

Breaking news: Tamar Berk, Hurry, Arthur Alexander, and Movie Movie

by Dennis Pilon : 6-8 minutes : 10/1/2023



The news desk here at *Poprock Record* won't win any awards for being on the scene when stories break. But we live in hope our headlines are the hooks you've been looking for.

A new album from [Tamar Berk](#) isn't just a release, it's an event. *Tiny Injuries* is the third installment of a trilogy of albums exploring love, loss and surviving. It's also a love letter to all the musical influences she holds dear. Berk's finely tuned ear reliably turns classic poprock sounds into something new. From the opening bars of album opener "if u know, u know" the feel is new wave 1979, until some insistent synth hooks blur the focus, leaching into the 1980s. Berk knows how to build a song and by continually adding subtle elements the track becomes timeless, unmoored from its initial influences. Some cuts here really draw out a gut level retro response. "drop in the bucket" is a genius 1980s reinvention, balancing a melodic menace with the rhythm guitar's magnetic pull carrying the listener forward. The organ run kicking off "walking hurricane" knocked me off my chair but that was nothing compared to the song's irrepressible Go Go's rhythmic intensity. Dance party approved, indeed. "gonna call it" uses over-the-top 1980s synth drama to frame a rocking classic. By contrast, other songs bring to life a tender, almost Suzanne Vega-like combination of lyrical-musical introspection. It's there on "what's become of me, my friend," "cash out," and "i was saved by the beauty in the world." Berk is also mindful of sonic texture. Just listen to how she develops "permanent vacation" starting with rugged acoustic guitar, slowly adding idiosyncratic synth and horns, and topping everything with ethereal background vocals. Should-be hit-single here, definitely "Sunday Driving." Things get rocking with a load of tasty lead guitar hooks. At then the album ends with "if i could fix one thing," a stark, striking, emotional closer. *Tiny Injuries* is Berk firing on all creative cylinders and the ride is more than fine.