

PROTEST SONGS

The only good thing about Donald Trump is that he has made time slow down. As we get older, every year seems to pass more quickly than the last in the rush toward death. But the Trump regime has slowed all of that down and the year since the dark night when he was elected has felt as long as any since high school.

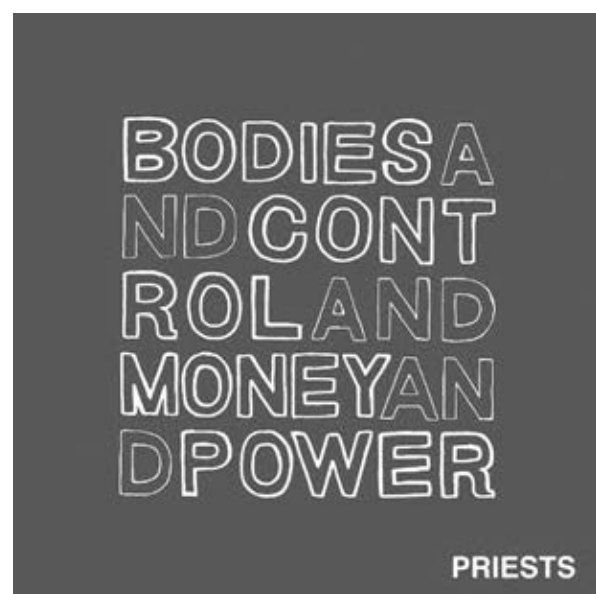
As in high school, this slow-moving but insanely intense sense of time has seemed to heighten the emotional impact of music. When a song rings right and seems to express the horror and angst that emanates from the world around you, it feels glorious.

This collection of songs comes from the music editors of more than 20 different papers. Since I was writing a column about the Trump regime for a number of alt-weeklies — and trying to find ways to take “alt” back from the Nazis — I ended up talking to a lot of editors and writers around the country. We thought if we could bring together the best protest songs from as many cities as possible, we might learn something about the state of dissent — while also finding some relief. — *Baynard Woods*

CEREBRAL CORETEXT, 'CLASSY AS TRUMP'

Eugene, Oregon

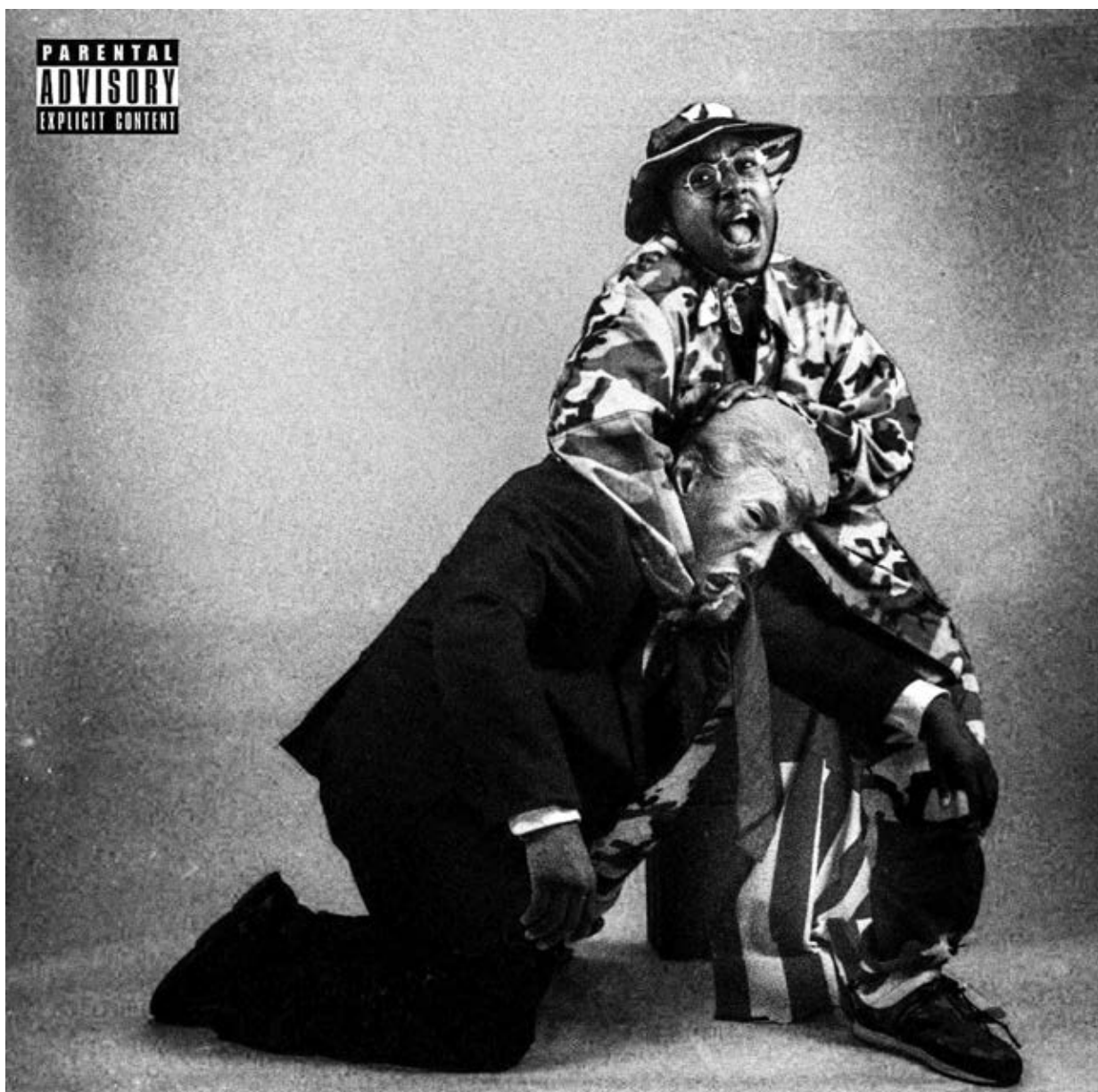
Brenden Lynch, also known as Cerebral Coretext, has been performing and releasing hip hop in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest for over 10 years. His most recent album, *Polarities*, includes the track “Classy As Trump.” Written and recorded during Trump’s campaign for office, the track acts as a sarcastic take on the prospect of Trump as a presidential candidate. Lynch says the song “was inspired by the sheer ludicrousness and strangeness of the presidential race.” Although Lynch doesn’t necessarily think that music can inspire political change, he says via email, “I believe music is a natural place to express/vent political pain and surely a powerful way to subvert politics that you don’t agree with. ... It can challenge someone’s ideas before they have a chance to react with defensive mechanisms.” — *Meerah Powell, Eugene Weekly*



