Lia Tsvetanova’s

Portfolio

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| LIA **TSVETANOVA**  134 Morris St, Jersey City, NJ · +1 (484) 557-4471  **·** [**lia.tsvetanova18@gmail.com**](mailto:lia.tsvetanova18@gmail.com) **·** |
| **PROFILE**  Inspired and self-motivated writer, who has a passion for telling stories. |

# EXPERIENCE

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| OCTOBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021WRITER, INNOVISION Student writer for the College of Business magazine at Kutztown University. Requirements included interviewing students and faculty, meetings with the staff, and attending extracurriculars with keynote speakers. |
| JANUARY 2017 – MAY 2017VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN, EASTTOWN LIBRARY Volunteer for the local library. Jobs included checking books in, placing them on the shelves, and helping other staff.    **JUNE 2023 – NOW**  **WRITER,** UNHEARD GEMS  Writer for music company Unheard Gems. Jobs include listening and reviewing songs, attending venues and concerts if possible, and interviewing artists. |

# EDUCATION

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| JUNE 2018CONESTOGA HIGH SCHOOL Took photoshop and photography classes for general education. Attended the multi-cultural club. |
| DECEMBER 2023BA PROFESSIONAL WRITING, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY Focused studies on Journalism, Magazine Writing, Pop Music Journalism. |

# SKILLS

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| · Research, Editing, Revising, Grammar  · Fluent in English, Bulgarian  · Desktop Publishing | · Proficient in Adobe Products  · Geographical Knowledge  · Video Editing |

Introduction:

In the next few pages, you will find a big piece of the reviews I have done so far for my internship. All of which have been uploaded to the Unheard Gems website, which I will link at the bottom. The conditions for some tracks were to review only lyrics or only music. The extent for my research was to get to know the artist and their discography on various websites.

Blue to Purple

A relationship between two loves should be easygoing and filled with joy. Chris Waters captures a different side of true love—unconditional support. When two people are both in a dark place, they help each other as much as possible to escape it. That is what *Blue to Purple* is all about. This electrifying pop song with gospel-like back vocals takes you on a journey of finding the light. Waters’ voice is mellow and deep in the beginning signifying all the struggles they’ve been through together. In the lyric, “Hopping off that vicious circle, now we out here leaping hurdles,” he jumps octaves leading to the climax of the song when they both go from “Blue to Purple.” The singer describes the colors as different seasons, “I guess you could think of blue as being the dark winter, and purple as being a brighter spring.” Waters’ feel-good dance record influenced by artists like Coldplay, Eminem, Twenty-One Pilots, and others, belongs in the club. From the catchy lyrics to the immersive electro sound, *Blue to Purple* has the potential to be an opener for Lollapalooza or Coachella.

Chris Waters is a motivated artist from Milwaukee, WI, who shows no signs of stopping. His debut EP named “Rise” released in June 2018, painted him as an electro-pop artist, but since then he’s been experimenting and exploring more genres such as rap, hip-hop, and other elements of electronic music. Waters describes himself as a singer, songwriter, rapper, and DJ, but he’s also received attention for his acoustic covers that have amassed over a quarter million views on YouTube. His singing career started in 2016 and it’s only going to get bigger, “It's been a long journey, but my love of music is only growing as I get older.... so I plan on being around for a while and I see no end in sight." Waters currently has nearly six thousand monthly listeners on Spotify and growing.

Better Now- David J x Rosebud

The beginning of *Better Now* by David J and Rosebud feels like opening your windows to a summer morning in the nature: birds chirping, wind blowing, and the smell of fresh air. This is a song that needs to be fully experienced on a long drive with the windows down, hair flowing, with the music blasting. The music sounds like something off Dua Lipa’s tracks, yet the voice reminds me of Troye Sivan. A mellow sound meshed with echoes, *Better Now* is mesmerizing from start to finish. Both David J and Rosebud clash together beautifully with their soothing vocals. With a catchy, upbeat sound, *Better Now* will keep your foot tapping. It feels impossible to not break into a dance. The story behind this track is self-empowering, showing that you should better yourself for you and not anyone else. This is why the music is so freeing. Ending the same way *Better Now* started, the sweet sound of birds feels like a happy closure.

