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In 2020, the singer-songwriter-producer Barteos Strange defined himself as one of the most exciting emerging artists in indie by releasing two startling records. First, he put out *Say Goodbye To Pretty Boy*, a collection of mostly covers by one of his favorite bands, The National, plus a handful of excellent originals. In Strange's hands, The National's nervy, cinematic dirges were transformed — "Lemonworld" was remade as a melodramatic emo-rock anthem, and "All The Wine" became a glitchy, atmospheric electro-ballad. All the while, Strange's casual prolificacy with melding guitar rock with R&B, hip-hop, and EDM styles was stunningly showcased. Then he really hit it out of the park with his full-fledged debut, *Live Forever*, one of the best albums released that year. Strange has since established himself as an in-demand opener on the indie circuit, as he prepares to inevitably become a headliner himself. We'll have more to say about his just-announced new album, *Farm To Table*, due June 17, very soon. But in the meantime, check out his new single, "Cosigns," [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...

Greta Van Fleet's Josh Kiszka **issued an apology** for appropriating indigenous culture.

Phoebe Bridgers **may actually** release new music this year, despite previously saying otherwise.

Here's a list of the best albums you may have missed this winter.

Our latest **Indie Mixtape Q&A** is with **Seratones**, whose third album, *Love & Algorhythms*, is interstellar soul synthesis.

OPENING TRACKS



INTERPOL

By now we know what to expect from Interpol. The band's usual trademarks — the guitars ring out like car alarms, the rhythms coax the mopey songs improbably toward the dance floor, and the lyrics are charmingly, quotably inscrutable — are on display on the new single "Toni," and again it works!

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MELODY'S ECHO CHAMBER

This modern master of psychedelic pop naturally slots in with acts like Tame Impala and Dungen, though the music of Melody's Echo Chamber has an ethereal quality that enhances both the trippy and poppy aspects of the music. The forthcoming *Emotional Eternal*, due April 29, is the first MEC album in four years.

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BUILT TO SPILL

This reliably beard-y indie institution doesn't always get the same shine as their '90s contemporaries. But albums like *Perfect From Now On* and *Keep It Like A Secret* remain some of the most enduring indie rock of its time. Excited to hear more on the forthcoming *When The Wind Forgets Your Name*.

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DEEP CUTS



BEABADOOBEE

While Beabadoobee's full-length 2020 debut *Fake It Flowers* didn't receive the kind of acclaim lavished on Soccer Mommy's similarly '90s-obsessed *Color Theory*, we found ourselves ultimately reaching for the punchier and hookier *Fake It Flowers* more. So we're anxious to hear her follow-up, *Beatopia*, which drops July 15.

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GIRLPOOL

This L.A.-based duo is responsible for more than its share of perfect indie-pop songs. Girlpool is particularly potent for those of us who never got over losing Elliott Smith. It's ideal "pretty sad" music, all minor-key chords and wistful vocals, like on the recent single from the forthcoming LP, *Forgiveness*.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

**LOU REED - 'NEW YORK'
DELUXE 3CD/DVD/2LP + CASSETTE BUNDLE**



Experience legendary songwriter Lou Reed's 1989 album *New York*, remastered for the first time ever. This bundle not only has the original album on CD and vinyl, but it also includes 26 unreleased studio and live recordings from Lou Reed's massive archive, as well as a long-out-of-print concert video recording from his *New York* tour.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

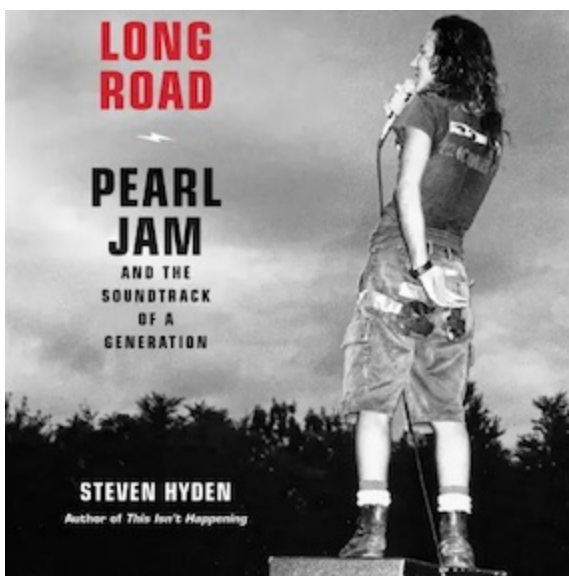
'THE MONEY STORE' by DEATH GRIPS



This melange of punk, noise, and rap set the indie world on its ear 10 years ago, and it remains a bracing listen today, even if the group wasn't ultimately able to match it.

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LINER NOTES



Long Road: Pearl Jam and the Soundtrack Of A Generation

Steven Hyden's latest book drops in September. But you can reserve your copy now.

PRE-ORDER

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