Festivus music bonuses (by Anderson Wang)

Author’s note: These bonuses are intended to be played sequentially, separate from the tossups. I tried to give each one at least one easy part, but other than that I didn’t attempt to standardize difficulty in any way. The main hope I have is that these are fun/funny/interesting even if you don’t know the answers.

1. For some reason, a bunch of shoegaze bands from the 90s have started reuniting in the past few years. For 10 points each:

[10] This Rachel Goswell-fronted band, known for their 1993 LP *Souvlaki*, reunited in 2014 and came out with a self-titled album this year containing the tracks “Sugar for the Pill” and “Star Roving.”

ANSWER: **Slowdive**

[10] The classic shoegaze album *Nowhere* was this Oxford band’s debut, released in 1990. Like Slowdive, they also reunited in 2014, and their album *Weather Diaries* is slated for release in two weeks.

ANSWER: **Ride**

[10] This Irish shoegaze band reunited in 2007 and released a new album *m b v* in 2013, which was pretty good, but not as good as their 1991 album *Loveless*.

ANSWER: **My Bloody Valentine**

2. Unicode song titles are so cool! For 10 points each:

[10] The second track on Bon Iver’s *22, A Million* is titled “10 d E A T h b R E a s T” [pronounce each letter separately] with E, A, T, R, E, and T capitalized, followed by this unicode symbol appearing twice.

ANSWER: **⚄** [accept anything that mentions a **die** with **5** pips; prompt on just “die” or “dice”]

[10] The sixth track on *$uccessor*, an album by this artist, is simply titled for the yin-yang symbol, ☯. This artist released *Alternate / Endings* and *Pattern of Excel* under the name Lee Bannon, but is now known by a math-related name.

ANSWER: **Dedekind Cut**

[10] This artist’s song “→” appears on his album *He Poos Clouds*, which was released under the moniker Final Fantasy. The similarly-titled “→ (1)” and “→ (2)” appear on his 2014 album *In Conflict*.

ANSWER: Owen **Pallett**

3. For 10 points each, name some artists who have somehow released two self-titled albums with different titles.

[10] This rock band released their self-titled debut album in 1969, and then dropped “Transit Authority” from their name and released another self-titled album in 1970. Their songs include “25 or 6 to 4” and “If You Leave Me Now.”

ANSWER: **Chicago** Transit Authority

[10] This post-punk band released their self-titled LP *Viet Cong* in 2015, but after some controversy over their name, they changed it to this and released another self-titled album in 2016.

ANSWER: **Preoccupations**

[10] This musician released a self-titled album in 1970. With his backing band The New Power Generation, he released another album in 1992 with an unpronounceable title often referred to as “Love Symbol Album.”

ANSWER: **Prince** Nelson

4. For 10 points each, name some bands whose names have no vowels, none of which are MSTRKRFT.

[10] This band’s “Time to Pretend” and “Electric Feel” appear on their album *Oracular Spectacular*.

ANSWER: **MGMT** [accept the letters spelled out or **management**]

[10] This artist, whose real name is Aaron Jerome, released the awful compilation *SAVE YOURSELF* in 2016. That was pretty disappointing given that his self-titled debut LP had lots of great tracks like “Pharaohs” and “Hold On,” featuring Sampha.

ANSWER: **SBTRKT** [pronounced “subtract,” but of course accept just the letters spelled out]

[10] This entire bonus was an excuse for me to ask about this Swedish electronic group, who released the LP *SsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSs* in 2016, with tracks like “SsSsSsSsSsSs” and “SsSs,” though my favorite is “SsSsSsSsSsSsSsSsSs.” Since their name is basically unpronounceable, please spell it out.

ANSWER: **SHXCXCHCXSH** [exact spelling required]

5. Name some things about 2016 albums with long titles, for 10 points each.

[10] In 2016, this band led by Matthew Healy released the very awkwardly-titled *I like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it*, which contains the songs “Love Me” and “The Sound.” They are named after a year.

ANSWER: The **1975**

[10] This ambient artist released *For Those of You Who Have Never (And Also Those Who Have)* in 2016, a follow-up to his well-received *Colonial Patterns*.

