



Genre - Modern Jazz
Artist - Yussef Dayes
Album - Black Classical Music

Groovy improvised tracks from one of contemporary Jazz' most recognisable drummers.



Genre - Alternative Rock
Artist - The Smile
Album - Wall of Eyes

The Smile, led by Radiohead's Thom Yorke, has released a fever dream of an album that sounds like the music that might exist in a neighbouring reality.



Genre - DIY Pop
Artist - Mido Roseau
Album - Much Love - EP

Personal and unique, it was difficult to label this EP with a genre - Roseau refers to this as folk. Mido Roseau has put his soul into this



Genre - Folk
Artist - Candi's Dog
Album - Trees (EP)

Aside from the OMAM reference, I know practically nothing about the Newcastle-Upon-Tyne multi-instrumentalist trio. Their original songs are a sweet nod to English folk music. It sounds like their albums are all recorded in one take. It's really nice to hear something so authentic-sounding for a change.



Genre - Alt Pop
Artist - Kurt Vile
Album - Back to Moon Beach

You tell Vile just loves doing what he does. And he does it really well too! His songs are simple but they go exactly where they need to go. Before the Stranger Things soundtrack this would have been the sound of childhood summers if you know what I mean



Genre - Pop
Artist - FINNEAS
Album - Blood Harmony

FINNEAS is Billie Eilish's brother and producer, and his debut solo album really clarifies how important his much-imitated production style was in defining *don't smile at me*'s groundbreaking sound. FINNEAS isn't as raw or as versatile a writer as Eilish, but he has some cool lines & his music is pleasant to listen to.



Genre - Rock
Artist - The Last Dinner Party
Album - Prelude to Ecstasy

The Last Dinner Party's sound is defined by all five of its musicians' incredible versatility and proficiency in multiple instruments. The lyrics are intelligent, the composition is complex and you don't get bored listening to the entire album.



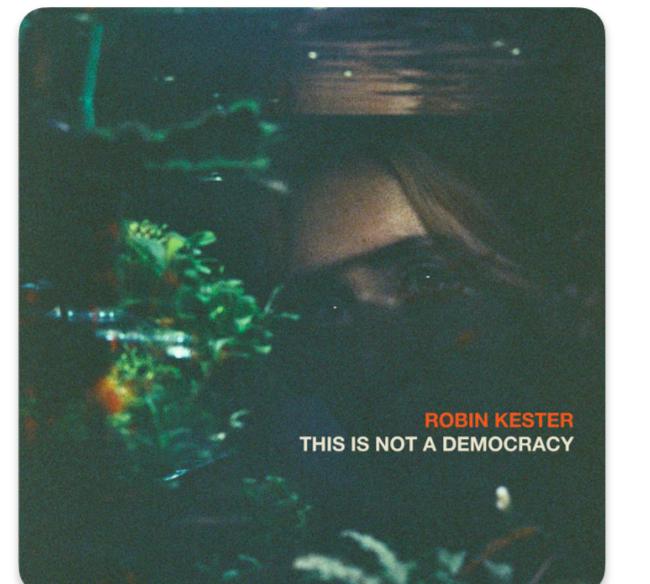
Genre - Blues/Rock & Roll
Artist - Tinariwen
Album - Elwan

The Tuareg pioneers of 'desert blues' mix traditional Saharan scales and polyrhythms with chilled rock & roll.



Genre - Modern Pop
Artist - Everything Everything
Album - Fever Dream

A MUTEWHAT-esque self-proclaimed "rock band" that uses pop production techniques and synthesised sounds for a pretty unique mix.



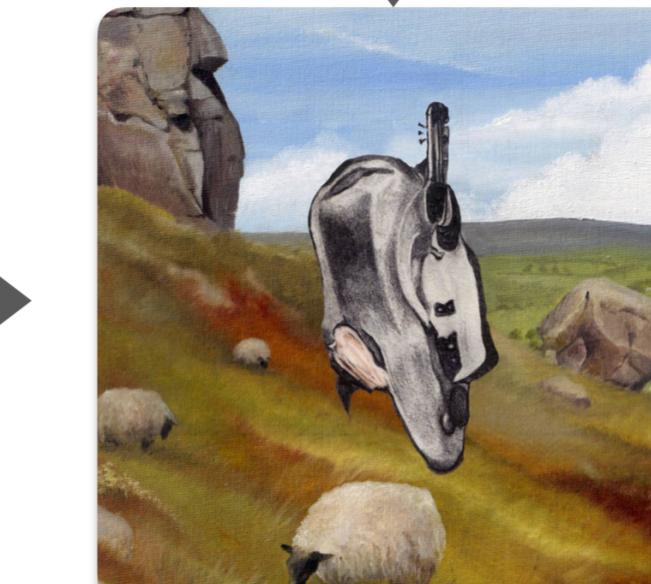
Genre - Soft Rock
Artist - Robin Kester
Album - This is Not a Democracy

Robin Kester's nightmarish testimony of her sleep paralysis has an indefinite feeling of placelessness.



