The best new songs of 2025 to listen to this week

UPDATED

Our critics pick their favourite tracks, featuring singles from Sam Fender, Elton John and Chloe. Plus the latest music industry news

Sam Fender, Elton John and Chloe
IZZY CLAYTON/ALAMY; LESTER COHEN/GETTY IMAGES FOR CITY OF HOPE; SCOTT DUDELSON/GETTY IMAGES FOR COACHELLA

Will Hodgkinson | Katie Bevan Friday October 17 2025, 5.30pm, The Times

Share | Save

Here is a selection of stories from the music world, plus the best new songs. Stuck in a rut with your playlists and not sure what to try next? Each week, our critics listen to recently released singles and pick their favourites. Subscribe to our Best New Tracks playlist (embedded below) to listen to them too.

• **Read music reviews, interviews and guides on what to listen to next**

Gig to book

Having performed the first ever concert inside the Paris catacombs, Queens of the Stone Age, the desert rock band led by Josh Homme, return for an intimate (by their standards) concert of stripped-back acoustic versions of old favourites. *Will Hodgkinson*
Royal Albert Hall, London, Oct 29, qotsa.com

The One Pound Solution

Grass roots venues are struggling so Coldplay, Sam Fender and other enormodome fillers have come up with a solution: a £1 levy on tickets for all arena and stadium concerts. There's only one problem. Live Nation, the biggest promoter in the world, is yet to sign up. *WH*

• **Read our round-up of the best concerts in London and the UK to book in 2025**

ADVERTISEMENT

Best new tracks

By Katie Bevan

Sam Fender, Elton John

Talk To You
Winning the 2025 Mercury prize on the Thursday and dropping a new song featuring Elton John on the Friday, Sam Fender is having quite the week. Underneath a rich guitar line, John's keys twinkle, nurturing Fender's cinematic storytelling.

• **Sam Fender on turning his life around: 'I had to stop being a maniac'**

Sara Baroni

Your Eyes
The 17-year-old Sara Baroni is haunting in this intimate track that recalls Billie Eilish as crackly, disbelieving whispers tracing heartbreak give way to heady soft rock. An emerging talent, Baroni is one to watch.

Chloe

Keep Watching
Halle Bailey, of the R&B sister act Chloe X Halle, has been taking off in Hollywood with roles in *The Little Mermaid* and *The Color Purple*. Now Chloe has released her first solo music, driven by fans who heard a beat she was working with on her socials and begged her to release the track.

ADVERTISEMENT

Lauren Jauregui

Ego
The Fifth Harmony alum Lauren Jauregui embraces an alternative pop-rock sound and lyrical vulnerability in the lead track for her forthcoming debut LP.

Thomas Rhett, Niall Horan

Old Tricks
Having fun with country music, the former One Direction member and current judge on *The Voice* (US), Niall Horan joins forces with the southern superstar Thomas Rhett in this thumping hayride of a track.

lilbootycall, Damian Milo

i wana find it insid me, 2 forgiv u (without u)
If the softbois had a president, it would be lilbootycall, the rimless glasses-wearing, rainbow-haired rapper from Texas. In collaboration with Damian Milo, he drops a softboi anthem, complete with the fuzzy riffs and overzealous drumming beloved by saccharine indie pop hits.

What tracks have you been listening to this week? Let us know in the comments

Culture > Music

Pop music | Pop & rock features

Share | Save

Related articles

Jerskin Fendrix — and the best albums of 2025 so far
October 17 2025, 12.00am
Will Hodgkinson | Clive Davis | Victoria Segal

The 25 best albums of 2024 — the critics' choice, ranked
December 08 2024, 12.01am
Will Hodgkinson | Jonathan Dean | Blanca Schofield

Comments (112)

Comments are subject to our community standards and participation guidelines policy, which can be viewed here. By joining the conversation you are accepting our community rules and terms. Update your commenting notification settings here. Our policy is for readers to use their real names when commenting, find out more here.

Katie Bevan

Add to the conversation...

Sort by Newest

Edward McKenna
12 OCTOBER, 2025
Sad to hear Springsteen auto-tuned to death.

R Hood
11 OCTOBER, 2025
"Down" by Crystal Tides - new out this week! Portsmouth's best export since my grandad....

Gordon Brown
4 OCTOBER, 2025
Becoming pretty underwhelmed with the music section of The Times.
I find it staggering that there has been no review of Getting Killed by Geese released last Friday. It's possibly the finest and certainly one of the most unique albums of the year to date. It will undoubtedly appear in the higher e...
See more

> **Stephen Harris**
> 1 DAY AGO
> '...texture like sun. Lays me down, with my mind she runs...'
>
> Bet you wish you had £1 for every time someone has made that 'joke'. Even better if you got a gold ingot for each time someone chastised you for selling low.
>
> Anyway, hope you are pleased that the album has been acknowledged today and eve...
> **See more**

Ian Paterson
3 OCTOBER, 2025
Ive been listening to a new release by 20 year old Mia Langridge. The song is called "Let Me Be" and it's the follow up to her debut single "Every Single Lifetime". Her unique songwriting style combines catchy top-line melodies with narrative driven lyrics resulting in a warm and welcoming indi-fol...
See more

Penelope Wade
20 SEPTEMBER, 2025
(Mr Wade) Why are these comments nine months old?

Darren Clarke
13 SEPTEMBER, 2025
No mention of the new Brandi Carlile song?

