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## Twelve Must-Hear Albums: Robyn, Snail Mail, and More

### Description

Paula Kelley, a co-founding member of the Boston band Drop Nineteens, has released her first solo album in over twenty years. She explains that getting sober helped her learn how to be a better person, which influenced her writing. Kelley's new album, *Blinking as the Starlight Burns Out*, revisits her shoegaze roots and transforms them into dreamy alt-rock songs that reach listeners on a deep level.

The album showcases a mix of soundscapes that evoke feelings of nostalgia and creativity. Kelley's work reflects her personal journey over the years, marking a notable return to the music scene. This is significant not only for her fans but also for the independent music community, which values authentic stories.

Responses to the album have been positive. Critics highlight the emotional depth in Kelley's songwriting and the overall production quality. Her return may inspire other artists who have faced challenges in their careers or personal lives, showing that change and growth are possible.

As her music becomes available on various streaming platforms and stores, listeners can easily access Kelley's new work. This album represents a moment of revival in her career and could lead to more developments for her in the future.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **sober** //ˈsoʊbər// (adjective): not drinking alcohol and being clear-headed
2. **shoegaze** //ˈʃuːˌgeɪz// (noun): a style of music with loud, dreamy guitar sounds
3. **soundscapes** //ˈsaʊndskeɪps// (noun): a group of sounds that make a mood
4. **nostalgia** //nəˈstældʒə// (noun): a warm, sometimes sad feeling about the past
5. **independent** //ˌɪndɪˈpɛndənt// (adjective): not part of big companies; smaller or free
6. **revival** //rɪˈvaɪvəl// (noun): a return to popularity or activity after decline

### Comprehension Questions

#### Multiple Choice

1. What is the title of Paula Kelley's new album?

Option: Awakening Dreams

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- Option: Blinking as the Starlight Burns Out
  - Option: Echoes of the Past
  - Option: Shadows of Tomorrow

2. What genre does Paula Kelley's new album primarily fall into?

- Option: Pop
- Option: Hip-Hop
- Option: Dreamy Alt-Rock
- Option: Classical

3. How long has it been since Paula Kelley released her first solo album?

- Option: Ten years
- Option: Twenty years
- Option: Fifteen years
- Option: Five years

4. What has helped Paula Kelley learn how to be a better person?

- Option: Getting married
- Option: Getting sober
- Option: Traveling
- Option: Reading books

5. Which band is Paula Kelley a co-founding member of?

- Option: The Pixies
- Option: Drop Nineteens
- Option: Radiohead
- Option: Tame Impala

6. What do critics highlight about Kelley's new album?

- Option: Its commercial success
- Option: The emotional depth and production quality
- Option: The use of electronic elements
- Option: The length of the album

### True-False

7. Paula Kelley has released her first solo album in ten years.



8. The album showcases a mix of soundscapes evoking nostalgia.
9. Kelley's music is only available on physical formats.
10. Responses to the album have been negative.
11. Kelley's new album marks a return to the music scene.
12. The independent music community values authenticity in storytelling.

### Gap-Fill

13. Paula Kelley is a co-founding member of the Boston band \_\_\_\_\_ Nineteens.
14. Kelley's new album revisits her \_\_\_\_\_ roots.
15. The album showcases a mix of soundscapes that evoke feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ and creativity.
16. Kelley's work reflects her personal journey over the \_\_\_\_\_ years.
17. Critics highlight the emotional \_\_\_\_\_ in Kelley's songwriting.
18. As her music becomes available on various \_\_\_\_\_ platforms, listeners can easily access Kelley's work.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Blinking as the Starlight Burns Out 2. Dreamy Alt-Rock 3. Twenty years 4. Getting sober 5. Drop Nineteens 6. The emotional depth and production quality

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. Drop 14. shoegaze 15. nostalgia 16. years 17. depth 18. streaming

### Vocabulary quizzes



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**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. Who are individuals that engage in illegal trade of goods or people?  
Option: Smugglers  
Option: Traffickers  
Option: Sellers  
Option: Distributors
  
2. What is often held to honor and remember someone who has passed away?  
Option: Celebration  
Option: Memorial  
Option: Rally  
Option: Ceremony
  
3. What is the term for a gathering of people who have been apart for a long time?  
Option: Reunion  
Option: Ceremony  
Option: Event  
Option: Gathering
  
4. What do you call a person who campaigns for a cause?  
Option: Activist  
Option: Politician  
Option: Leader  
Option: Supporter
  
5. What term describes mental or emotional strain?  
Option: Relaxation  
Option: Tension  
Option: Joy  
Option: Calm
  
6. What do you call the last competitors remaining in a contest?  
Option: Participants  
Option: Winners  
Option: Finalists  
Option: Entrants
  
7. What type of film tells the life story of a significant person?  
Option: Action  
Option: Documentary  
Option: Biographical



Option: Fictional

8. What is the process of selecting actors for roles in a project?

- Option: Rehearsing
- Option: Auditioning
- Option: Casting
- Option: Shooting

9. What is the close examination of something termed?

- Option: Review
- Option: Scrutiny
- Option: Oversight
- Option: Survey

10. What word describes the process of bringing back to life or popularity?

- Option: Decline
- Option: Revival
- Option: End
- Option: Completion

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

- 11. The act of \_\_\_\_\_ someone's trust can lead to deep emotional pain.
- 12. The community organized a \_\_\_\_\_ to protest against the new law.
- 13. They were \_\_\_\_\_ their true intentions to achieve their goal.
- 14. In the movie, there is a dramatic \_\_\_\_\_ that reveals the character's past.
- 15. Her \_\_\_\_\_ about her abilities often held her back from taking risks.
- 16. The sudden \_\_\_\_\_ shocked everyone at the meeting.
- 17. The film was \_\_\_\_\_ for its lack of character development.
- 18. He \_\_\_\_\_ the role of a troubled genius in the drama.
- 19. Her speech had a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on the audience.
- 20. Listening to that song brings a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ for my childhood.



**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. An activist fights for social and political change through various forms of advocacy.
22. A memorial serves to honor and remember those who have passed away.
23. Tension often arises in situations of conflict or disagreement.
24. Casting is crucial for ensuring that the right actors bring a script to life.
25. The finalists in the competition were announced with much excitement.
26. Insecurity can lead to a lack of confidence in one's abilities.
27. The revival of the local theater brought back classic performances to the community.
28. A flashback often provides insight into a character's backstory in films.
29. Public figures often face intense scrutiny from the media.
30. The novel's themes offered a profound commentary on human nature.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Traffickers 2. Memorial 3. Reunion 4. Activist 5. Tension 6. Finalists 7. Biographical  
8. Casting 9. Scrutiny 10. Revival

**Gap-Fill:** 11. betraying 12. rally 13. disguising 14. flashback 15. insecurity 16. revelation 17. criticized  
18. portrayed 19. profound 20. nostalgia

**Matching sentence:** 1. activist 2. memorial 3. tension 4. casting 5. finalists 6. insecurity 7. revival 8. flashback  
9. scrutiny 10. profound

**CATEGORY**

1. Entertainment - LEVEL3

**POST TAG**

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2. esl news
3. Level 3
4. listen to music
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