

Dear Friends,

**WELCOME TO THE HAPPY 2018 MIXTAPE!** If music be the food of love, then let's try to spread it around some more in 2018.

Despite the turmoil and unrest right at the seams of our existence that seemed to envelope us this past year - perhaps seeking to undo us altogether - there was a lot of beautiful art that was made by folks just like you and me. I truly believe that music and art are amongst the most powerful vehicles to bring about change. So whatever change it is you want to see in the world - you can be that change by making and supporting musicians. It's a solid start.

You'll notice that most of the artists below have their material on Bandcamp.com. This is the platform I recommend you use to purchase music. The app (and the desktop) version are easy to navigate. You are able to stream entire albums and songs before deciding to buy. You can create a wishlist (mine's epicly long!) and view other fans' collections (ok, here's mine: <https://bandcamp.com/mollygrowler>). **And, the majority of your money goes directly to the artist!**

I listened to so much great music this past year that it was difficult to narrow it down to 15 individual tunes. I decided that I would only include music either released in 2017, or bands that I saw play in 2017.

My tastes are varied but I hope that you find some new music to bring with you to 2018 to make the clean slate a little sweeter!

Enjoy!

## HAPPY 2018 MIXTAPE TRACK LIST

1. ***"Want" Jawbreaker*** from the album "Unfun", Blackball Records, '90  
(<https://jawbreakerband.bandcamp.com/album/unfun>)

- a. This band effectively sums up the sound of my 20's. When they played a reunion show in Olympia, WA my best friend, who lives there, called me up and said, "So when's your flight?"
2. **"Colorado River Song" Rene Marie** from the album "Sound of Red", Motema Music, '16 (<https://renemarie.com/>)
  - a. I saw Rene Marie play Dazzle on a frigid February night. She is such a skilled jazz singer and I find her story inspiring. She really didn't get her start until she was in her 40's and now she's internationally recognized!
3. **"London" Wojtek Mazolewski Quintet** from the s/t EP, Lanquidity Records, March '17  
(<https://lanquidityrecords.bandcamp.com/album/wojtek-mazolewski-quintet-london-theme-de-yoyo-12-lq-007>)
  - a. This Polish bassist has put together a burner of a jazz album. The two tracks featured on this EP are well worth your investment.
4. **"Holy" Jamila Woods** from the album "HEAVN", Jagjaguwar Records, August '17  
(<https://jamilawoodsmusic.bandcamp.com/>)
  - a. There are many amazing tracks on this Jamila Woods album, but I wanted to share with you the most uplifting one. You may need it sometime ;)
5. **"Winter Stars" Rachael Pollard** from the album "miracle/madness", Ghost Productions, November '17  
(<https://rachaelpollard.bandcamp.com/album/miracle-madness-ghost-productions>)
  - a. Rachael Pollard is one of the first musicians I saw perform in Denver when I moved here at the age of 16. I remember her sitting on a stool in the back of a beloved punk record store opening up for a hardcore band. All these stinky, misfit, punks waiting to thrash their anguish out were silently sitting on the floor in rows captivated by Rachael. We later became friends and I think her music is just as captivating as ever.
6. **"Half Broken" The Savage Blush** from the album "Singles", self-released, February '17 (<https://thesavageblush.bandcamp.com/album/singles>)
  - a. I found out about this Denver band through a friend. It's such a great mixture of garage and smear and delicious cake stains.
7. **"Black Bolt" Miles Okazaki** from the album "Trickster", Pi Recordings, March '17  
(<https://milesokazaki.bandcamp.com/album/trickster>)
  - a. Miles Okazaki gets placed in the jazz category, but his music is far beyond that. His most recent album plays with time signatures, key changes, and mood.
8. **"No News" Real Life Buildings** from the album "Significant Weather", Lauren Records, April '17 (<https://reallifebuildings.bandcamp.com/album/significant-weather>) (bonus website! Artwork of lead singer Matthew Van Asselt <http://matthewvanasselt.com/>)

