



Welcome to 2021! Like all of you, we have high hopes that maybe this year will be better than the last. (Yes, that is a deliberate reference to "A Long December" by Counting Crows.) Of course, time is a construct, and there is no reason to actually believe that 2021 will be any different than 2020. It's all one big jumble of heroes and villains and tragedies and fleeting triumphs, isn't it? Even if that is technically true, we have reason here at Indie Mixtape HQ to be excited about the upcoming calendar of indie releases. In our first newsletter of the new year, we'll be looking ahead to some of our most anticipated albums. Even in a world where so much remains uncertain, it's nice to know that we can still rely on great music to help pull us through.

-- 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 ...

We're ready to start rolling out some exciting content on our YouTube channel this year. Subscribe to be the first in line.

Catch up on everything *Indiecast* before we kick off the year with new episodes later this week.

Liam Gallagher is teasing an **Oasis** reunion again. We'll believe it when we hear it from Noel.

Fear not: **Hayley Williams** is assuring us that **Paramore** isn't breaking up anytime soon.



Give it some thought

Let us know

name an artist you'll be first in line to see live in concert post-pandemic

OPENING TRACKS



JULIEN BAKER

This acclaimed singer-songwriter returns February 26 with her third album, *Little Oblivions*, that subtly expands her spare, emotionally wrenching emo folk sound. The album is lusher than previous releases, but the spiritual authenticity of her past work

remains unvarnished. You'll want a box of tissues to be handy before you press play.

LISTEN





THE WEATHER STATION

This artist otherwise known as
Tamara Lindeman specializes
in incisive, insightful
songwriting set to warm,
organic sounds that evoke the
glory years of sensitive
tunesmiths in the 1960s and
'70s. Her fifth studio album,
Ignorance, is her first work
since 2017's The Weather
Station, and arrives February 5.

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BAIO

Most of the time, Chris Baio is content to help hold down the bottom end in Vampire
Weekend. On his own in this side project, however, Baio lets his imagination run wild, crafting an unlikely but infectious mix of indie rock, R&B, hip-hop, and psychedelia. His latest, *Dead Hand Control*, drops January 29.

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DEEP CUTS





SHAME

These British post-punkers impressed us with their 2018 debut album, Songs Of Shame. And now they're back with a sophomore release due out January 15, Drunk Tank Pink. While they haven't deviated all that much from the first album, Shame's sense of momentum and menace remains alluring.

KIWI JR.

This Canadian band garnered comparisons to Pavement upon the release of their 2020 debut Football Money, and it suits them — their shambolic yet catchy songs are loaded with fractured riffs and lyrical non-sequiturs. They look to embellish this template on the new Cooler Returns, due out January 21.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

DEPECHE MODE - 'SONGS OF FAITH AND DEVOTION | THE 12" SINGLES'



This collector's edition deluxe boxed set contains eight 12" vinyl discs showcasing the singles —"I Feel You," "Walking In My Shoes," "Condemnation" and "In Your Room" — and key B-sides, mixes and live recordings contemporaneous to Depeche Mode's pivotal Songs Of Faith And Devotion album. Each disc contains contains original and special edition versions of each single on audiophile-quality 12" vinyl, with audio remastered from the original tapes.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'MISERY AND WOMEN' by THE KARL HENDRICKS TRIO



This lost classic from the mid-'90s is just the thing from those who like chunky riffs married to lyrics that veer between laughs and pathos. It's like the great Superchunk album that you somehow haven't heard before now.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



YEAR IN REVIEW

If you're still playing catchup with great 2020 releases, you won't go wrong with the yearend list over at Aquarium Drunkard.

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