



CHEAP TRICK
CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS
BIG MACHINE

Since the 70s, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, **Cheap Trick**, have been blending elements of pop, punk and even metal in a way that is instantly catchy and recognizable. With timeless classics such as "I Want You to Want Me," "Surrender," and the late 80s lighter-waving favorite, "The Flame," **Cheap Trick** are a musical institution who continue to find new fans year after year. Now, forty-odd years into their unlikely career, **Cheap Trick** have achieved yet another first: They recorded a holiday record, **Christmas Christmas**. Arriving mere months after their critically-acclaimed eighteenth studio album, **We're All Alright!**, **Cheap Trick** co-produced the holiday collection alongside their longtime collaborator, Grammy Award winner Julian Raymond (Glen Campbell, Fastball). With **Christmas Christmas**, **Cheap Trick** delivers a sleigh full of rock and roll Christmas classics and festive favorites by Wizzard, Slade, Chuck Berry, The Ramones and The Kinks, as well as newly penned offerings like the joyous lead track "Merry Christmas Darlings."



CITIZEN
AS YOU PLEASE
RUN FOR COVER

For their third album **As You Please**, **Citizen** is looking inward. Pairing up again with longtime producer Will Yip, the band presents twelve songs that fuse aspects of their entire catalog into one neoteric whole. While the cathartic melancholy of their debut **Youth** and the jarring intensity of 2015's **Everybody is Going to Heaven** are both present, the most welcome addition to **Citizen's** arsenal on **As You Please** is the range of auxiliary instrumentation and sonic experimentation on the album. This is most notable on "In the Middle of It All," where vocalist Mat Kerekes is sampled singing the song title in a modulated, haunting chorus that echoes throughout the song. The addition of organs and unconventional drum effects on songs like "You Are A Star" and "Medicine" create shifting emphases on tension and frailty, while the huge choruses of songs like opener "Jet" and "I Forgive No One" are reminders that while **Citizen** dove headfirst into uncharted territory with their new album, the band is still as good as ever at writing emotionally-charged anthems. **As You Please** presents **Citizen's** vision at the most focused it has ever been...delicately crafted to provoke at every moment.



ZULI
ON HUMAN FREAKOUT MOUNTAIN
SWOON CITY RECORDS

On Human Freakout Mountain is the debut full-length album from emerging Long Island, NY based artist **Zuli** - aka Ryan Camenzuli. The album's 10 songs, on which **Zuli** played most of the instruments, unite colorful, psychedelic textures with hooks and guitar-driven pop. The record has received early buzz from *The Wild Honey Pie*, who proclaim, "It's an ebullient release into an adrenaline-soaked, psychedelic dream-scape and an unexpected build into another realm" and *Flood Magazine*, who furthered, "It's a bright and strange trip, one that highlights both Camenzuli's inventiveness as an arranger and producer and his considerable strength as a melodicist." Following his post-high school stints playing music on the road, **Zuli** returned to Long Island to write and demo his debut, reconnecting with longtime friends in the process. He settled on the title **On Human Freakout Mountain** "because I felt the songs all connected to this period in life where everything was in limbo," explains **Zuli**. "You are still connected to your childhood but you need to make decisions that will potentially affect the outcome of your entire life." Many of the album's tracks were inspired by the stories of his closest friends' growing pains and life challenges.



