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Harry Styles is a really nice guy. I know this because he told me himself, over and over, in his songs. Take “Boyfriends,” the penultimate track from his new album, *Harry’s House*. Singing in a tender croon over a gentle, finger-picked guitar lick that evokes the ’70s AM gold of John Denver, Styles enumerates the many ways in which most boyfriends are bad. “They think you’re so easy,” he says. “They take you for granted / They don’t know they’re just misunderstanding you.” A few lines later, he sniffs, “You love a fool who knows just how to get under your skin.” As he makes clear in the other songs on *Harry’s House*, Styles himself is not guilty of any of these offenses. He is the opposite of those other guys. And he’s here to be your surrogate best friend, romantic partner, and/or sensitive ally, the hunky hero who will whisper sweet nothings while the dumpy zero in your life watches sports on the couch. Check out my review of the album [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...

Robert Smith **says** **The Cure's** first album in eight years is expected to drop this fall.

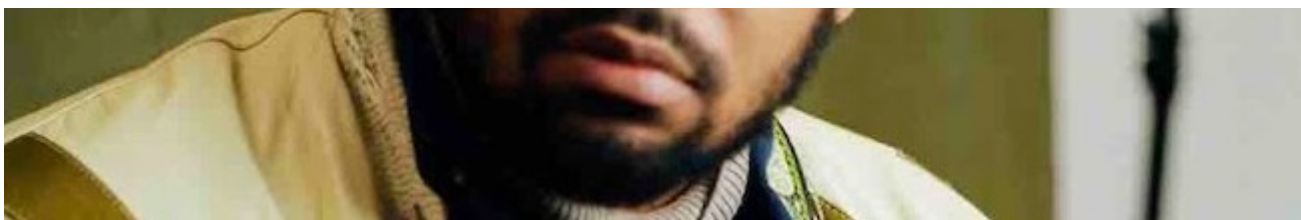
So What Festival founder Mike Ziemer **told us** how he created Texas' biggest emo festival.

After much teasing, it **looks like** **Sky Ferreira's** new music is finally on the way (for real this time!)

Our latest **Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A** is with **Cola**, the new band composed of former Ought members, whose debut album *Deep In View* is post-punk inspired by The Clash.

OPENING TRACKS





BARTEES STRANGE

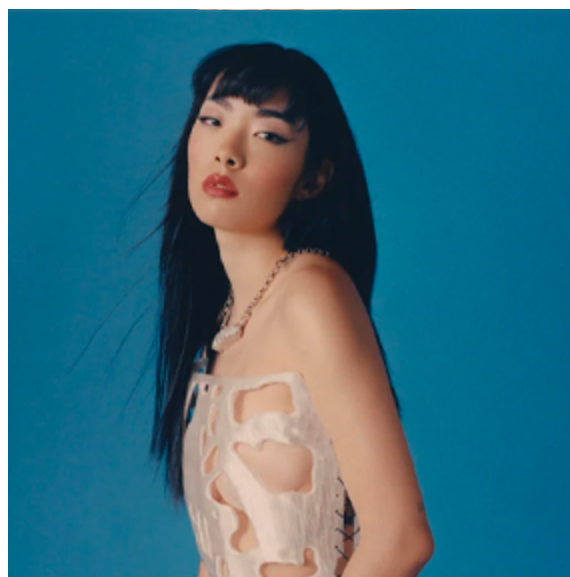
In 2020, this 33-year-old singer-songwriter emerged as one of most exciting new artists in indie by releasing two startling albums, the National covers album *Say Goodbye To Pretty Boy* and the all-originals *Live Forever*. Now he's back with a new album, *Farm To Table*, that sounds like his best work yet.

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JULIA JACKLIN

What is it in the water in Australia lately that has produced so many excellent funny/sad observational singer-songwriters? Julia Jacklin is part of a bumper crop that also includes Courtney Barnett and



RINA SAWAYAMA

This budding indie-pop star is among the buzziest acts to emerge in recent years, with an ear-catching musical style that's like Carly Rae Jepsen if she spent years obsessing over Korn's *Follow The Leader*. Her

Alex Lahey. Her previous album, 2018's *Crushing*, was a breakthrough, and the forthcoming *Pre Pleasure* should represent another progression.

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new single, "This Hell," is an electro-rock redux of Shania Twain's arena-country hits of the '90s.

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DEEP CUTS



TY SEGALL



KIWI JR.

This prolific garage-rocker is easy to take for granted. With the exception of Robert Pollard, nobody in indie rock puts out more music. At some point, it becomes impossible to keep up with the output, though Segall's batting average for putting out quality material remains admirable. His next album, *Hello Hi*, drops July 22.

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This Canadian band garnered comparisons to Pavement upon the release of their 2020 debut *Football Money*, and it suits them — their shambolic yet catchy songs are loaded with fractured riffs and lyrical non-sequiturs. They look to embellish this template on the new *Chopper*, due out August 12.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

THIRD EYE BLIND - 'A COLLECTION'



To celebrate 25 years as a band, Third Eye Blind is releasing their 2006 greatest hits compilation, *A Collection*, on vinyl for the first time ever. This LP includes 19-tracks hand-selected from the alt-rocker's first three studio albums and includes their biggest singles mixed with a few rarities and fan favorites.

PRE-ORDER

THROWBACK

'FRAGILE' by YES



Okay, so Yes doesn't fit the dictionary definition of an indie band. However, if you enjoy anything that falls under the "math-rock" umbrella, you have been inadvertently appreciating the hyper-complex (but ripping!) prog-rock stylings this classic '70s band.

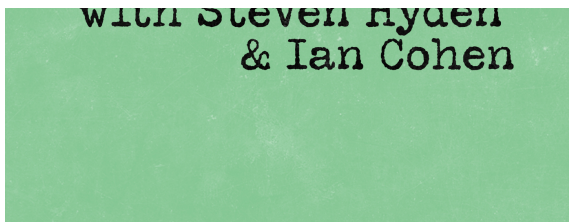
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LINER NOTES



INDIECAST

In the latest episode of *Indiecast*, Steve and Ian talked about the new Kendrick Lamar album.

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