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# amazingnewsletter

Jan/Feb '16

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It's been a busy couple of months here at *amazing* and we've barely had time to realise it's a brand new year! We've got so much to tell you we thought we'd try to cram it all in one newsletter, so here goes - from features to news, gigs to tributes... it's all *amazing*

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## Featured Artist - #newonamazing

**Thom Byles** has been making waves in the blogosphere recently with his hypnotic indie-folk ode on nature [In Your Blood](#). We caught up with him recently to talk a little more about it...

With his musical roots residing firmly in **jazz** and **blues**, growing up Thom playing anything he could lay his hands on has rendered him a **multi-instrumentalist**.

Rather remarkably, Byles is the only artist you will hear performing on this track – playing everything from the uke, to percussion and guitar.

Taking an **experimental approach** to his song-writing, *In Your Blood* is a beautiful and mesmerising homage to the great outdoors, inspired by his many hikes through the wilderness.

We spoke to Thom about what the future holds for him.

*"Perhaps the thing I'm most excited for is to support one of my idols, Patrick Watson, in Mexico City. I'm really looking forward to that."*

Aside from this, Thom plans to keep on writing and writing. You can expect to catch Thom on the **7th of February** at the **Slaughtered Lamb, Clerkenwell** with his other two band mates.

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**Thom Byles:** *In Your Blood*

Be in with the chance of being featured in our next newsletter, find out more on how to be [#newonamazing](#) [here!](#)

## ourstage

Happy New Year from *OurStage.com*! Thanks to our community of fan judges, 2015 was an excellent year of discovering new music from within our own vast catalog of independent artists, some of whom saw their careers really begin to take off.



As we watched **Taylor Swift's** behemoth world tour roll through our hometown of Boston MA, we couldn't help notice that several of her special guests were longtime *OurStage* artists. [HAIM](#) and [Walk The Moon](#) each featured prominently in the '1989' tour, and both have been with us as far back as 2009. Meanwhile, artists like [Yonas](#), [Nikki Lynette](#), [Late Cambrian](#), [Kat Robichaud](#), and [Jitta On The Track](#) were prolific in their creative output, and continued to build their devoted followings, fan by fan.

2015 was also the first full year of the '*OurStage on Amazing Radio*' show, and it's been a blast.

We've showcased some incredible talent from

the top of our fan-ranked charts, with repeated showings by emerging artists [The House of Jed](#), [The Shills](#), [Kingsfoil](#), [We Are The Big Bang](#), [Aloud](#), [Jesse Terry](#), and brand new acts like [Westvale](#) and [The Venns](#).

We look forward to another year of helping artists build their careers, connecting them to new fans every day. Check back at our [blog](#) for news on some exciting new releases, and stay tuned to our radio show to hear what the fans are into each month.

## amazingradio

January is all about new music, artists to be discovered and predictions for the year ahead. In December we launched our predictions for 2016 via our [annual Tips list](#)

With festival season just around the corner, as well as reporting back from many of Europe's top events, we've been asked to take part in [Glastonbury's search for new and emerging bands](#). A whole host of new music aficionados make up the judging panel with the eventual winner receiving a slot on one of the festivals main stages this summer. Entries can be submitted between **Monday 18th** and **Monday 25th January**. [Enter now!](#)

Like many online spaces and radio stations the end of year usually comprises of best of lists. We launched our [chart of the year](#), a comprehensive list of the most popular 100 tracks we aired in 2015. **Wolf Alice** took the top spot however the full list is well worth checking out if you have a spare couple of hours to spend on discovering new acts.

Our artist takeover series continued at the tail end of 2015 with a special one off show from [Lucy Rose](#) and a return to the *Amazing Radio* airwaves for [Sivu](#). Watch this space as we aim to bring you the tastes of The Line of Best Fit and *Amazing Records Co.* signings Boy Jumps Ships in this series very soon.

