

# Occidental College Music

# Brenda Jackson

Senior Recital in Music Production  
April 16, 2021, 4:00 pm | Online

## **La Verdad**

This song was written as a way to express my frustration with White America, and the ignorance that some with white privilege have. The song is in Spanglish to further the intention of the song, and as an act of resistance to xenophobic and ignorant rhetoric. The song contains piano, guitar (both rhythm and lead), a pad, drums, and other MIDI instruments that add color and sparkle to the song.

## **Tomorrow**

This song was written in collaboration with my best friend from high school. She was the first person I wrote a song with and performed with, and writing this song years later feels like a homage to my start as a musician and songwriter. The lyrics tell a story of a relationship that is falling apart, with one person being more invested than the other and the ultimate realization that they were not meant to be together. The instrumentation is simply recorded acoustic guitar and vocals with vocal harmonies. I wanted to keep this song acoustic, to highlight the rawness and vulnerability of the song and also again to pay homage to the style I first began singing and writing in.

## **Talk to Me**

This song was a collaboration with Gabi Wayne and is driven by the bassline and punchy drums. I played guitar and we were able to get a professional bass player to record a bassline that Oliva Oosterhout wrote. We used a dreamy synth throughout with heavy reverb as well. The lyrics which Gabi and I wrote are flirtatious and playful and there are plenty of instrumental breaks that help highlight the instrumentation rather than the vocals.

## **Getaway**

This song has many references to Los Angeles, the city I was born and raised in. With references to the 405 freeway and the windmills you find on a long drive away from the city, I express my love for LA while also highlighting the busy, noisy nature of the city. This song was a collaboration with Gabi Wayne, with her adding instruments and mixing. We also added bird sounds throughout the track, reminiscent of the sounds of nature that you may find on a getaway away from the city.

## **Call Us Friends**

This song was a collaboration with Gabi Wayne. We got our inspiration for the first section from the title of a magazine we saw and used it as a springboard to write the hook and intro. This song is synth and drum heavy, while also having vocals that focus on the repetition of the hook. The lyrics are playful and tell a story of someone wanting something more out of a relationship than the other person is willing to give.

## **Breathe**

This song takes inspiration from my experience with mental health struggles while growing up in a Latinx household. Often in the Latinx community, mental health issues are considered taboo and are not discussed, and the lyrics reflect the hopelessness and the way conversations about mental health often go. With this song, I used mainly piano throughout, but included drums and guitar strumming (both MIDI and live recorded) and recorded vocals and harmonies.