BRAND NEW
SCIENCE FICTION
PMTRAITORS, LLC

Science Fiction serves as the long-awaited fifth full-length (and potentially final) album from cult Long Island band **Brand New** - their first since 2009's *Daisy*. Produced by frequent collaborator Mike Sapone, the mythical and moody 12-track collection is a distinct chapter in the band's shape-shifting career complete with compelling interludes, gripping lyrics, textured guitars and rollercoaster loud-soft dynamics. "It's tough to put **Science Fiction** in immediate comparison with **Brand New's** older LPs, though fans are undoubtedly already trying," *Billboard* writes. "It's better than *Daisy*, impossible to compare to the pop-punk simplicity of 2001's *Your Favorite Weapon*, and once it's fully sunk in (which could take another eight years), could be argued as 2003's *Deja Entendu* and 2006's *The Devil and God Are Raging Inside ME's* superior." But it's the *A.V. Club* that brings it all back home: "**Science Fiction** feels like the culmination of the journey the band began just over a decade ago. Whether or not **Brand New** is really breaking up in 2018 remains to be seen... But ultimately, it's immaterial. **Science Fiction** works just as well as a eulogy as it does a coronation."



POWERMAN 5000
NEW WAVE
PAVEMENT

The JNCO Revival marches on! **Powerman 5000's** legacy continues to push the boundaries of rock, metal, industrial, rap, and punk to create innovative and groundbreaking releases time and time again. **New Wave** is **PMSK's** eleventh official release since forming in 1992 and continues the strides and success from their platinum-selling album *Tonight The Stars Revolt!* to their most recent chart-topping single in 2014, "How to Be A Human." Vocalist Spider One puts it best when he discusses the new single "Sid Vicious in A Dress": "I suppose at its simplest it's a twisted love song, but really it's about loving what hurts you, what is bad for you. Staying when you should run. Over the years, Sid Vicious has become the poster child for chaos and self-destruction. I just took that and put it in the form of a beautiful girl. The title of the song kind of says it all." The track is one you'll want to put on repeat, assuredly becoming an anthem for twisted love, mayhem, and rock and roll anarchy. It will leave everyone who hears it singing along to its unapologetic refrain, "You're a mess! Sid Vicious in a dress!" Keeping true to the very spirit of Sid himself, **Powerman 5000** once again delivers an album on their own terms.



THE SHOUT OUT LOUDS
EASE MY MIND
MERGE

Ease My Mind, the fifth full-length by **Shout Out Louds**, marks a welcome return to the Swedish pop masters' roots. Following up 2013's *Optica*, the album was recorded with Fredrik Swahn (from the band The Amazing) who filled the band with such new energy that they were willing to commute to the 'burbs during the darkest months of the year. "**Ease My Mind** celebrates music as a means of escape, a need to take a break from feeling petrified with fear," the band notes. "The world is a different place now than it was in the beginning of the 2000's. We didn't grow up very aware of political messages in music and probably didn't feel much of an urgent need to understand the world around us, in that sense. However, that has changed over the years. The world has seemed extremely dystopic and frail for quite a while now, and having children and getting older forces you to open your eyes to issues more devastating than heartbreak and feeling lost. But in our music, we still allow ourselves to address things the way we always have: Through emotions rather than analysis. Music as a means of escape, a need to take a break from feeling petrified with fear. **Ease My Mind** is a lot about that for us."



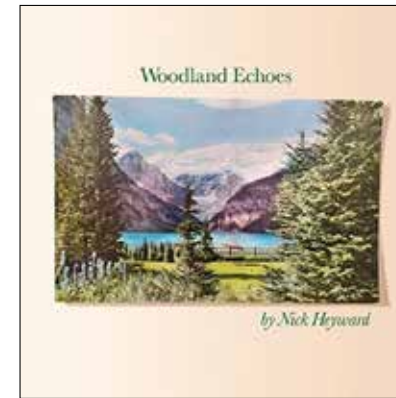
VARIOUS
STRANGER THINGS: MUSIC FROM THE NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES
LEGACY RECORDINGS

On Season 2 of **Stranger Things**, the gang meet a special visitor from another planet who teaches them the value of friendship, classic European automobiles, and how tic-tac-toe is more than a metaphor for nuclear war. Later, the gang are challenged to save their town by searching for ancient pirate treasure. A talking car helps them solve a mystery, but not before a mysterious stranger helps them foil a terrorist plot with a small array of ordinary household items. There's also some nonsense about another dimension, psychic powers, government conspiracies, and demons. But by putting their trust in a ragtag band and ex-military renegades who travel in a creepy van, they'll have a fighting chance to save the day. But what about the Russians? And will a day spent in Saturday School teach them an important lesson about acceptance? All of this adventure takes places to the sounds of a pulsating, classically 80s synthesizer soundtrack that is somehow both forward-thinking yet wonderfully nostalgic.



CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
RED ARROW
BLASTER RECORDS

Christian Lopez's Dave Cobb-produced debut, *Onward*, received accolades from a wide variety of press outlets including *Southern Living*, *No Depression* and *The Bluegrass Situation*. He was featured as a *Rolling Stone Country's* "Best Newcomer" and *Country Weekly's* "Ones to Watch," while *American Songwriter* called him "...an artist with a rich career ahead of him." In notable contrast to his debut album, **Red Arrow** finds **Lopez** sharing some of the songwriting duties with the likes of Dave Berg, Liz Longley, Gabe Dixon, and Mindy Smith. "I had developed into a solo writer just out of circumstance," he says. "But touring and sharing a lot of time and miles with so many other inspiring musicians just lends itself to the spirit of collaboration." An innocence informs "Swim the River," through lyrics that conjure the thrill of young love. On "Don't Wanna Say Goodnight," **Lopez** kicks into high gear, riding by the rockabilly rhythm as if hearing it for the first time. On "Caramel," which features **Lopez** accompanied by Kenneth Pattengale of The Milk Carton Kids on backing vocals and acoustic guitar, he sings of the wear and tear on the heart, a universal experience for a young man.



NICK HEYWARD
WOODLAND ECHOES
RED RIVER ENT

Nick Heyward, the British singer/songwriter is best known as the frontman for **Haircut 100** (You remember: "Love Plus One") as well as his solo successes in the '80s and '90s - an unlikely blend of Roxy Music sleekness, with English Beat grooves, and a wise-ass, laddish charm that would presage Blur's Damon Albarn. **Woodland Echoes** is his first solo album in 18 years. Recordings for what would become **Nick's** ninth album started in his son Oliver Heyward's studio, continued in award-winning producer and engineer Ian Shaw's boat-studio in Key West, Florida and were completed back in the UK at The Who and Oasis' drummer Zac Starkey's recording studio. The album was affected by Florida's abundant beauty and **Nick's** passion for the natural world, making **Woodland Echoes** an album of exceptional warmth and intimacy, that sounds - as he says - "like it should be on vinyl!". **Woodland Echoes** represents the masterful culmination of the last ten years of **Heyward's** solo career, drawing together the strength of his expertly crafted songwriting and gifted lyricism - a collection of accidentally biographical songs influenced, in his own words, by "love, nature, togetherness, '70s' pop, America, open spaces and afternoon tea"



NEIL FINN
OUT OF SILENCE
LESTER RECORDS

Neil Finn - the genius behind **Crowded House** - sent the world a message: "Every Friday in August, I will be performing on a live stream from my studio in Auckland. During these Friday sessions, you will be witness to a series of musical happenings featuring friends, family, fellow songwriters and singers playing tunes both old and brand new. You can follow the progress of new song arrangements as we build towards the last stream on August 25. This final performance will be the actual recording of my new solo album." Sure enough, on Friday August 25, **Neil** and his exotic ensemble recorded an entire album live, in one session. The album, **Out of Silence**, was then mixed, mastered, and digitally released the following Friday September 1. Now the CDs and LPs are finally here and the results are stunning. But how does it sound? Like heaven. Here, **Finn** works with beautiful orchestrations and vocalists - top caliber musicians able to navigate these multi-dimensional songs. Nothing here is simple - these are dense and gorgeous compositions that could only be pulled off by a visionary like **Finn**, who deserves to be regarded as highly as Paul McCartney, Brian Wilson, and Andy Partridge. **Out of Silence** is a testament to the glory of creation. You need this.



