



First emerging in the early '90s, Low still feels like a band apart. They started out playing crushingly slow and eerily quiet music that was all drone-y ambiance and pregnant pauses. It didn't sound at all like contemporary rock music, which at the time meant grunge; it was more like a comment on contemporary rock music, a photo negative of the heavy riffs and bellowing melodrama that was in vogue at the time. This was a natural byproduct of the band's core partnership between Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker, a Mormon couple who eventually settled into a typical married Minnesota family life with two kids as they carried on an unlikely indie music career. Their brand was making records that inevitably led listeners inward, with languid grooves and spider-leg guitars leaving enough space to fill in with one's own thoughts, fears, and existential dread. Their latest album, *HEY WHAT*, is one of their most experimental, and best, releases. Read our review [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 reviews the star-studded new effort from Big Red Machine. Check that out via the image above or right [here](#), and revisit the full collection of *Indiecast* visualizers [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* reviewed the new album from Low and listed the greatest fall albums of all time. Send your questions for Steve and Ian to [indiecastmailbag@gmail.com](mailto:indiecastmailbag@gmail.com).

**Foo Fighters** were [recognized](#) at the 2021 MTV VMAs with the Global Icon Award.

To celebrate 21 years of *Kid A* and its companion album *Amnesiac*, **Radiohead** is [preparing](#) a deluxe box set featuring a full album's worth of unreleased material, as well as an [immersive exhibition](#) in partnership with Epic Games.

The new **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with [Jail Socks](#), who love Metallica.

## OPENING TRACKS



### ***BRITTANY HOWARD***

Howard's 2019 solo debut *Jaime* was a move straight out of Rock Singer 101 — band becomes successful, and the most recognizable member breaks off to capitalize on their success. But it's ultimately a singular, utterly unique triumph that gets a postscript with the transformational remix LP *Jaime Reimagined*.

**LISTEN**



### **HOVVDY**

This charming Austin-based indie-pop band has a special knack for making songs that sound like they were transported from a mixtape 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**



### **THE WORLD IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE AND I AM NO LONGER AFRAID TO DIE**

This sprawling post-rock collective has a sound as wide and vast as its name. It's been four years since 2017's *Always Foreign*, but now *The World Is A Beautiful Place & I Am No Longer Afraid To Die* is set to return with perhaps their most intense effort yet, *Illusory Walls*.

**LISTEN**

**DEEP CUTS**



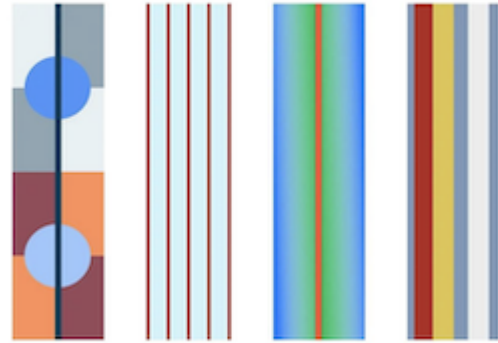


## ***HAND HABITS***

Meg Duffy is considered one of the best guitarists working in contemporary indie rock, but the music they make as Hand Habits is less about solos than exploring the textural possibilities of the instrument. Their forthcoming album due in October, *Fun House*, seems promising based on two songs Duffy recently shared on Bandcamp.

**LISTEN**

## **SILVERBACKS**



**WEAR MY MEDALS**

## ***SILVERBACKS***

There's been no shortage of talky post-punk bands to emerge from Europe in recent years. But Ireland's own Silverbacks leaven the usual formula — spiky guitars, dead-eyed vocals, chaotic rhythms — with bursts of sunny, '60s-style guitar pop melody. You can hear this on the new single "Wear My Medals."

**LISTEN**

## **VINYL OF THE WEEK**

***ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN - THE FIRST FOUR  
ALBUMS (LIMITED-EDITION COLORED  
VINYL)***



Just over 40 years ago, Echo & The Bunnymen stormed onto the scene with the release of their debut album, *Crocodiles*. Over the next four years, the band wrote at a ferocious pace, releasing an album every year. To commemorate the band's most prolific era, they have packaged their first four albums -- *Crocodiles*, *Heaven Up Here*, *Porcupine*, and *Ocean Rain* -- into a limited edition 4-LP collection, with each album pressed onto exclusive colored vinyl. It's not out till next month, but you can get your hands on a copy right now.

**PICK IT UP**

## **THROWBACK**

***'BLUEBERRY BOAT' by FIERY FURNACES***



This restlessly creative Chicago band made a triumphant return last weekend at Pitchfork Fest, which seems like a good excuse to dust off one of the most adventurous albums of the aughts.

**LISTEN**

## LINER NOTES



*Checking In With Gang Of Youths As They Work On Their Experimental New LP*

*Go Farther In Lightness* by Gang Of Youths is one of our favorite indie albums of recent years. We checked in with the band as they work on the highly anticipated follow-up.

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