Genre - "Lofi" Hip Hop
Artist - Blue Wednesday
Album - In My Head

Taking inspiration from pop, hip hop, jazz and classical music as well as sampling natural sounds like running water and birdsong.



Genre - Pop
Artist - English Teacher
Album - This Could be Texas

This band does practically everything in modern Western pop music, and they do it slightly differently to everyone else you've heard. Check out their music videos, too.



Genre - Emo/Collage Rock
Artist - Sunny Day Real Estate
Album - Diary

This is by many accounts the 'original' emo band, when the word 'emo' still meant 'emotional' and didn't have the connotations it has today. Very technical music with a lot of variation and a gentle-sounding lead singer.



Genre - Pop
Artist - Benson Boone
Album - Fireworks & Rollerblades

As I write, this album just came out today, but it sounds like a modern extrapolation upon some of the post-breakup One Direction members' albums. Even though the music itself isn't particularly unique, Boone's got some interesting ideas about the album's structure. Listen up to track 5 if not the whole album.



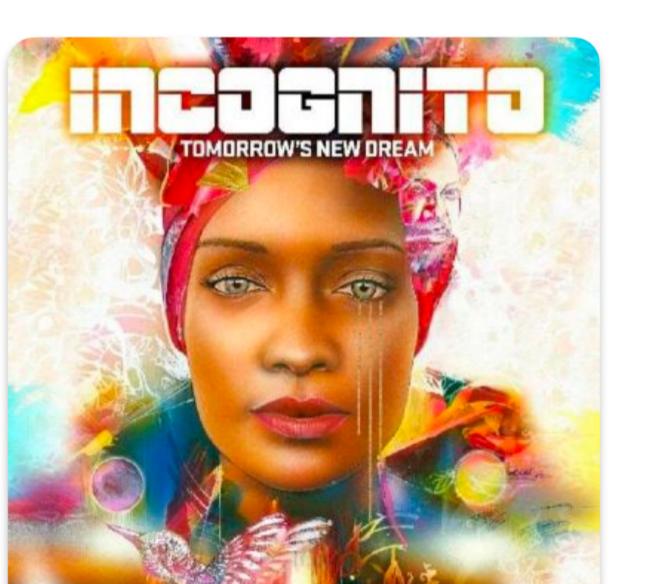
Genre - Alt Pop / Rap
Artist - 1010benja
Album - Ten Total (E)

You can tell just from the *Black M*-esque album intro that this will be a wild ride. 1010benja's beats (they're his beats) are detailed and his endearing stream-of-consciousness delivery is refreshing. I put 1010benja in a category of mid-2020s alt rappers similar to Billy Woods and JPEGMAFIA.



Genre - Musical Theatre
Artist - Steven Schwartz
Album - Wicked

Schwarz' jarring block chords and pairing of two mezzo-sopranos in the starring roles make Wicked sound completely new, and still distinctively Broadway.



Genre - Acid Jazz
Artist - Incognito
Album - Tomorrow's New Dream

Incognito was part of the movement that turned acid jazz from a DJ-mixed fusion of soul and hip hop into a supremely funky live Jazz act.



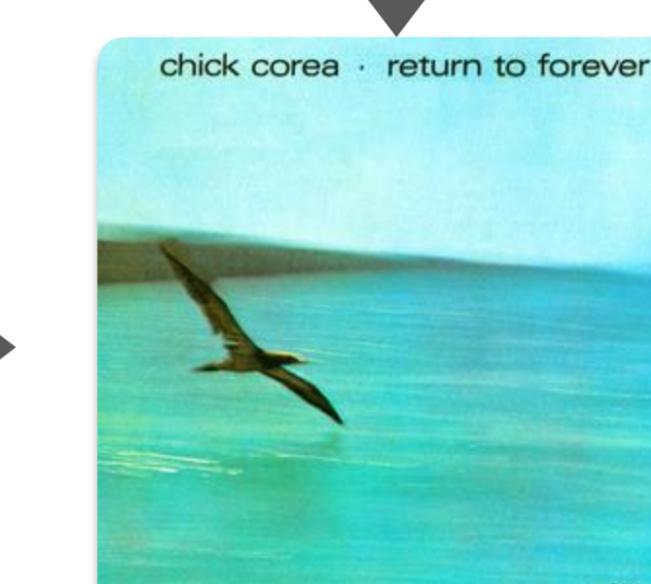
Genre - Bebop
Artist - Charlie Parker
Album - Now's the Time

This was 'one of bebop's best sessions': it was recorded at Charlie Parker's peak, and the session includes now-standards like Song is You and Confirmation.



