



For the past 15 years, Manchester Orchestra has been one of the most popular emo bands on the planet. The one person who has been there every step of the way is founding singer-songwriter Andy Hull, who started the band when he was in his teens and has charted his own growing-up process with each album. Manchester Orchestra has also matured a lot over the years, evolving from an intense and volatile post-hardcore outfit on albums like 2009's *Mean Everything To Nothing* to the expansive and philosophical indie rock of their latest, *The Million Masks Of God*, which drops next week. Along the way, they've managed to somehow grow their audience while retaining committed fans who connected with the early records as teenagers, including famous acolytes like Phoebe Bridgers and Julien Baker. "Even though everything did well at that time, it wasn't really accepted by critics and 'cool' people," Hull recently mused about his back catalogue, "and that totally worked in our favor, because it still holds up. It sounds, to me, pretty timeless." Ahead of the release of *The Million Masks Of God*, Hull reflected on every Manchester Orchestra LP, candidly breaking down the myriad fascinating dramas that marked the process of making each record. Check it out [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...*

The latest *Indiecast* visualizer digs further into the ongoing conflict between **Morrissey** and **The Simpsons**. Check that out above or [here](#), and revisit all of the past *Indiecast* visualizers over on YouTube.

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* also expanded the Hall Of Fame to include albums from Saves The Day, Megafaun, and more.

**Adrianne Lenker** is finally [set to tour](#) behind her pair of excellent 2020 solo albums.

**Mick Fleetwood** is [teasing](#) a **Fleetwood Mac** reunion with **Lindsey Buckingham** for a proper "classy" farewell.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with [The Dumes](#), who need more information about FICO scores.

**OPENING TRACKS**



## ***LUCY DACUS***

An insightful writer with a wry, timeless voice, Lucy Dacus writes about her life with wit and a knowing, mournful eye. We're expecting big things from her forthcoming LP, *Home Video*, due out June 25, based on the great early singles, which show her continue to deepen her already stellar songwriting.

**LISTEN**



***MATT SWEENEY &***



***TEENAGE***

## **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 Sweeney and Will Oldham would find reason to work together again, which they do on the forthcoming album *Superwolves*, due out Friday.

**LISTEN**

## **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 Friday.

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**DEEP CUTS**





## ***MDOU MOCTAR***

While these are hardly great times for guitar heroes, at least those of us who still enjoy a good shred can dig into desert rock from Africa. One of the most exciting stars of this scene is unquestionably Mdou Moctar, whose latest album *Afrique Victime* drops May 21.

**LISTEN**



## ***SONS OF KEMET***

This British jazz band has crossed over into the indie world in recent years due to their adventurous and infectious blend of influences, which include funk, rock, electronic and African music. Expectations are high after 2018's Mercury Prize-winning *Your Queen Is A Reptile*, but we expect the forthcoming *Black To The Future* to deliver.

**LISTEN**

## **VINYL OF THE WEEK**

***THE WAR ON DRUGS - 'A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING' 2LP***



Longtime readers of Indie Mixtape know that The War On Drugs are one of our favorite bands here at HQ. After some digging in the labyrinth that is our warehouse (think *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*), we've discovered some extra copies of *A Deeper Understanding*. Here's your chance to spin one of our favorite albums of recent memory on a special edition double LP.

**PICK IT UP**



**THROWBACK**

***'ESPECIALLY FOR YOU' by  
THE SMITHEREENS***



Kurt Cobain was a fan of the 1986 debut by this Boston-based power pop band, who married Beatlesque melodies to heavy guitars several years before the advent of grunge. Since then this band feels a little overlooked, which is a shame, because *Especially For You* still sounds pretty great.

**LISTEN**

## LINER NOTES



*Ask A Music Critic: Who Is The Most Underrated Band Of All Time?*

For the latest Ask A Music Critic column, a reader asked Steven Hyden for his opinion on the most underrated band of all time. Find out what he said here.

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