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Whenever I contemplate the career of the Red Hot Chili Peppers — which I've done possibly more than Anthony Kiedis, Flea, John Frusciante or Chad Smith — I find myself stuck on the same unanswerable question: *Why them?* Why them and not any of the other bands (Black Flag, X, Fear) that also came out of Southern California in the early '80s? Why them and not any of the other indie bands (The Replacements, Husker Du, Minutemen) who also became underground stars in the mid-'80s? Why them and not Jane's Addiction or Fishbone in the late '80s? Why them and not Soundgarden or Alice In Chains in the early '90s? Why did all of those other bands either fall apart or fade away while they survived and thrived? The Chili Peppers played at the start of the riots at Woodstock 99 and the press still blamed Limp Bizkit. They lip-synced at the Super Bowl and yet you still hear "Otherside" every other hour on rock radio. Why are they so bulletproof? Why them? Join us we try to answer this question by [revisiting \(and ranking\) every Red Hot Chili Peppers studio album](#).

-- 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 **latest episode of *Indiecast*** had Steven Hyden and Ian Cohen discussing Will Butler's departure from Arcade Fire and Lollapalooza's 2022 lineup.

RIP **Taylor Hawkins**. The Foo Fighters drummer **unexpectedly passed away** over the weekend at the age of 50, while on tour in South America.

Grimes **took credit** for a 2012 cyber attack that took indie blog Hipster Runoff offline.

Courtney Barnett is **launching her own traveling festival**, Here And Now, and its lineup features Japanese Breakfast, Lucy Dacus, and many more.

This week's **Indie Mixtape 20** Q&A is with **Barrie**, whose sophomore album, *Barbara*, is timeless.

OPENING TRACKS



SOCCER MOMMY

Sophie Allison, the 24-year-old singer-songwriter who records as Soccer Mommy, became one of the most acclaimed young indie stars with her first two albums. Now she's just announced a third, *Sometimes, Forever*, produced by Oneohtrix Point Never, which ought to be a fascinating (and potentially pop friendly) curveball.

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FATHER JOHN MISTY

Anyone who blanched at the polarizing grandiosity and acerbic commentary of 2017's *Pure Comedy* had to be coaxed back by *God's Favorite Customer*, which offered a series of punchy, tuneful, and heartfelt love songs. It appears the forthcoming *Chloë And The Next 20th Century* might split the difference with its predecessors.



KEVIN MORBY

For the past several years, Kevin Morby has been one of the most prolific artists in indie rock, putting out an album nearly every year since 2013. And there are no signs that Morby is slowing down, given that he's recently announced another new LP, *This Is A Photograph*, due May 13.

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DEEP CUTS



GUERRILLA TOSS

This upstate New York band doesn't like to sit still, literally and figuratively. They combine a high-energy punk ethos with strains of funk and dance music, along with a free-wheeling live show that frequently delves into jams amid a constantly shifting



GREET DEATH

This Flint, Michigan outfit mixes melody with dreary heaviness as well as just about anybody at the moment, conjuring a sound that evokes *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*-era Wilco with a Black Sabbath makeover. They haven't put out an album since 2019's *New Hell*,

setlist. Their new album, *Famously Alive*, out last week, is loaded with bangers.

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but they have been dropping singles, including the new "Panic Song."

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

BLACK SABBATH - 'VOL 4' (SUPER DELUXE EDITION)



It's the last week of Metal March, meaning it's time to scoop up a special deluxe issue of Black Sabbath *Vol 4* 1972 release. This super deluxe edition includes the remastered album and 11 additional studio recordings, plus liner notes with quotes from the era from all four band members, rare photos, and a poster with previously unpublished early artwork of the album.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'ORIGINAL PIRATE MATERIAL' by THE STREETS



It's hard to believe that this slice of British working class life from rapper Mike Skinner recently turned 20. When it dropped in the early aughts, it signaled a fresh voice that remains highly reminiscent of the era.

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LINER NOTES



Indiecast

On the latest *Indiecast*, Steve and Ian review new albums by Destroyer and Oso Oso.

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