



NEW FAVES

HOTTEST CANADIAN ARTISTS YOU NEED TO HEAR RIGHT NOW



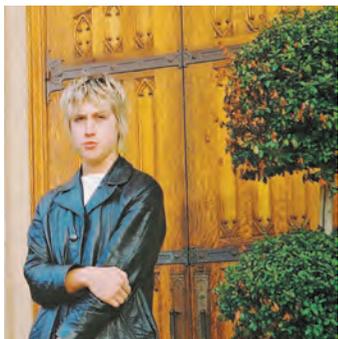
ATRAMENTUS

Longueuil, QC

FOR FANS OF: MOURNFUL CONGREGATION, BELL WITCH

Featuring members of Chthe'ilst and Gevurah, Atramentus go hard against the grain of the Quebec death metal scene. They play like the weight of the world is in every note, crafting glacial funeral doom that is both epic and extreme. Their desolate debut, *Stygian*, is a wintry dirge in three parts, with enough sound to shake the sun out of the sky forever.

JACK KELLEHER



DIAMOND CAFÉ

Victoria, BC

FOR FANS OF: SEAN NICHOLAS SAVAGE, MK.GEE, PRINCE

Diamond Café is the danceable, 80's-influenced solo project of Tristan Thompson (no, not the athlete). Funk guitar and synth pads provide the matrix from which Thompson's expressive vocals shine at the fore. Recent contributions include an appearance on rapper GASHI's new LP, *1984*, alongside collaborators as high profile and diverse as Pink Sweat\$, Njomza and Sting.

JOSEPH LEROUX



DECORATION DAY

Toronto, ON

FOR FANS OF: NICK DRAKE, TINY RUINS, JULIE BYRNE

Toronto's Decoration Day make songs that are remarkably soothing. On their second release, *Makeshift Future*, the chamber folk band soften fear's sharp edges with gentle instrumentals. Across the album's 10 tracks, Decoration Day ferment with anxious thoughts but they do so while cradling you in calming tones and so by record's end, you feel renewed.

LAURA STANLEY



CUTSLEEVE

Toronto, ON

FOR FANS OF: THE BREEDERS, PLUM-TREE, SNAIL MAIL

All five members of cutsleeve are queer East Asians living in Toronto, which is how their blistering debut EP *the parts we could not abandon* is able to tackle topics like intergenerational trauma and misogyny with compelling specificity and totality. It's all set to cathartic '90s rock arrangements with plenty of distorted riffs, reverbed vocals and catchy hooks.

MATT BOBKIN

THE LIST

REMEMBERING SNFU'S MR. CHI PIG



PHOTO: MARK MAREK

Few hardcore vocalists were as visceral, impactful or entertaining

as the late Mr. Chi Pig of SNFU, who passed away in July at the age of 57. Dive deep into the Edmonton-by-way-of-Vancouver band's mighty catalogue and you'll find countless bizarre novelties penned by Chi Pig's cockatoo quill. Here are some of his best.

"SHE'S NOT ON THE MENU"

An indictment of the male gaze and its effects on the service industry, it has Chi Pig detailing the inner thoughts of several unsavoury diner customers as they lust over a new waitress.

"G.I. JOE GETS ANGRY WITH HUMAN KIND"

Some of Chi Pig's most memorable lyrics were also his goofiest, like this track about the frightening night when a toy soldier violently grabbed a handful of human genitals, because he was "mad at the fact that he had none of his own."

"BETTER THAN EDDIE VEDDER"

This cut focuses not on the titular Pearl Jam frontman, but on a former devotee ripping band posters out of her high school locker, banishing the grunge-era moodiness of Sir Eddie "for someone less miserable." It's not so much a diss on Vedder as it is a case study on the fickleness of fandom.

"CEMENT MIXER (TO ALL MY BEAUTIFUL FRIENDS)"

Released shortly after his passing, "Cement Mixer (to all my beautiful friends)" is Chi Pig's final gift to SNFU fans. It's an unconventional self-eulogy made even more devastating by the sweetness of Chi Pig's closing "I'm going to miss you guys," resulting in a fitting farewell from one of punk's most iconic poets.

GREGORY ADAMS



PHOTO: MARIUS JADION

DIJAHSB

Toronto, ON

FOR FANS OF: CLAIRMONT THE SECOND, LEX LEOSIS, JUNIA-T

DijahSB's new full-length 2020 *the Album* is aptly named — the record's lyrical themes about isolation, loneliness and financial struggles make it infinitely relatable. But not even the year's heaviness can cloud DijahSB's infectious swagger, like on standout single "Frontin' Like Pharrell," where they pay tribute to the track's namesake with clever rhymes and a wry grin.

MATT BOBKIN

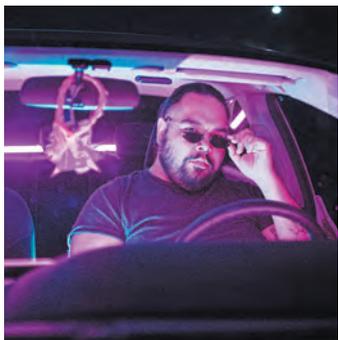


PHOTO: JOHANNAH ANGUS

SEBASTIAN GASKIN

Calgary, AB

FOR FANS OF: FRANK OCEAN, DANIEL CAESAR, SAMPHA

Winnipeg's Sebastian Gaskin has been keeping busy, most recently releasing silky smooth new single "Snakehold." Thanks to his earnest, soulful vocals and mix of R&B, hip-hop and funk sounds, he's been building momentum over the past few years, opening for Common and Buffy Sainte-Marie, plus earning a Western Canadian Music Award nomination for 2020 R&B Artist of the Year.

CHRIS BRYSON



PHOTO: SOHPIA GROUVE

THANYA IYER

Montreal, QC

FOR FANS OF: MOSES SUMNEY, BERNICE

Thanya Iyer's songs don't unfurl the way that you think they will. That has never been more apparent than on Iyer's newly released, gorgeously expansive sophomore album *KIND*, where she builds funhouses of sound on every track. Pop, folk and jazz influences, washed with electronic touches, surround you as Iyer tiptoes through urging you to be kind to others and to yourself.

LAURA STANLEY



PHOTO: JUSTINE DINCORN

NURTURE NURTURE

Saint John, NB

FOR FANS OF: TTNG, TINY MOVING PARTS, TERA MELOS

The smells of math rock are wafting out of a window in Saint John, where Nurture Nurture cook up a smorgasbord of finger-tapped riffs and tasty time signatures. Besides hosting weekly livestreams on Reddit and Facebook, the band is set to launch a Discord support group in the wake of new single "Lonely Habits," a track that explores bandleader Jeff Cook's sobriety journey.

RACHEL EVANGELINE CHIONG