ANSWER: **Huerco S.** [accept Brian **Leeds**]

[10] Last year, I tossed up my favorite album and it went dead, so this year my favorite album is going in the bonuses. The Karl Hyde and Rick Smith collaboration Underworld released this album in 2016, whose title references one of the last things Rick Smith’s father said to comfort his wife before he died.

ANSWER: ***Barbara Barbara, we face a shining future***

6. Name some things about the intersection of indie music and indie games in 2016, for 10 points each.

[10] The post-rock band 65daysofstatic composed the soundtrack for this Hello Games title, which was certainly the most over-hyped game of 2016, though its Foundation Update did show some promise.

ANSWER: ***No Man’s Sky***

[10] Brian Gibson, the bassist for this band, did the art and music for and co-designed the “rhythm violence” video game *Thumper*. In 2015, this band released the great album *Fantasy Empire*.

ANSWER: **Lightning Bolt**

[10] This latest game by the creators of *Guacamelee!*, DrinkBox Studios, featured an awesome soundtrack by Canadian experimental group Yamantaka // Sonic Titan and kulintang ensemble Pantayo.

ANSWER: ***Severed***

7. If you need some quick money, just sue rich musicians for copying your music. For 10 points each:

[10] Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams were asked to pay over 5 million dollars in damages because of a lawsuit alleging that “Blurred Lines” plagiarized from this Marvin Gaye song.

ANSWER: “**Got to Give It Up**”

[10] In 2014, the lead vocalist for Spirit, Randy California, sued Led Zeppelin because this song bore similarities to his song “Taurus,” specifically in the iconic descending chromatic motif at the beginning.

ANSWER: “**Stairway to Heaven**”

[10] In 1984, the first of these two people sued the second, because the second’s *Ghostbusters* theme sounded like the first’s “I Want a New Drug.” The tables were turned in 2001, when the second of these two people sued the first for talking about the lawsuit on VH1’s *Behind the Music*. Both people required.

ANSWER: Huey **Lewis** and Ray **Parker** Jr.

8. You might be wondering why *The Life of Pablo* hasn’t been mentioned yet. Well, here we are. For 10 points each:

[10] The cover art for this band’s self-titled debut album consists of their name written multiple times on scraps of paper, sort of like how *The Life of Pablo*’s cover has its title written multiple times, but unlike *The Life of Pablo* in every other way. This punk band, whose name is in all caps, included “40oz. On Repeat” on their album *TOO*.

ANSWER: **FIDLAR**

[10] *The Earth Is Not a Cold Dead Place*, an album by this post-rock band, features its title written a ton of times on its cover, but other than the cover art is also completely unlike *The Life of Pablo*. In a crossover with the long titles bonus, this band is also known for *Those Who Tell the Truth Shall Die, Those Who Tell the Truth Shall Live Forever*.

ANSWER: **Explosions in the Sky**

[10] This album by Steven Warwick, formerly known as Heatsick, has a cover extremely reminiscent of *The Life of Pablo*, because not only is its name written multiple times, but it’s also on an orange background.

ANSWER: ***Nadir***

9. Name some things about the intersection of indie music and AAA games in 2016, for 10 points each.

[10] In November 2016, it was revealed that this band recorded an unused song “Mountain Game” for *Red Dead Redemption*; if you listen to it, it’s pretty obvious why it wasn’t used. This band consists of Avey Tare, Deakin, Geologist, and, appropriately, Panda Bear.

ANSWER: **Animal Collective**

[10] Ice Cube and this artist collaborated on “Nobody Wants to Die” for *Mafia III*. This man’s track “Nobody Speak” featuring Run the Jewels was included on *The Mountain Will Fall*, though his most famous album contains tracks like “The Number Song” and “Napalm Brain/Scatter Brain.”

ANSWER: **DJ Shadow**

[10] This artist, whose real name is Ross Birchard, composed *Ded Sec*, the soundtrack to *Watch Dogs 2*. In a crossover with the no vowels bonus, this artist forms the duo TNGHT along with Lunice.

ANSWER: **Hudson Mohawke**

10. Name some things about songs with length 260 seconds, for 10 points each.

[10] Surprisingly, I only have one 260 second-long song in my iTunes library: that song is “Orgonon Gurlz,” a mashup of Kate Bush’s “Cloudbusting” and Katy Perry’s “California Gurls” by this artist, who also remixed “Wonderwall” in “Wndrwll.”

