



"Are you my therapist?" Julien Baker asked me toward the end of our interview last month. We had just spent nearly an hour talking about addiction, religion, the cult of personality around indie-rock singer-songwriters, and the best album of her career, *Little Oblivions*, due out Friday. Baker, 25, is known for emotionally intense indie-folk songs that have the candor of religious confessionals. Talking with her sometimes has a similar life-or-death urgency. "In some Baptist churches, there's this thing where to be absolved of sins, you have to confess them to one another — you have to stand up in the middle of church and be like, 'I cheated on my wife,' or whatever, or 'I stole from a tip jar.' I wonder if that just comes from human beings desperately needing to be seen, like human beings wanting to be understood and the weight that carrying around an unseen part of your life puts on you," she added. She was talking about the central impulse behind *Little Oblivions*, an album in which Baker writes with incredible (even uncomfortable) candor about a fraught period in her life when it seemed, from the outside, she should have been basking in her greatest professional success yet. Read the rest of this interview on Uproxx when it goes up on Tuesday.

-- 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...***

Now would be a good time to [subscribe](#) to our **YouTubeL channel**. Big things coming soon.

The **latest episode** of **Indiecast** reviewed new albums from The Hold Steady and Wild Pink.

**Phoebe Bridgers** was **joined** by **Jackson Browne** and **Philip Glass** for an orchestral rendition of "Kyoto."

**Foo Fighters** **covered** **Bee Gees** .

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with **Jetty Bones**, who listens to the *My Favorite Murder* podcast almost exclusively while on tour.

## OPENING TRACKS



### ***WILD PINK***

On previous Wild Pink albums, John Ross wrote sensitive story songs about millennial ennui set to surging synth-based rock, producing a rich, stirring sound. On the new *A Billion Little Lights*, Wild Pink integrates Americana instrumentation like pedal-steel guitar and fiddle into his usual synth-rock mix, producing an even more epic surge.

**LISTEN**



## ***THE ANTLERS***

This hyper-emotional indie-folk act is best known for *Hospice*, one of the defining indie-rock albums of the late aughts. It's been seven years since their most recent LP, 2014's *Familiars*, but thankfully the group will finally return with a new record, *Green To Gold*, on March 26.

**LISTEN**



## ***FRUIT BATS***

The long-running indie institution has a deep catalogue of catchy and frequently haunting pop songs written by Eric D. Johnson. After a brief hiatus in the mid-2010s, Fruit Bats picked up pretty much where they left off. Their forthcoming album, *The Pet Parade* (due March 5), was made with producer-of-the-moment Josh Kaufman.

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### ***ANOTHER MICHAEL***

Right when it feels like there might be an end to winter, here comes the very likeable new album by this Philadelphia trio, *New Music And Big Pop*. Specializing in strummy songs loaded with sleepy hooks and unassuming observations about life's small triumphs and setbacks, Another Michael delivers the goods.

**LISTEN**



### ***CASSANDRA JENKINS***

This New York City-based singer-songwriter was set to be part of the backing band for the ill-fated Purple Mountains tour in 2019, until David Berman took his own life. While Jenkins was not close to Berman, the traumatic end of the short-lived band informed the making of the new *An Overview On Phenomenal Nature*.

**LISTEN**

## **VINYL OF THE WEEK**

***THE CURE - JAPANESE WHISPERS: SINGLES  
NOV 82 - NOV 83 (PICTURE DISC)***





*Japanese Whispers*, the third singles compilation from The Cure, was originally released in 1983. This exclusive picture disc pressing, featuring tracks like "The Love Cat" and "Let's Go To Be," is available on March 26.

**PRE-ORDER**

## THROWBACK

**'RANDOM ACCESS MEMORIES' by DAFT PUNK**



Of course you have to put on some Daft Punk today in honor of the famed French duo announcing their break-up. This isn't their best record — that's a tie between *Homework* and *Discovery* — but it was their most momentous, briefly taking over the culture upon its release in 2013.

**LISTEN**

# FLOAT ON PHIL GOOD

## LINER NOTES



### *THE BEST LED ZEPPELIN SONGS, RANKED*

Is Led Zeppelin indie rock? Not really! But who doesn't love Zeppelin enough to dig into this list of their greatest songs?

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