



Welcome to the holiday season! Of all the precious traditions that are part of this time of the year, is there any more exciting for music fans than the deluge of year-end lists counting down 2020's best albums, songs, album covers, merch, embarrassing tweets, and every other conceivable musical category that can be ranked? There is practically nothing about this year that I wish to relive, but it was a good year for music, so I'm excited to check out the lists and revisit my favorites and discover albums I missed the first time around. Over at Uproxx, the year-end lists will go up starting on Tuesday, and unfold for the remainder of the month in various genre categories. You will also want to look out for my list of beloved records from 2020 that I'm sure I'll want to revise the moment it goes up. Tis the season for list regrets! I can't wait.

-- Steven Hyden, Uproxx Cultural Critic and author of *This Isn't Happening: Radiohead's "Kid A" and the Beginning of the 21st Century*



In case you missed it...

Dance the night away with our **Indie Prom** playlist on YouTube.

In the last few months, we've gotten new live albums from **The War On Drugs**, **King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard**, and more. The **latest episode** of *Indiecast* has your guide to the best live albums of 2020.

Get ready for a **Heart biopic**, written and directed by **Carrie Brownstein**.

The National have **remastered** their early catalog in celebration of their twentieth anniversary.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Gulfer**, who once slept in a storage locker on tour.

**What's the last band
you really dove into?**

Let us know

**When you listen to one song
from a band you've never heard
before and instantly fall in love:**



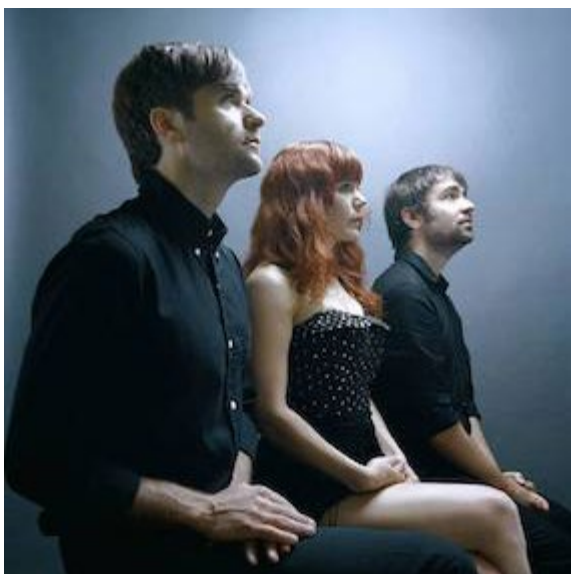
OPENING TRACKS



ARCTIC MONKEYS

There's been a recent run in 2020 of noteworthy live albums from some of the biggest names in indie rock. This week is especially momentous in that regard: there is a new in-concert release from these British rock mega-stars called *Live At The Royal Albert Hall*, a benefit for War Child UK.

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THE POSTAL SERVICE

Also due to put out a live album this week is The Postal Service, who will be issuing *Everything Will Change*, which documents a show from their reunion tour in 2013. You might recognize that title from a concert film released six years ago — this is the audio version!

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KIWI JR.

Do you like Pavement? This Canadian band really likes Pavement, and they proved adept at writing songs in that band's iconic, slacker-rock style on their 2020 debut *Football Money*. Now the band is gearing up to put out their *Crooked Rain Crooked Rain* in the form of *Cooler Returns*, due out next month.

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DEEP CUTS



U.S. GIRLS

Coming several months after her 2020 album *Heavy Light*, Meg Remy returns with a holiday song of sorts. Only “Santa Stay Home” isn’t exactly a celebration of the



FIELD MUSIC

Here’s a song for people who actually like Christmas, courtesy of the quirky British art-pop band. When Field Music originally issued “Home For Christmas,” it was part

festive season, but rather an indictment of rank materialism and self-destructive consumerism ... or something. Santa, you can still come to our house.

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of a run of only five records. But now thankfully it has been re-released as part of a compilation, *Lost Christmas*, that's more readily available.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS – 'CALIFORNICATION' (20TH ANNIVERSARY PICTURE DISC)



Originally released in 1999, Red Hot Chili Peppers' seventh studio album *Californication* peaked at #3 on the *Billboard* Top 200 chart and has sold over 15 million copies worldwide. 20 years after the album first hit stores, the band is celebrating the milestone with a limited edition, 2LP picture disc version of the LP. As much an art piece as a vinyl record, this special edition version of the album is a must-have for fans.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'*TANZ DER LEMMINGE*' by AMON DÜÜL II



This pioneering German band was part of the same scene that spawned Kraftwerk, Can, and Neu!, though Amon Düül II had a bit more of a prog-rock bent. (Hence those awesome double umlauts.) *Tanz der Lemminge* is a good place to get started with one of the most adventurous rock bands of the 1970s.

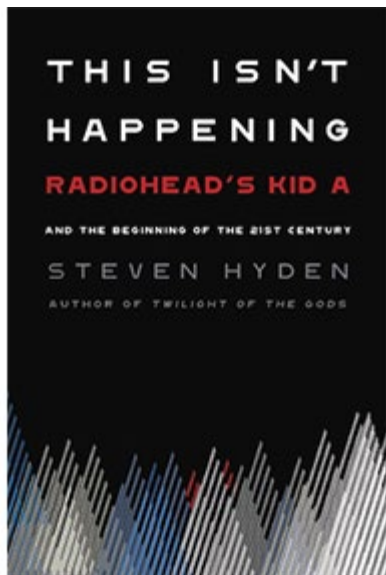
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LINER NOTES

THIS ISN'T HAPPENING

If you're looking for a gift for the music-loving indie nerd in your life, you can't go wrong with Steven Hyden's new book about Radohead and *Kid A*.

[ORDER](#)




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