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It doesn't seem quite right to call **2022 so far a "normal" year** — as far as the music world goes, bands are still being routinely sidelined on tour by Covid as they attempt to make up for the financial devastation of the last few years. But the first several months of 2022 have had the feel of a dam that's been busted, as scores of records from top-flight artists have dropped nearly every week. Not only are there more albums, it seems, but the albums themselves are *more*. **Double LPs** have gone from a rare indulgence to a new normal in practically every genre. **This list** — which is ordered alphabetically — represents just a small sliver of the brilliance being served up during what could ultimately be the best musical year in some time.

-- 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...

After canceling their tour, **Foo Fighters** are making a return with several **Taylor Hawkins tribute concerts**.

Forget the pop punk revival, **it's emo season**.

Nickelback **soundtracked the walk-ups** for Los Angeles Angels players in a recent game... they still lost.

Uproxx rounded up the **best songs of 2022 (so far)**, including tracks from Big Thief, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Wet Leg, and more.

Our latest Q&A is with **SOAK**, who leans on intuition with the dazzling album *If I Never Know You Like This Again*.

OPENING TRACKS



PERFUME GENIUS

The fascinating genre-bending singer-songwriter also known as Mike Hadreas has assembled one of the best discographies in modern indie rock. That catalog is set to grow by another stunner with the recently announced *Ugly Season*, which is due out Friday. The set is previewed with the recent single “Pop Song.”

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CASS MCCOMBS

Already recognized as one of the best singer-songwriters in indie rock, Cass McCombs is also an underrated guitar player and all-around fan of the jam, a side he has spotlighted to a greater extent on his recent records. We look forward to more on the forthcoming *Heartmind*, due August 19.

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THE MOUNTAIN GOATS

John Darnielle is one of the most prolific singer-songwriters in indie rock, especially in the past few years, so it's no surprise that the Mountain Goats once again have a new album on the horizon. The band's latest, *Bleed Out*, drops August 19, and is previewed by the new single "Training Montage."

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DEEP CUTS



S.G. GOODMAN

This Kentucky-based singer-songwriter makes music that's ideal for a melancholy summer, when deep emotions linger as humid days fade into starry nights. Her latest, *Teeth Marks*, sparkles and rages, balancing stirring ballads with fiery, working class rockers. The title track belongs in the former category, and is one of the year's best songs.

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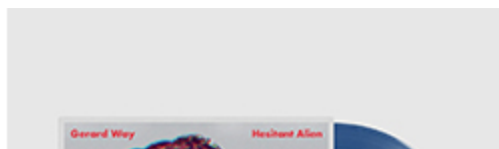
TONY MOLINA

If you're looking for *really* succinct pop-punk ditties, then you'll want to check out this power-pop micro-genius. Molina knows how to make a quick impression by dashing off an unforgettable hook, a heartrending vocal, and even a nice guitar solo in the time it takes most bands to sneeze.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

GERARD WAY - 'HESITANT ALIEN'





The second Record Store Day of 2022 takes place June 18 and to celebrate, My Chemical Romance's Gerard Way is re-issuing his 2014 LP *Hesitant Alien*. Find a list of participating record stores [here](#) and hit the link below to get a preview of the special Record Store Day release of *Hesitant Alien*, printed on royal blue vinyl.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

***'We Are The 21st Century Ambassadors
Of Peace & Magic' by FOXYGEN***



This band has had its ups and downs over the years, but the chaotic psych-pop brilliance of Foxygen was on full display on this 2013 record, which plays like a head-spinning mash-up of

every classic-rock album you've ever loved.

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LINER NOTES



INDIECAST

On the latest *Indiecast*, Steve and Ian honor the best (and worst) of 2022 in the mid-year Indiecasties.

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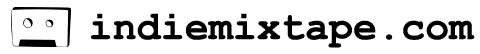
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