- a. This album is strange and fun! Be sure to check out the singer's website - he is a very talented painter as well.
9. **"Arrow Island" Aye Nako** from the album "Silver Haze", Don Giovanni Records, April '17 (<https://ayenako.bandcamp.com/album/silver-haze>)
  - a. Ah, the 90's! I mean, the millennium! It's so good that emo has some current practitioners and Aye Nako do a good turn on an old subgenre of punk.
10. **"Expect the Bayonet" Sheer Mag** from the album "Need to Feel Your Love", Wilsun's Recording Company, July '17 (<https://sheermag.bandcamp.com/album/need-to-feel-your-love>)
  - a. OMG, saw them at Larimer Lounge. The singer is a fiery force and those guitar riffs are to die for.
11. **"A la Roquette" Bromure** from the EP, Un Vie Pour Rien Vinyles, May '17 (<https://uneviepourrienvinyles.bandcamp.com/album/bromure-a-la-roquette-ep>)
  - a. My Olympia bestie turned me on to this French Oi! band. What is Oi!? (And, yes, I believe you do need to put an exclamation point at the end.) It's another subgenre of punk, often associated with working class and poor communities who've been disenfranchised by the system. I guess that's all punk. But, they also literally sing "Oi!" a lot.
12. **"The Time of Seasons is Time Too" Rope Trick Effect** from the EP, Growler Records, May '17 (<https://growlerdistro.bandcamp.com/>)
  - a. My jazz ensemble went into the studio last spring and put out this EP of original music. This little tune was written by me.
13. **"Midnight" Jessie Ware** from the album "Glasshouse", Universal-Island Records, October '17 (<https://jessieware.bandcamp.com/album/glasshouse>)
  - a. This is probably my vote for best album of 2017. It's spectacular. That is all.
14. **"What the World Needs Now" Dwight Tribble with Matthew Halsall**, from the album "Inspirations", Gondwana Records, June '17 (<https://dwighttribble.bandcamp.com/album/inspirations>)
  - a. The first time I heard this song I was momentarily taken aback when I hear Dwight Tribble's voice come in. He has a strange sound to be sure, but he manages to evoke an entirely new meaning out of this old tune. He made me believe that what we really do need now, is love, sweet love. I mean, wouldn't you agree that it's the only thing that there's just too little of?
15. **"Sunslip" KO SOLO** from the EP "Dreamer Too", self-released, August '17 (<https://kosolo.bandcamp.com/album/dreamer-too>)
  - a. I saw this Californian musician perform at Titwrench Fest this summer. She plays the soprano sax with loop pedals and other digital devices. She creates an empty

space in spite of the beautiful sounds she's creating on the fly. Use this empty musical space to fill 2018 with all of your dreams for a harmonious future!

*Also Highly Recommended:*

1. I saw legends **Herbie Hancock, Bela Fleck & the Flecktones** and **Chick Corea** play at the Botanic Gardens Concert Series this summer. All of them are examples of jazz-fusion warriors who are still at it!
2. **Titwrench Fest 2017** was spectacular! If you haven't been, go in 2018. It will increase your happiness ten-fold. There were several highlights of the evening: Denver's own **Midwife**, and **Chicharra** from Albuquerque.
3. I saw some other Denver bands play live this year. Standing out was the **Strange Americans** show at the Hi-Dive and **Raven and the Writing Desk** playing on the roof of the MCA.
4. I really enjoyed the semi-Classical album of improvisatory music by the string trio **Hear In Now**. Be sure to check out their 2017 album **"Not Living in Fear"**.
5. I was also deeply digging the jazzy hip hop artist **L'Rain** from Brooklyn. Her album **"Astro Nautico"** is a great listen all around.
6. An excellent, dark-wave, punk album is **"Shallow Drownings"** by **Soggy Creep** hailing from Seattle. Sadly, their album was technically released in 2016 so it didn't make the cut for the Mixtape.
7. I also caught an excellent show in the spring: **Tinariwen** - everybody's favorite desert rock from Mali - and **Dengue Fever** - Cambodian pop from L.A. That was a fun concert!
8. I also saw **RUIR** play at 7th Circle Warehouse here in Denver. Wall to wall dancey, sweaty, punks and it felt good! They've been around for a long time and have some Denver roots even though they make their home in Olympia, WA, so check 'em out!