input type="checkbox"/> LEONARD COHEN
<i>Songs of Leonard Cohen</i> (1967) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BREEDERS
<i>Last Splash</i> (1993) | <input type="checkbox"/> ORNETTE COLEMAN
<i>The Shape of Jazz to Come</i> (1959) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JAMES BROWN
<i>Live at the Apollo</i> (1963) | <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN COLTRANE
<i>A Love Supreme</i> (1965) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET
<i>Time Out</i> (1959) | <input type="checkbox"/> ELVIS COSTELLO
<i>My Aim Is True</i> (1977)
<i>This Year's Model</i> (1978) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JEFF BUCKLEY
<i>Grace</i> (1994) | <input type="checkbox"/> CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL
<i>Green River</i> (1969) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB
<i>Buena Vista Social Club</i> (1997) | <input type="checkbox"/> THE CURE
<i>Disintegration</i> (1989) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KATE BUSH
<i>Hounds of Love</i> (1985) | <input type="checkbox"/> D'ANGELO
<i>Brown Sugar</i> (1995)
<i>Voodoo</i> (2000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE BYRDS
<i>Mr. Tambourine Man</i> (1965)
<i>Sweetheart of the Rodeo</i> (1968) | <input type="checkbox"/> DAFT PUNK
<i>Discovery</i> (2001) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAN
<i>Ege Bamyasi</i> (1972)
<i>Tago Mago</i> (1971) | <input type="checkbox"/> MILES DAVIS
<i>Kind of Blue</i> (1959)
<i>Bitches Brew</i> (1970) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CARPENTERS
<i>Close to You</i> (1970) | <input type="checkbox"/> DEAD CAN DANCE
<i>Within The Realm Of A Dying Sun</i> (1987) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CARS
<i>The Cars</i> (1978) | <input type="checkbox"/> DE LA SOUL
<i>3 Feet High and Rising</i> (1989) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOHNNY CASH
<i>At Folsom Prison</i> (1968) | <input type="checkbox"/> DEERHUNTER
<i>Microcastle</i> (2008) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAPTAIN BEEFHEART
<i>Trout Mask Replica</i> (1969) | <input type="checkbox"/> MAC DEMARCO
<i>Salad Days</i> (2014) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS
<i>Let Love In</i> (1994) | <input type="checkbox"/> DEPECHE MODE
<i>Violator</i> (1990) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE CHAMELEONS
<i>Script Of The Bridge</i> (1983) | <input type="checkbox"/> DJ SHADOW
<i>Endtroducing....</i> (1996) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RAY CHARLES
<i>The Genius of Ray Charles</i> (1959)
<i>Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music</i> (1962) | |

FROM THE AMOEBOLOG

- ☐ **THE DOORS**
The Doors (1967)
- ☐ **DR. DRE**
The Chronic (1992)
- ☐ **NICK DRAKE**
Five Leaves Left (1969)
Pink Moon (1972)
- ☐ **DURAN DURAN**
RIO (1982)
- ☐ **BOB DYLAN**
The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan (1963)
The Times They Are A-Changin' (1964)
Bringing it All Back Home (1965)
Highway 61 Revisited (1965)
Blonde on Blonde (1966)
Blood on the Tracks (1975)
- ☐ **THE EAGLES**
Hotel California (1976)
- ☐ **BRIAN ENO**
Here Come the Warm Jets (1974)
Another Green World (1975)
- ☐ **THE FALL**
This Nation's Saving Grace (1985)
- ☐ **ELLA FITZGERALD**
Sings The Cole Porter Song Book (1956)
- ☐ **FKA TWIGS**
LPI (2014)
- ☐ **THE FLAMING LIPS**
The Soft Bulletin (1999)
- ☐ **FLEET FOXES**
Fleet Foxes (2008)
- ☐ **FLEETWOOD MAC**
Rumours (1977)
- ☐ **ARETHA FRANKLIN**
I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You (1967)
- ☐ **FUGAZI**
Repeater (1990)
- ☐ **FUNKADELIC**
Maggot Brain (1971)
- ☐ **SERGE GAINSBURG**
Histoire de Melody Nelson (1971)
- ☐ **MARVIN GAYE**
What's Going On (1971)
- ☐ **GALAXIE 500**
On Fire (1989)
- ☐ **GANG OF FOUR**
Solid Gold (1981)
Entertainment (1979)
- ☐ **STAN GETZ / JOÃO GILBERTO**
Getz / Gilberto (1964)
- ☐ **GORILLAZ**
Gorillaz (2001)
- ☐ **AL GREEN**
I'm Still in Love With You (1972)
Let's Stay Together (1972)
- ☐ **GREEN DAY**
Dookie (1994)
- ☐ **GRIMES**
Visions (2012)
- ☐ **GUIDED BY VOICES**
Bee Thousand (1994)
- ☐ **GUNS N' ROSES**
Appetite for Destruction (1987)
- ☐ **GEORGE HARRISON**
All Things Must Pass (1970)
- ☐ **GENIUS/GZA**
Liquid Swords (1995)
- ☐ **THE JIMI HENDRIX EXPERIENCE**
Are You Experienced? (1967)
- ☐ **JIMI HENDRIX**
Electric Ladyland (1968)
- ☐ **LAURYN HILL**
The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill (1998)
- ☐ **BILLIE HOLIDAY**
Lady in Satin (1958)
- ☐ **HÜSKER DÜ**
Zen Arcade (1984)
- ☐ **IGGY & THE STOOGES**
Raw Power (1973)
- ☐ **INTERPOL**
Turn on the Bright Lights (2002)
- ☐ **MICHAEL JACKSON**
Off the Wall (1979)
Thriller (1982)
- ☐ **ETTA JAMES**
At Last! (1960)
- ☐ **JAY-Z**
The Blueprint (2001)
Reasonable Doubt (1996)

