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Grant Hart

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Grant Hart is best known as the drummer and co-songwriter (along with Bob Mould) in the seminal 1980s band Hüsker Dü. On his most recent solo album, "Hot Wax"—his first in a decade—Mr. Hart cites fierce, textured music, particularly '60s garage rock, that pre-dates and helped inform Hüsker Dü's mix of melody and rage. His solo career has been marked by fits and starts, but his 1999 album "Good News for Modern Man" has its charms. At its core, Mr. Hart's music is built on energy, sweetness and power. The opening act, the Octagon, plays loud and fast, proving either punk is timeless or it's ripe for a revisit. A free download is available at www.theoctagonrock.com.

- Jim Fusilli