

A Music Review

-Liam Reilly

There have been many great music releases in the past month. Here are a few of the standouts:

Trilogy by The Weeknd (Released Nov. 13):

Although this is a new release in terms of the album, the majority of the songs included in the album have already been released for about a year. The Weeknd, stage name of the Toronto based crooner Abel Tesfaye, put out three acclaimed mixtapes on his website beginning in 2011. Trilogy is a summation of the three mixtapes, along with three newly recorded tracks, a total of thirty songs. What The Weeknd brings to the table in his first official release are silky-smooth vocals reminiscent of Trey Songz, coupled with slow-tempo, hip-hop infused beats, and he does not disappoint. Among some of the better tracks on the album are "Montreal," an up-tempo pop track that provides a nice change of pace, and "D.D.," a modern take on the Michael Jackson classic, "Dirty Diana." Although I had already obtained the mixtapes from his website prior to the album's release, I still purchased Trilogy because of the three new tracks and because, it is simply that good. I recommend this album to anyone looking for a great R&B album this winter.

The World from the Side of the Moon by Phillip Phillips (Released Nov. 19):

As a casual follower of the show American Idol, I watched as Phillip Phillips, the most talented and consistent contestant, won convincingly last season. In his first album since winning American Idol, Phillips continues to show his artistic abilities, with a style that can be described as a special place where Pop, Rock, and Country meet. Each song on the album sees Phillips telling a story with his lyrics, making listening to the album a much deeper and more personal experience. Although mostly known for the top 40 hit, "Home," The World from the Side of the Moon boasts several other noteworthy tracks, including "Man on the Moon," which is a marriage of a Pop sound similar to The Script and guitar and banjo work reminiscent of Mumford and Sons. Another exceptional track is, "Get Up Get Down," a blend of guitar and horns that has a Dave Mathews Band feel to it. Phillips shines in his rookie release, and he stays true to the sound that earned him the American Idol crown.