

# Disagreeable

16 May 2022 | Jonah D, editor-in-chief

## What I'm listening to:

track: Movin' On Up | Primal Scream

Super 60s blues-soul, but from a rave band. Perpetually energetic and simultaneously understandable.

track: Walcott | Vampire Weekend

The best track to come off their debut. A burst of youthful desire to run toward a bright future.

## Reviews:

This Year's Model

Elvis Costello

1978

Highlights: This Year's Girl, (I Don't Want to Go to) Chelsea, Lipstick Vogue

Even all these years later, there has still yet to be a record that matches the pure talent, spittingly witty lines, and raw energy together. After his country rock inspired debut, Elvis Costello gathered a permanent backing band, the Attractions, and he shifted his direction to something else entirely. He saw, in the developing punk genre of the late 1970s, the opportunity to achieve something marvelous, something that exceeded the limitations of the same rock paradigm of the 70s. And the album that was created is wonderful. Starting with the energetic "No Action", Elvis Costello launches into a 40 minute run of tracks that balance the sheer exuberance of his debut with the new sound of the Attractions, a sound with impeccable interlocking keyboards, drums, and bass, all neatly fitting within each other. Tracks such as "This Year's Girl" and "Pump It Up" strongly feature the skill of Pete Thomas to drum nothing short of perfection without usurping the spotlight from the nerd with something to prove. Similarly, Costello showcases his lyrical ability with lines such as "Thinking all about those censored sequences/ Worrying about the consequences/ Waiting until I come to my senses/ Better put it all in present tenses," on which the wordplay is unmatched. On This Year's Model, Elvis Costello proves his ability to give people everything they want, exactly when they want it.

Funeral

Arcade Fire

2004

Highlights: Neighborhood #1 (Tunnels), Neighborhood #3 (Power Out), In the Backseat

There's a strange and almost magical feeling of pathos and catharsis on Funeral. Created by a collective of Canadian misfits, half of which were related, this record carries the power of a band with emotions and aspirations too big contain. All attempts to contain it have resulted in excellence. Funeral is the product of a band of who has had far more heart and musical training in them than they did cynicism, and it really shows.

Let's take a closer look at the album. One particular moment, in fact. In the first 15-ish seconds of the album, on Neighborhood #1, there is a single organ chord. quiet, delicate piano slowly comes in after that, adding a soft and beautiful element to the composition. From those, cello pulses are added, convincing the listener that the song will continue in this form, a slowly building pile of careful

tension, which would be nice, but would wear thin by the 4:30 mark. However, then it all changes. A twisted, distorted guitar melody comes in, flipping the energy on its head. This theme is repeated constantly throughout the album. A careful, emotional atmosphere is created, only to be slashed down, releasing all those emotions in a fabulous, cathartic moment. Arcade Fire is, more than anything, a band of power. They can control and manipulate their audience in a way few others can. Most importantly, though, is their drama. A drama so over the top it would be ridiculous if they weren't so great at wielding it, and for that matter so sincere when they do so. Their skills are demonstrated no better than on Funeral.

## Recommendations

If you like **Metallica**, try:

### 1. Cave In

Cave In has fused metal, indie rock, and hardcore into something thoughtful, heavy, and wildly original. Start with “Jupiter”, try “Moral Eclipse” for minor key heaviness, or “Burn down the Billboards” for something completely different.

### 2. Motörhead

Metallica couldn't have existed if it wasn't for Lemmy and this band. The classic “Ace of Spades” and “The Game” are good places to catch this sonic train.

### 3. Mastodon

Fast, heavy, and loud, and so good they named a social network after them. This band's album “Leviathan” is a grind-y take on Moby Dick is a banger and highly recommended.

If you like **Gorillaz**, try:

### 1. De La Soul

A wacky, unique rap trio. Try “The Grind Date” for something more traditional, and “the Magic Number” for wild fun.

### 2. Blur

This was Damon Albarn's first band. Try ‘Girls & Boys’ for something dance-y, “Parklife” for extra britpop, and “Country House” for pure hooks.

### 3. Daft Punk

French electronic dance duo who never performed without robot-themed regalia. Get on your feet with “One More Time” and “Harder Faster Better Stronger”, try “Get Lucky” for an analog earworm.

If you would like to suggest bands to create recommendations from, contact me at:

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