

New Music of 2020 That You Should Consider Listening To

By Tess Howat

2020 has changed both the music industry and the way we listen to music in big ways. Artists and fans alike have cancelled concert plans, from festivals to intimate gigs, and many artists have postponed album releases indefinitely. However, music has never been more important; a great song or a great album can be a savior during stressful times, and these times are stressful to say the least. So if you're at home or on the road and find yourself craving good music, look no further—here's a list of five incredible albums released in the past six months, all of which are destined to satisfy your music fix. All albums are available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and more, so grab your headphones or crank your speakers up, because your next favorite album is just a click away.

Phoebe Bridgers- *Punisher*

A rising staple in the indie-folk world, singer-songwriter Phoebe Bridgers gifts us a second album just as candid as the last and full to the brim with commentary on all things bittersweet, from the strength of fleeting moments to the power of music. Each song is a storyteller's kaleidoscope of folk-true songwriting and angelic vocals fitted tenderly in an ethereal dress. This June album will lay you down gently and show you a field and stars.

Recommended Track:
"Savior Complex"

Tame Impala- *The Slow Rush*

Five years after the release of his *Currents* album that earned him his reputation as a super-producer and melodic genius of psychedelic rock, Kevin Parker, Australian musician and sole member of Tame Impala, dropped this long awaited fourth studio album. Parker has somehow taken the best of soulful rock and house EDM and produced a stunning dreamscape of modern disco and psychedelic R&B-- all more danceable than ever. *The Slow Rush* is all about time; From "One More Year" to "One More Hour", the first and last songs respectively, the tracks rise with impatience for the future and swell into a longing for the past. These songs are just as destined to be crowd-rousers at festivals as they are to bring you untamable dancing feet and joyful relaxation.

Recommended Track: "Breathe Deeper"

The Strokes- *The New Abnormal*

Seven years since their last album *Come-down Machine*, The Strokes provide their fans that familiar pop-rock, garage party sound they've dearly missed. *The New Abnormal* doesn't stray far from the path paved by their previous albums-- an experimentation of a sound that LCD Soundsystem's James Murphy has dubbed "borrowed nostalgia for the unremembered Eighties." Nonetheless, The Strokes have hit the nail on the head once again, giving us nine tracks of crisp, head-banging new-age rock capped with energetic synth sounds that is unapologetically cool.

Recommended Track:
"Brooklyn Bridge To Chorus"

Bob Dylan- *Rough and Rowdy Ways*

For the first time in eight years, Dylan is back. Already deemed the seventh best album of 2020 by Rolling Stone, *Rough and Rowdy Ways* is as good as you think it is. It's classic Bob Dylan: poetry steeped in Americana, gifted to the world right as it feels like it's falling apart. His unmistakable rasp and simple folk tunes are equally as good for the soul now as they were in the 60s, and this album is no exception. So if you need a dose of Dylan, listen to what Rolling Stone describes as having "the bleak majesty of latter-day Dylan albums like *Modern Times* and *Tempest*, yet [going] beyond them, tapping even deeper into cosmic American mysteries."

Recommended Track:
"I Contain Multitudes"

Thundercat- *It Is What It Is*

For those seeking merciless funk and R&B, Thundercat's new album has the answer. He rose to fame with his contributions to the music of Kendrick Lamar, Mac Miller, Anderson .Paak and more, and brings the same unmistakable syncopated basslines and light, soulful vocals to his latest solo album, *It Is What It Is*. Featuring Steve Lacy, Kendrick Lamar and Childish Gambino, this album is a perfectly designed cure for the 2020 blues, reigning as a champion of crafting nimble R&B and electric hip-hop while transporting us to the age of video games and anime.

Recommended Track: "Funny Thing"