



Today, Bob Dylan turns 80. I can't overstate how grateful I am that he's still with us. Bob Dylan is my favorite artist ever. He's also my favorite singer, songwriter (or writer of any kind, really), rock star, harmonica player, set of personas, occasional avant-garde film director, mostly silent western film actor, wide-brimmed hat enthusiast, and, well, I could go on forever. Let's just say that his work means a lot to me. I've spent countless hours listening to and thinking about this man, and my interest in him has only grown over the years. Bob Dylan truly is a bottomless well. Take a drink, and you'll remain thirsty your whole life. In celebration of Bob's upcoming birthday, I've decided to undertake an irresistible but dangerous proposition for a Dylan obsessive: I'm going to rank all of his studio albums. Originally, I thought about doing *all* of his albums, including live records and installments of his essential Bootleg Series. But I realized that this might very well kill me, or at the very least cause my wife sneak off in the night with the kids. So! I'm sticking just with the studio albums. 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 new *Indiecast visualizer* is a discussion of *Delta Kream*, the new blues cover album from **The Black Keys**. Check it out above, or right [here](#).

The *latest episode* of *Indiecast* answered questions from listeners. Topics covered include: **The Smashing Pumpkins**, underrated bands, and more.

**Thom Yorke** and **Jonny Greenwood** *debuted* their new project called *The Smile* over the weekend.

**Noel Gallagher** *says* he will reunite **Oasis** for \$140 million. Anyone have some cash to spare?

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with *Emily Kinney*, who has a pre-determined sleep cycle for watching *You've Got Mail*.

**OPENING TRACKS**



## ***WOLF ALICE***

This anthemic British rock band waves the flag for big-tent indie that puts an emphasis on catchy guitar-centric bangers. While the band is more popular and critically acclaimed in their home country, surely there's a sizeable stateside audience eager to hear *Blue Weekend*, their first new album in four years.

**LISTEN**



***LIZ  
PHAIR***



***HISS GOLDEN  
MESSENGER***



Speaking of long breaks between albums, this acclaimed singer-songwriter hasn't put out a new record since 2010's *Funstyle*. *Exile In Guyville* remains her defining masterwork, but her entire discography has garnered fresh praise in recent years, priming the pump for the forthcoming *Soberish*, which drops on June 4.

**LISTEN**

We were big fans of Hiss Golden Messenger's 2019 effort *Terms Of Surrender*, the veteran indie-folk act's best effort in a long and consistent career. So we're even more hyped than usual about their forthcoming 2021 album, *Quietly Blowing It*, which comes out June 25.

**LISTEN**

## DEEP CUTS



### ***THE LINDA LINDAS***

This teenage punk-rock band became a viral sensation last week after a video of their performance of "Racist, Sexist Boy" in a library took over the internet. The youngsters also officially joined the Epitaph roster last week, so we're



### ***SQUIRREL FLOWER***

This Boston native, otherwise known as Ella Williams, has been building a following for a few years now with her sensitive, slow-burning folk-rock songs. Her third album, *Planet (i)*, comes on the heels of her breakthrough 2020

expecting them to take over the world in 2022.

release, *I Was Born Swimming*, and finds her deepening her artistry.

**LISTEN**

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## VINYL OF THE WEEK

***IRON & WINE - 'THE SEA & THE RHYTHM'***



Released 18 years ago, Iron & Wine's second EP is comprised of five songs that built on Sam Beam's incredible 2002 debut album. Featuring the title track, which was featured in the first season of *The O.C.*, this EP holds up as an important touchstone in the indie rock scene of the early aughts.

**PICK IT UP**

## THROWBACK

***'DISCIPLINE' by KING CRIMSON***

King Crimson Discipline



This 1981 album by the long-running British prog-rock act continues to inspire new generations of indie bands thanks to its inventive combination of sophisticated music and new wave energy. It's like the Talking Heads, except with way trickier time signatures.

**LISTEN**

## LINER NOTES



*In Praise Of Mdou Moctar (And Guitar Solos In General)*

One of our favorite albums of the month is Mdou Moctar's *Afrique Victime*. Read Steven Hyden's review [here](#).

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