

Stop music, in the name of music



PAUL
BLINOV

Every Tuesday, the music industry rewards loyal fans with a fresh batch of shiny new discs from their favourite artists. Kanye West, 50 Cent, Hot Hot Heat and The Go! Team all have releases today, for example, each costing the consumer a pretty penny—and that’s just the tip of this week’s wallet-sinking iceberg of releases. Thousands of CDs get released yearly, but how many of those could you really call original?

Sure, argue that Kayne’s rhymes bring something fresh to the table, or that hiding behind the moniker of indie makes something unique; the truth is that most music these days is just a rehash of what’s come before—Justin Timberlake is derived from Michael Jackson; Amy Winehouse grabbed her schtick from the Motown girls of the ’60s; Simple Plan is pure junior high talent show—quality or not, it’s basically just grabbing at what has already been done.

What music needs is an old fashioned time out. A five-year cool-down period, during which nobody releases *anything* new.

Sound crazy? Listen up: I’m not advocating the end of music or touring, or setting piles of CDs ablaze in some self-righteous “fuck off” to recording artists. But if everyone could just take a break from releasing derivative crap, I think we’d all be better for it, artists included.

It wouldn’t be that bad financially: big-name artists could live off of their established fortunes, and most smaller bands make more money off of tours anyways—and they could always teach music lessons to pay the bills. Record execs could take a hiatus into the regular business/marketing world, and



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH Stop releasing music until you get your groove back.

audio engineers could develop new technologies to better the quality of recordings.

But back to music itself: without having to worry about making a release that pleases their record label or sells by the bucket, artists would begin to actually explore their music again and probably come up with something totally new and sexy. Two years is too short of a time span for any change to occur—that’s the average waiting time between an artist’s albums—and ten years is too long. But in five years, something could actually happen to pull music out of the repetitive undertow it’s presently stuck in.

Plus, fans would actually seek out quality older music instead of waiting for some young, sexy singer to make a certain style or era cool

again. There’s an almost century-long backlog of recorded music that doesn’t get the respect it deserves from new generations of music lovers. Why waste everyone’s time and effort making mediocre new tunes when the old stuff crackles with the excitement of having *invented* styles and genres? Stores like HMV could dig into the back-catalogues and re-release ancient-but-deserving music to a new generation of fans.

Is it really that crazy to have five years without new music? Nobody has even come close to hearing everything that’s already available—you probably won’t even look into five albums that get released today. So give music a chance by actually giving it a chance to figure out something new.



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

LIGHT AND SHADOWS After a long month of work, Tim Rechner and Craig Talbot finished their Morning Light exhibit.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



We are now accepting applications for Sandwich Artists

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- International students welcome!

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STUDENTS’ UNION ELECTIONS

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Work Part-Time on Voting Days (September 27 & 28)

- Set up, Supervise, and take down Polling Stations
- Paid Training Session
- Wage: \$8.00/Hour

Application Deadline: Thursday, September 20 @ 17:00

POLL CAPTAINS (3 POSITIONS)

Work Part-Time September 24-28

- Supervise Candidates & Enforce Election Regulations
- Assist Poll Clerks on Voting Days
- Paid Training Session
- Wage: \$9.00/Hour

Application Deadline: Monday, September 17 @ 17:00

Applications Available from 2-900 SUB and online at
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