

Occidental College Music

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Senior Recital in Music Production
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Fly

I created this song as a voice lesson assignment right after school went online. My instructor was Loren Battley and we discussed more creative songwriting strategies. She ended up sending me a photograph of which to base a song off of. The photograph was black and white and of a dilapidated house in the middle of a forest. The house seemed to be falling apart from the middle and the two sides of the structure leaned away from each other. The photo felt mysterious and grunge like to me. I wrote an Indie rock song based on wanting to escape from a crumbling environment yet fearing what lies in the unknown.

Verse 1:

I've been getting lost
I'm tired of it
Make it okay
Let me escape
You don't see fissures in any of it
Are you afraid to just walk away?

Pre Chorus:

Am I wrong
For wanting more time?
Can I do
What I've been doing
this whole time?

Chorus:

Catch a train of fly
(Open your mind)
Ride it all night
(Open your mind)
Look into my eyes
(Open your mind)
Say goodbye

Verse 1:

Running around reciting
All my dreams
Locked in between
What I want to do today
And what they all expect of me

Pre Chorus:

Am I wrong
For wanting more time?
Can I do
What I've been doing
this whole time?

Chorus:

Catch a train of fly
(Open your mind)
Ride it all night
(Open your mind)
Look into my eyes
(Open your mind)
Say goodbye

Bridge:

Everybody's looking for answers
And I know none of them
I'd trade in my card for a better one but
I want what I have

Chorus:

Catch a train of fly
(Open your mind)
Ride it all night
(Open your mind)
Look into my eyes
(Open your mind)
Say goodbye

Burn

This song signals the portfolio's transition into music more closely resembling Pop and R&B. I wrote this song about a year ago. It is from the perspective of a toxic boyfriend manipulating his lover to stay with him. I had my friend and fellow Oxy senior, Mark Anella, play guitar on this piece. The musical influence of this song is West Coast alternative pop such as artists like LANY. I started with the drum beat, added vocals, synths, then Mark added guitar.

Verse 1:

Trying my best to not care
Trying my best to be fair
I got you around me

Pre Chorus:

Wanna be impatient and moody
But you won't exclude no
You gotta get through me
To see what you can do
You know I'm toxic girl
But you put me in your world
Just to feel a world of hurt

Chorus:

Gotta admit you like the burn
Even though it hurts yeah
You know it's not worth it
Burn
Still call me your best friend
Still say you love your man

Verse 2:

Trying your best to save face
But all you want to do is escape
I got you wrapped around me
I got you wrapped around me

Pre Chorus:

Anxious and tired
I know you love is expired
But you don't say
shit about it
So I won't say
shit about it
I'm not man enough to say
That I'm bad for you
Ain't man enough
To tell you the truth

Chorus:

Gotta admit you like the burn
Even though it hurts yeah
You know it's not worth it
Burn
Still call me your best friend
Still say you love your man

Bring Me Your Love

I wrote this song three years ago. It's an emotional yet understated song about unrequited love and depending on someone who helped you out of dark times more than they depend on you. I worked with producer Jonathan Berry based in Pasadena. The instrumentation resembles that of a jazz nightclub with bass, drums, piano, and subtle strings in the latter half. I produced the piano, most of the drums, strings, and vocals. Jonathan performed the bass and added final touches to the drums.

Verse 1:

Bitches cry when you go down
I cry when you're not around
Is that just me
Done been clear
When we left school
I'm too good
Not meant for you
Stand up or leave

Pre Chorus:

Baby
Needed some love
To carry home
Needed some love
To carry home
Tell me you want me alone

Chorus:

Bring me your love
Bring me your love
Bring me your love
Bring me your love
I just need space and time
With you
I just need one last chance to
Tell you the truth
That I always loved you

Verse 2:

Why when I try to
Smoke the pain out
Only your kiss
Can make it fade out
Please tell me why (why)
You're the thing that
Made me grateful
That I'm here and
That I'm able
Don't say goodbye
Don't you say goodbye

Pre Chorus:

Baby
Needed your voice
To calm me down
Needed your voice
To calm me down
I think I always need
You around

Chorus:

Bring me your love
Bring me your love
Bring me your love
Bring me your love
I just need space and time
With you
I just need one last chance to
Tell you the truth
That I always loved you

Easier

I wrote this song three years ago and have performed this song on campus the most out of any of my songs. I recorded it for the first time for this portfolio. It is essentially a thank you letter to anyone who helped me through difficult times. I recorded the guitar first, recorded the main vocals, added strings, synths, then back up vocals.

