



Thrashing Thru The Passion, their 2019 album featuring the return of prodigal keyboardist Franz Nicolay, was The Hold Steady's most loved LP in years. Now, they're prepping for the Feb. 19 release of *Open Door Policy*, an album that integrates the more layered production of Finn's solo records (steered by excellent indie producer of the moment Josh Kaufman) into The Hold Steady's bedrock, rough-and-tumble sound. The result suits this battle-scarred though ultimately lovable band — it's their most mature record and one of their darkest, but it also evinces the genuine joy that's enabled them to endure. To trace their path to *Open Door Policy*, Craig Finn and Tad Kubler [reviewed](#) every album in their catalogue, and spoke candidly about The Hold Steady's myriad highs and lows over the course of more than 15 years and eight albums.

-- 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...

Check in on our **Valentine's Day** [playlist](#) and [broken hearts playlist](#) on YouTube while love (or lack thereof) is still in the air.

The [latest episode](#) of **Indiecast** looked back on the indie R&B scene of the early 2010's that spawned James Blake and The Weeknd.

Bruce Springsteen is reportedly [facing a DWI charge](#) after being pulled over in New Jersey.

Just a week after dropping her second solo album in under a year, **Hayley Williams** says she is "ready for the next Paramore album."

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with **The Dirty Nil**, who once stayed in a treehouse on tour.

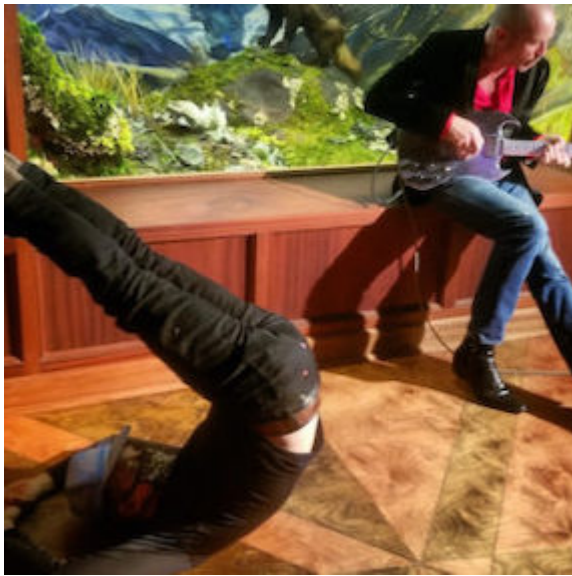
OPENING TRACKS



JULIEN BAKER

This acclaimed singer-songwriter returns Feb. 26 with her third album, *Little Oblivions*, that subtly expands her spare, emotionally wrenching emo folk sound. The album is lushier 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



MATT SWEENEY AND BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY

You might recognize this indie-rock dynamic duo from their classic mid-aughts collaboration *Superwolf*. While their paths have only fitfully intersected since then, we've always hoped that Matt Sweeney and Will Oldham would find reason to work together again, which they do on the forthcoming album *Superwolves*, due out April 30.

LISTEN



TEENAGE FANCLUB

Can you believe that it's been 30 years since the release of this band's landmark 1991 power-pop masterpiece *Bandwagonesque*? It doesn't seem like Teenage Fanclub themselves have spent much time looking back, given how they continue to put out quality albums. Their latest, *Endless Arcade*, arrives April 30.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



THE REDS, PINKS AND PURPLES

The upcoming album from this project spearheaded by San Francisco singer-songwriter Glenn Donaldson, *Uncommon Weather*, has been in steady rotation at Indie Mixtape HQ. It's just the ticket for anyone whose heart starts to ache at the sound of jangly guitars, a shambolic rhythm section, and sweet sad-dude vocals.

LISTEN



ROSE CITY BAND

When it comes to chilled out guitar jams, you can't go wrong with Rose City Band. A side project for Ripley Johnson of Wooden Shjips, Rose City Band tones down the menace of his other band for some Dead-like guitar meanderings. Their latest, *Earth Trip*, drops May 21.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

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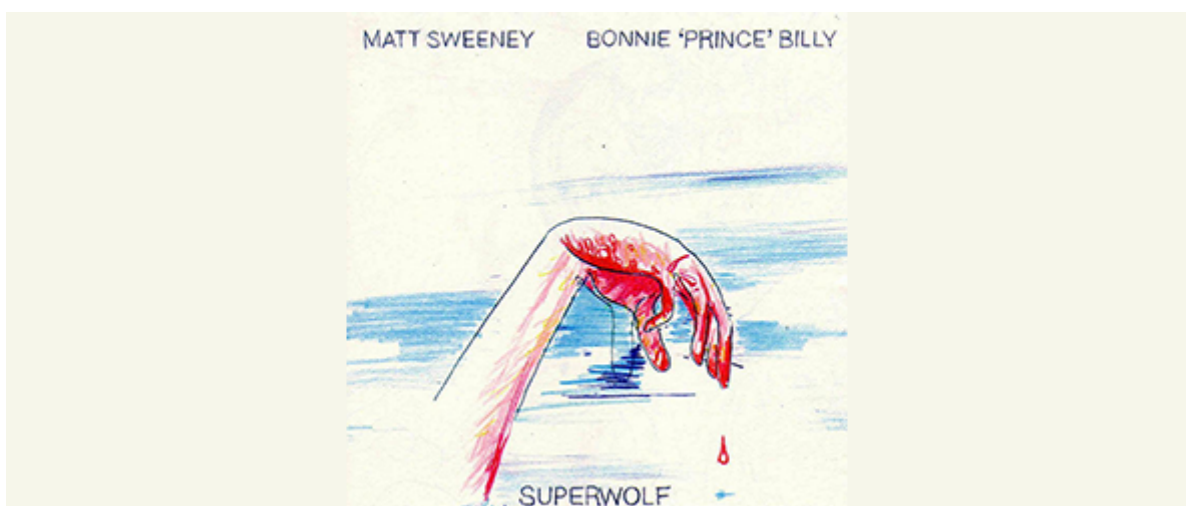


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CHECK IT OUT

THROWBACK

***'SUPERWOLF' by MATT SWEENEY AND
BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY***



Ahead of the forthcoming album by this dynamic pair, be sure to check out their classic first collaboration, a beguiling collection of hushed folk sounds set to stinging and exploratory guitar jams.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



*HOW GROWN-UP
TUMBLR TEENS ARE
BRINGING EARLY-
'10s ALTERNATIVE
BACK TO THE CHARTS*

We were fascinated by this Billboard article about how TikTok is reviving some early 2010s indie hits.

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