David J, a 21-year-old singer/songwriter, producer, and musician, based in Los Angeles and New York is a passionate, self-driven, and motivated singer who dived into the world of music at an early age. His inspiration came from Mariah Carey’s “Without You” and since then he’s been focused on his musical projects. David J has previously worked with Shawn Mendes’ bassist for his single “PROM KING” and continues to create music. His Spotify biography simply says, “currently writing” so we can expect more great tracks to come.

“Been Weeks” – Eddie Negrete

*Been Weeks* by Eddie Negrete is a mixture of indie, electro, and alternative pop that captivates you with an electric guitar opener. The music slowly builds up until you feel goosebumps from the beat drop, but the song only gets better. The production of the chorus is energetic and ethereal in addition to the dreamy vocals. Eddie Negrete’s range of vocals are impressively shown in this record. After the first drop we can hear the beautiful falsetto as he sings, “I want to say it but I can't, I've got this habit that I can't stand, The thought of you haunts me, And you left me in misery.” *Been Weeks* is a unique track about moving on from a toxic relationship that deserves recognition as this is Eddie Negrete’s debut single.

Eddie Negrete’s passion for music started at the early age of 15 when he had his first drum set. This sparked an interest in pursuing other instruments such as piano and guitar. He is now a 23-year-old vocalist, producer, and multi-instrumentalist based in Los Angeles. Eddie has played venues like The Mint, The Moroccan Lounge, and Adults Only, after studying music production at Icon Collective in collaboration with other musicians. With these skills Eddie has created an electrifying single, *Been Weeks.*

“Cold Like You” – Pink Mario

Have you ever wondered what Neo from the Matrix would listen to? Do you miss the 80s and 90s? *Cold Like You*by Pink Mario can give you that nostalgic feeling. This hypnotizing synth pop track will have you daydreaming down the street with each magnifying beat. His vocals are angelic yet the lyrics on the chorus are bittersweet about loving someone who isn’t necessarily good for you, “I like the weather, when it’s cold like you.” I can see this song being in the soundtrack for Stranger Things, or any movie or show based in the 80s. It puts you in a good mood and it lets you escape reality for just a few minutes. Listening to this record early in the morning makes you feel energized, which is why *Cold Like You* will be added to my personal playlist.

Lazlo Barclay is a dream pop artist from London that goes by the stage name of Pink Mario. He is based in Berlin, which is where his career launched in 2020. Since then, he has released 2 EPs, “P1” and “Nord Kord,” 16 singles, and has had over 20 press publications in Europe. With over 700k streams from SoundCloud and Spotify, Pink Mario has played venues in Germany and the UK with pop artists like Ellie Goulding and wants to keep expanding and reaching other countries. *Cold Like You* is his first release of 2023 and as his audience grows, we will be hearing more from Pink Mario.

A Beacon School- “Potion”

*Potion* by A Beacon School fits perfectly into the shoegaze genre. The music is dominated by indie and rock sounds from the guitar and drums. It would be a waste to not add this mellow song to your “study” playlist. With a voice as smooth as honey, the only thing I wish was that the song was longer so I could enjoy it more. *Potion* is about the butterflies in your stomach and the pure excitement about something new, but also the anxiety and fear that comes with it. One quirk that I love about this piece is how the music becomes a smidge quieter and then comes back with its full glory in the chorus.

Patrick J. Smith, famously as A Beacon School, is a New York-based multi-instrumentalist. Smith has been making music since 2009 which led to the release of his demo in 2011, and a self-titled EP later in 2012. His biggest album from 2018 “Cola” has amassed over 50 million streams. Smith received positive reviews and press from multiple sources for this achievement. 5 years later, A Beacon School will release a full-length album called “yoyo” with 10 tracks scheduled to be released on October 13th, 2023.

EMM- “Delilah”

A song always catches my attention when the intro makes me feel like I'm levitating into another, musical realm. *Delilah* by EMM is a phenomenal club and dance-pop song with a voice that reminds me of Ava Max and incredible production. She goes through several octaves between choruses that borderline the contralto range, especially in the buildups before the beat drop, her voice is angelic. The power behind her sultry voice can make you feel sexy while listening to *Delilah*. The inspiration behind this song is from a movie scene where a woman has to take care of her ex-husband as he’s paralyzed, and wants to decide if she wants to take revenge for everything he has done to her. *Delilah* is a song that will surely make you feel empowered as you dance the night away.

