

# Steve Hanson – The Thommys 2019

## 1.) What are your favourite songs of 2019?

Sacred Paws – 'The Conversation'

## 2.) What are your favourite albums of 2019?

'Agora' by Fennesz on Touch. No competition.

## 3.) What were your favourite live performances of 2019?

Evan Parker 50th celebration HCMF, Huddersfield

Scanner at International Anthony Burgess Centre Manchester

The Hallé Orchestra, Leningrad, Bridgewater Hall

## 4.) Who are your favourite band of 2019?

Sleaford Mods.

## 5.) Who is your favourite solo artist of 2019?

Christian Fennesz.

## 5.) What are your favourite compilations / re-issues / live albums / mixes / EPs released in 2019?

Suicide's first album was re-issued, as was The Pop Group's Y. Financial sitti means I haven't bought them, but I know them well. Interested to see the Happy Mondays early EPs reissued, I have the original 12"s and they aren't that good... but the Soul on the Corner comp on Acid Jazz by Martin Freeman and Eddie Piller looks great, tho' again, not got it.

## 7.) Who is your favourite new band or artist to emerge in 2019?

I can't think of any! Piccadilly Records end of year: I know hardly anyone in there. When I go online to listen to any of it I wonder what is going on. I am officially generation-gapped, on a street corner near you waving a stick and muttering about a very particular tree the council have cut down.

## 8.) What is your favourite album cover of 2019?

Dunno.

## 9.) What is your favourite music video of 2019?

Nope. Not seen one.

## 10.) Who is your favourite inactive band / artist of 2019?

I don't think Philip Jeck put anything out. If not, him.

**11.) What non-2019 songs / albums / artists will you forever associate with this year?**

Scott Walker – *Climate of Hunter*  
La Dusseldorf – *La Dusseldorf*  
Steely Dan – *Aja*

**12.) Who is your hero of 2019?**

No More Heroes Anymore.

**13.) There is no question 13.**

My answer to Q.13 is No.9.

**14.) Who is your villain of 2019?**

Obvious but Boris.

**15.) What is the worst song or album you heard in 2019?**

Couldn't tell you.

**16.) What is the most overrated album, artist or song of 2019?**

No idea.

**17.) What was the worst live performance you saw in 2019?**

John Cage performance at The Lowry. Everything thrown at it, no idea where it began and the stuff in the gallery ended. Terrible curating. Yoko Ono's cut piece on a tiny video screen on the wall playing, then a Hirst spin painting, everything was pushed into the room because it was 'cool', the Cage just got lost... Art is crushed under the flabby buttocks of Hip.

**18.) What is your musical disappointment of 2019?**

See above.

**19.) What is your least favourite album cover of 2019?**

Don't know.

**20.) What are your favourite lyrics of 2019?**

*"Iain Duncan Smith as chief Guy Forked Tongue,  
just say the word and tell me when  
Iain Guido Smith did make diversion and gather the spoils  
Plied his bonny craft the Centre for Social Justice far  
tacking across the lake of fire all the way to Betsygate"*  
(Well, it's lyric poetry, from Alan Halsey and Kelvin Corcoran's Winterreisen)

**21.) What was your most pleasant musical surprise of the year?**

Philip Glass appearing on stage in Tao of Glass at Manchester International Festival.

**22.) What were your favourite films of 2019?**

Star Wars The Rise of Skywalker

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

The Irishman

**23.) What were your favourite books of 2019?**

Alan Halsey and Kelvin Corcoran's Winterreisen (Knives, Forks and Spoons).

**24.) What were your favourite television programmes of 2019?**

The Mandalorian. Allegedly.

**25.) What were your favourite radio programmes and podcasts of 2019?**

An ambient use of Radio 3.

**26.) What were your favourite videogames of 2019?**

Don't do 'em.

**27.) What were your favourite comedy / spoken word / theatre / sporting performances of 2019?**

Alice Notley reading at Poetry Emergency, Salford.

**28.) What were your favourite restaurants of 2019?**

This 'n' That, Manchester.

The Battered Cod, Fallowfield.

**29.) Whose musical re-appearance are you most excited about in 2020?**

LoneLady.

**30.) Which bands / artists / genres do you plan to listen to more in 2020?**

I'm heading into an ambient music gravity well...

**31.) Who is the most under-rated musical artist of all time?**

Martin Tomlinson of Selfish Cunt.

**32.) Have you ever been to Glastonbury? Did you have a good time?**

I went loads in the 1990s and had a great time, but stopped going the last year when I had a terrible time, everyone just vaulting the fence, I was attacked in the dance tent, there were threatening scallies all over (1998?)

**33.) What would be the title of your own best-of album?**

Bang 'em Out.

**34.) What is your favourite hidden track / secret song?**

The one at the end of Cornershop's Handcream for a Generation.

**35.) If you could give one album as a gift to everyone on the Thommys mailing list, which would you choose?**

Climate of Hunter – Scott Walker

**36.) Tell us about your most enjoyable interaction with a well-known musical artist.**

I interviewed lots of people, but with time's distance two of them stand out as absolute sweeties – Will Sergeant of Echo and the Bunnymen and Hugh Hopper of Soft Machine. Will kept talking about 'Scarry' in proper scouse, Scarisbrick, where he lived. He was down to earth, funny and clever. Very likeable. Hugh was a gentleman of the old school. Talked of his father and churches in and around Canterbury and very philosophically about the Soft Machine as an organic entity, his time in it was never the point... sadly no longer with us.

**37.) Describe your optimum conditions for watching a live music performance.**

In bed via a DVD player.

**38.) What one correction would you like to make to your answers in a previous Thommys?**

THIS IS MY FIRST!

**39.) 2019 personally: How many out of 10?**

4/10

**40.) 2019 musically: How many out of 10?**

1/10