**TRAVIS MEADOWS
FIRST CIGARETTE**
BLASTER RECORDS

"I'm an orphan who turned into a preacher, a preacher who turned into a songwriter, a songwriter who turned into a drunk, and a drunk that is learning to be a human being," **Travis Meadows** says, describing his journey. Pursuing his dream of writing country music, **Meadows** scored a publishing deal that brought him to Nashville. Though successful, his spiral of addiction continued until in 2010 when he hit an all-time low. Between jail and rehab, **Meadows** began a journal for his counselor, which transformed into the stunning collection of songs, *Killin' Uncle Buzzy*. The album, which now has an almost cult-like following. The brutal honesty in his writing connected with other songwriters, publishers and artists and in the next two years he scored album cuts by artists, including Eric Church, while maintaining his new-found sobriety. *First Cigarette* paints a somewhat brighter outlook, reflecting where **Meadows** is currently at in his life. Expanding on the themes of recovery and survival, **Meadows** delves deep into topics including the healthy expression of emotion ("Sideways") to finding contentment where you are in life ("First Cigarette") to the quest for satisfaction in ("Hungry").



**ELTON JOHN
DIAMONDS**
ISLAND

Elton John releases the "ultimate" hits anthology *Diamonds* to coincide with the 50th anniversary of his songwriting partnership with **Bernie Taupin**. Says **Elton** of his partnership with **Bernie**: "We are at 50 years, and our relationship is healthier than it's ever been. There have been times in our relationship when we've written with other people, but it still didn't stop the love. I love Bernie more than I've ever done and I think he probably feels the same way about me, because we've both led separate lives; we both write in separate rooms. We have an amazing respect and love for each other that's only grown." Adds **Taupin**: "We still get a kick out of what we do... When we come together and write something, it still has that magical quality to it. It doesn't get any better than that. That feeling hasn't aged." The retrospective covers all of the landmark songs from **Elton's** peerless career, starting with his early breakthrough "Your Song" and embracing "Rocket Man," "Candle in the Wind," "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word," "Sacrifice," "Are You Ready for Love?" and the duets "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" with **Kiki Dee** and "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" with **George Michael**. The package also includes exclusive song annotations from **Bernie** and **Elton!**



**SOJA
POETRY IN MOTION**
ATO RECORDS

SOJA's core sound – an uplifting meld of reggae, go-go, D.C. hardcore, Latin, rock, and hip-hop – is as tight and compelling as it's ever been in the group's 20-year history, but now – with its new album, *Poetry in Motion* – the octet digs deeper on its message of finding peace and understanding in the world caught in tribulation. For the band, having fun and social awareness can, and should, co-exist. "More" is a Bob Marley-influenced manifesto to fight greed by being content with what you got, while "Bad News" looks for hope in tragic headlines. "More" is about consumption and envy," explains lead singer Jacob Hemphill. "It's about the false belief that you need more stuff to be happy [and] about trying to strip all that away and finding happiness in the truth that less is more. *Poetry in Motion* is about us, the human race. We're beautiful. We're the caretakers of this earth and everything that lives here, calls it home. But something is wrong. Something in us is lost. That's the focus – how to get back to the beauty and away from...well, this."



**DIRTY HEADS
SWIM TEAM**
FIVE SEVEN MUSIC

After two decades spent chiseling their unique, multi-genre infused sound, **Dirty Heads** have finally come into their own. Since the release of their 2008 debut *Any Port in a Storm*, the five-piece band — Jared Watson (vocals), Dustin "Duddy B" Bushnell (vocals/guitar), Jon Olazabal (percussion), Matt Ochoa (drums) and David Foral (bass) — has consistently experimented with their sunny style, leaning heavily on reggae fused with hip-hop cornerstones and scaling back for more acoustic fare, darting between extremes. **Swim Team** sees **Dirty Heads** pushing their sound, moving between pop, alternative, hip-hop, reggae, and rock with the same spirit and spark that's powered them since the beginning. The album's wide-ranging sound is also due in part to the diverse team of collaborators: Jonas Jeberg [Demi Lovato, Juicy J, Jason Derulo], "Lay Me Down" partner-in-crime Rome [Enrique Iglesias] of Sublime with Rome, Blueprint [Jay-Z, Kanye West, Timbaland, Eminem, Nas, Prodigy], Oren Yoel [Miley Cyrus, Kanye West], HEAVY [Andrew McMahon], and The Score.



