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"All popular artists get caught between making records and making music," Bruce Springsteen once observed. "If you're lucky, sometimes it's the same thing. When you learn to craft your music into recordings, there's always something gained and lost." I thought about Bruce's words recently as I immersed myself in the forthcoming *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* box set, which drops next week. When Wilco announced the anniversary collection in April, some scoffed at the excessive largesse — 11 LPs in vinyl form or eight discs for the CD set. All of this for one album that didn't even go platinum? On paper, this box set seemed like it might single-handedly upend the supply chain. For people like me, however, all of the extras were justified. I've often said that my favorite [Wilco](#) record is a bootleg of outtakes from [Yankee Hotel Foxtrot](#). As great as the record is, the long and restless journey in search of that greatness has always been more fascinating to me, for the same reason that rock geeks have long obsessed over the making of similarly "difficult" paradigm-shifting curveballs like *Pet Sounds*, *Tusk*, and *Kid A*. [Check out a review of the box set 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...

In honor of **Alex G**'s new album *God Save The Animals*, here's a list of [every Alex G album, ranked](#).

After seeking advice on elf ear surgery, **Grimes** is now thinking about getting [an unusual face tattoo](#).

Nine Inch Nails [reunited with their former touring guitarist Richard Patrick](#) to cover Filter's "Hey Man, Nice Shot."

Our latest [Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A](#) is with **Quinn Christopherson**, whose grandma inspired his uplifting debut.

In [this week's Indiestcast episode](#), Steven Hyden and Ian Cohen review the new album by **Alex G** and discuss **Pavement's reunion tour**.

OPENING TRACKS



ALVVAYS

You know who needs to put out a new album? This Canadian indie-pop wonder, who haven't released anything since 2017's *Antisocialites*. Thankfully, they recently announced their third record, *Blue Rev*, which comes out October 7. And now they've released a new single, "Belinda Says," which resides in Alvays' lovely dream pop wheelhouse.

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PHOENIX

It's been five years since the last album from these French indie-pop legends, which is just long enough to make the heart grow fonder for their impeccable songcraft. The recent singles (including "Tonight" with Ezra Koenig) suggest that the group might be returning to form on the forthcoming *Alpha Zulu*.



BILL CALLAHAN

How great is it to live in a time of plentiful Bill Callahan albums? Coming on the heels of 2020's winning *Gold Record*, which tracked Callahan's surprising shift into romantic contentment in middle age, is the politically minded and fiery *YTIJAEЯ*, which is due to drop on October 14.

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DEEP CUTS



WILD PINK

A Billion Little Lights by this Indie Mixtape favorite was one of the best albums of 2021, integrating Americana instrumentation like pedal-steel guitar and fiddle into their usual synth-rock mix, producing an even more epic surge. Somehow, their forthcoming album *ILYSM* might be even more epic and another AOTY contender.

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ELKHORN

This guitar duo from New York specialize in exploring the space between ancient folk and psychedelic rock with instrumental jams powered by exciting improvisations. On the new *Distances*, they beef up their sound with the addition of two drummers, which takes their music in a more rock-oriented direction.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

'ARETHA' by ARETHA FRANKLIN — 2 LP



This double LP compiles all of the classics from the Queen Of Soul. It includes unreleased tracks, live versions of songs like "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and more. Plus, the album bundle comes with a select t-shirt featuring artwork by celebrated artist Makeba KEEBS Rainey.

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'WOWEE ZOWEE' by PAVEMENT





Every Pavement album is a classic, but this sprawling 1995 effort remains a favorite here at Indie Mixtape HQ. With Pavement, you always want the right mix of indelible melody and chaotic looseness, and *Wowee Zowee* nails that combination like no other album.

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LINER NOTES



Indiecast Episode 107

On the latest *Indiecast*, Steve and Ian review the new Alex G album *God Save The Animals* and the latest Pavement reunion tour.

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