Emma Norris from Michigan that goes by stage name EMM, has accumulated over 100 million streams. With major success already in the books, EMM isn’t stopping now. Her style, songs, and agenda are all unique to the pop industry, making her one of a kind. With over 100 thousand followers across all social media, this artist has just begun building her fanbase. Her music dates back to 2016 when she released a full-length album called “Burning in the Dark.” She was one of the first women to create, write, produce, mix, and perform a full-length album in its entirety from start to finish.

The Fur- “We’re Going Under”

It’s the season of summer songs. *We’re Going Under* by The Fur is a song to play for a pool party or a night at the beach. A dance-pop song with a touch of jazz is a unique combination, which is what makes this track special. The Fur is known for adding a live orchestra to his tracks, so the saxophone reminded me of Last Friday Night by Katy Perry. The upbeat production and the voice give me Zara Larsson vibes and it can make your heart sing and dance. The chorus has an even more joyful side that fits Charli XCX’s sound. You can tell The Fur and Yvo enjoyed recording this piece as it is a very fun song. *We’re Going Under* is bound to energize you at any point of the day and is great to hype you up for an exercise.

The Fur is a Swedish pop producer who uniquely combines synth and dance-pop with classical music. Most of his collaborations come from Sweden or the USA, but with over a million streams on Spotify, he will surely expand those horizons. His music is always positively energized and since 2021 he’s been creating tracks for the soul. The Fur has been praised for his genius work by Swedish bloggers and the press and will continue to impress.

Tana- “Kiss Me Like We’re Gonna Die”

Longing for someone after a breakup is almost inevitable. *Kiss Me Like We’re Gonna Die* by Tana is a heartbreaking pop ballad about a past lover. The only thing that can heal a broken heart is a kiss from that love. With the melancholy piano and the low and dark tone by Tana, this song will make you reminisce about an old partner. She wrote this song during a hard moment in her relationship, and you can hear that in her passionate voice. “Your love keeps me running, it keeps me alive, so kiss me like we’re gonna die” cuts deep into the heart; it’s a powerful lyric. As cinematic as it sounds, I can see this song being played as two lovers slow dance the night away before saying goodbye forever with one last kiss. It has a sense of closure, though the feelings linger even beyond. Tana encompasses all the confusing thoughts and torn feelings about losing someone romantically close to your heart. Truly a beautiful song.

Singer-songwriter Tana, based in London, has a unique voice from Italian and Nigerian roots. Influenced by the diverse and rich gay culture, she has been honored for her music by Gay Times and even played at the UK Black Pride 2022 in front of 25,000 people. In addition to performing at festivals like NXNE, Tallin Music Week, and London Pride, she has been featured in BBC, Soho Radio, Pulse 88, and more. A gender-bending artist with no signs of stopping, Tana is a revolutionary singer.

Séamus- “Lost My Baby”

A dark but upbeat song, *Lost My Baby* by Séamus is about the aftermath of a bad breakup. With catchy lyrics, Séamus tells a story of a man who split with his girlfriend, and thus hurts himself knowing “that I’m not better than him.” As he sings that he needs to let go of the pain, we can be reminded as a listener that life moves on to bigger and better things. The production of this song is beautifully encompassed with drums and a rock guitar in addition to a jazzy touch at the end. *Lost My Baby* is deep, and it reminds me of Joji’s music, the kind that can give you chills.

California-based pop singer Séamus has returned with his first single of the year after a long hiatus. Last year his EP “The Whole World’s Burning” gained popularity and critical acclaim with over 200,000 listens. His upcoming EP, “The Town Where I Sleep,” with the leading single *Lost My Baby* is expected to release this fall under Burly Records. With Gen-Z being the target audience, there’s no doubt his songs will be addictive.

