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The best pop music of 2016 (so far)

JULY 8, 2016, 5:00 AM

So much about the first few months of pop in 2016 has been about mourning. [David Bowie](#), [Glenn Frey](#), [Merle Haggard](#), Paul Kantner, George Martin, Prince, Scotty Moore, Maurice White, Bernie Worrell and the just-starting-out Christina Grimmie are among those who have left us.

But while the music community has been dealt some serious blows, the first six months of 2016 have also given us much to celebrate. What follows is a look at some of the most notable albums and singles of 2016, as picked by the pop staff of The Times.

There are plenty of recognizable names -- and one artist has made such an impact she's listed twice -- but the emphasis here is on those who may have been overlooked. Happy listening.

Dayme Arocena, "Stuck" (Brownswood Recordings). Arocena is a spectacularly gifted young rumba singer from Havana, and her recent set at the Center for the Arts Eagle Rock was a pristine showcase. But her cover of Peven Everett's house music jam is ingenious: dice up vintage Latin horn arrangements and pianos into a diva-ready banger, and let Arocena wail to bring it home. (A.B.)