FROM THE AMOEBOLOG

- ☐ **JEFFERSON AIRPLANE**
Surrealistic Pillow (1967)
- ☐ **THE JESUS & MARY CHAIN**
Psychocandy (1985)
- ☐ **ELTON JOHN**
Goodbye Yellow Brick Road (1973)
- ☐ **ROBERT JOHNSON**
King of the Delta Blues Singers (1961)
- ☐ **JANIS JOPLIN**
Pearl (1971)
- ☐ **JOY DIVISION**
Unknown Pleasures (1979)
Closer (1980)
- ☐ **KHRUANGBIN**
Con Todo El Mundo (2018)
- ☐ **KILLERS**
Hot Fuss (2004)
- ☐ **KING CRIMSON**
In the Court of the Crimson King (1969)
- ☐ **CAROLE KING**
Tapestry (1971)
- ☐ **THE KINKS**
Something Else By The Kinks (1967)
The Kinks Are the Village Green Preservation Society (1968)
- ☐ **KRAFTWERK**
Computer World (1981)
Trans-Europe Express (1977)
- ☐ **KENDRICK LAMAR**
To Pimp a Butterfly (2015)
- ☐ **LCD SOUNDSYSTEM**
LCD Soundsystem (2005)
- ☐ **LED ZEPPELIN**
Led Zeppelin (1969)
II (1969)
III (1970)
IV (1971)
Houses of the Holy (1973)
Physical Graffiti (1975)
- ☐ **JOHN LENNON**
John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band (1970)
Imagine (1971)
- ☐ **MADONNA**
Like a Virgin (1984)
Like a Prayer (1989)
- ☐ **THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS**
If You Can Believe Your Eyes and Ears (1966)
- ☐ **BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS**
Catch a Fire (1973)
- ☐ **MASSIVE ATTACK**
Mezzanine (1998)
- ☐ **MADVILLAIN**
Madvillainy (2004)
- ☐ **CURTIS MAYFIELD**
Superfly (1972)
- ☐ **M83**
Hurry Up, We're Dreaming (2011)
- ☐ **METALLICA**
Master of Puppets (1986)
Ride the Lightning (1984)
- ☐ **CHARLES MINGUS**
Mingus Ah Um (1959)
- ☐ **JONI MITCHELL**
Blue (1971)
- ☐ **MODEST MOUSE**
The Moon & Antarctica (2000)
- ☐ **ENNIO MORRICONE**
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly [OST] (1966)
- ☐ **VAN MORRISON**
Astral Weeks (1968)
Moondance (1970)
- ☐ **MOS DEF**
Black On Both Sides (1999)
- ☐ **THE MOTHERS OF INVENTION**
Freak Out! (1966)
- ☐ **KACEY MUSGRAVES**
Golden Hour (2018)
- ☐ **MY BLOODY VALENTINE**
Loveless (1991)
Isn't Anything (1988)
- ☐ **NAS**
Illmatic (1994)
- ☐ **THE NATIONAL**
Boxer (2007)
- ☐ **NEU!**
Neu! (1972)
- ☐ **NEUTRAL MILK HOTEL**
In the Aeroplane Over the Sea (1998)

FROM THE AMOEBLOG

NEW ORDER

- ☐ *Power, Corruption & Lies* (1983)

NINE INCH NAILS

- ☐ *Pretty Hate Machine* (1989)
- ☐ *The Downward Spiral* (1994)

NIPSEY HUSSLE

- ☐ *Victory Lap* (2018)

NIRVANA

- ☐ *Nevermind* (1991)
- ☐ *In Utero* (1993)
- ☐ *MTV Unplugged in New York* (1994)

NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

- ☐ *Ready to Die* (1994)
- ☐ *Life After Death* (1997)

- ☐ *Nuggets: Original Artyfacts from the First Psychedelic Era, 1965–1968* (1972)

N.W.A.

