

Lana Del Rey, Dierks Bentley, and The Fray release new albums

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Lana Del Rey, The Fray, and Dierks Bentley, recently released new albums in the past month. Lana Del Rey's album *Born to Die* offers a haunting alternative sound.

reflection on love and life.

The album is laced with fluid melodies and sweet harmonies, with Del Rey's haunting

songs, like "Off to the Races," which makes several references to the controversial novel, *Lolita*.

The album has an eerie beauty running consistently throughout, such as the reflections on love and desperation in the song, "Videogames."

be a bit ambiguous, and it seems to chase a pop style that vaguely resembles Gwen Stefani, while it also seems to drive in the opposite direction for the bulk of the album.

Del Rey appears to chase irony in her music and lyrics to an extreme in which the lines become blurred, detracting from the potential and talent of Del Rey. Overall however, the album is a strong exhibition of a promising new artist.

4/5 stars

to make use of strong dynamics in both the vocalists and the instrumentalists to create a captivating songs.

The one low point of the album were the lyrics, which, with a few exceptions, seemed to lack depth and breadth, which detracted from the brilliant instrumentals of the album.

The Fray reaffirmed their place in popular culture with an album that really exposed the bands musical abilities.

3.5/5 stars

Dierks Bentley

Home, released on Feb. 3, showcases the abilities of veteran country artist Dierks Bentley. Bentley has a soothing deep voice with just the right hint of a southern twang for a country artist. Bentley's album embodies the good ol' country boy with an edge through songs such as "The Woods."

The album also has an American theme running through it, through songs such as, "Home," which patriotically depict the best and worst of America, and the

The Fray gives us a versatile pop-rock sound in their new album *Scars and Stories*, while Dierks Bentley's new album *Home* lends a catchy country sound to the music scene.

Lana Del Rey
Born to Die, released on Jan. 31, gives a snapshot of the

lyrics weaving the songs together. Del Rey's lyrics are hardened and sorrowful, with a theme of bad romance running through the majority of the songs.

Dark undertones shadow some of the more carefree and upbeat

The Fray
Scars and Stories, released on Feb. 7, captures the growth of The Fray as a band, and displays their musical finesse. The new album is musically impressive, with

stellar instrumentals that blend perfectly with the distinctive vocals of the lead singer Isaac Slade.

The band displayed their versatility by featuring songs with driving rhythms and heavy instrumentals, while also featuring slower songs with much softer instrumentation.

Many of the songs highlighted the abilities of their guitarists and drummers with complex instrumentals, but The Fray also showed another side of the band with "Be Still," a song using modest piano and violin as a simple yet beautiful backdrop for the powerful lyrics of the song.

The band not only showed their versatility between the songs of the album, but also within their songs.

Songs like "I Can Barely Say" captured the bands ability

sacrifices that the country stands on.

The album flip-flops between traditional country instrumentation to a heavier electric guitar, which adds a new dimension to the album.

The instrumentation and Bentley interact perfectly, the guitar, drums, and violin push the song forward, while Bentley's voice is more mellow, giving the album a sense of calm excitement.

The album is well-balanced, with symmetry between carefree and meaningful lyrics.

Overall, the album has a laid-back rhythm that is easy to listen to. However, some parts of the album seem to drag, and it is difficult to become engaged beyond just toe-tapping with the music.

Home is a strong performance from country artist Dierks Bentley that excellently showcases his strong vocal abilities.

3.5/5 stars

emerging artist Lana Del Rey. The album title sets the tone for the album, a bittersweet

However, at times, songs on the album seem to