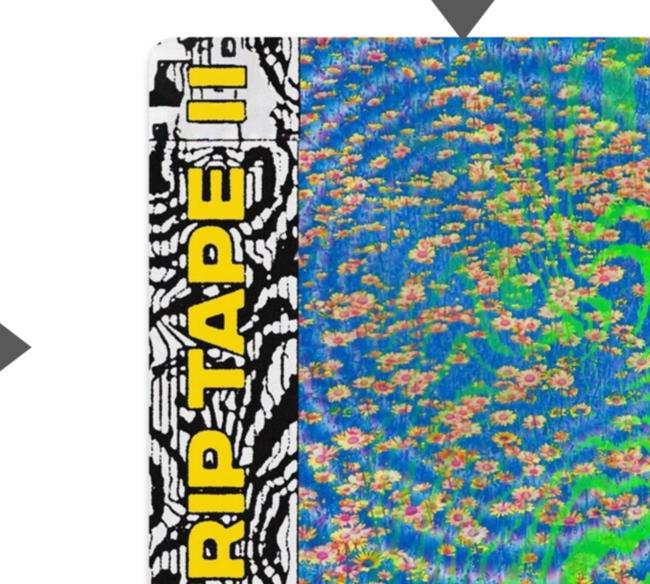
Genre - 'Classical'
Artist - Max Richter
Album - Four Seasons, Recomposed

Vivaldi would have enjoyed this minimalist reinterpretation of his masterpiece *The Four Seasons*.



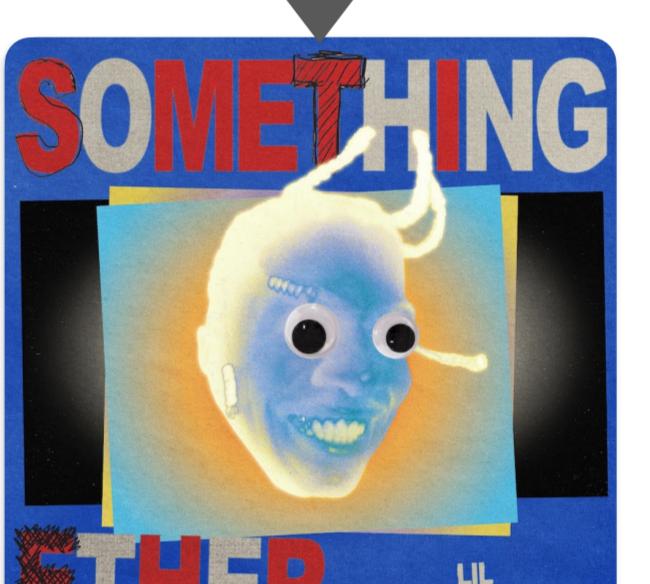
Genre - Jazz Fusion
Artist - Chick Corea
Album - Return to Forever

This marked the beginning of the fifty-year-long prime of one of jazz' most celebrated pianists. His technique and phrasing have remained just about impossible for anyone to imitate. Check out his manipulation of discord and consonance to create new tonal centres wherever the hell he wants. Some of this guy's licks are just beyond comprehension.



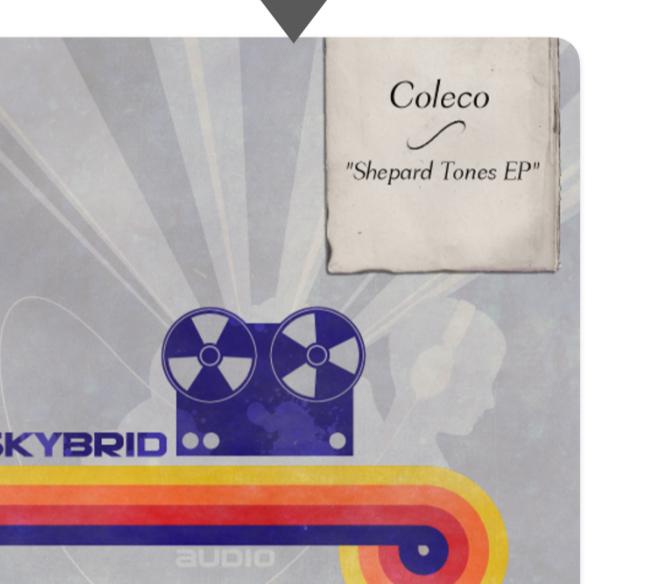
Genre - Pop
Artist - Milky Chance
Album - Trip Tape II

Milky Chance's 2022 album is a mix of covers and demos of original songs showcasing their refreshing sound and both of the German duo's pretty weird voices. Listen for the completely different angle on Harry Styles' *As it Was*.