- ☐ *Straight Outta Compton* (1988)

OASIS

- ☐ *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* (1995)

OS MUTANTES

- ☐ *Os Mutantes* (1968)

OUTKAST

- ☐ *Aquemini* (1998)
- ☐ *Stankonia* (2000)

DOLLY PARTON

- ☐ *Coat of Many Colors* (1971)

PAVEMENT

- ☐ *Slanted and Enchanted* (1992)

PINK FLOYD

- ☐ *Dark Side of the Moon* (1973)
- ☐ *Wish You Were Here* (1975)
- ☐ *The Wall* (1979)

THE PIXIES

- ☐ *Doolittle* (1989)
- ☐ *Surfer Rosa* (1988)

PJ HARVEY

- ☐ *To Bring You My Love* (1995)

THE POLICE

- ☐ *Synchronicity* (1983)

IGGY POP

- ☐ *The Idiot* (1977)

PORTISHEAD

- ☐ *Dummy* (1994)
- ☐ *Third* (2008)

ELVIS PRESLEY

- ☐ *Elvis Presley* (1956)
- ☐ *The Sun Sessions* (1976)

THE PRETENDERS

- ☐ *The Pretenders* (1980)

PRIMAL SCREAM

- ☐ *Screamadelica* (1991)

PRINCE

- ☐ *1999* (1982)
- ☐ *Purple Rain* (1984)

PUBLIC ENEMY

- ☐ *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* (1988)
- ☐ *Fear of a Black Planet* (1990)

PUBLIC IMAGE, LTD.

- ☐ *Second Edition* (1979)

QUEEN

- ☐ *Sheer Heart Attack* (1974)
- ☐ *A Night at the Opera* (1975)

RADIOHEAD

- ☐ *The Bends* (1995)
- ☐ *OK Computer* (1997)
- ☐ *Kid A* (2000)
- ☐ *In Rainbows* (2007)

RAEKWON

- ☐ *Only Built 4 Cuban Linx...* (1995)

THE RAMONES

- ☐ *The Ramones* (1976)

LOU REED

- ☐ *Transformer* (1972)

R.E.M.

- ☐ *Murmur* (1983)
- ☐ *Reckoning* (1984)

THE REPLACEMENTS

- ☐ *Let It Be* (1984)

LITTLE RICHARD

- ☐ *Here's Little Richard* (1957)

OTIS REDDING

- ☐ *Otis Blue/Otis Redding Sings Soul* (1965)

THE ROLLING STONES

- ☐ *Beggars Banquet* (1968)
- ☐ *Let It Bleed* (1969)
- ☐ *Sticky Fingers* (1971)
- ☐ *Exile on Main Street* (1972)

THE RONETTES

- ☐ *Presenting the Fabulous Ronettes Featuring Veronica* (1964)

ROXY MUSIC

- ☐ *Avalon* (1982)
- ☐ *For Your Pleasure* (1973)

SADE

- ☐ *Diamond Life* (1984)
- ☐ *Love Deluxe* (1992)

- ☐ *Saturday Night Fever [OST]* (1977)

SELENA

- ☐ *Dreaming Of You* (1995)

SEX PISTOLS

- ☐ *Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols* (1977)

SIGUR ROS

- ☐ *Ágætis Byrjun* (1999)

SLEATER-KINNEY

- ☐ *Call the Doctor* (1996)
- ☐ *Dig Me Out* (1997)

SLINT

- ☐ *Spiderland* (1991)

SLY & THE FAMILY STONE

- ☐ *Stand!* (1969)
- ☐ *There's a Riot Goin' On* (1971)

NINA SIMONE

- ☐ *Nina Simone Sings the Blues* (1967)

SIMON & GARFUNKEL

- ☐ *Bridge Over Troubled Water* (1970)

PAUL SIMON

- ☐ *Graceland* (1986)

FRANK SINATRA

- ☐ *In the Wee Small Hours* (1955)

SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES

- ☐ *Juju* (1981)