ANSWER: Neil **Cicierega**

[10] When soliciting help writing this bonus, one of my friends told me that “Bloody Stream,” an opening theme to this anime, is also 260 seconds long. The only thing I know about this anime is that one day I was listening to Yes’s “Roundabout” and suddenly all of the Youtube comments were referencing this anime, which was confusing.

ANSWER: ***JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure*** [or whatever that is in Japanese]

[10] Suspiciously, this rapper’s track “Marijuana” is exactly 260 seconds long. His album *Speedin’ Bullet 2 Heaven* placed 2nd on albumoftheyear.org’s worst albums of 2015 list, just ahead of Pope Francis’s *Wake Up!*

ANSWER: **Kid Cudi**

11. A tossup on obscure experimental electronic music would be too hard, so have a bonus on it instead. For 10 points each:

[10] This album was partially inspired by Bartolina Sisa, an Aymara who led an indigenous rebellion against Spanish rule in Bolivia in 1781. This album’s tracks include “Children of Hell” and “Esposas 2013 (No Drums),” and it is a follow-up to the similarly-excellent *American Drift* released last year.

ANSWER: *Elysia Crampton Presents:* ***Demon City***

[10] This sample-heavy Katie Gately album, her first on Tri Angle Records, contains the tracks “Lift,” “Rive,” and “Frisk.”

ANSWER: ***Color***

[10] I was originally going to ask you to name Jenny Hval’s *Blood Bitch*, but then I realized that this bonus is already too hard, so instead I’ll ask: *Blood Bitch* is a concept album about what kind of creatures? In case the title doesn’t give it away, Ezra Koenig also leads a band named [this creature] Weekend.

ANSWER: **vampire**s

12. Name some things about the intersection of popular music and AAA games in 2016, for 10 points each.

[10] This band composed “I Will Be” and “Too Much Is Never Enough” for *Final Fantasy XV*, as well as covering Ben E. King’s “Stand By Me.”

ANSWER: ***Florence + the Machine***

[10] In November 2016, *Gears of War 4* released DLC featuring this rap duo, allowing gamers to play as El P and Killer Mike for the low low price of 20 dollars.

ANSWER: **Run the Jewels**

[10] This wildly popular Brazilian DJ’s tracks “Rejuvenescência” and “We Move Together As One” are included on his debut album *Synaesthesia Auditiva*.

ANSWER: **Lúcio** [from *Overwatch*]

13. This bonus has a mystery theme! For 10 points each:

[10] First, name this member of the New Pornographers, providing vocals alongside Carl Newman and Dan Bejar. Her most recent solo album was *The Worse Things Get, the Harder I Fight, the Harder I Fight, the More I Love You*, released in 2013.

ANSWER: Neko **Case**

[10] Next, name this Canadian singer-songwriter known for her gay rights activism, whose songs include “Constant Craving.” She performed “Hallelujah” for the opening ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

ANSWER: k. d. **lang**

[10] Finally, if you figured out the mystery theme, you should be able to name the American singer-songwriter that I’m thinking of.

ANSWER: Laura **Veirs** [Note: these three artists collaborated on the self-titled 2016 album *case/lang/veirs*]

14. For 10 points each, name some things about Beyoncé’s *Lemonade* film that could appear in an actual academic quiz bowl bonus.

[10] Poems by this modern British-Somali author are quoted throughout the video. She’s probably most famous for *Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth*.

ANSWER: Warsan **Shire**

[10] The scene where Beyoncé strolls down a sidewalk while smashing car windows with a baseball bat is highly reminiscent of this Swiss artist’s installation *Ever is Over All*, which contains two overlapping videos, one of a woman smashing car windows with a flower-shaped hammer in slow motion, the other of red flowers in a field.

ANSWER: Pipilotti **Rist**

[10] Once again, the first two parts of this bonus are way too hard, so here’s an easy part. *Lemonade* is divided into 11 chapters like “Intuition,” “Denial,” “Anger,” and “Apathy,” an adaptation of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross’s five stages of what?

