



**The
Most
Anticipated
Albums
of
2015**

**Top
Music
Festivals
&**

**The Most
Underrated**

Breakout

Artists

of

2015

CALVIN HARRIS

Exclusive interview on his career,
upcoming album & being on tour



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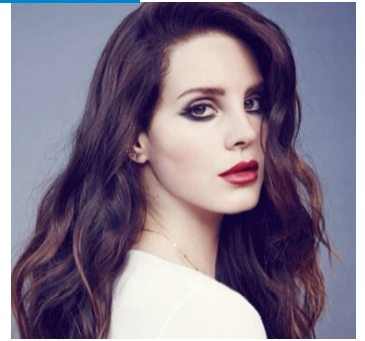
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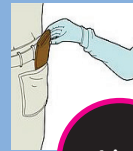
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Stay smart during festival season



1 in 3

1 in 3 festival-goers will lose items or have them stolen

Top 3 things people bring to a festival

1.



Camera

2.



Sunblock

3.



Waterbottle

SYNC Staff / January 29 2015

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Breakout

Artists

of

2015

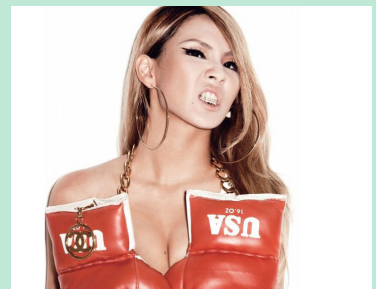
Who To Watch Out For This Year



Ryn Weaver

Ryn Weaver is your favorite singer's favorite singer. Hayley Williams, Charli XCX, Passion Pit's Michael Angelakos and Jessie Ware have all bestowed their praises onto the San Diego singer. Meanwhile, super-producer Benny Blanco (a.k.a. the man who helped helm recent smashes like Iggy Azalea's "Black Widow," Maroon 5's "Animals" and Ed Sheeran's "Don't") is working closely with her and calls her a "sure thing." We're convinced.

CL, a leader of K-pop group 2NE1 is already an established star earning praises from Diplo, M.I.A, Snoop Dogg and more. But this spring, she'll look to expand her solo star power through a full-fledged U.S. solo career with the help of Justin Bieber/Ariana Grande manager Scooter Braun. How will the music sound? Based off the strength of "MTBD," a solo track which she co-wrote and Rolling Stone called the "centerpiece" of 2NE1's Crush album, chances are it'll be bangin'.



CL

MNEK



MNEK is the British producer/singer who's been finding critical success (like garnering a GRAMMY nod for his work on Duke Dumont's "Need U") and co-signs from pop legends (including Madonna and Kylie Minogue). The 20-year-old ended 2014 by releasing his spastic new song "The Rhythm." If it's the note he chose to end the year on, we're expecting big things in 2015 when his full-length debut drops.

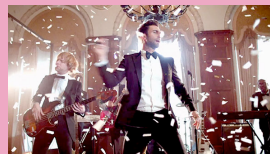
Also of note: MNEK is signed to Modest Management, who also have One Direction, 5 Seconds of Summer and Little Mix on their roster. Yeah, dude's in really good hands.

Lil Durk



Lil Durk, hailing from Chicago, looks poised to make a big mark on the hip hop scene in 2015. After being picked as a 2014 XXL Freshmen Class honoree, the 22-year-old is prepping his debut full-length *Remember My Name* through a deal with Def Jam Records (home to recent breakout stars like YG, Big Sean and Iggy Azalea) and French Montana's imprint.

Must Watch Music Videos:



Maroon 5 Crash A Ton Of Weddings In Their "Sugar" Vid.



Ellie Goulding Drops 'Fifty Shades of Grey' Music Video



Eminem Releases "Detroit vs. Everybody" Video



Watch John Legend & Common's Powerful "Glory" Video



Watch Taylor Swift's new "Shake it Off" Video

MOST ANTICIPATED ALBUMS OF 2015



ADELE

WILL SHE OR WON'T SHE?!? MANY WERE CONVINCED ADELE'S FOLLOW-UP TO HER BLOCKBUSTER 21 ALBUM WAS COMING LAST YEAR, WHEN THE POWERHOUSE TWEETED "BYE BYE 25... SEE YOU AGAIN LATER IN THE YEAR"—BUT WE NEVER GOT A 25, NOR ANY OTHER NEW ADELE MUSIC. THIS YEAR LOOKS LIKE A GOOD BET WITH PRODUCERS LIKE RYAN TEDDER (WHO HELMED 21 SINGLE "RUMOUR HAS IT") GIVING OUT MORE AND MORE DETAILS. CAN ADELE BREAK EVEN MORE SALES RECORDS WITH THIS ALBUM? WE DON'T CARE...WE JUST WANT HER BACK!!! — JEFF BENJAMIN