Life at *amazing* is fast paced, there's no time to sit on our laurels. Already this year we've chatted to the likes of [Palace Winter](#), [Jodie Abacus](#), [Elvis Perkins](#), [Tuska](#), Shields, Bloc Party and The Mystery Jets.

With [Independent Venue Week](#) some great [new album releases](#) and our coverage of [Outlines Festival](#) just around the corner, 2016 is already shaping up nicely.

Oh year we nearly forgot, if you're looking for a career in radio you might want to check out this cool opportunity to work with us via [Creative North](#)



*amazingtunes*

2015 saw *amazingtunes.com* grow massively, and it's all thanks to you.

**Artists;** Your tunes generated a quarter of a million plays, and your profiles were visited by a record number of fans. **Fans;** You helped promote your new favourite artists by sharing their music, something that was done via Twitter and Facebook embeds on a massive scale. **Labels;** You created more artist profiles than ever before, giving fans a chance to discover and artists a chance to be discovered!

We've only just stepped into 2016, and the new features and behind the scenes mechanics are coming along fantastically. Keep your eyes open for new features including easier, better, and more comprehensive stats, new sidebar navigation, new layouts, and new profile attributes - all to make uploading, promoting, and selling your tunes easier and quicker!

## **#TunesWeLove**

Here's a few picks from this month's favourites >>



**Field Music**  
*Disappointed*



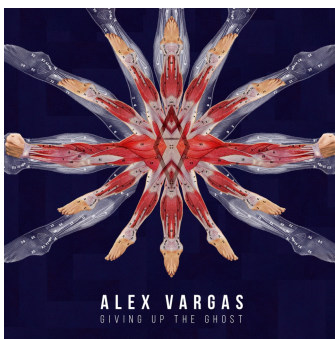
**The Wild Wild**  
*Ghost Of 1941*



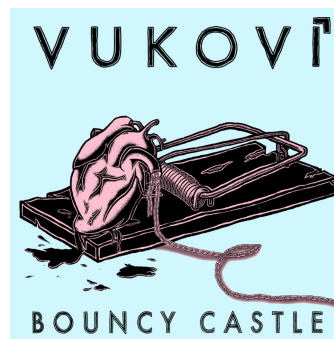
**Philco Fiction**  
*Runimals*



**Heir**  
*Scrapped Paper*



**Alex Vargas**  
*Shackled Up*



**Vukovi**  
*Bouncy Castle*

**amazingrecordco.**

For *Amazing Record Co*, 2015 was massive: we launched with our first release from Therapy?, held our launch party at **Sage Gateshead**, and made two incredible new signings: [Boy Jumps Ship](#) and [The Qemists](#). It's been a year of releases, tours, celebrations, hard work and rewards.

[Boy Jumps Ship](#) have spent the year honing their electrifying live show by touring alongside the likes of [Vukovi](#), [Young Guns](#) and [Only Rivals](#). Alongside this, their latest track [Burn](#) was premiered by Daniel P Carter on **Radio 1's Rock Show**, and their [video](#) has gathered attention from the likes of **Kerrang!**, **MTV Rocks** and **Team Rock**. The lads debut album will be dropping this Spring.

[The Qemists](#) have had a good one. [Run You](#), their latest single, has made number 6 so far in the **Kerrang!** chart (and is still climbing), and featured on the trailer for **Terminator: Genysis**. In 2016, they will be a main support for [Enter Shikari's](#) forthcoming European tour and will also be releasing their album, *Warrior Sound*.



True to form, the [Therapy?](#) boys have worked their absolute socks off, spending the year solidly touring across Europe, and releasing studio album *Disquiet*, which was received with critical acclaim across the rock press and featured in many album of the year charts, including **Team Rock**, **New Noise**, **Terrorizer** and **Metal Hammer**. For the band, 2016 holds more touring, and they will be releasing *Tides*.

