

A Review

- Liam Reilly

We are a little less than a week away from the Grammys. Leading up to the premier night in music, there has been a substantial amount of new music released. Here are some of the highlights:

Albums:

1. Tegan and Sara, **Heartthrob**

The Calgary-based duo of identical twins that is Tegan and Sara have been making music for over twenty years. In that timeframe, the group has generally stuck to the indie rock scene, with hits such as “Walking With a Ghost,” which was later covered by The White Stripes, and “Back In Your Head.” However, in their most recent release, Tegan and Sara have taken their sound in a completely new direction. Heartthrob is very much a dance/pop album, which speaks to the duo’s recent collaborations with some of the big names in that genre, such as David Guetta and Tiesto. Personally, I view Tegan and Sara’s apparent musical reformation as a mixed bag. In an age where the generic pop song dominates the top 40, it is disheartening to see a band with a unique sound and style unable to stick to their guns. On the other hand, there is something to be said for becoming more mainstream, as it allows for a band to become more accessible to the general public, and expose a new audience to their music. Some of the notable tracks off of Heartthrob are “Goodbye, Goodbye,” an up-tempo pop song that could fit in on any best of 80’s pop album, and “Closer,” another up-tempo pop song that is ready-made to be blasting from the speakers of any urban clothing store.

Singles:

2. Justin Timberlake featuring Jay-Z, **“Suit and Tie”**

After his multi-year hiatus from music, it appears that Justin Timberlake is back, with a new album set to drop in late March. The first single off of the album, “Suit and Tie,” was released on iTunes a few weeks ago, and has hovered around the top 10 most purchased songs ever since. The single sees Timberlake return to his musical niche of classy ladies’ man, and very much has a Bee-Gees sound to it. The single also includes a verse from wellknown rapper Jay-Z, which provides a nice change of pace in the song. Although the single seems to have garnered popularity, it will be interesting to see if the album will be able to do the same. That is because while it may seem a novelty to have Timberlake back in music, one may come to realize, like I have, that Justin’s best music may have come and gone.

3. **The Lonely Island featuring Adam Levine and Kendrick Lamar, “YOLO”**

The SNL-based trio The Lonely Island made a return to the late night comedy show on the most recent episode, humorously explaining how to live life cautiously because, “You only live once.” Also, both host Adam Levine and musical guest Kendrick Lamar were able to lend their talents

to the song, singing the chorus and rapping a verse respectively. While specializing in satire, The Lonely Island's songs are generally enjoyable to listen to, and are outrageously funny. In that regard, their most recent single is more of the same. This single is particularly humorous, as it pokes fun at a common expression used by many teens today. This single may suggest a potential album from The Lonely Island, who usually release albums with a large quantity of songs, coming in the near future.

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