



On the latest episode of *Indiecast*, we talked about a band that for years has been a punching bag for critics and cool kids alike: Coldplay. Ahead of their new album, *Music Of The Spheres*, dropping on Friday, we tried to figure out why this is. I think there's something sort of mercenary about them. They will do something completely obvious, like do a song with BTS, if it will get them a hit. Also, they don't really stand for anything. Nobody has ever pointed at Coldplay and said, "This song or album represents a major statement about our culture." They just make enjoyable pop songs. Compare them to Harry Styles or The 1975, who are playing a similar game as Coldplay musically but also have "meaning" projected on to them. Imagine if Chris Martin wore dresses on stage like Harry Styles — people would see through that immediately as trend-hopping, in a way it's not done with Styles. Also, while Chris Martin is famous, the other guys are utterly anonymous. Would you recognize Guy Berryman if he walked up to you with a name tag that said "My name is Guy Berryman"? 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 [here](#).

The [latest episode](#) of *Indiecast* also finally revealed proper alphabetization techniques for your music collection. Send your questions for Steve and Ian to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com.

We dropped a new episode of "Songs From The Bathroom Floor," our intimate performance series with **Catie Turner**. Check out "Wish I Didn't Have To Lie" right [here](#).

Red Hot Chili Peppers [announced](#) an absolutely massive 2022 tour, featuring openers **The Strokes**, **St. Vincent**, **ASAP Rocky**, **King Princess**, **Haim**, **Beck**, **Anderson .Paak & The Free Nationals**, and **Thundercat**.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20** Q&A is with [Porches](#), who still has a high school girlfriend's initials tattooed.



OPENING TRACKS



MITSKI

On albums like *Puberty 2* and *Be The Cowboy*, Mitski Miyawki established herself as one of the most popular and acclaimed artists in all of indie. Now she's looking to level up again, with a new tour announcement and single, "Working For The Knife," that is likely portending a new album.

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PARQUET COURTS



GANG OF YOUTHS

This venerable — that's right, they've been around for a decade now! — New York band has been one of the more consistent indie acts of recent years. They keep finding new ways to do gritty urban post-punk in new and interesting ways, which carries over to the forthcoming *Sympathy For Life*.

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We are big boosters of this Australian band and their 2017 album *Go Farther In Lightness*. We're told a new album is on the horizon and based on the latest single "The Man Himself," it's going to be another emotional doozy for fans of unabashedly large-scale and anthemic rock.

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DEEP CUTS



ANGEL DU\$T

For those who want the opposite of smooth, this band has roots in Baltimore hardcore scene — the members also play in Turnstile and Trapped Under Ice. But the music isn't



TRACE MOUNTAINS

This winsome project from former LVL UP member Dave Benton feels like a throwback to the rustic "out in the country" acts of the classic-rock era. In fact their 2020 debut LP

really all that hardcore. It's basically just catchy power-pop played really fast, like The Replacements if they had just made albums like *Stink!* over and over. Yes, we'd lose *Let It Be*, but what a fun band!

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was literally called *Lost In The Country*. The upcoming *House Of Confusion* feels like a step up.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

ARETHA FRANKLIN -- 'ARETHA'



Aretha Franklin's reign as the Queen Of Soul is being catalogued for the first time in one single box set. *Aretha*, the new 4-disc set, includes songs from every label that Franklin ever recorded with, featuring a grand total of 81 newly remastered tracks. The

set is available in a variety of different bundles, featuring the music alongside some gorgeous and classic merch options. Check out all the different options.

PRE-ORDER

THROWBACK

'*ALVVAYS*' by *ALVVAYS*

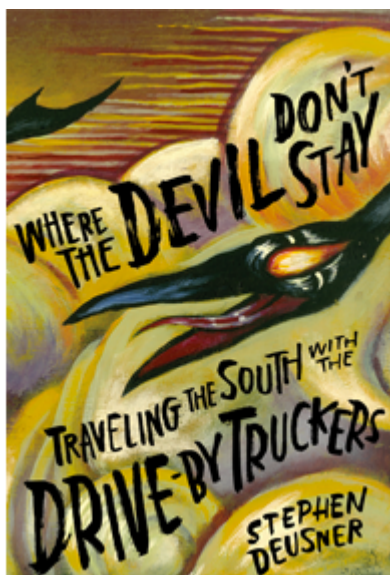


You know who needs to put out a new album? This Canadian indie-pop wonder, who haven't released anything since 2017's *Antisocialites*. We've been digging into their 2014 self-titled debut, which boasts loads of perfect songs like "Archie, Marry Me."

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LINER NOTES

*WHERE THE DEVIL
DON'T STAY*



If you are at all interested in reading about the South, rock 'n' roll, and Drive-By Truckers, you can't wrong with this new book from critic/journalist Stephen Deusner.

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