We have had many successes in our label services department, including Axel Flovent's [Forest Fires EP](#), Elvis Perkins's *I [Aubade](#)*, Border Scout's [The Nature Of Things](#), Parastatic's [Recall/Fade/Return](#), and Tessera Skies' single

[Such Great Heights](#).

We have also launched our compilation series, *You Heard It Here First*, with [Indie Vol.1](#) and [Rock Vol.1](#).

2016 is set to be a huge year for us. Look out for releases from all of our artists, with appearances at some big festivals this summer. Oh, and not to mention, another signing is to be announced very soon.

*amazinginstore*

## Ooooh! Haven't you grown?

2015 was an absolutely incredible year for us here at *Amazing Instore*. Our service was in hundreds more stores. We hired two new, expert, music profilers to meet the demand. And, we attracted the attention of wonderful new brands, who just love what we do.



While this might be starting to sound a bit boring and corporate, it actually means that the music we use, your music, is heard by literally millions more ears.

Our boffins have worked out, through the information we have on footfall of businesses we provide for, that *Instore* artists are heard by around half a billion pairs of ears. Yes, you read that correctly... **half a billion!**

We've watched artists we supported at the start of their careers, such as [Daughter](#), [Circa Waves](#) and [Alt-J](#) go on to produce number 1 albums, tour worldwide and become huge stars. 2016 looks set to be bigger and better, with our service rolling out to more brands nationwide. But we couldn't do any of this without you and your music. For more information and to upload your music, [click here!](#)

Our journey into 2016 looks set to be amazing.



*amazingartists*

North America

2015 was a great year for new and emerging music here in the USA, including a lot of UK artists championed by *Amazing Radio* breaking through in America.

2015 was the year that many of our favourite UK artists did their first US shows, and we were there to support them. Ysanne from *Amazing Artists* USA met up with [Catfish and the Bottlemen](#), [Shura](#), [Jack Garratt](#), [Soak](#), [Kate Tempest](#), [Little Simz](#), [Gengahr](#), [Blossoms](#), [East India Youth](#), [Spring King](#), [Jake Isaac](#), [Howie Lee](#), and more UK artists at their debut shows across America. Check out her radio and written interviews at [Amazing Radio](#).

2015 was also the year we championed some amazing new American artists. We presented a live showcase in New York featuring [Starlight Girls](#) and The Bones of JR Jones, and a live showcase in Los Angeles featuring Sophia Knapp and Ryan Baines from Vaanigons. We shared some stellar new US artists, including [Moiria Smiley](#), [Jacob Golden](#), [Inanna](#), [Jason Heath & The Greedy Souls](#), [Vinyl Spectrum](#), [Stray Birds](#), [Mandolin Orange](#), [Colin Gilmore](#), [Wildling](#), [Twin Oaks](#), and [Ruby Friedman](#), who went on to get over a million YouTube views due to her song being featured in a big television show and an enormous video game.



O u r Amazing Artist [Treya](#) played stellar showcases at [SxSW](#) and [CMJ](#) and was endorsed by Roland. **The New York Times** sent their chief music reporter, and she had a full-page feature in the [Daily Mail](#), plus reviews in newspapers in the USA, Australia, South Africa, Singapore and beyond. Her music was broadcast on **China TV News**, the equivalent of the BBC News at Ten, after which she flew to Newcastle to record her first EP.

Meanwhile, catch [Moiria Smiley](#) playing shows in London and Glasgow with the **Mercury nominated** Sam Lee in January 2016. Go *Amazing Artists USA!*

And one last thing... in celebration of **David Bowie's** life, check out what your favorite new and emerging artists have to say about his legacy. We heard from [Unknown Mortal Orchestra](#), [Simian Ghost](#), [Spring King](#) and lots more artists we love, and put together a little Bowie special over at [Amazing Radio](#)

Keep in touch with other latest news at [amazingtunes.com](#), [Amazing Radio](#), [Amazing Record Co.](#), [Amazing Instore](#), [Amazing Artists](#), and [Our Stage](#), or find us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!



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