



ANGEL OLSEN

All Mirrors

The descent into darkness is a trope we find time again across history, literature and film. But there's also an abyss above. There's a winding white staircase that goes ever upward into the great unknown — each step, each turn, requiring a greater boldness and confidence than the one before. This is the journey on which we find Angel Olsen. In the process of making this album, she found a new sound and voice, a blast of fury mixed with hard won self-acceptance.

FOR FANS OF:

Big Thief, Weyes Blood, Julia Jacklin



BODEGA

Shiny New Model

This mini album covers various thematic ground: history alive in the present, the sadness of modern consumption, adultery via sexting, and a song set inside an actual bodega. In addition to the breezy hook-filled songs, it features an extended improvised version of the group's staple track Truth Is Not Punishment. The band has been using this song as a vehicle for live improvisation for a year and decided to use a day of the session to experiment with capturing the song's new, extended boundaries in the studio.

FOR FANS OF:

The Orielles, Squid, Warmduscher



DOPE LEMON

Smooth Big Cat

Smooth Big Cat is Dope Lemon squeezed into a pure juice, distilled to a nectar fit for the gods, sweet on everyone's lips. It is Angus Stone's real world: blue moon music; songs for when the evening is about to turn into something special. A record for wild hearted escapades and fuzzy, melty moments laying back on the rug. Dope Lemon become not just a melting curio of artistic experimentation, but a fully-fledged cultural phenomenon in Stone's Australian homeland.

FOR FANS OF:

Khruangbin, Blood Orange, Tash Sultana



ELBOW

Giants Of All Sizes

Guests across the album include Jesca Hoop, The Plumedores and South London newcomer Chilli Chilton. The album is an angry, old blue lament which finds its salvation in family, friends, the band and new life. It is a record that lyrically takes in moments of deep personal loss whilst reflecting its times by confronting head-on the spectres of injustice and division not just in the UK but across the world. Given such bleak, if ultimately redeemed, subject matter, it is also, perversely, the most relaxed record which Elbow have made in some time.

FOR FANS OF:

Elbow!



GRUFF RHYNS

Pang!

Pang! is a Welsh Language pop album with a couple of verses of Zulu and an English title. Gruff explains "It started life as a folk reel and soon expanded into a 'list' song, listing various reasons for pangs; hunger, regret, twitter, pain, bad design etc. Using the English word pang in a Welsh language track may appear weird but I suppose it's like using the French word 'Magazine' in an English song. In that it's slightly pretentious but completely acceptable."

FOR FANS OF:

Cate Le Bon, Teleman, John Grant



HISS GOLDEN MESSENGER

Terms Of Surrender

Describing the Durham based Hiss Golden Messenger is like trying to grasp a forgotten word: It's always on the tip of your tongue, but hard to speak. Elements from the American songbook the steady, churning acoustic guitar and mandolin, the gospel emotion, the eerie steel guitar tracings, the bobbing and weaving organ and electric piano provide the bedrock for Taylor's existential ruminations about parenthood, joy, hope, and loneliness.

FOR FANS OF:

Kevin Morby, Jason Isbell, The Barr Brothers



KELLEY STOLTZ

My Regime

A longtime DIY home recording multi instrumentalist, Stoltz again engineers, mixes and plays all the instruments on the album and his unique brand of "60's/80's" pop, garage-rock and folk sounds seem to have gotten better with age. My Regime was recorded during an emotional year that saw him get engaged to marry, his father pass away and his tenure as rhythm guitarist with longtime heroes Echo and the Bunnymen come to and end. Jovial and reflective moods ensued and were put to tape by Stoltz in his home in San Francisco.

FOR FANS OF:

Stephen Malkmus, Steve Gunn, Jeff Buckley



THE LILAC TIME

The Return

This collection is their 10th and Stephen's 20th in a career that has spanned four decades. Coming off the back of five-star rave reviews for the reissue of Stephen's album I Love My Friends, Return To Us was recorded by the three-piece of Nick Duffy, Claire Duffy and Stephen who have been the core of The Lilac Time since 1999. The nine-track album covers topics as diverse as The D-Day Landings, auditory processing disorder and the difficulties in recognising and interpreting sounds, not getting dragged back to a fictitious golden age.

FOR FANS OF:

Aztec Camera, The Go-Betweens, Silver Jews



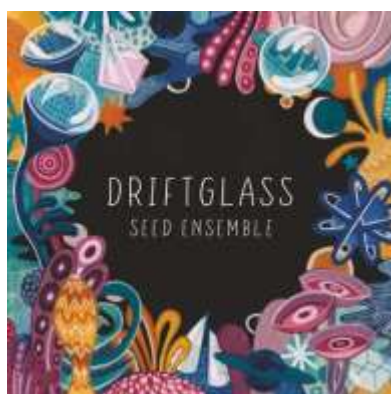
SEBADOH

Act Surprised

Their first studio album since 2013, Lou Barlow and team return with a smorgasbord of beautifully dysfunctional tunes. It's Barlow at his introverted best delivering a stream of self-questioning stories, punctuated by detuned guitars, spine-tingling time changes and throwaway one liners. A grainy post grunge postcard wrapped in bittersweet melodies with an aftertaste that's pure heartbreak. Songs about growing up wrong for those who continue to act surprised at life itself.

FOR FANS OF:

Bill Callahan, Guided By Voices, Pavement



SEED ENSEMBLE

Driftglass

SEED Ensemble is a ten-piece project led by composer, arranger and alto saxophonist Cassie Kinoshi. Combining jazz with inner-city London, West African and Caribbean influenced groove, Cassie's Kinoshi's SEED Ensemble explores a blend of genres through both original compositions and arrangements. Compositions such as 'The Darkies' are a riposte to a resurgence of 1950's-style racism while 'WAKE (for Grenfell)' is dedicated to victims of a social schism.

FOR FANS OF:

Kokoroko, The Comet Is Coming, Nerija



SHURA

forevher

A record born from a budding romance, covering everything from the initial pull of desire, to the giddy joy of finally being together, to recognising the moment when the connection develops from lust into something scarily meaningful. Whilst how to live – and love – as a queer woman has always been integral to Shura, it's remarkable to hear these stories twisted through such a gorgeous amalgam of influences: Joni Mitchell and Minnie Riperton, Bon Iver and Frank Ocean, Prince and Ariel Pink.

FOR FANS OF:

Faye Webster, Robyn, Christine & The Queens



WILCO

Ode To Joy

The 11th studio album from the pioneering Chicago rock band Wilco features 11 new songs written and produced by Jeff Tweedy. These are songs where the expressiveness of the lyrics and the baldness of the music – usually big, simple blocks, put together like Lego – work in tandem. The plainness of the instrumentation heightens the uncertainty and ambivalence in Tweedy's writing, in which he seems to be searching for reasons – to justify not just Wilco, but existence itself

FOR FANS OF:

Yo La Tengo, Smog, M. Ward