

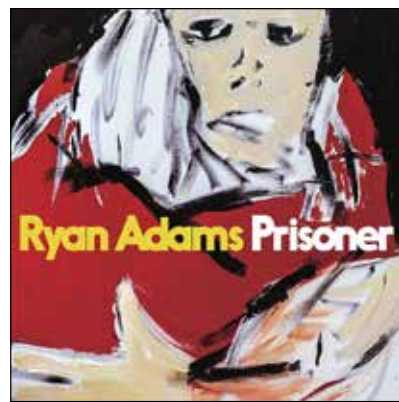
BRANTLEY GILBERT
THE DEVIL DON'T SLEEP
VALORY MUSIC CO.

One of only four country acts to have back-to-back platinum albums, **Brantley Gilbert's** full-throttle country has earned him a rabid and loyal fanbase. Those fans aren't just your average music fans either – **Gilbert's** unique songwriting style has made him the go-to guy for country elites, such as Jason Aldean's chart-topping "My Kind of Party" and the Country Music Association Song of the Year nominee "Dirt Road Anthem." All that power and passion comes forth in **Gilbert's** live show, too, which even had *The New York Times* praising the relentless Jefferson, Georgia rocker/songwriter: "Mr. **Gilbert** comes on like a rewinding monster-truck engine, backed by heavy rock guitar, but there's a slyness to his singing... he betrays no shame about his creatine-fueled version of country music." **Gilbert's** career has been steadily on the rise for almost a decade – but that doesn't mean that he's letting it all go to his head – and that caution comes into play on his latest album, *The Devil Don't Sleep*. "There's always temptation," says **Gilbert** "There's always something whether it's work or substances or gambling or whatever that can pull you off the path." But that doesn't mean that **Gilbert** ain't gonna get things *turnt*, like on his blazing new anthem, "The Weekend."



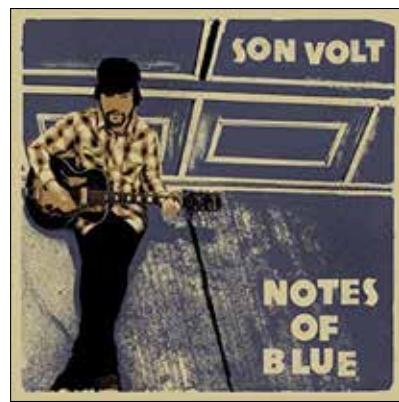
WYCLEF JEAN
J'OUVERT
EONE

Wyclef Jean is best known as one-third of the mighty Fugees, who, along with Pras and Lauryn Hill, released one of the 90's greatest albums, *The Score*. As a solo artist, **Wyclef Jean** has released six albums that have sold nearly nine million copies worldwide, including 1997's *The Carnival* and 2000's *The Ecleptic: 2 Sides II a Book*. With his critically acclaimed, Grammy nominated debut, *The Carnival*, he launched himself as a producer and solo artist whose work drew from elements of pop, country, folk, disco, Latin, and electronic music – giving us two hit singles, "We Trying to Stay Alive" and "Gone 'Til November," and several deep cuts that hinted on where The Fugees might've taken us next. *J'Ouvert* is a precursor to **Wyclef Jean's** forthcoming full-length album, aptly titled, *Carnival III: Road to Clefication*, dropping next summer on *The Carnival's* 20th anniversary. The LP has already created quite a buzz with confirmed appearances from Young Thug, Walk The Moon Afrojack, Emeli Sandé and multiplatinum DJ/recording artist Avicii – and *J'Ouvert* is a delicious taste of what's to come.



RYAN ADAMS
PRISONER
BLUE NOTE / PAX AM / CAPITOL

Pinball, comic book, black metal and hardcore enthusiast and multiple-Grammy-nominee-and-zero-winner, **Ryan Adams**, is back with a brand-new album, *Prisoner*. "I was reflecting on the different states of desire and what it means to be a prisoner of your own desire," said **Adams** in an exclusive interview with internet cat celebrity Lil BUB of the new record's title, later adding, "I felt like I had been robbed of... the most valuable thing in a person's life...time." The twelve tracks that make up *Prisoner* came to **Adams** over a prolific period stretching back as far as the week his 2014 self-titled album entered the U.S. album chart at a career high of number four. During that run, **Adams** toured the world, recorded and released both his *Live at Carnegie Hall* collection and full-album cover of Taylor Swift's 1989, and saw the aforementioned **Ryan Adams** garner two Grammy nominations – Best Rock Song for "Gimme Something Good" and Best Rock Album. Tracks like "Doomsday" sound like classic **Adams** while revealing a new vulnerability in line with the *tempus fugit* ennui that unites **Prisoner's** songs. Musically **Adams** deftly straddles country rock ("To Be Without You"), Tom Petty-ish groovers ("Doomsday"), and Foreigner ("Do You Still Love Me") without losing his conceptual focus. Obviously, you're gonna need this.



