

STEREOGUM

2.7M Online

<https://www.stereogum.com/2208370/best-rap-albums-2022/columns/lots-of-commas/>

The 10 Best Rap Albums Of 2022

2022 IN REVIEW DECEMBER 16, 2022 11:31 AM BY JAYSON BUFORD

13




Midway through 2022, it seemed like hip-hop was bland and headed for a disappointing year. Kendrick Lamar's *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers* confused people with its insularity and inherent selfishness. Gone were sweeping records about Black Americana; say hello to a record about choosing yourself in the midst of rising fascism and cataclysmic unhappiness. There wasn't a DaBaby of the year, in other words, someone who was seemingly everywhere over the radio. Looking back at these past 12 months, nothing stands out, but there's an abundance of quality. If there is a MVP of this year, it might be Baton Rouge's YoungBoy Never Broke Again – the quantity-over-quality superstar whose fame comes from his music and also his sometimes bizarre antics.

We're in a transition in rap; there's not one person that is running the culture or creating a new style. That ended with Young Thug; now we're looking for someone new. Even excellent rappers like Valee or Ralfy The Plug are so regional that they're unable to crack the mainstream pavement. Still, rap remains the most dense and literary genre; to complain about a lack of a concrete star would be futile and derivative. For evidence of the genre's health, look no further than the following 10 albums.

09



Bandmanrill - *Club Godfather* (100% Pure/1865/Defiant/Warner)

 [Spotify](#) [Apple Music](#)

The Newark club rapper Bandmanrill created some of the more exuberant records this year, taking a regional genre and combining it with drill-style flows. Don't call him a drill rapper, though. Bandmanrill is a *chaotic fun* rapper, and his album is far less straightforward and stiff than any drill record. *Club Godfather* is a dance party where the threat of physicality or violence looms. But that's unlikely; in this club, harmony reigns supreme.