

POP FLASH.



It's halfway through the year, which means it's time to take stock of the albums that we've been blessed with. Has it been a hellish, apocalyptic six months that took everyone by surprise with continual left-field nightmares? Perhaps. But has pop music been delivering excellent bops and glittering singles despite that fact? Absolutely. Check out our take on one of the year's potentially overlooked pop classics, Banoffee's *Look At Us Now Dad*, which comes in at No. 14 on our Best Pop Albums Of 2020 So Far list:

Excellent Banoffee singles have been floating around the indie-pop world for years now, and her early EPs built something of a cult following for the Australian songwriter. Well, 2020 was the year these diehards were finally rewarded. Look At Us Now Dad explores family trauma, fake friends, and the power of the people who love us unconditionally through a lens of glitchy, forward-thinking pop. Collaborators like Empress Of, Sophie, and CupcakKe round out one of the most compelling records in pop's sometimes same-y genre.

Check out the full pop albums list [here](#) — including our hands-down No. 1 pick — and our full best albums list [here](#).

— Caitlin White, Uproxx Pop Critic on the best pop albums of 2020 so far.

Follow the official playlist

Curated straight from Pop Flash HQ and updated regularly.

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NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



DABABY + RODDY RICCH

Roddy Ricch had his moment earlier in 2020 with the unprecedented success of “The Box,” which broke just about as many records as Lil Nas X’s “Old Town Road,” and now, DaBaby looks set to be the next rapper to ascend to unstoppable top-of-the-charts positioning — and it certainly doesn’t hurt that he’s enlisted Ricch on “Rockstar.” Returning to No. 1 this week for a third time, and replacing 6ix9ine and Nicki Minaj’s “Trollz,” it’s hard to think of a song that’s more emblematic of this moment in culture.



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BUBBLING UNDER



OLIVER TREE

Since the rest of the world has gone insane, Oliver Tree is starting to look a little bit prophetic. This notoriously surreal prankster pushed back his debut album *Ugly Is Beautiful* earlier this spring due to concerns around the pandemic, but has brought back his eclectic mix of pop-rap bizarro nostalgia just in time for summer. Check out the video for lead single “Bury Me Alive” below, which he shot himself on a \$6 budget — and yes, that thing on his face does get ripped off... eventually.



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REMEMBER WHEN

'X' by ED SHEERAN



Six years ago today, Ed Sheeran released his second studio album, *X*, and cemented his place as an upper-echelon pop star who could sell out arenas and land No. 1 hit singles with ease. *X* — pronounced “multiply” — is the follow-up to his commercial breakthrough *+*, and launched massive tracks like “Sing,” “Don’t,” and “Thinking Out Loud,” all of which became signature songs for Sheeran. Three years later, he’d release an even bigger album, *÷* (“divide”), and last year followed his first three records up with a more experimental collaborations album called *No.6 Collaborations Project*, a sly nod to the five EPs he released before his breakout album.

Despite his now-extensive discography, *X* still stands out as a peak moment for Sheeran, where he proved his early success wasn’t a fluke, and continued to build his folk-pop sound into a massive movement.

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LOVE LETTERS



HAIM

If you too love Los Angeles, Stevie Nicks, Simon & Garfunkel, and Sheryl Crow, then Haim's *Women In Music Pt. III* will have you swooning as much as I've been since it came out last Friday. This is significant for me, because I've notoriously been critical of the sister trio for sounding *too* much like their influences on their debut — and their 2017 record *Something To Tell You* simply wasn't what I wanted to hear. But, it's 2020, the world is an uncertain and dark place, most of us are grappling with our preconceptions in a very real way, and it's the perfect time to change your mind. Haim's new record is easily one of the best of the year, and I'm so happy to have it for comfort and small, sweet celebrations as we head into summer.

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