Landon Sears- “Passport Luvr”

This fast-paced pop-rap will make you jump out of your seat. *Passport Luvr* captures exactly how I imagine living the luxury life everyone dreams about. Traveling first class once is expensive, but every time… it’s high luxury. Especially when they go on “3 trips in 4 weeks,” that is the dream. This is the perfect song to listen to on a flight to a summer vacation. The chorus is a slower pop verse and even more romantic. With club music in the background, a drink in your hand, and the sun shining hot, *Passport Luvr* is the one to jam out to. Certainly going into my travel playlist with the hopes of flying first class one day.

Landon Sears, a Kentucky native now residing in Nashville, Tennessee, is a 24-year-old artist, multi-instrumentalist, and producer. He falls under the genre of Hip-Hop and R&B with a signature sound in each of his songs. Landon already has 3 albums and 9 EPs out with over 150,000 monthly listeners on Spotify. With *Passport Luvr* being his third single of the year, we are expecting to hear more from him in the coming months.

T-FINNY – “After Party”

Have you ever wanted a sexy, yet mellow song to cure the hangover after a long night? Even with a foggy mind, you would remember the title, as it is the after party. T-FINNY produced a cozy and chill summer song that has similar vibes to Swae Lee. *After Party* is a balanced mix of pop and rap combined to create the recipe of a song that gets stuck in your head. It describes seeing a beautiful girl at a party knowing you won’t see her again, “I ain’t looking for a date, don’t need a wife, girl,” but instead have her in the moment. Though it might pull on some heart string, it’s important to remember that the night is not wasted. *After Party* has been in the works for a couple of years and the result is worth the wait.

T-FINNY is an independent singer/songwriter and producer from New Jersey. In addition to *After Party,* he has released an EP and six singles just this year. For decades he’s been perfecting his craft with a guitar supporting him to bring unique music inspired by great hip-hop, contemporary, and indie artists. With a new and unique mesh of sound, T-FINNY certainly tickles the right parts of the brain with his music.

apolumni- “Tired of Feeling Down”

It’s a rainy night in the middle of the city and you might be feeling lonely. With no one around, music has proven to be therapeutic. A lo-fi pop song like *Tired of Feeling Down* can make you feel understood, like you’re talking to a friend. An auditory hug is exactly how I would describe this track. *Tired of Feeling Down* sounds like a Billie Eilish song without the electro pop that she adds. On the contrary, this mellow and relaxing music fits her dreamlike vocals to create a safe space for listeners to fully embrace with their emotions. The instruments in the background slowly come together in the chorus, but the piano in the intermediate verses builds up until the drop with the drums, foreshadowing the act of bottling emotions. The final touch of thunder in the end completed the song and gave me a sense of closure. A gentle but powerful song.

Apolumni, based in Belgrade, Serbia, is a new indie musician who kickstarted her career in 2020. Her single *Normal People* has been a fan favorite with nearly 100,000 listens. Apolumni has definitive vocals that are dreamy yet haunting, but in the supportive way. Her songs are made to be relatable with the strong feelings that we sometimes can’t understand or put into words. This is why apolumni seems like a friend that you can just call up at any time.

Relay Relay- “Rerun”

Mixing genres creates a new wave of music. One of my favorites is indie pop, chill and relaxing vibes, yet it’s uplifting, and the pop side hypes you up. This is the perfect balance of two opposites attracting. *Rerun* has the potential to go viral on TikTok and be used in a trend. The vocals are accompanied by synths, guitars, and drums, to create a catchy sound. I caught myself tapping my foot after a few listens. The synths make it feel retro in a way like it’s the 90s but still keeping the modernized sound with the rest of the instruments. Vocally, the softness of her voice is exactly right for *Rerun*, making it that much warmer. The song is about being “stuck in a rerun” and making the same mistakes over again. Just like a rerun on TV, the moments are expected, so is it really “too late to change it?” What makes this song unique is the slight change in the chorus lyrics. Not many artists go for that risk as it might not flow or rhyme, but in *Rerun*, it’s effortless.

Relay Relay is a husband-and-wife duo named Jamie and Hannah Rowen based in Raleigh, North Carolina. Knowing their production studio comes from their bedroom, their tracks are even more impressive. With nearly 5,000 monthly listeners on Spotify and popular songs like *High on You* and *Back to the Light*, the duo has amassed thousands of new fans just this year. When Relay Relay isn’t producing music, they perform for running events all over the country, as they are avid runners themselves. Jamie and Hannah will keep creating free-spirited and open-minded indie pop music in the upcoming future.