**TEARS FOR FEARS
RULE THE WORLD**
MERCURY

Not only does **Tears For Fears'** first career-spanning Greatest Hits album, *Rule the World* feature classics such as "Everybody Wants To Rule The World," "Shout," "Mad World," "Head Over Heels," "Woman In Chains," and more, but it also boasts the first original music from the duo since 2004. Representing an inimitable intersection of pop palatability and new wave innovation, their catalog spans a string of classic album, namely the gold-certified debut *The Hurting*, the quintuple-platinum, BRIT Award-winning *Songs from the Big Chair*, and *Seeds of Love* – which would be Roland Orzabal and Curt Smith's last collaboration together until *Everybody Loves A Happy Ending* in 2004. Breaking another quiet spell, the boys engaged in a three-year touring whirlwind beginning in 2010. 2013 saw them return with their first recorded music in a decade: a cover of Arcade Fire's "Ready to Start." It proved to be a welcome addition to their three-decade discography of immortal hits. In 2017, they recorded two more new tracks, the enigmatic and energetic "I Love You but I'm Lost" and the subdued, acoustic "Stay." Here's hoping there's more new music to come...



**BRYAN ADAMS
ULTIMATE**
A&M

Renowned the world over for his signature brand of feel-good rock and roll and big ballads, **Bryan Adams** is an icon of epic proportions. The aim of *Ultimate* is to condense **Adams'** extensive back catalogue - 13 studio albums, 5 live albums, 5 compilation albums and over 75 singles - into a 21-track offering guaranteed to capture the true essence of the celebrated hitmaker's much celebrated career. Containing early hits such as 'Cuts Like A Knife' and 'Run To You' as well as later additions to his repertoire, like 'When You're Gone' with Melanie C and 'Cloud Number Nine.' It's not just the classics that feature on *Ultimate* either: 'Ultimate Love' and 'Please Stay' are the first **Bryan Adams** songs in over two years. "As a songwriter and musician, you are always creating - it's what you do," said **Adams**. "So even though this is an "ultimate" collection I'm always looking ahead. There are two new songs included 'Please Stay' and 'Ultimate Love' both written this year with the message that love still counts, even in uncertain times." Despite a lack of cuts from his album length cover of Taylor Swift's 1989, *Ultimate* is an amazing portrait of one of the greatest songwriters of the last 30 years.



**TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS
A LONG WAY FROM YOUR HEART**
BOSSIER CITY RECORDS

Narratives put to music are nothing new, but Evan Felker – the frontman, cofounder, and primary songwriter for **Turnpike Troubadours** – and his bandmates have upped the ante, creating a web of unforgettable characters that show up on album after album in songs that are both catchy and musically complex: men and women with their backs against their wall, represented realistically but also imbued with dignity. "It feels like going home to see that those characters are still alive in a way that movies and literary writers have always done," Felker says of the recurring favorites. "It feels good. They're composite characters based on real people." *A Long Way from Your Heart* was produced by Grammy winner Ryan Hewitt (The Avett Brothers, Red Hot Chili Peppers). The result is a rare triumph—an album that hooks immediately but then rewards listeners willing to dig deeper. "I love what we as a band have turned into and how we treat songs," Felker says. "That's something we've grown into—adding some sort of oddly theatrical element to the musicianship to help the story along, to sum up where or who the character is to give him a little bit of landscape. It's not just an acoustic guitar and a guy telling you what somebody's doing."



