

# POMPOUS AND OPINIONATED

SCOTT DELL'AMORE

TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN

## I. NAPALM DEATH – APEX PREDATOR: EASY MEAT

This is the album of the decade. 30+ years as a band has culminated with this rich and barbarous album. It demands the listener to inch closer to their speakers, only to be quickly trampled by the waves of a highly kinetic aural assault. Just climb inside the dystopian destroyer that is *Apex Predator*. The wormhole is open and the grind is gargantuan.

## II. SUMAC – THE DEAL

Aaron Turner (Isis), Brian Cook (Botch), & Nick Yacyshyn (Baptists) build a sound so haunting, free, and uncontrived. It feels at times that the movements are undulating just under your skin. The moments that venture back into a stable form become menacing and fragile all at once, closing one's gaping mouth and forming an ear-to-ear grin.

## III. FAILURE – THE HEART OF A MONSTER

I absolutely love this band. First new music from them in damn-near 20 years and they never fell off. *The Heart is a Monster* finds Failure exactly where we left them, with 1996's *Fantastic Planet*. The songs are glorious and sweeping, in their customary space-rock soundscape. Reunions that yield new music are rarely fruitful, but here it is pure mastery.

## IV. METZ – II

Toronto's noise kings, Metz, released their sophomore record, and I've spent an absurd amount of time listening to each and every one of its hard-hitting bangers. I'm not terribly interested in hearing people explain that they think Metz are "okay." Those people are wrong. Leave your shitty underappreciating opinions for the next mundane pop record. I'll be over here, in a corner, listening to this raging animal.

## V. FATHER JOHN MISTY – I LOVE YOU, HONEYBEAR

Such a crafty lyricist; Josh Tillman is smug, sardonic, and subversive, all while tightly hugging his musical accompaniment that is reminiscent of a lazy Sunday-drive soundtrack. Its execution is both smart and seductive. There is enough here to impress both your Music teacher as well as your English teacher. Furthermore, I'm certain that it is also appealing to full-blown sociopaths for its charming yet dangerous qualities.