Séamus- “Hometown Hero”

Séamus comes back around with his heart on his sleeve. His single, *Hometown Hero*, is a dark and slow but romantic pop song about missing someone who still has feelings for you. The hardship of having invisible strings tied to your ex or a forbidden love as they have moved on with somebody else is described in the lyrics, “Does he know the times? Where you were falling asleep now on my chest/ I can’t put it to rest/ Is it so bad I wanna relive it all?” Even though the feelings are reciprocated, the singer states that it’s wrong, “So why don’t you stop?” The tone of his voice is sad, almost like he’s reminiscing of what he had with her. There’s a sense of guilt, yet when emotions are so strong you can’t just let go. Musically, the production is soft and low to bring light to his voice, as the lyrics are powerful. Like the pain that this “situationship” could inevitably bring, *Hometown Hero* might tug on your heart, though you can’t help but keep coming back.

Séamus is a California-based pop singer with a second single off his upcoming EP “The Town Where I Sleep.” His leading single, *Lost My Baby,* has gotten listeners excited for what’s coming. Last year his EP “The Whole World’s Burning” gained popularity and critical acclaim with over 200,000 listens. With Gen-Z being the target audience, and two singles out, there’s no doubt his songs from the long-awaited EP will be addictive.

HUMM- “who’s this girl”

This is for all you groovy people in need of a pop-rock love song. *Who’s this girl* by HUMM embraces the exciting journey of love at first sight. With a mysterious tone filled with love and fear of the unknown, the song precisely describes the feeling of butterflies you get. And with these mixed feelings about a total stranger, the pre-chorus really sets the tone, “I wanna get caught up, I wanna fall in love, but I’m like… ‘who’s this girl?’” A little quirk that really puts the listeners in the singer’s shoes is the female background vocals that echo before the second verse. This gives it the mirage effect, and it makes you wonder… is she real? As I mentioned the low tone previously, HUMM’s voice bursts in the chorus with a fiery passion, much like getting to know someone new. *Who’s this girl* has a message to not lose yourself into loving someone, but we will lose ourselves in this song.

HUMM is an acronym for “hope u miss me” and was created by lead singer Jules Tursini and multi-instrumentalist Todd Vought. The duo has worked very closely with Grammy nominated producer Mark Needham and Grammy winner Howie Weinberg. HUMM has been under Needham’s wing for 3 years creating unique nostalgic music from the 80s. With a new musical twist into the modern music scene, HUMM combines life experiences and a fresh sound to connect with the audience on a deeper and more meaningful level.

Estella Dawn- “Funny Bones”

Estella Dawn creates an intricate track about finding the right one at the wrong time. With lyrics from “Our souls must have danced before/ Left galaxies stripped on the floor” to “I only love you when you’re not in love” this song will make your heart skip a beat. The settling gentle music alone sets the tone for the story. It then picks up in the chorus, with a stronger vocal range and dramatic music. *Funny Bones* and Estella Dawn have the same vibe as Halsey gives off. With that in mind, Dawn takes it to another level with *Funny Bones* by letting her emotions out. Along with clear sadness and desperation in her voice, we can hear anger in the line, “You meant something to me.” This song can take you on a rollercoaster of emotions, which can overwhelm you in the best way. Songs are supposed to be felt not just listened to.

Estella Dawn was born and raised in New Zealand but resides in San Diego, CA now. As a singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist, Dawn almost needs no help in creating her musical projects. *Funny Bones* has been her 10th release of 2023 and the year still hasn’t ended. Her confident style and force of nature draws listeners to her authentic pop songs. Since her global outbreak in 2020, Dawn has shown no signs of stopping.

paddybeaz- “Burdens”

*Burdens* by paddybeaz is an impressively constructed song using only drums as samples. Though there aren’t many lyrics, the music is what wraps this song into the complete package. This lo-fi, yet nostalgic sound, really makes you feel at home when listening to *Burdens.* The story behind the song is personal to paddybeaz—after an argument with his high school sweetheart of 12 years, he thought his relationship would come to an end, so this song came to him like a prophecy one lonely night. As the girl listening to this, I would be touched to hear these lyrics, “But if you let me try again/ I'll be better, better than before.” All in all, *Burdens* captures the essence of what it feels like to fight for what you truly love.