PRIESTS, 'RIGHT WING'

Washington, D.C.

There’s been no shortage of scathing political protest songs coming out of D.C. since, well, the birth of punk. But in recent years, post-punk quartet Priests has succeeded in reminding the rest of the country that D.C. is, and always has been, pissed the fuck off. “Right Wing,” off the



band’s breakthrough EP *Bodies and Control and Money and Power* so perfectly captures the ass-backwardsness of living in a country controlled by capitalists, fascists, racists and war-mongers. “Everything everything / So right wing / Everything everything / So right wing / Purse searches, pep rallies / Purse searches, SUVs,” sings Katie Alice Greer. It reads like a short, poetic treatise on how the toxicity of right wing ideals infects everyday life. — *Matt Cohen, Washington City Paper*

TROMBONE SHORTY AND DUMPSTAPHUNK, 'JUSTICE'

New Orleans, Louisiana

Trombone Shorty and Dumpstaphunk teamed up on a song called “Justice,” which they released on the day Donald Trump was inaugurated president. A melange of funk, jazz and New Orleans brass band sounds, the video for “Justice” slyly marries video footage of Trump against pointed lyrics. “Inauguration day seemed to be an appropriate time to voice the need for equal say and opportunity for all people,” said Dumpstaphunk’s Ivan Neville. “We entered a New Year with a lot of unanswered questions on the subject of ‘justice’ that we all felt a little uneasy about. But there’s only so much we can do and this track is our way of expressing our worries.” The song is available on most streaming services. — *Kevin Allman, Gambit Weekly*

OG SWAGGERDICK, 'FUCK DONALD TRUMP'

Boston, Massachusetts

Among diehard hip hop heads as well as artists, Boston’s underground rap scene is renowned as one of the most lyrically elaborate and intellectual anywhere. To that end, over the past year, such acts as STL GLD (Moe Pope + The Arcitype) and more recently The Perceptionists (Mr. Lif + Akrobatik) have released their most compelling works to date, largely inspired by the mess that Donald Trump has made (though not always naming-checking Dolt 45 directly). But when it comes to straight up protesting and verbally impaling the potty-mouthed POTUS, there’s something undeniably satisfying, even admirable about the Hub’s own OG Swaggerdick’s simple and straightforward election anthem, “Fuck Donald Trump.” From the fittingly filthy rhymes — “never give props to a punk ass trick / motherfuck Donald Trump he can suck my dick” — to the strangers on the street who gladly join the rapping in the video, they’re protest lyrics that you’ll still be able to remember and perhaps even rap for relief on occasions when the president leaves you otherwise speechless. — *Chris Faraone, DigBoston*

LINGUA FRANCA, 'A MAN'S WORLD'

Athens, Georgia

Shortly after Inauguration Day, two Athens studios invited 19 local bands to commemorate the dawn of the Trump Age, tracking 20 songs in a marathon 48-hour session. While much of the resulting album, *Athens Vs. Trump Comp*