BRITNEY SPEARS

WHILE BRITNEY HERSELF HAS YET TO SAY ANYTHING, IGGY AZALEA LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG AFTER REVEALING SHE LAID DOWN A VERSE FOR THE POP STAR'S FIRST SINGLE FROM HER UPCOMING ALBUM. AFTER THE DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE (FOR POP PRINCESS STANDARDS) OF 2013'S BRITNEY JEAN, WE HAVE A FEELING THE NEW LAS VEGAS RESIDENT IS REALLY READY TO WORK...BITCH! — JEFF BENJAMIN

DRAKE

2015 MIGHT BE DRAKE'S YEAR. THE "HOLD ON, WE'RE GOING HOME" RAPPER IS HEADLINING COACHELLA AND NEW YORK CITY'S GOVERNORS BALL THIS YEAR, SO PERHAPS A NEW ALBUM IS UNDERWAY? WE'RE BANKING ON IT AFTER HIS KILLER VERSE IN NICKI MINAJ'S "ONLY," AND HIS FIERCE COLLABO WITH FUTURE, "NEVER SATISFIED." THEN, OF COURSE, THERE WERE THE THREE TRACKS DRAKE SURPRISE-DROPPED ON HIS SOUNDCLOUD. COME ON, DRIZZY! WE ARE READY! — MARIA SHERMAN

ELLIE GOULDING

LAST WE HEARD FROM ELLIE GOULDING WAS EARLIER THIS MONTH—THE "BURN" BABE SHARED "LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO," HER SAUCY SONG FOR THE STEAMY FIFTY SHADES OF GREY SOUNDTRACK. (OTHER CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE THE WEEKND AND BEYONCÉ...NOT TOO SHABBY!) AND, OF COURSE, THERE WAS HER TRACK WITH IGGY AZALEA, "HEAVY CROWN," FOR COLIN FIRTH'S LATEST FLICK. GOULDING'S LAST FULL-LENGTH RELEASE WAS IN 2012, THE PHENOMENAL HALCYON. THREE YEARS LATER, AND WE'RE BEGGING FOR MORE! — MARIA SHERMAN

EXO

THE BOY BAND BROKE A RECORD LAST YEAR AS THE BEST-SELLING K-POP ACT ON BILLBOARD'S YEAR-END CHARTS EVER...AND ALL THEY RELEASED WAS AN EPI! WITH A NEW FULL-LENGTH SAID TO BE ON ITS WAY, WE'RE EXCITED NOT ONLY TO SEE HOW THE GUYS FARE ON THE CHARTS, BUT ALSO WHAT AMAZING CHOREOGRAPHY, HAIRSTYLES AND FASHION THEY'LL ROCK TOO. "OVERDOSE" WAS GREAT, BUT WE'RE READY FOR MORE. — JEFF BENJAMIN

CL

AFTER LEADING 2NE1 TO GLOBAL STARDOM, CL WILL STEP OUT ON HER OWN WITH A FULL-FLEDGED SOLO DEBUT IN AMERICA. SHE'S GOT AN ALL-STAR CAST HELPING HER FROM MANAGEMENT (JUSTIN BIEBER AND ARIANA GRANDE MANAGER SCOOTER BRAUN) TO PRODUCERS (SHE'S BEEN IN THE STUDIO WITH DIPLO, SKRILLEX AND BLOOD DIAMONDS) TO FRIENDS (DESIGNER DU JOUR JEREMY SCOTT REGULARLY DRESSES HER; SHE ONCE BROUGHT RITA ORA ONSTAGE FOR A PERFORMANCE). WITH HER POWERFUL COMBO OF RAPPING AND SINGING, CL COULD BE THE FRESH NEW POP STAR OF THE YEAR AND VERY WELL MAKE FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ASIAN MUSICIAN... EVER? — JEFF BENJAMIN

—FOR OTHER MUSIC BY
THESE ARTISTS YOU CAN VISIT
ITUNES

Top Music Festivals of 2015



Coachella Music Festival in Indio, CA

#1

South By Southwest

When: March 13-22

Where: Austin, TX

Why You Should Go: It's the best festival in the world for uncovering new raw talent. SXSW means hopping around bars and venues in Austin, mingling with a mixed group of music fans and music industry people and watching future stars earn their stripes. Of course, you get the big names, too—who could forget Gaga's high-octane/vomit art performance last year?—but half the fun is stumbling across a brand new act, loving them and then bragging about it when that act blows up four months later.

#2

Ultra

When: March 27-29

Where: Miami, FL

Why You Should Go: Ultra is the most famous EDM festival in North America and for good reason. Do you see the highlights from 2014 up there? We could have kept adding more if we wanted. Also, Miami is a hell of a city to throw a huge party in. Ultra was condensed from two weekends to one in 2014, but that just means the fun is more concentrated.

