The Playlist

OUR FAVORITE SONGS & VIDEOS RIGHT NOW

1. Beck
   "Wow"
   Beck's next album will be out in the fall, and if his raucous, self-assured hip-hop side and his dusty, gorgeous singer-songwriter side since Getzlay. On "Wow," Beck drops lyrics such as "Standing on a lawn in a pillbox/Girl in a bikini with the Lamorghini/Shih Tzu" over a stringy, surreal beat that sounds like trap music, if the lord of the trap were Willy Wonka.

2. Pusha T feat. Jay Z
   "Drug Dealers Anonymous"
   Alongside Pusha T, the coke-ras laureate, Jay gets off the La-Z-Boy to deliver his best bars in ages. "Ambidextrous," "Countin' with my right, whippin' white with my left wrist," Nice job, Diddy.

3. The Shelters
   "Rebel Heart"
   The first band Tom Petty has ever produced, and you can tell why: These L.A. rockers are the spitting image of the Byrds-Beattles garage rock he grew up on.

4. The Monkees
   "He & Magdalena"
   The surviving Monkees just celebrated their 50th anniversary with a fantastic new LP, Good Times, and this autumnal ballad (written by Death Cab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard) is a gorgeous display of their ageless harmonies. The late Davy Jones is up there smiling.

5. Band of Horses
   "Whatever, Wherever"
   There are many kinds of summer hits, and this one offers you the lazy Sundays on the ocean, the long days of beach and the bonds of friends that will make you want to spend another afternoon drinking IPAs in a seaside hammock.

6. Angel Olsen
   "Intern"
   This high-drama indie folk artist tries out dreamy, yacht rock territory, and the results are satisfyingly slamming. Olsen's romanticism is realistic, never too easy, as she builds, delivering each line like it's her only emotional layer to get.

7. Rihanna
   "Kiss It Better (Kaytranada's Remix)"
   The original - a highlight from Anti - was a steel-hearted, back-to-back full of gauzy Seventies rock guitar. Canadian producer Kaytranada flips it into a beautiful house-music hallucination, making for one of the sweeter remixes we've heard this year.

Ann Wilson

Songs About Being There for Someone

"These are songs about talking directly to someone's spirit," says the Heart singer, who's touring this summer with Cheap Trick and Joan Jett. "They're all ballsed up." Peter Gabriel

"Don't Give Up"
He did this as a duet with Kate Bush. It's a pure dialogue between two people that isn't ironic or sarcastic. It really hits me.

Garbage

"Beloved Freak"
The message here is, "You aren't alone, and I love you, beloved freak." It's a song to the 20 percent of crazy people who recognize each other.

The Beatles

"Across the Universe"
This is pure, open-soul Lennon. He'd found his spiritual center with Yoko. It's an amazing moment.

The Rolling Stones

"Feel No Pain"
This one makes me melt because it's so simple and heart-rending. Even though they were drugged-out guys, they could still be vulnerable.

Led Zeppelin

"The Rain Song"
My favorite Led Zeppelin song. It's beautiful and spiritual, and though it's long, there's nothing extra in it at all. It's timeless.