

## Personal Essay

I love seeking and redefining beauty in unexpected places, trying to create a space of experimentation – both exploring humanity and how to affect others' lives through art. I seek community and dialogue, stability and friendship. I've grown a lot through diverse musical experiences, honing my skills through the M.M. program in composition at Yale, making albums, touring internationally in the pop music field, and living in Brooklyn working as a waitress. My life has mostly been on a high, going fast, not looking back, and needing more time to think critically and deeply about my work, my craft and what I want to share with the world.

I seek to define and redefine expressions of emotion, flow, density, texture and thrill in my music. I allow myself to get darker than I am in real life, and at times create a kind of majesty and beauty I wish I could find in the world. Music is how I can express myself in the most honest way.

When I compose, I imagine all instruments singing – clarinets, flutes, bassoons, violins, percussion – everything. With voice as my primary instrument, composing for other instrumentation feels like an extension of my own voice. Breath, physical motion, the bodies of performers, and the humanness of the art is of utmost importance to me. I'm intrigued by tiny sounds, heartbeats, breathing, and finding the unnoticed and intimate moments in music.

As a composer/performer, I've lived in the indie-pop world and the more classically-minded world, and haven't found a grounded place yet in either. In my songwriting project, the music is almost always off the page, and very compositionally collaborative with my bandmates, producers, and other musicians, which is an exciting process for me. This year, I've realized

something that might sound obvious, but wasn't to me: that although the process of creation is different, I am still the same person, the same thinker and the same artist. I'm excited to meld these sides of my musical self and inspirations. I feel Princeton is where I can find my own sense of place.

As a songwriter and singer, the state of performance is important to my artistic process. I love feeling the energy of a room, watching people hold their breath, and allowing oneself as a performer to give up one's ego in the moment and succumb to performance – that terrifying process of give and take. Compositional collaboration with my bandmates and producers is also a central aspect of my songwriting project. I'm a highly intuitive and emotional artist. I follow my instincts, improvisation, and intuition when composing, and let the rest follow. I trust my gut and internal self. Although I thrive in an environment that facilitates learning, growing, studying and evolving as a thinker, teacher and composer, I have my own internal flow, drive and logic – that I myself often don't fully understand.