#3

Coachella

When: April 10-12, April 17-19

Where: Indio, CA

Why You Should Go: Taking place in the middle of the desert, Coachella is a top-notch festival experience. It provides an argument each year that its lineup is king of all festivals, and 2014 was no exception. Organizers snagged the first confirmed OutKast reunion appearance, the Replacements played only their fourth show since 1991, and the rest of the headliners made for two weekends that kicked off festival season right.

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#4

Sasquatch**When:** May 23-25**Where:** Gorge, WA

Why You Should Go: One of the savviest festivals around, Sasquatch! makes use of not just one, but two holiday weekends (update: the second weekend was canceled). Separated between Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends, Sasquatch! promises to deliver two completely different lineups this year. That's quite an undertaking – but we wouldn't expect anything less from a festival that sold out in a record 90 minutes last year.

#5

Electric Daisy Carnival**When:** May 24-25 (NYC), June 20-22 (Las Vegas)**Where:** New York City and the big party in Las Vegas

Why You Should Go: The New York City event is a two-day warm-up for the bigger attraction, which is the insane party in Las Vegas. There's nary an EDM festival that's more widely anticipated, and Electric Daisy does it right – having acts perform between sunset and sunrise as opposed to during the day. Make sure you stay hydrated – you'll get surprisingly tired considering the sun's not out – but besides that, it's a blast of a festival.

#6

Bonnaroo**When:** June 12-15**Where:** Manchester, TN

Why You Should Go: None of the top few American festivals are as “hardcore” as Bonnaroo for most people who go. It's one of the greatest camping experiences at any festival in the world and Bonnaroo organizers constantly deliver a fantastic lineup. Once you survive four days sleeping outside and watching awesome bands in the intense Tennessee heat, no one will doubt your festival experience.

#7

Firefly**When:** June 19-22**Where:** Dover, DE

Why You Should Go: Firefly can still be classified as a start-up of sorts, only launching in 2012. But the festival claims a unique home in the beautiful woodlands of Delaware and has come on strong with two powerful lineups. There's camping available as well, so you can make a lot out of this fest!

#8

Lollapalooza**When:** August 1-3**Where:** Chicago, IL

Why You Should Go: Lolla has a great reputation as one of the most organized festivals in the country, as we saw in 2012 when a gnarly storm shut things down for part of the weekend. Sets were rescheduled and the show impressively went on. Other pros about the Chicago fest: Krewella says you don't have to dress fancy and you can explore the city by day.

#9

TomorrowWorld**When:** September 26-28**Where:** Chattahoochee Hills, GA

Why You Should Go: TomorrowWorld is the American expansion of global phenomenon Tomorrowland, which is widely considered one of the most popular festivals in the world. Last year was its first incarnation, and if they had to work out any kinks, they weren't all that noticeable. The festival's debut was a huge success and offers an experience unlike any other with its “Dreamville” camping area.

UNDERRATED

MUSIC

FESTIVALS

PITCHFORK

Pitchfork Music Festival takes place each year in the heat of July in Chicago. Since it's thrown by the king of indie music publications, the 3 day festival is, as expected, a who's who of cool acts from all around the world. Spanning genres from hardcore punk to experimental jazz, previous line ups have included Kendrick Lamar, Animal Collective, Cat Power, Bon Iver and Hot Chip.

OXYGEN

Though it's heralded as Ireland's biggest music festival, Oxegen could easily rank as one of the world's best festivals as well. When it first debuted in 2004, the County Kildare festival was headlined by the Strokes, the Cure and Kings of Leon – a killer line up that would seem somewhat impossible to top. But the 3 day festival has consistently out done themselves each year since, with previous acts including The Prodigy, The Who, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Daft Punk, James Brown, Nine Inch Nails, R.E.M, Jay-Z, Eminem, Beyonce, Coldplay and pretty much every other act that you want to dance to at a festival. If those names sound like a good time to you, don't miss this year's festival which is set to take place in July.

EXIT

When you think huge music festivals, Serbia is probably the last country to come to mind. But contrary to popular perception, the Balkan country hosts one of the world's best music festivals. Originating from a student protest against the government in 2000, the festival has now grown to become a 4 day event, held annually in Petrovaradin in July. While the festival has a number of stages dedicated to various genres of music, Exit has a strong dance music presence with previous acts including Jamiro-quai, Beastie Boys, MIA, Pet Shop Boys and Kraftwerk. Other notable artists such as Patti Smith, Snoop Dogg, Wu-tang Clan, the White Stripes and Iggy Pop have also performed at the festival. Not too shabby Serbia.

BILBAO BBK

Rock & roll fans from all around the world would have heard about Bilbao BBK Live by now. Since 2006 the festival has seen the likes of Metallica, Rammstein, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Lenny Kravitz, Pearl Jam, Blondie, Placebo and Radiohead play on its stages. Each year in July the four day long festival takes place in Bilbao's largest park, Kobetamendi Park, and is visited by a crowd of over 100,000.



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