

POP FLASH.



When whispers started going around the industry that Adele was gearing up to drop her next album before the end of 2020, the pop world held its breath for another record full of tear-jerking ballads fit to soundtrack the year from hell. After all, why would she be hosting *SNL* in late October if there wasn't something to promote?

But then, maybe Adele's team got wind of Taylor Swift's *Evermore* secret, or maybe the English diva was too busy with her new single life — either way, the album never materialized. Now that it's 2021 and our slates are clean, the next installment of the iconic pop star's saga is definitely coming. Will 32 ring in the new year with more heartbreak or single life flirting? An upbeat Adele might be the thing we all need to lift our spirits after last year's tragedy.

— Caitlin White, *Uproxx Pop Critic*, on Adele's forthcoming new album

NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



24K GOLDN + IANN DIOR

It might be a new year, but 24kGoldn and Iann Dior still want to know why you're in a mood. The duo's pop-punk-inflected rap hit has risen to the No. 1 slot on the charts once again this week, making it the seventh week the song has reigned. Even if the weeks weren't consecutive, that's still an impressive feat for these two rising songwriters, neither of whom were household names before this hit. Speaking of household names, Dua Lipa's long-tail disco bop "Levitating" just broke the top ten for the first time — thanks to the remix version with a verse from chart fiend DaBaby. Maybe that charming duo will be bounding to their own No. 1 before long.

[LISTEN](#)

BUBBLING UNDER



LAUV

Lauv made a big splash in 2020 with his independently released album *~how i'm feeling~*. But multiple hits with the likes of Anne-Marie and Troye Sivan weren't enough for the emerging pop songwriter, and he closed out a successful year with a mesmerizing AutoTuned ballad titled "2021." Since he's so often chasing down sticky hooks and airy, light pop fare, it's a change of pace to hear him crooning and getting into the gloomy underbelly of his feelings. No matter how Lauv is feeling, the songs hit home.

[LISTEN](#)

REMEMBER WHEN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DOLLY PARTON!



Though longtime fans of Dolly Parton have known she's an incredibly generous philanthropic force for good, the rest of the world found out about her bountiful heart last year when she helped fund research for one of the COVID-19 vaccines. That makes it even more exciting that her 75th birthday is coming up exactly two weeks from today. Born in 1946 in a one-room sharecropper's cabin, Dolly went on to become one of the most successful and prominent songwriters and performers in the world. It's time to give her those flowers while she's here. Happy (almost) birthday, Dolly. You are a legend.

[LISTEN](#)

LOVE LETTERS



SZA

Since there's not a lot of new music coming out right now anyway, it's even easier to focus on the dreamy psychedelics of SZA's latest track, "Good Days." Following up a scattershot release with Ty Dolla Sign, "Hit Different," the melodic narrative of this melancholy return to form is a huge step toward the idea of a follow-up to her 2017 album *CTRL*, which still remains a standout of modern R&B. This song strikes the perfect balance between sadness and hopefulness that the advent of a new year is bringing in, so throw it on and relax into your empty mind.

[LISTEN](#)

Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up [here](#).

YOU SAY YOU WANT MORE MUSIC?

→ [Follow](#) the official playlist

→ [Indie Mixtape](#) has the scoop on all the best emerging artists



This email was sent by: Warner Music Group 1633 Broadway New York, NY 10019 USA
This email was sent to: zac.gelfand@gmail.com

[PRIVACY POLICY](#) [TERMS OF USE](#) [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)