



Does Mitski really want to be here? The 31-year-old indie star has been sending mixed signals for a while now. In 2019, she announced a hiatus that many fans presumed was a retirement. She insisted at the time that she wasn't quitting, but in recent interviews she confirmed that actually she did plan at the time to quit her music career. But she ended up not quitting. Only she has hinted that she might quit at some point in the not-so-distant future.

What should be made of all this? Having interviewed Mitski myself, I know that her interactions with the press can be cordial but distant. On stage, she is one of the most magnetic and theatrical performers in indie rock, radiating star appeal even when she was playing dingy rock clubs. In interviews, however, she's enigmatic, prone to giving statements that seem revealing in the moment and then vague once you see them in print. And that seems entirely deliberate, and also understandable given the close readings her songs and press clippings have invited in the past. But the success and indie fame she received in the wake of 2018's *Be The Cowboy* has exacerbated this reticence. How does this translate to the new *Laurel Hell*? Check out my 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 hotly anticipated and long-awaited sophomore album from Sky Ferreira. Check that out above or right [here](#). Revisit the full library [here](#).

The [latest episode of Indiecast](#) had Steve and Ian reviewing new albums from Mitski and Animal Collective. Send your questions to [indiecastmailbag@gmail.com](mailto:indiecastmailbag@gmail.com) for a chance to appear on the show.

**Eddie Vedder** and **Nikki Sixx** are [arguing](#) over whose band is more boring.

**The Red Hot Chili Peppers** [announced](#) a new album, their first with guitarist John Fruisiente in the fold since 2006's *Stadium Arcadium*.

The latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with [String Machine](#), who can't get enough of *Con-Air*.

## OPENING TRACKS



### ***BIG THIEF***

The jamband-ification of Big Thief seems upon us with their forthcoming double album, *Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You*, due out Friday. We are, of course, fully on board with one of the best indie bands on the planet sounding like a cross of Blind Melon and *Billy Breathes*.

**LISTEN**



## ***BEACH HOUSE***

Not to be outdone by Big Thief, this vibe-y pop duo has their own sprawling album, *Once Twice Melody*, set for release on Feb. 18. At 18 songs, it's the biggest (in terms of scale) Beach House album yet, though it will also offer the same atmospheric tunes the band is known for.

**LISTEN**



## ***FONTAINES DC***

This flinty quintet from Dublin has been generating buzz for a few years now thanks to talky and cheeky post-punk albums that sound like Mark E. Smith fronting the Hold Steady. Fontaines DC will look to build on their burgeoning rep with their third album, *Skinty Fia*, due April 22.

**LISTEN**

**DEEP CUTS**





## **JENNY HVAL**

With winter still in full swing, we remain mired in cold nights and endless cabin fever. On the bright side, it's a good time for goth-y pop songs. This is to say, it's the time of the season for Jenny Hval, whose new album, *Classic Objects*, will be out March 11.

**LISTEN**



## **SASAMI**

This Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter is one of the buzziest young artists of recent years, garnering raves for her slow-building art-rock jams. Now she is looking to build on that momentum with her forthcoming album, *Squeeze*, due Feb. 25, featuring the ear-grabbing new single "Call Me More."

**LISTEN**

## **VINYL OF THE WEEK**

**CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



February is Black History Month and Rhino is celebrating by releasing several albums on special edition vinyl. Now's your chance to pick up *The Very Best Of Curtis Mayfield* or Aretha Franklin's *Young, Gifted And Black*, along with many more titles only available for a limited time.

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The banner features a blue background with yellow stars and a yellow outline of Cupid. It displays several items: a white t-shirt with 'How Do You Love?' in a red and yellow speech bubble, a white t-shirt with 'THE AUTOBUSTERS' in yellow, a black Green Day 'american idiot' album cover, and a white t-shirt with 'LOVE IS WHAT YOU DESERVE' and 'BRISON MELOREY' below it. A yellow baseball cap is also visible on the right.

**THROWBACK**

***'BITTE ORCA' by DIRTY PROJECTORS***



If the return of Animal Collective with the new *Time Skiffs* has you feeling some aughts-era indie nostalgia, why not revisit this 2009 classic that fuses indie rock with R&B and world music.

**LISTEN**

## LINER NOTES



### *Steven Hyden's Favorite Music Of January 2022*

It's not too late to catch up on the best music of January 2022. Find out what Steven Hyden was into last month.

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