

2018: First Quarter Favorites From sheaves of harsh noise & asphalt batida to trap-rap hybridity & obscure Japanese video game music

tinymixtapes.com/features/2018-first-quarter-favorites

By TMT Staff



For each year's first three quarters, we celebrate by sharing a list of our favorite music releases. Unlike our year-end lists, these quarter features are casually compiled, with an aim to spotlight the underdogs and the lesser-heard among the more popular picks. [More from this series](#)

[·]

[·]

[·]

C. Spencer Yeh

The RCA Mark II



[LISTEN · READ]

If I were to stand in front of one of those old synthesizers from the 1960s, I wouldn't know what to do with myself. I mean, I've never even played a MiniKorg, so it stands to reason that I may have responded similarly to C. Spencer Yeh, who stumbled upon the RCA Mark II sitting idle at Columbia University, unused since 1997. But instead of composing with the seven-foot-tall, wall-length, \$250,000 apparatus (which he couldn't do because the thing's straight busted), he set up some contact mics and recorded the sounds of the machine itself as he "twisted knobs, pushed buttons, flipped switches, pulled plugs, and rubbed the metal exterior." (He probably also put his mouth on it, because why wouldn't he?) The edited results comprise *The RCA Mark II*, an otherworldly glitch wonderland where dust motes and metal filings dance around the room long after Yeh's left it. —Ryan Masteller

[·]
