

**ANDREA GIBSON**  
HEY GALAXY  
TENDER LOVING EMPIRE

**Andrea Gibson** is not gentle with their truths. It is this raw fearlessness that has led them to the forefront of the spoken word movement – the first winner of the Women’s World Poetry Slam – **Gibson** has headlined prestigious performance venues coast to coast. Her new album, *Hey Galaxy*, is a collection of 16 poems tell the story of our times. Whether it’s “Orlando,” which brutally relives the massacre at the Pulse nightclub and **Andrea’s** own struggles with coming out, or “A Letter to White Queers” which combats white privilege during the rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement, **Gibson’s** poems are delivered in her impassioned and powerful voice, accompanied by simple guitar and piano. This is stirring stuff.



**KYLE CRAFT**  
FULL CIRCLE NIGHTMARE  
SUB POP

**Kyle Craft** described his debut record, *Dolls of Highland*, as “walking down this long hall of bizarre characters and surreal experiences, moving through the spider web of love and loss.” His autobiographical follow-up, *Full Circle Nightmare*, is when you get to the end of that hallway, turn around and see all the stuff you’ve been through, then walk through the door, close it and start a new chapter in an even crazier hallway. A straight-up rollicking rock ‘n’ roll album, it traverses all the different nuances of the genre; from the bluegrass twang of “Exile Rag,” to the gothic style of “Gold Calf Moan,” it’s a timeless piece that could exist in any of the past five decades.



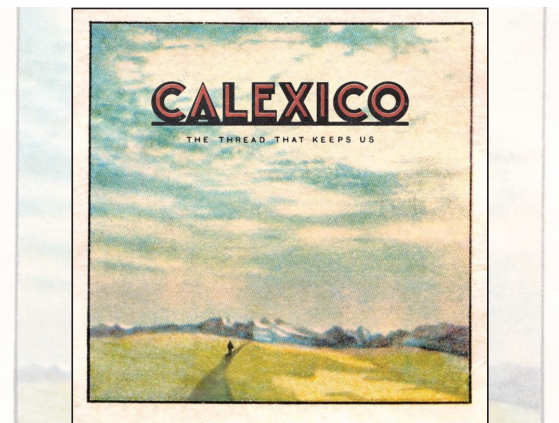
**HOLLIE COOK**  
VESSEL OF LOVE  
MERGE

**Hollie Cook** combines her unique vocal talent with charming charisma to craft her own dynamic strand of lovers rock with enduring tropical vibes – weaving a path from her West London roots to an arena of diverse collaborations, critically acclaimed records, and iconic live appearances around the world. Music has always been in her blood: Her dad is Sex Pistols drummer Paul Cook, her mother an in-demand background singer, and **Hollie** spent years touring as a member of punky reggae legends, The Slits. **Cook’s** ability to continually surprise, delight, and progress solidifies her position as one of the most exciting voices in reggae, and this is crystal clear on her third and latest album, *Vessel of Love*.



**GLEN HANSARD**  
BETWEEN TWO SHORES  
ANTI

The culmination of more than six years of writing and recording, *Between Two Shores* – the new album from **Glen Hansard** – the singer-songwriter behind Irish rockers, the Frames, and the hit musical, *Once* – came together in only a matter of weeks. The aptly titled “Setting Forth” became the catalyst for the direction **Hansard** hoped to achieve with *Between Two Shores*. Recorded with drummer extraordinaire **Brian Blade**, the song tackles themes of self-doubt in a time when it’s impossible not to be riddled with uncertainty. Other standouts include the simmering love song “Time Will be the Healer” and the politically charged “Wheels on Fire.” As ever, **Hansard’s** songs are rich and insightful, and compelling – each one a slow burning masterpiece.



**CALEXICO**  
THE THREAD THAT KEEPS US  
ANTI

*The Thread That Keeps Us* is a timely snapshot of Arizona-bred **Calexico**: A family portrait capturing their stylistic variety and unpredictability while still finding solace in limitless creativity. In bringing the album to life, vocalist/guitarist Joey Burns and drummer John Convertino found a spiritual home on the Northern California coast in a home-turned-studio called the Panoramic House. Built from debris and shipyard-salvaged timber, the grandiose house and its edge-of-the-world-like ambience soon made their way into the songs. With less polish and more grit than ever before, *The Thread That Keeps Us* both honors enduring traditions and reveals **Calexico’s** confidence in songwriting, ultimately setting a whole new standard for the band.



**SIMPLE MINDS**  
WALK BETWEEN WORLDS  
BMG

*Walk Between Worlds* is **Simple Minds’** first album of new material since 2014’s *Big Music*. With its eight tracks rocketing past in 42 minutes, it’s a relatively concise affair. It’s also an album of two distinct sides, very much the old-school album format that singer Jim Kerr and Charlie Burchill grew up with as music fans. Side one tracks such as “Summer” and “The Signal and The Noise” revisit the glassy guitars and new wave dance grooves of the post-punk era and the second half explores more cinematic sounds, with the title track and “Barrowland Star” both featuring dramatic orchestrations recorded at Abbey Road. *Walk Between Worlds* won’t let you forget about how good **Simple Minds** still is.