SON VOLT
NOTES OF BLUE
TRANSMIT SOUND

Son Volt, it should go without saying, is the project of Alt-Country icon, **Jay Farrar** – one half the late, great **Uncle Tupelo** who, more than any other band of the time, gave the Americana community as we've come to know it today a much-needed dose of punk poetry. And while the power of **Uncle Tupelo** still resonates, **Farrar** took inspiration from the music that paved the way for American music as we've come to know it: The blues. The 10 songs on *Notes of Blue* are inspired by the spirit of the blues, but not the standard blues as most know it. The unique and haunting tunings of Mississippi Fred McDowell, Skip James and Nick Drake were all points of exploration for **Farrar**. The album opens with the country soul of "Promise the World," followed by "Back Against the Wall," a song that could stand alongside the great **Son Volt** songs of their early albums. However, *Notes of Blue* reflects the blues as it resides in the folk tradition, but heavily amplified. The primal stomp of "Cherokee St," the frenetic guitar on "Static" and the raw slide in "Sinking Down" exude grit and attitude. Conversely, tracks such as "The Storm" and "Cairo and Southern" seamlessly meld blues with hypnotic melodies that add a unique balance to *Notes of Blue*.



VARIOUS ARTISTS
2017 GRAMMY NOMINEES
ATLANTIC

This latest installment of the best-selling series — now in its 23rd year — features a collection of **GRAMMY**-nominated music for the upcoming 59th Annual **GRAMMY** Awards. A portion of album proceeds benefit the year-round work of the **GRAMMY Museum Foundation** and **MusiCares Foundation** — the Recording Academy-affiliated charitable organizations focused on music education programs and critical assistance for music people in need. The 2017 **GRAMMY** Nominees album is highlighted by 21 hits from the world's biggest superstars and hottest emerging talent, including Album Of The Year nominees **Adele**, **Beyoncé**, **Justin Bieber**, **Drake**, and **Sturgill Simpson** and Best New Artist nominees **Kelsea Ballerini**, **The Chainsmokers**, **Maren Morris**, and **Anderson .Paak**, among others.



FLAMING LIPS
OCZY MLODY
WARNER BROS

This year marks the 20th anniversary of *Zaireeka* – **The Flaming Lips'** surround sound freak out that requires four CDs to be played on four different stereos at the same time. This is worth mentioning because the band were in the process of shaking up their entire process – and this crazy experiment paved the way for *The Soft Bulletin* – which they were recording at the same time. It paid off, too: *The Soft Bulletin* not only proved to be one of the band's best records, but the beginning of a new and ongoing era that found **The Lips** connecting to audiences in bigger, brighter, and weirder ways than ever before. *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* brought extra whimsy to **The Lips'** tales of love and loss. They've released a ton of material since then – and the concerts continue to be bigger, brighter, and weirder – but their latest album, *Oczy Mlody*, finds the band once again using a fantasy narrative to guide their latest collection of songs – but this isn't a retreat. Like many fairy tales, there's a darkness that drives *Oczy Mlody*, so **The Flaming Lips** make good use of the sinister tones they've been exploring on *Embryonic* and *The Terror* by balancing them with adult doses of pixie dust. The result is an album that serves as a ray of hope for dark times... Which makes it a perfect album for 2017.