**HEAVY METAL KINGS
BLACK GOD WHITE DEVIL**
ENEMY SOIL

Rappers **Vinnie Paz (Jedi Mind Tricks)** and **ILL Bill (Non-Phixion)** return with their side-project, **Heavy Metal Kings**, to drop their first studio album together in over 6 years, *Black God White Devil*. Both MCs have been staples of the independent hip-hop scene for more than two decades having followed unrelenting paths to their current destinations as they made their bones during a prolific period of independent hip-hop in the '90s and early '00s. They are like-minded rappers who eschewed the traditional routes of the industry matrix and, instead, took a fiercely independent attitude when it came to their craft. Beyond their indelible work with their respective groups, Jedi Mind Tricks and Non-Phixion, Paz and Bill have built successful solo careers while also putting in work with supergroups such as Paz's battle-tested outfit Army of the Pharaohs and Bill's collective of accomplished MCs, La Coka Nostra. For *Black God White Devil*, **Heavy Metal Kings** sticks to the same winning formula as before: Take two of the most respected and visceral MCs in the game and put them together for one full album worth of brutal hip hop. Sick, dirty beats with lyrical chops that put mumble rappers to shame. It doesn't get any better than this.



**SIXX: A.M.
THE HEROIN DIARIES SOUNDTRACK:
10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION**
ELEVEN SEVEN

2017 marks the tenth anniversary of the release of **Nikki Sixx's** drug-soaked *New York Times* best-selling memoir *The Heroin Diaries* and **SIXX:A.M.'s** *The Heroin Diaries Soundtrack*. **Sixx** got sober sixteen years ago. A decade ago he shared this story with the world. And yet with the modern opioid crisis looming larger than ever, **Sixx's** journey to sobriety and the words and music it inspired remains poignantly relevant. Chronicling the year of decadence and depravity that almost cost **Sixx** his life during the recording and tour for **Mötley Crüe's** seminal 1987 album *Girls Girls Girls*, the book not only became a worldwide bestseller but also spawned the band **SIXX:A.M.** Says **Sixx**: "Over the last ten years, I've met so many people who have thanked me for *The Heroin Diaries* and say that it saved their lives. But the truth is, writing *The Heroin Diaries* saved my life too." *The Heroin Diaries: 10th Anniversary Edition Soundtrack* features new artwork, personal notes from the band and include three newly re-imagined tracks: "Life Is Beautiful 2017," "Accidents Can Happen 2017," and "Girl with Golden Eyes 2017."



**I THE MIGHTY
WHERE THE MIND WANTS TO GO /
WHERE YOU LET IT GO**
EQUAL VISION

San Francisco's **I the Mighty** took a bold step forward creatively today with the release of their highly-anticipated new album *Where the Mind Wants to Go / Where You Let It Go*. Already one of the most progressive voices in alternative rock, *Where the Mind Wants to Go / Where You Let It Go* sees the band exploring new territory both sonically and topically. It is a collection of nine artistically mature, meticulously crafted rock anthems that sees lead vocalist, Brent Walsh, tackling the topics that have helped shape his own personal growth since the release of their last album; both in terms of life experience and more abstract topics. "We don't want people to just listen to our music on a surface level," says Walsh. "We want people to dive into the songs and dissect them and to really feel them." *Where the Mind Wants to Go / Where You Let It Go* is the sort of adrenaline-fueled, kinetic record that creates the perfect balance between experimentalism and the sort of relatable magnetism that is at the core of all the best rock anthems. It taps into a bigger picture that indicates the band is really starting to scratch the surface of what they're capable as artists.



