



Lately, I've been thinking a lot about My Morning Jacket. There are at least three reasons for this. The first is the 20th anniversary of their second album, *At Dawn*, which was last week. While it was preceded by their 1999 debut, *The Tennessee Fire*, *At Dawn* in many ways feels like the actual first MMJ record. Just the title alone evokes something essential about the MMJ ethos — it suggests the start of a journey, bathed in gorgeous yellow light, toward an uncertain but exciting destination. This is conveyed musically on *At Dawn* by a heart-busting, reverb-drenched sprawl that would come to define them, as well as numerous classics that remain fixtures of their setlists. Oh yes, *setlists*. This leads me to the second reason why MMJ is on my brain lately: This is one of the most talented live rock bands of the last 25 years, and I desperately yearn to see extremely gifted rock bands in concert right now. This is true, of course, because of the pandemic. But also because we're in the midst of early spring, and My Morning Jacket is always a band I put on once the snow melts away and I'm able to hang outside again. (Spring is the third reason I'm fixated on MMJ right now.) [Here](#) are the 30 songs I consider to be My Morning Jacket's best. Oh shit run ... toward these great jams!

-- 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 out all of the new [Indiecast visualizers](#) over on YouTube.

The **latest episode** of *Indiecast* discussed the return of music festivals.

Phoebe Bridgers auctioned off the guitar that she smashed on *SNL* and **raised** more than \$100,000 for GLAAD.

Grimes **got** a giant back tattoo that is meant to look like "beautiful alien scars."

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with **Waylon Payne**, who once slept in a broom closet.

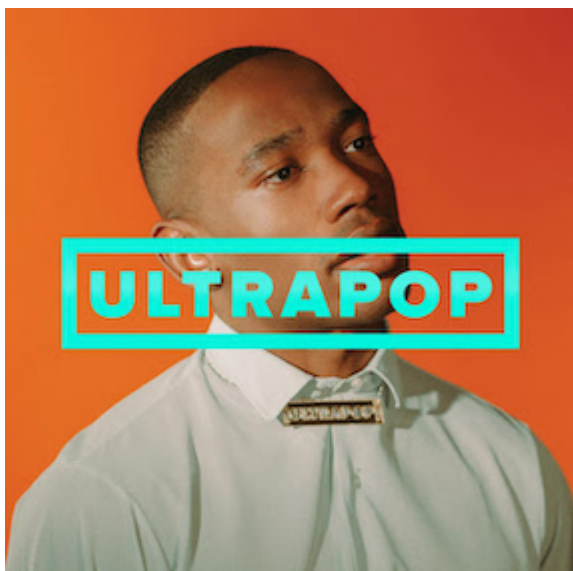
OPENING TRACKS



SUFJAN STEVENS

Sure, he never got around to making an album about all 50 states. But nobody can accuse Sufjan Stevens of not being prolific. In case anyone did do that, however, Sufjan just showed them what's what by announcing *Convocations*, a massive new album out May 6 that spreads 49 songs over five volumes.

LISTEN



THE ARMED

Yes, we know we hyped this band last week. But we thought we would send another friendly reminder that the latest opus by this bonkers post-hardcore band, *ULTRAPOP*, drops this Friday. We're doing this because we like the record and also because we're afraid that The Armed will beat us up.

LISTEN



SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE

This experimental Philadelphia outfit create highly unnerving soundscapes that set out to disquiet or possibly just annoy audiences. Whatever else can be said of Spirit Of The Beehive's latest effort, *ENTERTAINMENT, DEATH*, you can't say it sounds like any other indie album released this year, or in any other year.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



SPENCER KRUG

This polymath singer-songwriter is known for his huge-sounding, unpredictable songs for acts such as Wolf Parade and Sunset Rubdown.

But with the forthcoming *Fading Graffiti*, due Friday, he's made an album under his own name for the first time. We suspect, however, that fans of the aforementioned acts will be in familiar terrain here.

LISTEN



SILVER SYNTHETIC

Regular readers of this newsletter know that we here at Indie Mixtape HQ occasionally enjoy some choogle, especially now that the weather is getting warmer. Thank goodness for this band from New Orleans — one of the great American choogle meccas — who make nicely laidback jams with steady but chilled rhythms.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG — 'DÉJÀ VU' (50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION)



To celebrate 50 years of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young's second collaborative album, the band is releasing a special edition boxed set that includes 5 LPs and a hardcover book. It features the remastered original album and four additional LPs of demos, outtakes, early versions, and alternate versions of songs recorded during the *Déjà Vu* sessions. The entire set is housed in a beautiful box with a 12 x 12 hardcover book, illustrated with rarely seen photos from the era and annotated by writer/filmmaker Cameron Crowe. These new and revealing liner notes recount the making of the album through stories told by the people who were there, including all four of the titular musicians. The set drops next month, and is certainly a can't-miss for any CSNY fan.

PRE-ORDER

THROWBACK

'54-40' by 54-40

54-40

Our Canadian readers are likely well aware of this band, given that they exist just below The Tragically Hip on the Can-Rock hierarchy of '80s bands. As for you Americans, it would be worth your while to dig out this lost college rock classic from 1986.

LISTEN

LINER NOTES



Rock Producer Will Yip on the Promise—and Limits—of Asian-American Representation in Music

We're big fans of the Philadelphia based indie producer Will Yip. This interview where he talks about Asian-American representation in indie rock is worth a read.

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