Verse 1:

Did I tell you
That I can see
Me in you
All the things I
Don't like in me
You do

Pre Chorus:

Maybe I'm too
Hard on myself
Like you always say
Undeserving of you
I feel it
Every single day

Chorus:

Cause you
Make it so much easier
To feel the ground
Under my feet
And you're a big reminder to
Hold on tight and breathe
In the moment, hard to focus
On the good in me
But your potion, love emotion
Keeps me on my feet

Verse 2:

It's a roller
Coaster in my head
You're the difference
Between a good day
And bad

Pre Chorus:

Remember back when
We were young and naive
Thinking that great love
Is only a fairytale dream

Chorus:

Cause you
Make it so much easier
To feel the ground
Under my feet
And you're a big reminder to
Hold on tight and breathe
In the moment, hard to focus
On the good in me
But your potion, love emotion
Keeps me on my feet

Bridge:

I know it's hard enough to feel my need
You're a human being too
I know it's not enough wasting my dream
You see it in me too
You're the only one who knows
What I can live up to

Chorus:

Cause you
Make it so much easier
To feel the ground
Under my feet
And you're a big reminder to
Hold on tight and breathe
In the moment, hard to focus
On the good in me
But your potion, love emotion
Keeps me on my feet

Drunk

This three part composition consists of an Indie rock song, a section of layered vocals inspired by the grandiosity of film music, and a short couplet in Spanish. This song in its entirety speaks to adolescence and the changes of mindset that occur as you move into adulthood. It starts with youthful angst, then a more orchestrated ambience of peace and exploration, and then a feeling of home within oneself. I'm half Mexican and wanted to add a part of my culture in my portfolio, even if it's just a couple of lines. The Spanish ending is a final reassurance that no matter what happens throughout life, there's a community and a people who you come from.

Walking out our separate ways
Take a bullet to the face
Nothing makes sense
No it doesn't matter
You're all drunk and home alone

Looking back make sure I'm changing
Let the dead just fly away
Life's a feeling when you let her
Take all of your pain away

Canta de tu corazón (Sing from your heart)
Debes ser aquí mi amor (You should be here my love)

Pleasure (feat. DJ)

Mark Anella produced the track for this song and third year student, DJ, raps on this song. We tried to emulate the sound of an old school 90's R&B song. DJ and I wrote lyrics about falling in love and sharing adventurous times together. The first verse, pre-chorus, and chorus are about wanting a deeper love than they've previously experienced and not wanting to be seen only for external reasons. DJ's verse reaffirms the first narrator that he can provide what she wants. The track includes Rhodes piano, drums, and vocals. We made this song last year.

Verse 1:

Think about it baby
Words you say are crazy
You can try to bait me
Through your words sedate me

Pre Chorus:

But nothing ever
Goes right from here
Forgive me
If I act out of fear

Chorus:

I could sing you this song
Or we can get along
Aren't both of us here
To try to get it on
I'll get you there faster
If you can look past
The treasure
Hope what you can
Love of me is
More than pleasure

Bridge:

I'm thinkin you and me
Uncharted opportunity
I'm thinkin Malibu or Point Mugu
Let's get away from things
Let me peel away and resonate with all your inner being
I'm a paper chaser
Let me show what that really mean
Baby life can be a dream
Now rewind back
Ever since you met a ____
You was tweakin for a climax
Ever since you met the kid been floatin
Quarter contact
How you get from here to there like time lapse
This love will give you chills I'm forreal
And you bad
Michael Jackson bad
Blame it on the boogie or that ass
I might spaz
If you try it I'm a rider baby that's that
You want my feelings?
Take that

Chorus:

I could sing you this song
Or we can get along
Aren't both of us here
To try to get it on
I'll get you there faster
If you can look past
The treasure
Hope what you can
Love of me is
More than pleasure

Summer

I wrote this song two summers ago. It is about feeling pressure to be productive in the summer but feeling lonely at the same time and wanting to fill that void with temporary romance. I used a royalty free guitar sample and immediately started writing lyrics. I laid down the vocals then added drums and synth.

