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When Big Thief called their debut album *Masterpiece*, I assumed it was meant to be ironic. Yes, I thought it was a great record — it was among my favorite albums of 2016. But many of the bands who make my favorite albums wind up slowly fading back to obscurity after briefly bubbling up. It's the trajectory of 99.9 percent of the artists who are lucky enough to even get noticed in the first place. Surely, this modest, country-leaning indie rock band couldn't *really* have such delusions of grandeur. In the years since then, I've come to realize that Big Thief actually did indeed have such delusions. Also: maybe they weren't delusions after all. In their own humble way, Big Thief has aspired to greatness more than any other American rock band I can think of from the past decade. From the beginning, what distinguished them was that "intangible feeling that's conjured when musicians with chemistry assemble in a room and become something greater than the sum of their respective parts," as I put it upon the release of *Masterpiece*. With their new double album, *Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You*, Big Thief has hit a new level of excellence. Check out my full 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 most recent *Indiecast* visualizer is about the new album from Animal Collective, which feels like a spiritual successor to *Merriweather Post Pavilion*. Check that out above or right [here](#). Revisit the full library [here](#).

The [latest episode of Indiecast](#) had Steve and Ian hashing out the week's biggest news, including Steve Albini's surprising love for Juggalos. Send your questions to indiecastmailbag@gmail.com for a chance to appear on the show.

We released an exclusive video of a recent live performance from **Tonstartssbandht**. Check it out [here](#).

Lucy Dacus [performed](#) an entire concert laying on a couch due to back issues.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with [Mom Jeans](#), who just want to be comfortable on stage.

OPENING TRACKS



JACK WHITE

This former White Stripes is obsessed with process. His records are hard to make, and he foregrounds that struggle in the music. Jack White's songs creak, squeak, squawk, and screech. We're interested to see how this manifests on two new albums (!) this year, starting with *Fear Of The Dawn* on April 8.

LISTEN



DESTROYER

In the world of modern indie rock, which has long since been gentrified by mainstream pop and the celebrity-thinkpiece complex, an artist like Dan Bejar seems like an anomaly, even an anachronism — an idiosyncratic outsider who feels no need to conform or explain himself. This continues on the upcoming *Labyrinthitis*, due March 25.

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HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF

It's been a minute since Alynda Segarra has graced us with new music. Her last album, *The Navigator*, dropped five years ago. In the meanwhile, Segarra apparently has been busy remaking her sound. The upcoming *Life On Earth*, due on Feb. 18, has been described as "nature punk," as evidenced by the recent single "Rhododendron."

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DEEP CUTS



GUIDED BY VOICES

We will love this band forever, but it can be hard to keep up with all the albums churned out by the Ohio indie-rock institution. You have to be somewhat selective, which is why we're happy to sound the alarm about the upcoming *Crystal Nuns Cathedral*, due out March 4.

LISTEN



SHAMIR

This polymath Las Vegas singer-songwriter covers an impressive range of sonic bases in his music. While he made his name with infectious, danceable indie pop, his recent music is all over the map, encompassing pop, rock, electronic, and even some bluegrass. His most recent LP, *Heterosexuality*, dropped last week.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

DAVID BOWIE - 'HUNKY DORY' (50TH ANNIVERSARY PICTURE DISC)



This December marked the 50th anniversary of David Bowie’s revered 1971 album *Hunky Dory*. To celebrate, pick up this special anniversary edition of the album, which not only includes Bowie’s hit tracks like “Life On Mars” and “Oh! You Pretty Things,” but also comes with a special picture disc.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'TRAMP' by SHARON VAN ETTEN



This breakthrough album by the beloved singer-songwriter recently turned 10, which is a good excuse to revisit these

luminous tearjerkers delivered by one of the finest voices in indie rock.

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LINER NOTES



Indiecast

On the latest episode of *Indiecast*, Steve and Ian go deep on new albums by Big Thief and Spoon.

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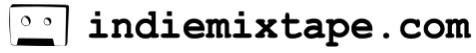
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