Paddybeaz is an independent artist from Austin, Texas. His inspiration came from other independent artist that record music from home such as Kevin Parker, Ruban Nielson, and Mac Demarco. Music recorded from anywhere outside a studio is always impressive because it sounds like it’s studio produced. But this is not the only job he’s done; paddybeaz has DJed Tech House, Deep House, and UK Garage. His style of music is polarized, but they always say opposites attract; emotional dance pop is what we need.

Oren Levin- “Can I ride it out alone?”

Driving down the night road with your windows down? *Can I ride it out alone* is such a feel-good song with catchy electronic music that will make you replay it over and over again. Oren Levin’s voice reminds me of Lauv, that mellow yet full of emotion vocal range, will always have a soft spot in my heart. The music vaguely resembles a sample off Billie Eilish’s song *Everything I Wanted,* which is partially why this song caught my eye. It gives you a hint of mystery and warmth all at once. *Can I ride it out alone* is a romantic electro-pop with background vocals that would fill any void you might have.

Oren Levin is a Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter and producer, who looks up to Bon Iver, The 1975, and Phoebe Bridgers for music inspirations. He released *Can I ride it out alone* as his second single off the upcoming EP “Nothing happens as planned.” Since 2018, Levin has released 2 albums, several singles on the way, and an EP is expected later on this year. His first single from the EP, *I just wanna love you now.* set the tone for what we should expect in the new tracks.

Cloud House- “Don’t Wanna Talk”

Cloud House delivers a fast-paced, upbeat, and energetic track called *Don’t Wanna Talk*. The story revolves around the lead singer, Conor, and his tough childhood taking care of his terminally ill mother. As danceable as the song is, the lyrics are heart wrenching for anyone going through the same experience. Conor explains that he always felt like he had the weight of the world on his shoulder because it was just him and his mom against the world. “I used to put on a brave face for her but deep down it was a struggle for me. I wanted to be a kid. I wanted her to get better.” In the opening lyric of *Don’t Wanna Talk,* Conor sings, “I used to ride the train at night, way past my stop and pray for morning” nodding at the fact that he didn’t want to go home yet. This indie rock/pop song has captivated us from instrumentals to lyrics, especially with how personal *Don’t Wanna Talk* is.

Cloud House from Glasgow, Scotland, consist of band members Conor, Patrick, Jack, Calum, and Morgan. The themes of their music cover grief, personal growth, hope, resilience, and more. Since forming in 2019, Cloud House has performed across the country with singles and songs from their 2021 EP “Days Changed.” Their upcoming EP “Still Here” expected November 1st, is a style shift from their last EP, marking a new wave for the band. As winners of the international Rootstock Festivaland being selected as the one to watch by The Weekender, Cloud House will only rise from here.

Another Nguyen- “Different”

*Different* is a different kind of love song. More like the type of forbidden love. This electro-pop track is about a man with a lover who seems like he has eyes for someone else. Afraid of leaving his girlfriend, yet having thoughts of other girls, too, Another Nguyen describes the pain of being the “other” girl. The lyric that really hits deep, “Cuz you and her seem to be so happy, And you and me are just a fantasy” encapsulates the whole song. This is from a real experience that the singer felt, and she wanted to capture the moment of connection. Her voice sounds like something straight from heaven—an angelic voice that pulls you straight back into the song. How could someone not love it? *Different* is a refreshing new pop song that the radio desperately needs.

Ngoc Anh Nguyen, stage name Another Nguyen, is a Berlin-based, Vietnamese-German singer-songwriter. Her powerful pop music and gentle voice has gained attention and kept her fans on the edge of their seats. Since her 2018 self-titled EP, Another Nguyen has blossomed with heartful and personal tracks. From Hanoi to Los Angeles, she has been exploring her artistic and musical style in Berlin—a city that expresses with art. Another Nguyen’s unique touch to the musical world will shift the way fans will listen to pop.

