



Before I post my 20 favorite albums of 2020, I need to share my standard three truisms about year-end lists.

1) Ranking albums is dumb ... We all know this. Art isn't a competition. I can't really distinguish between my 13th favorite album and my 19th favorite. This is all talk. None of it really matters.

2) ... but it's kind of fun ... Of course it is! Because it's about sharing music recommendations. And I do mean share — make your own lists and show them to me, especially if you're the sort inclined to complain about lists. Put yourself out there and let me complain about you, too!

3) ... because it's really about discovering an album or two (or possibly more!) that you might not have known about otherwise. Exactly!

I should also mention that I didn't include any [reissues](#) or [live albums](#). This is straight 2020-exclusive studiocraft. Now, [let's start ranking!](#)

-- 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...

Our YouTube channel is now the official home to collection of [Lou Reed music videos](#).

The **latest episode** of **Indiecast** has your guide to the best albums of 2020.

The times they are a-cha-ching: **Bob Dylan** **sold** the copyright for his entire catalog to Universal Music Publishing Group, and the deal was "easily in nine figures."

Foo Fighters **have their own taco** now.

The first installment of this year's **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A Holiday Edition** is with **Tigers Jaw**, who are ready to kill Santa, but only so they can become the next one.

**Were you pleased
with your annual
listening report?**

Let us know



jianna justice
@jiannajustice

my spotify wrapped to me:



7:52 PM · 12/1/20 · Twitter Web App

OPENING TRACKS



BELLE AND SEBASTIAN

The recent trend of indie bands putting out live albums continues this month with *What To Look For In Summer*, a double live LP by these twee-pop legends culled from their 2019 tour and “Boaty Weekender” cruise concerts. We wish the band had gone with their original title: *Live And Meticulous*.

LISTEN



DEAFHEAVEN

What if you like live albums but you're in the mood for the opposite of tweek-pop? Then you'll want to hear *10 Years Gone*, a new live-in-the-studio effort from these shoegazing metalheads. Like many classic live albums, *10 Years Gone* has a retrospective element, marking the first decade of Deafheaven's career.

LISTEN

OSEES

It seemed like only yesterday that we were listening to *Protean Threat*, the 2020 album by this garage-rock institution (formerly known as Thee Oh Sees). But that was just one 2020 album by Osees — they also dropped *Metamorphosed* in October and will be put out the outtakes collection *Panther Rotate* this month.

LISTEN



DEEP CUTS



MAGIK MARKERS

This noise rock act emerged in the early aughts as a companion band to Sonic Youth, touring with the indie legends in 2004 and putting out their first album on Thurston Moore's label. But on their latest LP *2020*, Magik Markers' first record in seven years, they evince new maturity and songwriting chops.

LISTEN

YUNGBLUD

This buzzy English singer-songwriter cites everyone from Arctic Monkeys and The Cure to Kanye West and Eminem as influences, which you can sort of hear on his hyperactive second album, *Weird!* This is overdriven emo-pop for a new generation, which we are classifying somewhat snarkily as Machine Gun Kelly-core.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

LOU REED — 'NEW YORK' (3CD/DVD/2LP + CASSETTE BUNDLE)



When we were building the brand new Lou Reed collection on YouTube, we were reminded of the brilliance of Reed's fifteenth solo record, *New York*. This limited bundle set features newly remastered sound, unreleased studio and live tracks, plus the DVD debut of *The New York*

Album concert video, and a cassette version of the album. The set comes housed in a 12 x 12 hardcover book that includes new liner notes written by music journalist David Fricke, essays from archivist Don Fleming, and was produced for release by Laurie Anderson, Don Fleming, Bill Ingot, Jason Stern, and Hal Willner.

PICK IT UP



THROWBACK

'PARIS 1919 by JOHN CALE



Five years after he exited The Velvet Underground, this legendary singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist hit a new artistic peak with this surprisingly poppy solo effort, which marries sumptuous melodies to literary lyrics that create a fascinating world.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



THE BEST SONGS OF 2020

Excited for more lists? Check out Uproxx's best songs of 2020.

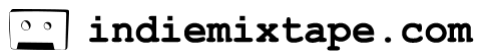
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