Jamie Aitchison
12 SEPTEMBER, 2025
Crooked Man - Don't Leave Me This Way... fabulous cover version that blows your socks off

> **Andy Diss**
> 20 SEPTEMBER, 2025
> Just listened to it on you recommendation. Still have my socks on and no chicken pimples.

Carolina Creighton
22 AUGUST, 2025
Elle Coves just released an EP (Not Good At Hanging Up). sombr's album is out (I Barely Know Her) and Johnny Farro's Ten Feet Tall is fantastic too

Shahab Ejlali
22 AUGUST, 2025
Out takes are usually left off the original for a good reasom. Within You Without You should have suffered that fate for Sgt Pepper, and either Penny Lane or Strawberry Fields or both replaced it, then the album would be more deserving of all the accolades. Sir Josheph Lockwood chairman of EMI was ...
See more

> **Neil Buck**
> 20 SEPTEMBER, 2025
> Where are the out takes on Withon You, Without You?

Kate Bond
16 AUGUST, 2025
We are the Rollers tops everything! Relive 1975 in 2025!

Philip Sharp
15 AUGUST, 2025
Try Modern Nature. Excellent new LO and back catalogue. Gentle late career Talk Talk on full display. And lovely lovely art work.

P Howthorn
15 AUGUST, 2025
Ashley Monroe, Matilda Mann and Chloe Qisha for my musical tastes.

S Davis
15 AUGUST, 2025
Best 30 year old songs to listen to this week:

Alive - Pearl Jam
Rooster - Alice in Chains
Cats in the Cradle - Ugly Kid Joe

R Wymer
2 AUGUST, 2025
Apart from Hayley Williams, no thanks.

R Wymer
21 JULY, 2025
Still no reviews on metal, but lots on samey samey stuff.

Tom Willmore
19 JULY, 2025
This Is the Killer Speaking - simply superb.

And Wheway
19 JULY, 2025
My bloody valentine. Keep hold of the earplugs they give you on entrance. You'll need them

Carolina Creighton
11 JULY, 2025
Peace by Elle Coves

Robert Moore
28 JUNE, 2025
Wake Up America by Willie Nile (indeed each song of his latest 2025 album). He is Dylan, Lennon and McCartney (Wings version) all rolled into one. He and a Jessie Malin almost outshine the Boss.

Mark Lutitt
26 JUNE, 2025
My tuppence-worth:

Jack White, Archbishop Harold Homes from his No Name album. Not new but a belter nonetheless.

Louis Dunford, Rave Now Die Later from his Be Lucky album. Or Billy Flynn of Bethnal Green.

A Surrender, Yaya Bey from new album Do It Again

Christopher Evans
20 JUNE, 2025
Out this week.The Castellows with a song called Old Way.A quick google tells us they are a country trio of 3 sisters from Georgia.

This song contains a very thought provoking lyric that Bob Dylan would have been proud of.

'This is gonna be the old way one day'

Mr Patrick Elliott
14 JUNE, 2025
I love lists of songs to listen to. Each year I build up a list of what I like best from the latest album releases. I didn't have any of the above in my list for 2025 so far. In my list there are tracks by Bon Iver, Inhaler, Brown Horse, the Golden Dregs, Self Esteem & Craig Finn.

C McIntyre
8 JUNE, 2025
Mischa and the Bear following up their slinky single Deny with another summer banger, Get Away. Video on YouTube is gorgeous. Don't sleep on this Dublin synth pop duo!

Stephen Thomas
18 MAY, 2025
Springsteen will be in trouble when he gets back home, remember what happened to the Dixie Chicks when they criticised Bush when they were touring here.

Richard Pursehouse
11 MAY, 2025
Phew, yet another article that ignores Heavy Rock/ Metal songs. Our sacred music is safe until the next article...... I wonder if The Times will send anyone to the Ozzy all-dayer at Villa Park?

Matthew Whittingham
11 MAY, 2025
Great playlist. Half way through and not a duff track so far.

> **Blanca Schofield Legorburo** STAFF
> 17 MAY, 2025
> Thanks for listening!

Miles Dagnall
10 MAY, 2025
Try Jo Harman - Some day we will all be Free. Fantastic voice. Real music.

> **Blanca Schofield Legorburo** STAFF
> 17 MAY, 2025
> Will check it out!

C McIntyre
4 MAY, 2025
Dublin duo Mischa and the Bear are bringing synth-pop back in the most infectiously seductive way with their debut single 'Deny' - definitely one to watch!

> **Blanca Schofield Legorburo** STAFF
> 9 MAY, 2025
> Will check them out!

David Shipley
2 MAY, 2025
Can you please have separate comments for this week's article? It's really tiresome seeing the same 14 week old negative posts all the time.
I came here to recommend Cynthia Erivo: her performance with the LA Philharmonic at Coachella was astounding.

> **Blanca Schofield Legorburo** STAFF
> 9 MAY, 2025
> If you change the setting to "newest" you'll see the latest comments!
>
> 1 reply

Xavier Woodward
26 APRIL, 2025
A young punk band from Yorkshire, Duktape, have just released their debut album, May Contain Nuts. If you like righteous anger with swearing, go for Pretty Gun or Bring Back the Guillotine. If you prefer more mellow pop-punk, give Chucked Away a listen.

> **I Richardson**
> 7 SEPTEMBER, 2025
> What a name...genius
>
> Show 2 more replies

View more comments

OpenWeb | Feedback