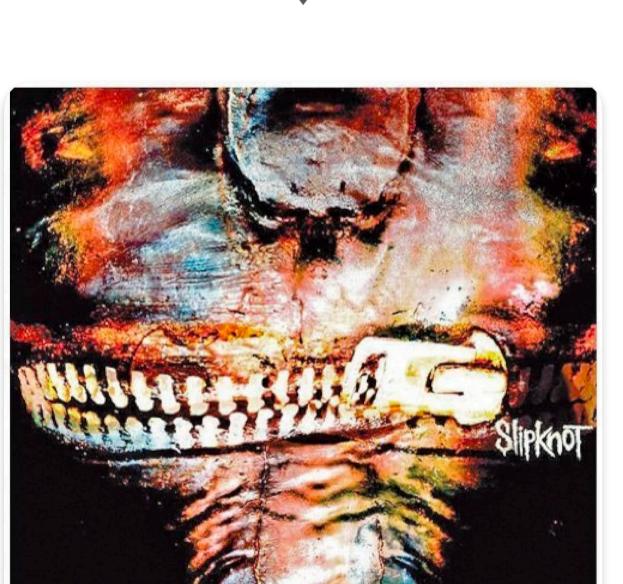
Genre - Rap
Artist - Lil Yachty
Album - Something Ether (EP) (E)

I felt like I needed five or six ears to listen to this properly.



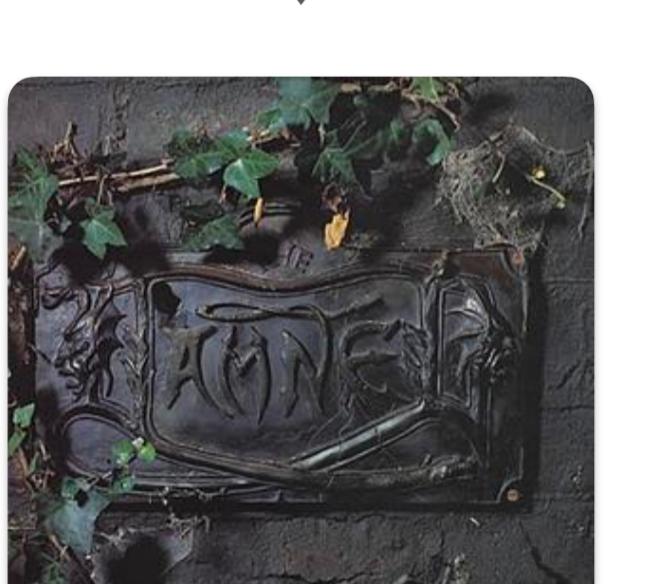
Genre - Techno
Artist - Coleco
Album - Shepard Tones (EP)

No, it's not actually 17 minutes of Shepard tones. This is a cool experimental electro EP that makes you feel like a hacker if you're using a computer while listening.



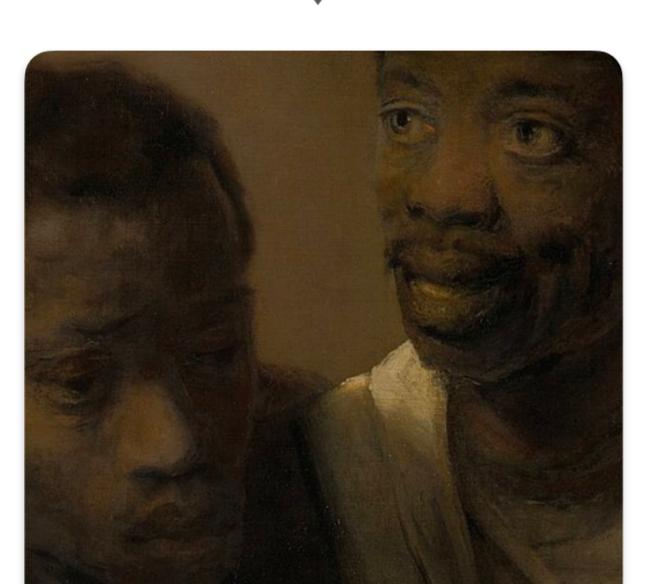
Genre - Metal
Artist - Slipknot
Album - Vol. 3 - The Subliminal Verses

This versatile nine-piece modern metal band is accessible, raw and unabashedly human.