Pink Mario- “You Know Who to Call (This Modern World)”

Pink Mario delivers an upbeat dream pop with dreamier vocals that will levitate you to another world of music. *You Know Who to Call (This Modern World)* is an escape song from the real-world chaos around us. To be more precise, Pink Mario discusses that it’s specifically about AI and how fast modernization happens in the world. We can’t grasp it as humans and within our fear of how it will impact us, the only thing that we can think about is who to call. This song can give you a warm perspective of it all—having someone there for you. *You Know Who to Call* opens with a quick drumbeat and a low singing tone followed by cymbals in the chorus with a comforting vocal range by Pink Mario. The track makes me feel like he’s setting the scene of a dystopian robotic world yet reassuring me that everything will be all right. Even through an apocalypse, this song would heal the listener. The ending of it would fit the credits of a movie with a happily ever after. Just like the kind Pink Mario wants.

Lazlo Barclay is a dream pop artist from London who goes by the stage name of Pink Mario. He is based in Berlin, which is where his career launched in 2020. Since then, he has released 2 EPs, “P1” and “Nord Kord,” 17 singles, and has had over 20 press publications in Europe. With over 700k streams from SoundCloud and Spotify, Pink Mario has played venues in Germany and the UK with pop artists like Ellie Goulding and wants to keep expanding and reaching other countries. *You Know Who to Call (This Modern World)* is his second single of the year.

Adanna Duru- “if I was a boy ;)”

*If I was a boy* is an eclectic, fun, and fast pop/rap song. Inspired by Beyoncé’s “if I were a boy” and with the help of producers Khris Riddick and Rob Biesel, this track has come to life. Riddick and Biesel have previously worked with SZA, and the song has those vibes, making it a complete radio hit. *If I was a boy* is a nod at how men disappoint women, “If I was a boy, I’d never post my girl, I’d tell her she’s my world, Then I'd go and fuck with her over there.” The lyrics continue giving examples of what men have done in the past following up with a defeated and desperate question, “how long until these boys know my worth?” After the second chorus, we receive the answer that we’ve been looking for, “Boys will never learn, I saw ya phone & can’t believe You got a split identity, I’m over cryin'.” Adanna Duru used the studio to express her emotions about being mistreated as a woman, *“*I wanted to make a song that was super fun and spoke to feelings that all women go through in relationships (wanting to treat men the way they treat us)” With a mixture of genres together—afrobeats, contemporary R&B, pop, rap—don’t be surprised when it gets stuck in your head.

Adanna Duru is a Nigerian 27-year-old singer raised in Orange County, California. She has previously been on the top 10 of American Idol in 2015, and team Adam Levine of The Voice in 2012. Since then, in 2023 Adanna has made a comeback with her riveting EP “NAPPY HOUR” and gained over 28 million streams globally across all platforms. In the same year, she gained over 1.5 million followers on TikTok and will keep creating videos for her fans. Not only that but she received co-signs on that platform by artists like Timbaland, Ed Sheeran, Alicia Keys, Ayrra Star, Bas, and more. As “NAPPY HOUR” is her first look, the EP represents a fun, energetic, and harmonic side of her—this is only the beginning.

Zoya Zafar- “Tunnel Vision”

*Tunnel Vision* by Zoya Zafar will give you that nostalgic early 2000s feeling like no other. In a world full of autotune and electric music, *Tunnel Vision* will cleanse you with pure and clear vocals. This relaxing tune, accompanied by a gentle acoustic guitar and soft beats, will make anyone pick up a guitar and learn it. For a Sunday morning, Zoya Zafar has created the perfect song to listen to over coffee. The story within the track is sweet in and of itself. Zoya sings about a love interest who keeps coming back around, even though they “don’t believe in paradise” Is this their paradise? She has only eyes for him, hence the lyrics, “Tunnel vision, I only see you…” As a dream-pop masterpiece, *Tunnel Vision* has the ability to transport you to a world of your own, serving as a welcome escape from the daily chaos.

