

A Song For Friday: Water From Your Eyes

The New York art rockers shoot the moon on album four. Also: The Stargazer Lilies, Hand Habits, Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country, Winter, Earl Sweatshirt, The Problem With Kids Today, and Mayas/Denley



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Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country - Horizons On this expansive follow-up to 2023's Reflector, Donato and Co. have two speeds: brisk and hellbent for leather. The opening cut, Blame The Train, an electrifying bluegrass-infused number, tears down the tracks at such a tempo that you may need to listen twice to note how perfectly constructed Donato's guitar solo is. The rest of the band—Nathan "Sugar Legg" Aronowitz (keyboards, guitar, and vocals), Will "Mustang" McGee (bass and vocals), and Will "Bronco" Clark (drums, percussion, and vocals)—has no trouble keeping up, either, with Aronowitz contributing several high-flying keyboard solos. Fiddle and pedal steel add further decoration for a dimensional sound, and the songs are mostly major-key and always carry a blast of optimism. Knowing from Reflector how telepathic the interplay among the band members can be, I couldn't wait to get to Chore, which breaks the 11-minute barrier while traversing through funk, prog, and spacy variants on country rock. They also jam out on Down Bedford, the last track, delivering almost 10 minutes of cosmic joy laced with a welcome whiff of the mystic. I'm still waiting to see Donato in concert, where some songs are blown out to 20 minutes or more. Based on this album and Reflector, I'm sure not a second is wasted.