Genre - Punk
Artist - The Damned
Album - The Black Album

Although they came a little late to the punk scene, The Damned display a wide range of technical skills, and they're a lot more eclectic than other punk bands.



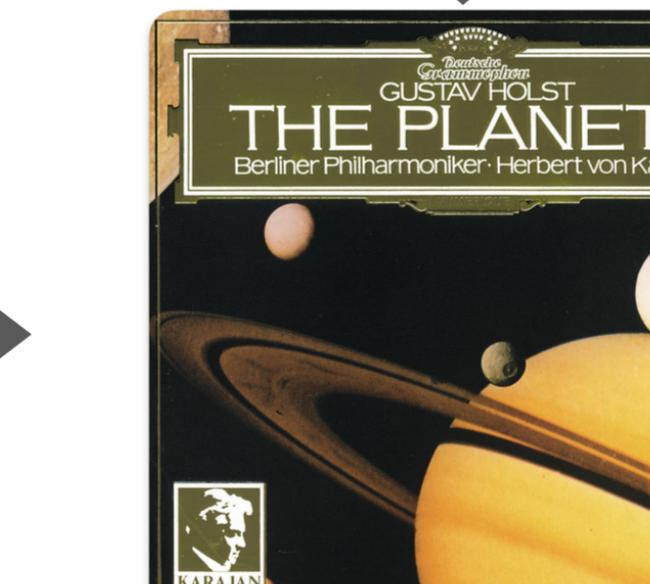
Genre - Rap
Artist - Billy Woods
Album - Aethiopes

Billy Woods writes masterful lyrics and uses eclectic samples from West African, European and South-East Asian musical traditions - a unique album not just to rap but to music in general.



Genre - Everything?
Artist - Jacob Collier
Album - Djesse Vol. 4

The Djesse project is unlike anything else and has polarised critics, but I like *Volume 4* a lot. Collier has included almost every modern Western music genre somewhere in this album, with his own Jacoby touch.



Genre - Post-Romantic/Classical
Artist - Gustav Holst
Album - The Planets

Consists of 7 movements - one for each of the Graeco-Roman gods and titans that the planets in our solar system are named after. Practically every film score copies *The Planets* in some way. This is good stuff!



Genre - Alternative Pop/House
Artist - Rachel Chinouriri
Album - Four' In Winter

Deep, moody sounds. Chinouriri mixes Zimbabwean and European pop traditions and the result is a groovy, experimental sound - what I'd imagine putting on for a late-night drive in the rain.



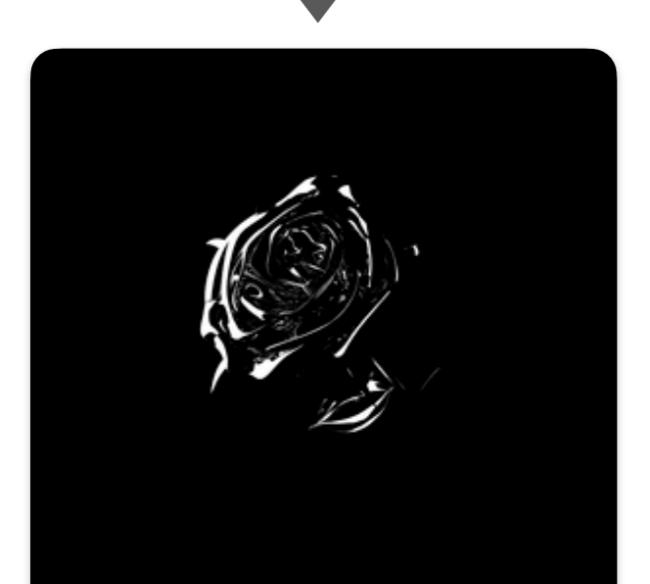
Genre - Amapiano
Artist - Tyla
Album - TYLA

Tyla's aim with this album was to mix amapiano with pop and R&B, without any of the three genres sounding 'watered-down'. And the result is an album that has three times more re-listening value than it could have had.



Genre - Dubstep
Artist - Eliminate
Album - Cyber Whale - EP

Eliminate brings dubstep away from the cringiness of Skrillex and Geometry Dash, and closer to the sound of polystyrene on glass.



Genre - Drill
Artist - Pop Smoke
Album - Shoot for the Stars Aim for the Moon

Pop smoke's choice of samples and rapid switches between chilled and intense set him apart from other drill artists.