

Tiny Moving Parts

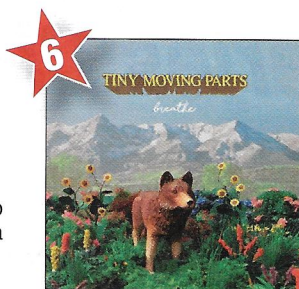
Breathe

Hopeless Records

Producers: Greg Lindholm & John Fields

Unity of purpose and emotional grandiosity, spurred naturally by the group's familial bonds, inject this collection of pop punk, emo-tastic spazz-outs with a patina of depth. Ultimately, Tiny Moving Parts' warmed over compositions, barren of standout moments beyond a few intrepid axe displays, could have been plucked from the mid-'90s. Lead single "Medicine" represents the disc's finest, especially when factoring in the video which depicts a surgical patient shredding the gnar mid-operation. Bloody funny.

— Andy Kaufmann



Honeyblood

In Plain Sight

Marathon Artists

Producer: John Congleton

Honeyblood put up a fierce fight with *In Plain Sight*, the new riot grrrl album we so desperately needed this year. The feminist punk rock sound scuffs up a faint, mock doo-wop base of fuzzy, aching non-melodies, especially prevalent in "A Kiss from the Devil," "The Third Degree," and "Glimmer." Long-awaited anthems for going to war include "The Tarantella" and "Take the Wheel," but are reined back by sincere, smoky ballads "Twisting the Aces" and "Harmless." *In Plain Sight* is, at its core, unexpectedly bizarre, jagged, and smart, but such an "Of course, that's what it should be; I can't believe I predicted anything different," kind of gift. — Elena Ender



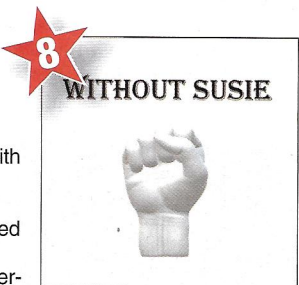
James Lee Stanley

Without Susie

Beachwood Recordings

Producer: James Lee Stanley

Stanley is a seasoned singer-songwriter, with a career that goes back to the early '70s. One of the progenitors of independent recording, this veteran tunesmith has partnered with musical heavyweights like Peter Dinklage and John Batsdorf. His latest release is a versatile and refreshing mix of acoustic guitar-fueled socio-political commentary and love songs. Stanley has a rich and soothing voice that hypnotically draws you in, not unlike James Taylor or Bill Withers. And you can't go wrong with little gems like an ode to one's best self in "Live it Up Now" or the modern age blues of "Hang Up and Drive." It's an artful blend of clever lyricism and wry humor. — Eric Harabadian



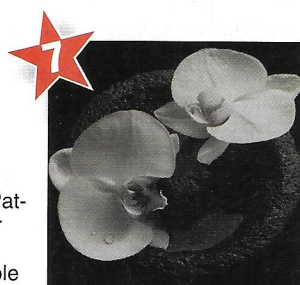
Mike Patton/ Jean-Claude Vannier

Corpse Flower

Ipecac Recordings

Producer: Mike Patton

Best known for fronting Faith No More, Patton has worked with Bjork and beatboxer Rahzel—the guy's an enigma. By his standards, *Corpse Flower* is an accessible album, which sees him link up with French composer Jean-Claude Vannier. Songs such as the glorious "Browning" are quirky, sure. But the melodies are front and center, alongside poetic, Dylan/Waits-esque lyrics. The weirdness lies elsewhere—in the smoky, Lynchian, twisted cabaret vibe. As is always the case with Patton, go in with your mind wide open. — Brett Callwood



Jonathan Cilia Faro

From Now On

BFD Records

Producers: Jonathan Cilia Faro and Matteo Cifelli

The title of Sicilian born tenor Jonathan Cilia Faro's majestic collection lends itself to a declaration: *From Now On*. Fans of epic, romantic "popera" can set aside their Bocelli, Groban and Il Divo albums and make his authentic, powerful vocals their "go-to" when their spirits need a lift. Working with top Italian songwriters and arrangers and penning lyrics to four of the album's songs, the singer creates an otherworldly vibe that's driven, like real opera, by narrative highs and lows, with sweet moments of lyrical intimacy followed by bursts of intense, soaring emotion. He powerfully translates his personal triumphs into every transcendent note.

— Jonathan Widran



Rocky Kramer

Firestorm

Allied Artists Music Group

Producer: Kim Richards

Norwegian singer-songwriter/guitarist Rocky Kramer knows how to blend rock & roll flash with intricate symphonic arrangements. This auto-biographical album is a thinly veiled throwback to '80s shred metal and well-choreographed power ballads. "Rockstar" and "Alcohol" check all the boxes and hit all the prog metal marks. Singles like "Can You Feel It" and "I Wanna Know" are a little mellower and balance acoustic passages with great vocals and rich harmonies. Catchy hooks and shades of Malmsteen/Blackmore are present. Perhaps a tad cliché at times but, overall, Kramer and crew are solid players, and it shows. — Eric Harabadian



Post Malone

Hollywood's Bleeding

Republic Records

Producers: Various

Post Malone is a musical chameleon who dabbles in most genres, which can explain his longevity thus far. *Hollywood's Bleeding* takes listeners on an emotional ride through Malone's life. Notable features from heavyweights like Meek Mill, Future, Travis Scott, plus a special piece from Ozzy Osbourne, make *Hollywood's Bleeding* worth listening to. The album hits with songs like the title cut, as well as "Saint-Tropez," "Enemies," and "On The Road," among a few others. Though the album may surpass any of Malone's previous releases, it seems as if he is more focused on delivering songs for streaming purposes versus providing timeless classics. — Adam Seyum



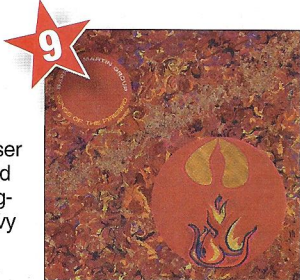
Barrett Martin Group

Songs of the Firebird

Sunyata Records/ Sony Entertainment

Producer: Barrett Martin

Grammy-winning percussionist and composer Barrett Martin releases his seventh solo venture and leaves no musical stone unturned. This magnum opus features 20 tracks of rhythm-heavy delights. From seminal Weather Report-like overtones and Afro-Latin grooves to drums-n-bass funk, there is something here to stimulate your mind, spirit, and feet. He utilizes a dense patchwork of instruments to make his pieces come alive, including congas, bongos, various bells, gongs, vibes, kalimba and traditional drums. On board are special guest guitarists Peter Buck and Kim Thayil who, along with pianist Wayne Horvitz, add unique spice and presence to select compositions. — Eric Harabadian



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