



We all tried to make the most of being stuck in quarantine during Covid. But it's unlikely that you made more of it than Aaron Dessner. Pre-pandemic, he was known as the co-founder of The National, a self-effacing guitarist and composer who seemed content to remain in the background. Now, 17 months later, he is pop's least likely hitmaker in the wake of his Grammy-winning collaborations with Taylor Swift on the 2020 sister albums, *Folklore* and *Evermore*. Introspective and analytical by nature, he's now a bonafide stand-alone star. According to a recent *New York Times* profile, the 45-year-old Dessner doesn't seem entirely comfortable with his newfound status as a person that lots of other people — some of them presumably on the same level of fame as Swift — want to work with. "I like the idea that I could count my collaborators on one or two hands, to stay with this family feeling," he told the *Times*. "So I'm not rushing out to work with a million people. It's not really my personality." He is however down to work with pals like Justin Vernon, Anías Mitchell and, yes, Taylor Swift in the side project Big Red Machine. Check out my [review](#) of the new *How Long Do You Think It's Gonna Last?*

-- 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...

Revisit the full collection of *Indiecast* visualizers [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed the new albums from Lorde, Big Red Machine, and Turnstile. Send your questions for Steve and Ian to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com.

After the death of drummer Charlie Watts, **The Rolling Stones** confirmed that their fall tour will [go on as planned](#).

Olivia Rodrigo's "Good 4 U" now has [two new songwriter credits](#): **Paramore**'s Hayley Williams and Josh Farro.

The new **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with [Skirts](#), who learned everything she needed to know while working in a record store.

OPENING TRACKS



CHVRCHES

We've come to expect certain things from these anthemic Scottish synth-poppers — namely, loads of hooks with incisive,

sometimes pointed lyrics. We still feel like their 2013 debut, *The Bones Of What You Believe*, is their peak. But we're curious to check out their latest evolution on the upcoming *Screen Violence*.

LISTEN



KING KRULE

This British singer-songwriter plays music that exists entirely on its own wavelength, which means that his albums tend to be “love it or hate it” propositions. In a way, the forthcoming *You Heat Me Up, You Cool Me Down* could be a kind of “hits”-oriented entry point for neophytes.

LISTEN



BEDOUINE

One of the pleasures of record-collecting is finding some obscure genius from the past who writes incredible songs that the world has somehow overlooked. Syrian-born and L.A.-based singer-songwriter Azniv Korkejian, who records as Bedouine, evokes those sorts of artists, except she's completely modern. Her latest, *Waysides*, drops on Oct. 15.

LISTEN

DEEP CUTS



HOVVYD

This charming Austin-based indie-pop band has a special knack for making songs that sound like they were transported from a mix tape you lost in your glove compartment years ago. Sonically, it's all sounds a little warbly, but the winning melodies always seem to come through. The forthcoming *True Love* drops Oct. 1

LISTEN



ALIEN BOY

This Portland band has made one of the summer's most appealing indie guitar pop records in *Don't Know What I Am*, which beams with wonderfully jangly guitars and heart-rending lyrics. Imagine if The Gin Blossoms' *New Miserable Experience* sounded more like Guided By Voices and you're in the ballpark.

LISTEN

VINYL OF THE WEEK

LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM - 'LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM'

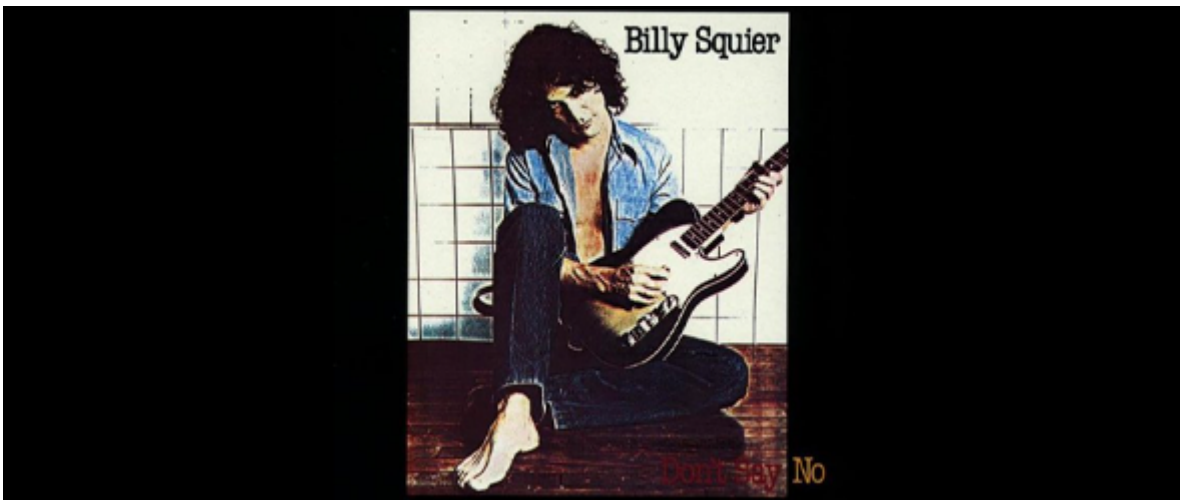


For the first time in a decade, Fleetwood Mac's very own Lindsey Buckingham is gearing up to release a solo album. The self-titled project is Buckingham's seventh studio effort to date, featuring all-new material. It's not due out until next month, but you can pre-order *Lindsey Buckingham* on heavyweight 180-gram black vinyl right now.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'DON'T SAY NO' by BILLY SQUIER



Now that Turnstile has made heavy-riff jock jams cool again in

the indie sphere, it might be time to dust off this quintessential dumb-rock classic featuring bangers like “The Stroke” and “In The Dark.”

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LINER NOTES



Is The Latest Sturgill Simpson Album Also The Last?

Steven Hyden investigated the clues.

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