

UNAPPRECIATEDSCHOLARS.COM

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [News](#) [Reviews](#) [Feature Stories](#)

[Crash Courses](#) [Podcasts](#)

UNAPPRECIATEDSCHOLARS.COM



Ease Into 2016 With These Auditory Treats

 [January 6, 2016](#)  [Valerie Polichar](#)

Some new years party their way in, rocking around the clock with joyous tunes. Others don funereal garb and drink into the wee hours. But most of them come to a screeching halt that first week after the holiday break, with early alarms and stunned faces trying desperately to remember what it was they were supposed to be working on.

Search ...



Sign Up for the E-Mail Newsletter

Subscribe to our
Newsletter

email address

Subscribe

The Unappreciated MiniCast

We have the cure for that rude shock: three new or recent short releases full of the twinkling lights, snow-sparkling ambience, and peaceful days on the couch you're missing from December.

The first is the first-of-the-year single from **Southern Voyagers**. "January" is the first of twelve singles to be released by Kentuckian Spencer Still's post-rock project this year, part of a portfolio entitled *Voyager One*

Year. It starts with a quiet trio of piano notes, adding rhythm, texture, and wordless vocals as it grows larger and more sweeping. The song then moves through a second, guitar-laced phase before winding down to a piano tracery that recalls The National's "Geese of Beverly Road." In just under six minutes, this gentle piece travels miles, and shows significant growth from the **Voyagers'** lovely, but less distinguished, 2015 EP *Mercator's Map*. Check it out at [Bandcamp](#), follow on [Twitter](#), and visit [the official website](#).



We move from a single to a two-song EP with *Gravity*, the

November, 2015 release from Toronto project **Quiet Contest**. The use of guitars here, shimmering around a single-note drone, recollects aspects of The Sundays and The Smiths (first track) and The Church and Autour de Lucie (second track). Meanwhile, the timbre of the low-tenor vocals makes us think of Paul Heaton



Shows by Unappreciated Scholars on Mixcloud

Archives

Select Month

Categories

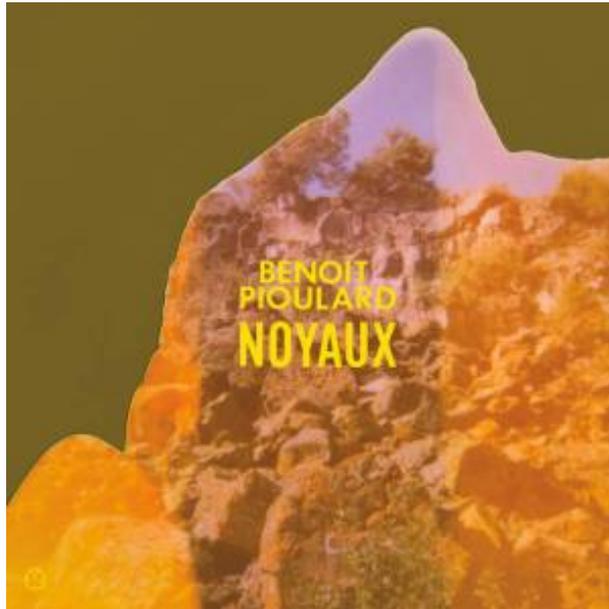
Select Category

Unappreciated Tweets

[My Tweets](#)

(Housemartins) at his slowest, late-night best. A winning combination, quietly charming and a free download at [Bandcamp](#). We'll hope to hear more of **Quiet Contest** in the new year.

The



impressive productivity of Seattle artist Thomas Meluch's project **Benoît Pioulard** — this is his fifth release of 2015 — doesn't diminish the stellar quality of the gossamer, ambient *Noyaux*. At press time, only a few copies of the (translucent! yellow!) vinyl release were left, and it's easy to see why (fortunately, you can still buy it as a download). As we've mentioned before, few can pull off this kind of transcendent, atmospheric eloquence with lo-fi, but **Benoît Pioulard** is a master. You'll want this stellar EP in the background to keep your stress in check and your holiday serenity intact as you face your January. Find it at [Bandcamp](#) or [iTunes](#), follow him on [Twitter](#), and visit the [official website](#).

Share this:



Related

[Video Premiere - Rammstein](#) [Rammstein - Mein Announce New](#) [Review: Whale Fall \(The Madrean,](#)

Herz Brennt Single and Video 2014)
(Piano Version) Collection January 22, 2015
December 7, 2012 November 22, In "Reviews"
In "Music Videos" 2012
In "News"

 [New Releases, Reviews](#)  [Ambient, benoit pioulard, kentucky, lo-fi, Pop, post rock, quiet contest, seattle, shoegaze, southern voyagers, Toronto](#)

« [Review: Gama Bomb – “Untouchable Glory”](#)
[Unappreciated MiniCast 18: The Motörhead Appreciation Show](#) »