SLAYER

- ☐ *Reign In Blood* (1986)

SLOWDIVE

- ☐ *Souvlaki* (1993)

SMASHING PUMPKINS

- ☐ *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* (1995)
- ☐ *Siamese Dream* (1993)

ELLIOTT SMITH

- ☐ *Elliott Smith* (1995)
- ☐ *Either/Or* (1997)

PATTI SMITH

- ☐ *Horses* (1975)

FROM THE AMOEBLOG

THE SMITHS

- ☐ *The Smiths* (1984)
- ☐ *The Queen Is Dead* (1986)

SNOOP DOGG

- ☐ *Doggystyle* (1993)

SOFT CELL

- ☐ *Non-Stop Erotic Cabaret* (1981)

SONIC YOUTH

- ☐ *Daydream Nation* (1988)
- ☐ *Goo* (1990)

PHIL SPECTOR

- ☐ *A Christmas Gift For You* (1963)

SPIRITUALIZED

- ☐ *Ladies and Gentlemen We Are Floating in Space* (1997)

DUSTY SPRINGFIELD

- ☐ *Dusty in Memphis* (1969)

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

- ☐ *Born to Run* (1975)
- ☐ *Darkness on the Edge of Town* (1978)
- ☐ *Nebraska* (1982)
- ☐ *The River* (1980)

STEELY DAN

- ☐ *Aja* (1977)

SUFJAN STEVENS

- ☐ *Illinois* (2005)

THE STONE ROSES

- ☐ *The Stone Roses* (1989)

THE STOOGES

- ☐ *Funhouse* (1970)

THE STOKES

- ☐ *Is This It* (2001)

SUICIDE

- ☐ *Suicide* (1977)

- ☐ *The Sun Records Story* (2001)

2PAC

- ☐ *All Eyez On Me* (1996)

TALKING HEADS

- ☐ *77* (1977)
- ☐ *More Songs About Buildings and Food* (1978)
- ☐ *Remain in Light* (1980)

TALK TALK

- ☐ *Spirit of Eden* (1988)

TAME IMPALA

- ☐ *Currents* (2015)

FROM THE AMOEBLOG

TELEVISION

- ☐ *Marquee Moon* (1977)

THROBBING GRISTLE

- ☐ *20 Jazz Funk Greats* (1979)

T. REX

- ☐ *Electric Warrior* (1971)

A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

- ☐ *The Low End Theory* (1991)

TYLER THE CREATOR

- ☐ *Igor* (2019)

U2

- ☐ *The Joshua Tree* (1987)

VANGELIS

- ☐ *Blade Runner [OST]* (1994)

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND

- ☐ *The Velvet Underground & Nico* (1967)
- ☐ *White Light/White Heat* (1968)
- ☐ *The Velvet Underground* (1969)
- ☐ *Loaded* (1970)

THE VERVE

- ☐ *Urban Hymns* (1997)

VIOLENT FEMMES

- ☐ *Violent Femmes* (1983)

TOM WAITS

- ☐ *Blue Valentine* (1978)
- ☐ *Swordfishtrombones* (1983)

KAMASI WASHINGTON

- ☐ *The Epic* (2015)

WEEZER

- ☐ *The Blue Album* (1994)
- ☐ *Pinkerton* (1996)

KANYE WEST

- ☐ *Late Registration* (2005)
- ☐ *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* (2010)

THE WHO

- ☐ *Quadrophenia* (1973)
- ☐ *Who's Next* (1971)

THE WHITE STRIPES

- ☐ *White Blood Cells* (2001)
- ☐ *Elephant* (2003)

WILCO

- ☐ *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* (2002)

HANK WILLIAMS

- ☐ *Ramblin' Man* (1955)

LUCINDA WILLIAMS

- ☐ *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road* (1998)

AMY WINEHOUSE

- ☐ *Back To Black* (2006)

WIRE

- ☐ *Pink Flag* (1977)

STEVIE WONDER

- ☐ *Talking Book* (1972)
- ☐ *Innervisions* (1973)
- ☐ *Songs in the Key of Life* (1976)

WU-TANG CLAN

- ☐ *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)* (1993)

XTC

- ☐ *Skylarking* (1986)

THE XX

- ☐ *The XX* (2009)

YEAH YEAH YEAHS

- ☐ *Fever To Tell* (2003)

YO LA TENGO

- ☐ *I Can Hear the Heart Beating as One* (1997)

NEIL YOUNG

- ☐ *After the Gold Rush* (1970)
- ☐ *Harvest* (1972)

THE ZOMBIES

- ☐ *Odessey and Oracle* (1968)



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