



Michelle Zauner has already had a momentous 2021. In April, her first book, a memoir about her complicated relationship with her late mother called *Crying In H Mart*, debuted at No. 2 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Now, the 32-year-old singer and musician is readying the release of her third album as Japanese Breakfast, *Jubilee*. Not only is it Zauner's most accomplished album to date, it might very well be the best indie record of the year. Oh, and Zauner also directed the videos for each of *Jubilee*'s three singles. And she has a poppy side project, BUMPER, with Crying's Ryan Galloway. And she's currently composing the score for an upcoming "coming of age" video game, *Sable*. Zauner clearly is a compulsive overachiever. What drives her to work so hard? Joy? Fear? Is she a workaholic? "After my mother passed away, I started really becoming a workaholic, in part, because I had this fear that I didn't have enough time to say all this stuff," Zauner confessed during a recent interview. "Also, I think it just helped to ground me. If I'm really busy, then I don't have as much time to get sad and depressed." Check out our conversation [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...

Check out the full collection of [Indiecast visualizers](#) over on YouTube.

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed the new albums from

Olivia Rodrigo and **Black Midi**.

Hardcore heroes **Turnstile** returned with "Mystery," a roaring new single.

Shaky Knees Festival announced its massive 2021 lineup, featuring **The Strokes**, **Phoebe Bridgers**, **Stevie Nicks**, and more.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** is with **Sarah Neufeld**, who is equally inspired by both Bach and Aphex Twin.

OPENING TRACKS



MODEST MOUSE

Modest Mouse's early albums helped to define the boilerplate sound of '90s indie rock — chunky guitars, a loose and bombastic rhythm section, shout-y vocals, wry and often insightful lyrics. By now, they're practically a classic rock band, but we still hold out hope for their new work, including the upcoming *The Golden Casket*.

LISTEN



ROSTAM

Since exiting Vampire Weekend after *Modern Vampires Of The City*, Rostam Batmanglij has been a prolific solo artist and record producer, assisting on beloved records by Haim and Clairo. On his own, he remains an adventurous sonic explorer on the forthcoming *Changephobia*, which melds indie pop with classical sounds.

LISTEN



WAVVES

This uber-catchy indie punk project spearheaded by Nathan Williams hasn't put out any new music in about three years. But it looks like Wavves is ready for a comeback. In July, they'll return with a new album called *Hideaway* that takes them in a jangly guitar pop direction.

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DEEP CUTS



FOXING

On 2018's *Nearer My God*, you could hear serious ambition in the album's stylistic range, which went well beyond the boisterous emo-punk that Foxing was known for into pop, R&B, and electronic sounds. It looks like their forthcoming album *Draw Down The Moon* continues this expansive, omnivorous musical direction.

LISTEN



SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE

Ben Chasny is typically slotted as a folk musician, but his project Six Organs Of Admittance ranges far beyond the constraints of straight-forward acoustic jams. The forthcoming *The Veiled Sea* is one of his most adventurous and downright thrilling releases, encompassing everything from psychedelia to avant-jazz. Dive in and explore.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

RHINO'S MEMORIAL DAY SALE



To celebrate Memorial Day, Rhino is offering 15% off sitewide (with some exclusions), as well as free shipping on orders of \$50 or more. If you've been waiting to pick up your favorite releases from Fleetwood Mac, Led Zeppelin, Joni Mitchell, and many more, now is your chance!

[EXPLORE](#)

THROWBACK

'HOMOGENIC' by BJORK



Michelle Zauner has mentioned Björk's third LP as a major touchstone for the forthcoming Japanese Breakfast album *Jubilee*, and you can hear the similarities in terms of both records' big, lush, and grabby sounds.

[LISTEN](#)

LINER NOTES



Black Midi Is Indie Rock's Most Fearless Band On 'Cavalcade'

One of the most singular indie releases of 2021 is Black Midi's *Cavalcade*. Check out our review [here](#).

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