Zoya Zafar, born in Lahore, Pakistan, and raised in Orlando, Florida, is a self-taught singer, songwriter, and musician with a remarkable journey through the world of music. Since her teen years, she’s been enchanting audiences locally around Florida, gaining fans along the way, and releasing singles since 2015. *Tunnel Vision,* co-written and produced by Max Helgemo,is the first single of her upcoming full-length album “Some Songs” which has been in the works for a while. Keep an eye on Zoya Zafar as she embarks on this adventure.

Cosmorat- “S.A.D L.U.V”

Despite its seemingly somber name, *S.A.D L.U.V* exudes a surprisingly playful essence. The track captivates listeners with its childlike vocals and an introduction that resonates with the nostalgic echoes of a bustling playground.For the singer, this song is meant to channel her inner child and girlhood, “I remember hitting puberty and having attention from boys and men that were way too old for me, which made me embarrassed by my body. I would cover up and awkwardly laugh.” This song embodies the rage we as females feel, yet we are still misunderstood. You can hear the mood shift after the opening when she says “Stop” which cues the indie music vibe. This element evokes a sense of growth and independence, symbolizing empowerment. *S.A.D L.U.V* is a strong-headed track that’s going into my playlist alongside Olivia Rodrigo.

Cosmorat is a band comprising 3 talented members, Taylor Pollock, Olly Liu, and Lorenzo Burgio. In her hometown of Pennsylvania, Taylor was gigging at bars, garages, and basements before Cosmorat. Taylor and Olly met in college eventually and started writing together while they were in and out of different bands. Together they studied recording engineering and focused on their own project. As it all came together, they moved to London where they found Lorenzo completing their lineup. And now Cosmorat has been getting positive feedback for their single *Backseat Baby*and will continue to impress listeners and fans.

Cade Hoppe- “Fresh Start”

*Fresh Start* jumps into a catchy tune luring you into a fresh start. Cade Hoppe releases the beginning of his new EP with a more literal song than the rest. *Fresh Start* brings in existential reflection and revelation about one’s inner self and the issues surrounding the world affecting it. Everyone needs a fresh start whether it’s the morning after or the new year, there’s always a chance to change. This track is full of relatable content from wanting to be an astronaut as a kid to laughing at a joke on the wrong part. What’s unique about this song is that it’s not structured traditionally, but instead, it tells a linear story. As a bedroom/ lo-fi pop, this song digs deep into the roots of wanting to begin again and renew your story. *Fresh Start* opens up a new path not only for listeners but for other singers as well.

Cade Hoppe, based in New York, but originally from Sacramento, California, is a 23-year-old singer-songwriter and producer. Cade’s original plan was to move to the East Coast to pursue his academic and athletic dreams. Since his childhood, Cade has learned to play the piano, saxophone, guitar, and bass. It wasn’t until later on that he experimented with songwriting, which prompted his stepbrother to connect him to producer Harper James. This is where Cade Hoppe started his musical career blossoming into the artist he is today.

Lockyer Boys- “DRIVE!”

In the ever-evolving landscape of contemporary music, where genres seamlessly blend and artists draw inspiration from varied influences, Lockyer Boys' latest offering, *DRIVE!,* emerges as a refreshing antidote to the winter blues we all suffer from. This song reminds me of those good innocent years of 2013-2016 when The Vamps and 5 Seconds of Summer were emerging with hit songs becoming popular. I am obsessed with songs for car rides, and this is a perfect love song to listen to on your way to meet your significant other. However, this song can be interpreted differently. It can be all about new beginnings and taking a shot at change in life. Much like the lyric, “No destination, we can follow the stars,” life happens spontaneously, so planning is merely hope. *DRIVE!* will open your eyes to the new opportunities the future can hand you with a pop-rock twist.

Brothers Will and Charlie Lockyer, stage name Lockyer Boys, were born and raised in Thunder Bay, Canada. Both started playing music at a very early age and have gathered tremendous experience thus far. At just 19 and 21, the boys have worked in the studio with Grammy-nominated producers such as Jeff Dawson, Mikal Blue, and many more. Just this year Lockyer Boys have performed opening acts in multiple sold-out shows for artists like Barenaked Ladies, Loverboy, and Fefe Dobson. With a blend of pop-rock and alternative, this duo will surely gain international attention.

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