



What is it like to have a conversation with Isaac Brock? Actually, it's a lot like listening to Modest Mouse — he's somewhat erratic, often explosively funny, and, just when you least expect it, brutally honest and insightful. Believe it or not, but Brock now qualifies as a true indie-rock elder statesman. Modest Mouse's seventh album due out June 25, *The Golden Casket*, arrives 25 years after their 1996 debut, *This Is A Long Drive For Someone With Nothing To Think About*. Back then, Brock was a few months shy of his 20th birthday, and he sounded like it. His early songs were rough-hewn, combustible, and filled with pointed observations about small-town blue-collar life that still seem utterly unique in the largely bourgeois world of indie music. The next two Modest Mouse albums, 1997's *The Lonesome Crowded West* and 2000's *The Moon & Antarctica*, are landmarks of modern indie. Then came 2004's *Good News For People Who Love Bad News*, which shockingly transformed them into a multi-platinum mainstream rock band. While their output since then has come slower — just three albums in the past 17 years — Brock remains committed as ever to not repeating himself. Check out [this interview](#) where Brock talks about Modest Mouse's discography.

-- 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 episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed the new **Modest Mouse** album and remembered **The Shins**. Revisit the best moments of *Indiecast* [right here](#).

Foo Fighters played Madison Square Garden's first full-capacity show in nearly 15 months, and [got a little help](#) from **Dave Chappelle**.

Bo Burnham has his [first-ever Top-10 album](#) with *Inside (The Album)*

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with [Islands](#), who love the musical equivalent of a middle finger.

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. Her forthcoming LP, *Home Video*, due out June 25, might very well be her best record yet, reflecting on her childhood with typical honesty and attention to detail.

LISTEN



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

LISTEN



HISS GOLDEN MESSENGER

We were big fans here at Indie Mixtape HQ 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 would be remiss to not remind y'all that their forthcoming 2021 album, *Quietly Blowing It*, is out this week.

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DEEP CUTS



FAYE WEBSTER

On her debut album *Atlanta Millionaires Club*, this Atlanta-based artist integrated a number of genres, including folk, pop, yacht-rock and R&B.

Even when she's working in relatively straight-forward singer-songwriter territory, she finds fresh twists. We expect the same from her new album out this week, *I Know I'm Funny haha*.

LISTEN



LIGHTNING BUG

We've been hyping *A Color Of The Sky* — the forthcoming album from Brooklyn band Lightning Bug due on June 25 — a lot lately. But it's truly one of our recent faves. You can't go wrong with an album this beautiful, given how well it mixes shoegaze and indie folk elements.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

JONI MITCHELL — 'ARCHIVES, VOL. 2: THE REPRISE YEARS (1968-1971)'



A few months ago, we featured the first installation of Joni Mitchell's ongoing *Archives* series. This new set covers three years of Mitchell's releases on Reprise, sequenced chronologically to follow Mitchell in real time through one of the most creative periods of her career. The set also includes a booklet illustrated with many unseen photos from Mitchell's personal collection as well as new liner notes featuring conversations about the time period between writer/filmmaker Cameron Crowe and Mitchell. The full set drops in October, but you can place your order right now.

PRE-ORDER

THROWBACK

'NO OTHER' by GENE CLARK



This folk-rock masterpiece is truly one of the lost classics of the 1970s, with grand arrangements that pump up the powerful melodrama of the Byrds-member's songs. The result is a kind of *Pet Sounds* for the Me Decade.

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LINER NOTES



IS JACK ANTONOFF OVERRATED?

A reader asked Steven Hyden this question in the latest Ask A Music Critic column.

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