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For calendar purists, best albums lists have become an irritant. [Year-end lists](#) go up by early December, weeks before the actual end of the year. And [mid-year lists](#) get posted in early June, which again is weeks before the year's actual mid-point. I recognize this. If you are a calendar purist, I apologize. But to quote Hyman Roth in *The Godfather Part II*, this is the business we have chosen. And I must conform to the conditions of our various list seasons. Besides, do we really want to wait another few weeks to talk about our favorite music of the year so far? Surveying the first half of 2023, I came up with 15 albums that I really like. [Here they are, listed in alphabetical order.](#) Hopefully you will find something you haven't already heard and maybe even discover a new favorite along the way.

-- Steven Hyden, Uproxx Cultural Critic and author of five books, most recently [Long Road: Pearl Jam And The Soundtrack Of A Generation](#)

In case you missed it...

The latest *Indiecast* episode has Steven Hyden sharing their **favorite albums of 2023 so far.** [Listen here.](#)

Matty Healy cheekily roasted Noel Gallagher for calling him a 'slack-jawed f*ckwit.'

Roger Waters finds himself in more hot water as Joe Biden's team called out his 'long track record' with antisemitism.

Gen-Z is drinking less at concerts and venues are feeling the hangover.

Our latest Indie Mixtape 20 Q&A is with **Bonny Doon**, whose new LP *Let There Be Music* is thoughtful and understated.

OPENING TRACKS



QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE

While Josh Homme's personal life has been the subject of much tabloid reporting lately, he still found time to put together a new Queens Of The Stone Age album, *In Times New Roman*, due out this week. Judging by the singles, this appears to be one of the weirder records in the catalog.

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BONNY DOON

It's been a while since this charming band from Detroit released their sleeper hit 2018 album *Longwave*. Since then they backed up Waxahatchee on her classic LP *Saint Cloud*, and you can hear some of that country-rock sound rub off on the new *Let There Be Music*, out Friday.

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BEN HOWARD

This British singer-songwriter has garnered plenty of international acclaim from audiences and critics, but he still seems a bit unsung in the United States. Hopefully, that will change with the new *Is It?*, due out Friday, in which his evocative songs are enhanced by deeply atmospheric production flourishes.

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DEEP CUTS**HOME IS WHERE**

This Florida emo band released one of 2021's most bracing and ecstatic rock records with *I Became Birds*. Singer-

**STRANGE RANGER**

One of the most underrated bands in all of indie right now is Strange Ranger, a Portland quartet originally known as

songwriter Brandon MacDonald has expressed admiration for Bob Dylan, but their turbulent and explosive tunes instantly evoke the intensely spiritual expressions of prime era Neutral Milk Hotel. Their latest *The Whaler* drops Friday.

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Lioux Falls that's shown an impressive, um, range over a growing number of albums and EPs that draw on '90s indie. Their latest, *Pure Music*, drops in July.

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VINYL OF THE WEEK

'IT'S A MAN'S WORLD' by CHER — 4LP



Cher released her classic studio album *It's a Man's World* in 1995, and its now been pressed to vinyl for the first time ever. *It's a Man's World* features singles "Walking in Memphis," "One by One," "Not Enough Love in the World," "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" and "Paradise Is Here." Pre-order it now!

PICK IT UP

THROWBACK

'OSHIN' by DIIV



This Brooklyn band has a spotless catalog of three albums, so it's hard to pick a favorite. But the most consistent is likely the 2012 debut, which sets up their minor key dream pop aesthetic beautifully.

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LINER NOTES



Listen to Indiecast episode 142

On the latest *Indiecast*, Steven and Ian discuss the best music of the first half of 2023.

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