



One of the strangest (and most heartwarming) developments in recent years is the hip-ification of 1970s snarky jazz-rock institution Steely Dan. Once the butt of endless “graying ponytail” jokes by insufferable indie dweebs, Steely Dan has somehow become part of the indie dweeb canon. Some have claimed that this embrace of The Dan is “revisionism,” but that’s not exactly right. In the ’70s, Steely Dan was widely regarded as one of the top American bands of the era. It’s just that subsequent generations for decades didn’t seek them out like they did Fleetwood Mac or even The Eagles. This was partly a function of how Steely Dan songs work — a spotless veneer of impeccable musicianship and complex music progressions act as a kind of slow release capsule for the humor and perversity that lurks inside. The whole point of this band is to grab the ear immediately, but not reveal what is actually going on until many listens, and even many decades, later. That’s not revisionism; that’s just taking a very long time to “get it.” Check out our list of [top 50 Steely Dan songs](#).

-- 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...

Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to be first in line for some exclusive new video content this year.

Announcing the **Indiecast** internship program! More details in [this week's episode](#).

Willie Nelson received the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Phoebe Bridgers got a tattoo of the sword and note a fan gifted her after a show.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Danielle Durack**, whose still loves Aaron Carter.

Do you agree?

Join the conversation



OPENING TRACKS



ANI DIFRANCO

This classic folk-rock singer-songwriter will probably forever be associated with her fierce and independently minded work in the 1990s. But she remains a prolific and forward-thinking artist, with more than 20 albums to her credit. That includes her forthcoming effort due out later this month, *Revolutionary Love*.

LISTEN



HISS GOLDEN MESSENGER

We were big fans here at Indie Mixtape HQ of Hiss Golden Messenger's 2019 effort *Terms Of Surrender*, the veteran indie-folk act's best effort in a long and consistent career. So we're even more hyped than usual about their forthcoming 2021 album, previewed by new single "Sanctuary."

LISTEN



CLOUD NOTHINGS

Many hard-riffing and melodic punk bands have come and gone over the years, but we know we can always rely on Cloud Nothings to bring the quality rock goodness, year in and year out. The band will be back with their latest, *The Shadow I Remember*, in February.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



RHYE

It seems trite to describe Rhye as indie-pop given the grand melodies, powerful beats, and strikingly idiosyncratic perspectives that comes across in Mike Milosh's singular music. Each of Rhye's albums feels like a new benchmark on a unique path, and we expect the same from Milosh's latest LP, *Home*.

LISTEN



SUNBURNED HAND OF THE MAN

When the going gets tough, the tough get weird. It's times like these that we look to bands like free rock collective Sunburned Hand Of The Man.

The band has graciously reassembled for their first album in a decade, which we recommend if you wish The Grateful Dead sounded more like Can.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

THE REPLACEMENTS – 'DEAD MAN'S POP'
4CD/1LP DELUXE + CASSETTE



Although *Don't Tell A Soul* ultimately became The Replacements' best-selling effort, the band was unsatisfied with the sound of the record. Now, they have radically reimagined *Don't Tell A Soul* to create a 4CD/1LP set that features the album mixed as it was originally intended (*Don't Tell A Soul Redux*), along with a collection of previously unheard tracks (*We Know The Night: Rare & Unreleased*), and a classic concert from 1989 (*The Complete Inconcerated Live*). This limited edition and exclusive bundle is presented in a 12 x 12 hardcover book – loaded with dozens of rarely seen photos - featuring a detailed history of the *Don't Tell A Soul* era written by Bob Mehr, who produced the box with Rhino's Jason Jones, and also authored The *New York Times* bestseller *Trouble Boys: The True Story Of The Replacements*.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'ATTACK ON MEMORY' by CLOUD NOTHINGS



The upcoming Cloud Nothings album sent us back to this 2012 classic, in which the band ditched their poppier, fizzier sound in favor of heavy, hyperactive drums and pounding guitars that harken to the glory days of '80s and '90s indie.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



THE INDIECAST HALL OF FAME

Tune into the latest episode of Indiecast to hear Steven and Ian induct four of their personal favorite albums into the Indiecast Hall Of Fame.

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