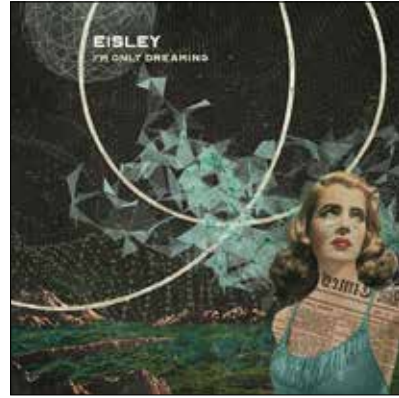
AFI
AFI (THE BLOOD ALBUM)
CONCORD

Hailing from Ukiah, California, the members of **AFI** (A Fire Inside) met in high school. After some line-up changes early on, the band has featured members Jade Puget, Hunter Burgan, and original co-founders Davey Havok and Adam Carson since 1998. Stomping onto the hardcore scene, **AFI's** early albums are now essential listening for any fan of punk and alternative music. Recorded at Megawatt Studios in Los Angeles, *AFI (The Blood Album)* was produced by Jade Puget and co-produced by Matt Hyde (Deltones) and is the follow-up to 2013's *Burials*, which hit Top 10 on *The Billboard 200*. Since the release of 1995's debut album *Answer That and Stay Fashionable*, **AFI** has written and recorded five top ten hit singles, hit No. 1 on *The Billboard 200* (with the stunning *Decemberunderground*), garnered worldwide critical acclaim and amassed a fiercely loyal global following numbering in the millions.



ELBOW
LITTLE FICTIONS
CONCORD

Over twenty years, **elbow** have achieved many of the accolades that mark out a successful band. Their cabinet boasts two Ivor Novellos, a Mercury Music Prize, a BRIT award for Best British Band, yet such plaudits have never been at the heart of their thinking – and their new album, *Little Fictions*, finds **elbow**, as ever, forging a path all its own. As with its previous three albums, *Little Fictions* was recorded at Blueprint Studios and produced by Craig Potter. At its core, it retains that desire from the band to produce music that is honest, beautiful, thoughtful and challenging. Says guitarist Mark Potter, "The songs went where they needed to go, we didn't get concerned about ideas of 'cool' and relied on following our instincts." As with all **elbow** albums, *Little Fictions* is an expression of the collective vision of the band – and songs like R.E.M. suspended in mid-air majesty of "All Disco" and the slinky groove and wheeling strings of "Magnificent (She Says)" give singer Guy Garvey ample room to let his smoky-yet-sonorous voice make a case for the world to love more magnificently than it has before – especially in these dark times. Gorgeous.



EISLEY
I'M ONLY DREAMING
EQUAL VISION

I'm Only Dreaming stays true to form of **Eisley's** signature dreamy sound, with vocalist/guitarist Sherri DuPree-Bemis elaborating, "Musically, you could say it's classic **Eisley**, in the sense that it's melodic, moody pop and is written from the heart. Lyrically, it's very whimsical; it has a vibe that will take you into its own world and let you escape your normal life for a few minutes. I like to cloak things in a little mystery and romance; I think it's part of what makes all of **Eisley's** songs sound like they're from the same world. Every record is like opening and reading a book in a series." This is certainly apparent on the band's new single, "You Are Mine." – "This song is about loving someone deeply and the beauty and challenges that come with being in a long term, committed relationship, explains Sherri. "You're going to argue, you're going to rub each other wrong and disagree and drive each other absolutely crazy sometimes but at the end of the day you just want to be together. (You're my everything, my sun and moon, you make me swoon; Wake me up, talk too much, piss me off, but you are mine)." Indeed.



ALISON KRAUSS
WINDY CITY
CAPITOL

Following *Raising Sand*, her platinum 2007 album with Robert Plant that won six **GRAMMY** Awards including Album of the Year, and 2011's *Paper Airplane* with her longtime collaborators Union Station, **Alison Krauss** began to feel the tug of inspiration. "And," says **Krauss**, "it was just about a person." That person was veteran Nashville producer **Buddy Cannon** – who has written award-winning and chart-topping songs for artists such as Mel Tillis, George Strait, Glen Campbell, and George Jones. He has also produced albums for Willie Nelson, George Jones, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, and Merle Haggard. **Alison** inhabits – and liberates – the very essence that makes each of **Windy City's** songs eternal. While they span different eras and musical genres, there is a unifying sensibility. Some of the songs are familiar – like "Gentle On My Mind" and "You Don't Know Me." Others were lesser known, like Willie Nelson's "I Never Cared For You" and "All Alone Am I," originally recorded by Brenda Lee. Some were songs she'd never heard before; some were songs she'd known nearly her whole life. Naturally, **Krauss** makes every song on *Windy City* her own – nailing each heartbreak in her inimitable way. She better get a bigger trophy case.