ANSWER: **grief**

15. Name some things about the intersection of popular music and indie games...okay, fine you’re probably sick of video games by now, so let’s talk about films instead. For 10 points each:

[10] This composer scored Nicolas Winding Refn’s 2016 film *The Neon Demon*, as well as his earlier films *Only God Forgives* and *Drive*. In video game news, he composed *Far Cry 4*’s soundtrack, and in music news he was an early drummer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

ANSWER: Cliff **Martinez**

[10] In December 2016, it turned out that this film was disqualified from the Oscar for Best Original Score because it used Max Richter’s “On the Nature of Daylight” throughout, which was a real shame because its Jóhann Jóhannsson soundtrack is really good.

ANSWER: ***Arrival***

[10] Of course, this bonus would not be complete without asking for this Damien Chazelle musical film starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, which lost the Oscar for Best Picture to *Moonlight*.

ANSWER: ***La La Land***

16. Tom7 amazingly made a 43-minute video which recuts *Star Wars* to have this property. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this memetic property also shared by a 43-minute recut of *Bee Movie* by Youtube user “Inothernews1”. Conceptual artist Lenka Clayton might have been the first person to make a recut video with this property, doing so in 2004 with George Bush’s “Axis of Evil” speech.

ANSWER: all the words are in **alphabetical order**

[10] The tracklist of this 2016 Radiohead album happens to be in alphabetical order.

ANSWER: *A* ***Moon Shaped Pool***

[10] This band’s album *i* contains 14 songs that all start with the letter I and are arranged in alphabetical order. In 2015, the lead singer of this band, Stephin Merritt, went on an “Alphabetical Tour” where at each show, he played 26 songs, one beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

ANSWER: The **Magnetic Fields**

17. A music bonus except every time a new part is read it gets longer. For 10 points each:

[10] Grindcore band Napalm Death might be most famous for this track off their album *Scum*, which lasts precisely 1.316 seconds.

ANSWER: “**You Suffer**”

[10] At 25 minutes and 35 seconds, this is by far the longest Sufjan Stevens song, and certainly one of his best. This song repeats “Boy, we can do much more together,” and concludes *The Age of Adz*.

ANSWER: “**Impossible Soul**”

[10] This man released a series of 4 albums consisting of a recording on a magnetic tape being looped repeatedly as the tape itself slowly deteriorates, titled *The Disintegration Loops*. Combined, they have a length of about 5 hours, and the first track “dlp 1.1” is 63 minutes long.

ANSWER: William **Basinski**

[10] Typical performances of this La Monte Young solo work last 6ish hours, though only two people have ever played it and it changes every time. Its title references a Bach collection.

ANSWER: *The* ***Well-Tuned Piano***

[10] This German composer released his album *Sleep* in 2015, which has a length of about 8 and a half hours. A live performance was recorded by BBC Radio 3, setting several Guinness world records, and audience members were given beds instead of chairs and encouraged to, well, sleep during that performance.

ANSWER: Max **Richter**

[10] In 2011, this band released the 24-hour long “7 Skies H3,” in a limited edition of 13 copies, each of which was encased in an actual human skull. You probably know them for *The Soft Bulletin* and *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*.

ANSWER: The **Flaming Lips**

[10] A performance of this John Cage piece at a German church began in 2001 and is scheduled to end in 2640. You can catch the next note change on September 5, 2020.

ANSWER: *Organ2/****ASLSP*** [or ***As Slow as Possible***]

[10] This band blows all of the previously-mentioned works out of the water, with albums like *310: ΩΣPx0(2^18×5^18)p\*k\*k\*k*, which is a 7-zip file that when completely extracted, will supposedly be a track with length 3.343 quindecillion years. *260: lcm(2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,23,29,31,37,41,43,47,53,59,61,67,71,73,79,83)*, another of their albums, consists of 23 tracks with distinct prime-numbered lengths that are all looped simultaneously until the entire thing repeats, which takes about 8 septillion years and brings a whole new meaning to the term “math rock.”

ANSWER: **Bull of Heaven**

[10] Vinyl records end in this kind of groove to prevent the needle hitting the label. Normally it’s silent, but by recording sound in this kind of groove, you can have an infinitely long record, a technique used in *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Also, this is the last part of the bonus, at least until someone figures out how to make uncountably long music.

ANSWEr: **locked** groove [or **runout** groove]