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Before I counted down the best lead singers of all time in a recent Uproxx column, I thought it was worth laying out what exactly is being assessed in the clearest (and nerdiest) possible terms. For starters, this is not about the individuals with the greatest vocal talent. And it's not about all singers in any context. It's about lead singers as part of a band. (More on that in a moment.) More important, it's about lead singers as an idea, by which I mean: What makes a great lead singer? Because it's about more than simply having a good voice. Is this person a soother? A seducer? An instigator? A hell raiser? A poet? A clown? A spokesperson? An entertainer? The answer, of course, is all of the above, and more. Check out the list of the 75 (or so) best lead singers [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...

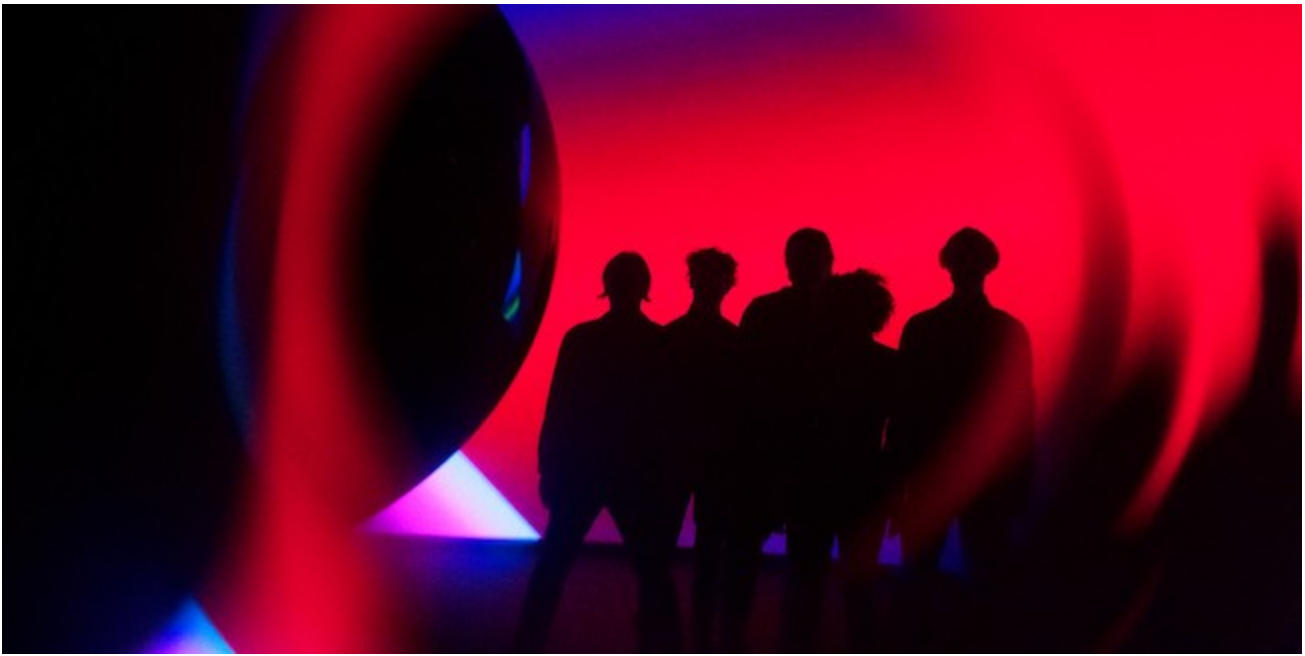
Hayley Williams of Paramore is [launching](#) a new podcast titled "Everything Is Emo."

Dolly Parton [changed her mind](#) about the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame and would now accept her induction.

Machine Gun Kelly says he's [pivoting back to rap](#) and explained why.

Our latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with [Dana Gavanski](#), whose sophomore album *When It Comes* is inspired by her incisive grandmother.

OPENING TRACKS



ARCADE FIRE

Opinions were divided on this band's 2017 album *Everything Now*, but now it seems they're attempting to recover some of their old mojo with the forthcoming *WE*. If you wish that this band would return to the anthemic, big-hearted sound of their first three albums, your prayers have been answered.

LISTEN



THE SMILE

While Radiohead hasn't put out a new album in six years, it looks like Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood are returning to their band's rocking roots with the new side project, The Smile. Their forthcoming album, *A Light For Attracting Attention*, includes some of their hardest rocking music in years.

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DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS

These venerable Southern-rock legends are one of the most reliable bands (and brands) in all of rock 'n' roll. Every single release, you are guaranteed to hear brilliant story-songs set to crunchy guitar riffs. We expect that the forthcoming *Welcome 2 Club XIII* will only continue their winning streak.

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DEEP CUTS



***CLAIRE
ROUSAY***



***ROLLING BLACKOUTS
COASTAL FEVER***

This Texas-based electronic artist makes ambient recordings that don't just set out to fill the room with interesting and soothing sounds, but to actually re-create the feeling of specific atmospheres. Her latest album, *Everything Perfect Is Already Here*, is among her most evocative releases, unfolding like an art film in your mind.

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These infectious Aussies are experts at zippy and endlessly melodic guitar pop associated with classic indie record labels like Flying Nun. Their debut album, 2018's *Hope Downs*, was a favorite here at Indie Mixtape HQ, so we're looking forward to the upcoming *Endless Rooms*, due May 6.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS - 'AN AMERICAN TREASURE' 6LP VINYL BOX SET



Have a Tom Petty lover in your life? This 6-LP box set features 60 tracks, a 48-page booklet, and an essay by Nicholas Dawidoff. The newly re-mastered collection features all of Petty's greatest hits and more.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'HEARTBEAT CITY' by THE CARS



This synth-rock masterwork qualified as FM rock in 1984 but it sounds a lot like indie rock now, with pure pop melody rubbing up against some surprisingly avant-garde soundscapes.

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LINER NOTES



*Steven Hyden's
Favorite Music Of
April 2022*

We're back with another recap of the best music from last month.



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