# POP LIFE.

## 1 🖸 J

If the impetus to slowly move toward pop has been gradually building, on *Music Of The Spheres*, Coldplay has picked up the pace. This record cannot be mistaken for anything that would slot into the categories of "indie," or "rock" and even "Britpop" seems a bit of a stretch. This is dramatically a pop album, with features from massive pop artists like BTS and Selena Gomez positioned front and center. One of the biggest moves an artist can make when they want to be seen as full-on pop is work with the genre's celebrated architect Max Martin, and the producer is credited on every single track of this new ninth record from the British band. The band's aesthetic has shifted a fair amount, too — in place of moody videos Coldplay has adopted an aliens-in-space and emojis approach, one that, it should be noted, is perfectly suitable for young children.

— Uproxx pop critic Caitlin White on Coldplay's new sci-fi, maximalist pop album



Our friends at Indie Mixtape just dropped the final episode of *Songs From The Bathroom Floor*, a new intimate performance series featuring Catie Turner. Check out the full series right here.

### NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



# ADELE

Well, since it's almost physically impossible for Adele to release a new single without it reaching the ears of everyone you know, breaking multiple records of some sort, and becoming generally inescapable within hours, are you shocked that "Easy On Me" is lording over the charts this week? It has more than double the chart points of the next entry on the list, which means Adele is basically twice as popular as anyone near to her. Based on what we've seen from her commercial success in the past, that entirely checks out. "Easy On Me" is a classic piano ballad from the best diva doing them right now, asking for forgiveness and grace during the — wait for it — difficult dissolution of a relationship. So is it Peak Adele? Yes it is. Welcome to the season.

LISTEN

## **BUBBLING UNDER**



## FAOUZIA

Paying attention to rising pop stars is part of my job, but following the emergence of Faouzia feels like a task for everyone. The 20-year-old

Moroccan-Canadian star has recently inked a deal with Atlantic Records, but it's releases like this summer's "Hero" that cement her as an artist worth following. She expertly flips the video game/avatar concept to work from a woman's perspective, twisting the idea of a savior into a mutually beneficial situation in relationships. "Hero" follows up 2020 wins, like a duet with John Legend on "Minefields" and a stripped-back EP that showcases her powerhouse voice. Once the rest of the world locks in on her stylish videos and fierce vocals, there will be no need to call her "rising" anymore — she'll just be a pop star.

#### LISTEN



### **CHECK OUT**

#### DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST THIS HALLOWEEN



Halloween is finally here! In case you don't have a costume picked out

just yet, pick up some merch from your favorite artists to celebrate and dress up.

**CHECK IT OUT** 

#### **REMEMBER WHEN**

### **BRITNEY SPEARS — 'BLACKOUT'**



The world has been rallying around Britney Spears of late, striving to help rectify the abysmal legal situation her family, and her father in particular, have trapped the pop star in for the last decade. Right before that situation became her reality, Britney released one of the best albums of her entire career — *Blackout* came out fourteen years ago today. It's one of the most beloved records among her fans and signaled what many thought would be a resurgence with massive hits like "Gimme More" and the oh-so-prescient "Piece Of Me." Fun fact: Britney also served as an executive producer on the project. Give it a spin today, and pray for peace for this icon who has been to hell and back.



#### LOVE LETTERS



## LANA DEL REY

Lana Del Rey has released not one but two albums in 2021, and though *Chemtrails Over The Country Club* is the more unequivocal choice between the two, Friday's *Blue Banisters* is a continuation of LDR's shift toward singer-songwriter piano pop. That, in of itself, is reason enough to check out the record. As she continues to collaborate with artists like alt-country queen Nikki Lane, Lana is moving further and further into a smokey, singer-in-a-club vocal style that suits her incredibly well. These might not be her strongest lyrics ever — we had *Norman*  $F^*cking Rockwell$  for that — but it's a generous collection of love songs spiked with longing that diehard fans will definitely enjoy. *Blue Banisters* is a collection of dreamy soundscapes for those who love analog recordings and stream-of-consciousness storytelling. Perfect for the fall and winter months, especially if you're still trying to stay indoors more than usual.

#### LISTEN

#### YOU SAY YOU WANT MORE MUSIC?

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 $\rightarrow$  Indie Mixtape has the scoop on all the best emerging artists



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