

RECORD SHOPPING WITH

# Jack Antonoff



LOCATION: PERMANENT RECORDS

The guitarist for multiplatinum rockers fun. has a new debut with his side project, Bleachers, and a sunny Saturday to spend perusing vinyl with EW. —RAY RAHMAN

EW DIGITAL  
EXCLUSIVE**THE TIME** 10 a.m., June 21, 2014**THE SCENE** Permanent Records in Brooklyn

"I could probably name thousands of albums that I want," Jack Antonoff muses, sifting through the stacks at Permanent Records in Greenpoint, Brooklyn (just blocks, coincidentally, from Café Grumpy, where his girlfriend, Lena Dunham, pretends to work on HBO's *Girls*). Luckily, the 30-year-old fun. guitarist and vinyl junkie kept his focus on a select few, including vintage punk favorites and a Boss classic, and reflected on the role they've played in his musical education. One title Antonoff couldn't find? His own band Bleachers' debut, *Strange Desire*, out July 15. "That, I desperately want," he says. "It's coming!"

### **BELLE & SEBASTIAN, IF YOU'RE FEELING SINISTER AND THE BOY WITH THE ARAB STRAP**

"Both those albums are very linked with memories of being on the road for the first time.

I was 16, I borrowed my parents' minivan. We went all the way to Florida and Texas and made a combined \$300. We got paid in corn dogs in Mobile, Alabama. We were playing, like, anarchist

## “GROWING UP, I WAS OBSESSED WITH MUSIC IN SUCH A NONDISCRIMINATORY WAY—I LOVED SALT ‘N’ PEPA AND SNOOP AND DR. DRE AS MUCH AS I LOVED SPONGE AND PEARL JAM AND NIRVANA.”

bookshops and s---holes; it wasn't about the shows, 'cause the shows were almost nonexistent. But I just really fell in love with it.”

### BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, *TUNNEL OF LOVE*

“New Jersey is an interesting place, and I just am starting to realize this now that I'm a little bit older and I've seen more. Growing up five miles outside of the greatest city in the world, you always feel like you're on the outside, looking into the window of the party. I started going to [Manhattan's Professional Children's School], and the kids I met had done all the drugs, had all the sex, seen all the bands. By the time they were 15, they were over it, and I was still so excited to be there and be a part of it. I think Springsteen embodies that.... There's this underdog quality, but also this pride and hope and passion.”

### SPOON, *GA GA GA GA GA*

“I refuse to say all the *Ga*'s.

[Laughs] I think ‘The Ghost of You Lingers’ is one of the most creative recordings I've ever heard in my life. The panning and the different kinds of reverb on [frontman Britt Daniel's] voice—it's so neat.”

### TOM WAITS, *THE HEART OF SATURDAY NIGHT AND CLOSING TIME*

“These are two of my favorites of all time, particularly *Heart of Saturday Night*. It's this weird, lounge-y kind of album, and I don't know why it resonates so much with me. He's been through so many phases—no matter how his voice has changed or if it sounds like pirate music or jazz or whatever, at the core he's one of the greatest songwriters of all time. Which is probably why so many other artists have had number one Tom Waits songs and he hasn't.”

### OPERATION IVY, *ENERGY*

“That's kind of the s--- I grew up on. I started buying vinyl records

when I got into punk music, because in the punk scene in New Jersey, vinyl was more like a necessity than a luxury. People would make seven-inches because they were cheaper to make—it was just part of the culture. You'd have [formative California punks] Operation Ivy and U.S. Bombs or whoever doing the split seven-inch. I started having tons of records, so I bought a record player, and it just started being this thing. And, you know, listening to records and buying vinyl is a totally different experience. It's not infinite, it doesn't exist forever, it doesn't exist in a cloud. You have to put it on the right way and you have to make sure the device you're on won't destroy it. You have to protect it. It's a much more personal experience. Not to knock the iPod culture, either. It's awesome to flip through a million things. But my favorite thing to do on my phone is to put it on shuffle. The problem with that is every fifth song is from a comedy album. [Laughs]"

### FLEETWOOD MAC, *TUSK*

"It was pretty much their failure record, but I think *Tusk* crushes *Rumours*. Artistically, it's just unbelievable. And you feel like



you can hear Lindsey Buckingham unraveling. That song 'Not That Funny' I heard was about, like, his girlfriend at the time going to Disney World without him, and I just think it's the darkest, most incredible thing ever. *Tusk* is brilliant, front to back."

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