



When it comes to placing **R.E.M.** in the history of American indie music, it is impossible to be hyperbolic. They are simply one of the best and most important bands this country has ever produced. Not only did they make great albums — and they did this more frequently than nearly every other band of their generation — they invented the indie-band prototype that is still being propagated today, even by younger generations that might not have direct knowledge of their music. Beyond simply writing brilliant songs, R.E.M. is foundational in modern rock history. They wrote the book for this kind of music, and then re-wrote it several more times. For my list of favorite R.E.M. songs, I tried my best to take in the full scope of R.E.M.'s 29-year recording career, from their modest beginnings in Athens, Georgia in the early '80s to their gradual indie fame in the late '80s, to their “imperial” period in the early '90s to their troubled but often rewarding post-Bill Berry period in the late '90s and beyond. There are so many great songs here! (As well as a fair number of songs I had to leave off. To quote Michael Stipe: I'm sorry!) Are we ready to explore 100 of R.E.M.'s best songs? Let's begin the begin [right here](#).

-- 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 new *Indiecast* animated clips. The **newest entry** analyzed **Animal Collective**'s indie impact and legacy.

Speaking of *Indiecast*, the [latest episode](#) took questions from listeners.

Paul McCartney [announced](#) a reworked, collaborative version of his new album *McCartney III* with **Phoebe Bridgers**, **St. Vincent**, **Damon Albarn**, and many more.

Check out our full coverage of the **2021 Grammys** [here](#).

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with [Glitterer](#), whose favorite radio artist is none other than Ira Glass.

OPENING TRACKS



LANA DEL REY

LDR has been teasing the follow-up to *Norman F*cking Rockwell* for months now, but it finally appears that her latest album, *Chemtrails Over The Country Club*, is dropping on Friday, March 19. Ahead of that, check out this video for the title track, in which LDR does LDR things at a country club.

LISTEN



MIDDLE KIDS

This Australian band makes heart-busting folk rock with soaring melodies that are scientifically designed to lift your spirits. We enjoyed their rousing 2018 debut *Lost Friends*, and we're intrigued by the experimentation and curveballs on their forthcoming album due on Friday, *Today We're The Greatest*, which tinkers sonically with their robust melodies.

LISTEN



XIU XIU

Whatever else you can say about this singular art pop duo, you can't ever accuse them of conforming to the conventions of centrist indie rock. And yet their forthcoming album *Oh No*, due March 26, could be one of their most accessible works, featuring collaborations with Sharon Van Etten and other indie stars.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



REIGNING SOUND

This band plays the sort of R&B and country music-infused rock 'n' roll that's totally out of fashion these days, and they do it with extreme integrity and impeccably high quality control. So, we have high hopes for the forthcoming *A Little More Time With The Reigning Sound*.

LISTEN



DANIEL BACHMAN

In the realm of instrumental guitar music, there are scores of artists making pleasant if somewhat interchangeable records, endlessly recycling from the same well of influences. And then there's Daniel Bachman, whose upcoming double LP, *Axacan*, is a journey into genuine weirdness, in which he grapples with real-world tragedy via psychedelic meanderings.

LISTEN



VINYL OF THE WEEK

NEIL YOUNG + CRAZY HORSE — 'WAY DOWN IN THE RUST BUCKET' (4LP)



After recording *Ragged Glory* at Broken Arrow Ranch in the spring of 1990 and releasing it that September, Neil Young and Crazy Horse took the stage at The Catalyst in Santa Cruz on November 13 to unleash the album upon a live audience. An epic live album spanning nearly three hours, *Way Down In The Rust Bucket* is #11.5 in Neil Young's Performance Series, and part of his ongoing Archives project. We recently **got our hands** on this boxed set and it's pretty incredible.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'THE RHYTHM OF THE SAINTS' by PAUL SIMON



A defining voice of the boomer generation, Paul Simon has had a fascinating second life as a contemporary indie influence, wowing new generations of artists with his observational word play and stunning soundscapes on albums like this 1990 gem.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



MUMFORD KILLS A SON

On the latest *Indiecast*, Steven and Ian crack wise about Mumford And Sons and answer listener questions. Tune in and leave us a review!

LISTEN/SUBSCRIBE

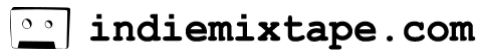
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