**JOE HENRY
THRUM**
EARMUSIC

Acclaimed singer, songwriter and Grammy-winning producer **Joe Henry**' latest solo album, *Thrum*, was recorded and mixed live to tape by Ryan Freeland (Bonnie Raitt, The Milk Carton Kids, Ray LaMontagne) over four days at Hollywood's legendary United Studios. Says **Henry**, rather poetically, of the process: "I had described to Ry and the fellas something of what I imagined, sonically — referencing, for example, a particular Ray Charles album recorded live at the Olympia Civic Theatre in Los Angeles in 1964, wherein his voice throughout threatens the authority of the audio equipment employed to limit its dynamic volatility. When he sings low, the sound relaxes open like a dilated pupil, saturating with intimacy and color; and when Ray becomes fierce and pounces, it flares like a bulb being fed a wild surge of unmetered electricity... I wanted every sound to argue containment and speak like a living soul breaking out of a flat, still photograph and into vivid animation; wanted everything with its holy fractures in view." *Thrum* is aptly named — these songs boom and groove, touched gently with slapback and smoky horns. They don't make 'em like this anymore.



**THE GREEN
MARCHING ORDERS**
EASY STAR

Reggae fans have reason to get excited. It's been four years since **The Green** released *Hawai'i '13*, which further cemented the band's reputation as one of the best reggae groups in the world. Mostly recorded on the island of Oahu, the band's new album, *Marching Orders*, was almost released in 2016. Right before delivering the final mixes, the band took a pause, refocused their efforts, and fine-tuned every song as well as wrote some new material. Being a band stacked with talented singers and songwriters who love to collaborate, new material flowed abundantly — and **The Green** was determined that their best efforts would be represented. As such, *Marching Orders* is a bounty for reggae fans — roots, dancehall, pop rock, and, of course, love songs. The album also features collaborations with producer/writer Brian Fennell (Ryan Tedder, One Republic, The Fray, Third Eye Blind), as well as guest appearances by Grammy-nominees J Boog and Eric Rachmany (of Rebelution), Jamaican dancehall superstar Busy Signal, and Island music veterans Fiji and The Mana'o Company.



**SLEEP ON IT
OVEREXPOSED**
EQUAL VISION RECORDS

Overexposed, the much-anticipated debut long-player from Chicago pop punkers **Sleep On It**, was produced by Seth Henderson (Knuckle Puck, Real Friends) with additional productions from Derek DiScario of State Champs (who also lends vocals to "Fireworks"). On *Overexposed* and lead single "Distant," the band says, "We started writing *Overexposed* before our last EP was released. We wanted to write a cohesive record that ebbed and flowed; we wanted it to tell a story. There's a level of inherent fear and anxiety that accompanies the pursuit of whatever fills us with passion. We sacrifice the refuge of convention and make ourselves vulnerable in the process. We let go of and grew apart from people in our lives for one reason or another. We also learned to hold on to the ones worth fighting for. 'Distant' deals with that fear and anxiety of letting anyone close to us, while learning how to trust through our own self-aware vulnerability." There's also songs Heavy stuff, sure, but you'll still be able to pogo through the pain like the sweet, sensitive scene kid you are.



**HOTEL BOOKS
EQUIVALENCY**
INVOGUE RECORDS

Hailing from Porterville, CA, **Hotel Books** revolves around the spoken-word poetry and lyricism of Cam Smith. Delivering intense, cathartic words over ambient musical soundscapes tinged with indie rock and post-hardcore. Smith uses his high octane vocal delivery as a platform for stories of pain, struggle, and the overall triumph he has found in faith and love. Smith uses *Hotel Books* as a vessel to deliver his personal story, collaborating with stellar musicians to bring his words to musical life. It's a little pretty, a little sad, a little catchy, and a little unstable — so a perfect record if you're still figuring out the world through the lens of your high school failures... Not to mention the beauty and redemption found in art, music, and friends. Lead single "Celebration" perfectly embodies Smith's anxiety level circa 2017, by pairing his unstable vocals against big pop-oriented guitars while singing something about being a sell-out... Because you're happy? Kids these days...