



I love the 2003 album *The Meadowlands* by The Wrens, and I hope to hear the long, loooong delayed follow-up one day. I recently reached out to one of the band's main songwriters, Charles Bissell, about the album. He wouldn't tell me the title or the label that is putting it out, hopefully — let me emphasize hopefully — at some point in 2021, for reasons he would later explain. But he did share seven songs with me, on the condition that I not reveal any song titles or be overly specific in how I write about them. So I'll just say this: While it's hard to say that any album could possibly be worth waiting 18 (or more) years for, the upcoming Wrens LP should not disappoint those who continue to dig out *The Meadowlands*. The songs I heard were beautiful and cathartic; if the rest of the record is as good as what Bissell shared, The Wrens will have made one of indie's great comeback albums. Find out more in [this Uproxx story](#).

-- 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 on TikTok now. [Join us](#).

Indiecast talked big budget albums, Manchester Orchestra, and more in the [latest mailbag episode](#).

The Flaming Lips [played a show](#) with the entire audience in space bubbles.

Pup definitely pissed off their neighbors for their NPR Tiny Desk Concert.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Alex Bleeker**, who is soliciting tattoo suggestions.

**Don't forget to tip
your merch person**

Caption this



OPENING TRACKS



WEEZER

Everyone's favorite "we love them but also hate them because they're great though we can't tell if they're actually good" band is back! On Friday, they will release an orchestral-pop record called

OK Human, and as usual goofiness abounds amid occasionally inviting melodies. Surely you'll love it *and* hate it.

LISTEN



CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH

We all remember Clap Your Hands Say Yeah as one of the defining “blog rock” bands of the mid-aughts. But this group has actually gone on to having an enduring career, building on the cult following they had when they were up and comers. Their latest, *New Fragility*, drops on Friday.

LISTEN



MOGWAI

When it comes to crafting post-rock instrumentals that can make a normal walk outside feel like an epic journey from tragedy to transcendence, there is perhaps no greater brand in indie rock than Mogwai. (With all due respect to Explosions In The Sky, of course.) *As The Love Continues*, Mogwai's tenth album, drops next month.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



PALBERTA

This New York-based art-punk band works the middle ground between minimalist, deconstructionist indie and the danceable grooves and relentless rhythms of funk and R&B. The final result on albums like the new *Palberta5000* doesn't fully belong in either camp, but rather in its own unique and unclassifiable solar system.

LISTEN



VALERIE JUNE

This singer-songwriter goes out of her way to explode genres in search of new and spiritual sounds. Regarding her new album, *Prescriptions For Dreamers* (due out March 12), June has mentioned everything from the Afrobeat of Fela Kuti to the lushness of David Bowie's classic 1970s work as reference points.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

CODE ORANGE — 'UNDERNEATH' (THE COLD.METAL.PLACE VINYL)



The latest LP from Code Orange was one of our favorite -- not to mention one of the heaviest -- releases of last year. Get the full immersive experience with this glorious white vinyl with blue splatter.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

SPRAINED ANKLE' by JULIEN BAKER



As we look ahead to her anticipated 2021 LP *Little Oblivions*, we've been revisiting the back catalog of Julien Baker, including this spare and gutting debut from 2015 that includes some of her most emotionally overpowering songs.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



INDIECAST IS BRINGING SKA BACK

On this week's Indiecast Ian and Steve go deep on ska. That's right — ska! (They also talk about other stuff in this special mailbag episode.)


TUNE IN

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