Verse 1:

I like the way that summer feels when I'm down
I like the way the warmth compliments my frown
forever

Social standards of productivity weigh me down
They weigh me down

I drive around cause I got no plans
Meet up with strangers and hold their hand
Pour my heart on my sleeve
Every chance that I can
I can

Chorus:

I feel like you and me together
Can make these three long months last

And nobody can change the weather
Let's lay around and do nothing together

Verse 2:

I like the way your tattoos poke out your sleeve
I like the way you stay gentle with me
forever

Summer fling is happening to me, to me
Don't want to face all my days alone
Got too much shit to deal with on my own
You can take my pain and turn it into gold
To gold

Chorus:

I feel like you and me together
Can make these three long months last

And nobody can change the weather
Let's lay around and do nothing together

Bridge:

I like the way your heart beats out your chest
Running from everything but this feeling
forever

Chorus:

I feel like you and me together
Can make these three long months last

And nobody can change the weather
Let's lay around and do nothing together

The One

I wrote this song as a third year. I looped an electric guitar sample, added drums, added vocals, then synth. This song is about dealing with mental illnesses and struggling with codependency as an adolescent. I imagined a laid back R&B musical ambience for this piece in order to compliment the emotional and intimate lyrical content.

Verse 1:

I feel anxious when I'm sober
I feel lazy when I'm high
Don't know if they understand it
If they know how hard I try
I just want some peace in my life
I just need a sign

Pre Chorus:

And my walls are broken
But not all the way open

Chorus:

Can I be the one
Who looks after myself
Can I be the one
Who doesn't need no help
Can I be the one
Who self discovers
And recovers all on their own

Verse 1:

I feel dizzy all around me
Looking for what I can't find
Have your face still in the pictures
That I almost left behind
I wish I was more secure inside
I just need to see you one last time

Pre Chorus:

Now my heart is frozen
And my scars are open

Chorus:

Can I be the one
Who looks after myself
Can I be the one
Who doesn't need no help
Can I be the one
Who self discovers
And recovers all on their own

Bridge:

When I wake up imma try to be
Someone who's stronger than me
Someone who's better at dealing with mental illnesses
Got some change in my pocket
And some pain in it too
Girl you know that pain change to a love that's true
And I know you're working hard
And I know that it's rough
But let the universe do its thing
Sit back and hush

Chorus:

Can I be the one
Who looks after myself
Can I be the one
Who doesn't need no help
Can I be the one
Who self discovers
And recovers all on their own

Maybe

I wrote this song this past year on acoustic guitar. It is about feeling like a relationship could have formed if things went differently and knowing you could have provided the other person with the security they need and wanted. I have yet to produce this song but would add electric guitar and a live sounding drum kit.

Verse 1:

I just trace my hands through
Your fingers
Really hoping that
You don't wake up
I just almost went and
Pressed the trigger
Thinking maybe if
I fess up

Pre Chorus:

Cause you
Really got me
Crawling on my knees
And you
Really can't see
What you're doing
To me

Chorus:

If I met you somewhere
Different
If I texted when you're
Home
If I made sure that you
Listen
Then maybe I'd be your
Home
If I put you at the front
Of your seat then
Maybe maybe
You'd feel the urge to stay
With me then
Maybe maybe

Verse 1:

I know that you feel
The same
That you're lonely
But you want something
That's not enough
You're just scared of
The face that its real
That i give you
Everything you want

Pre Chorus:

Cause you
Really got me
Crawling on my knees
And you
Really can't see
What you're doing
To me

Chorus:

If I met you somewhere
Different
If I texted when you're
Home
If I made sure that you
Listen
Then maybe I'd be your
Home
If I put you at the front
Of your seat then
Maybe maybe
You'd feel the urge to stay
With me then
Maybe maybe

(Interlude)

Chorus:

If I met you somewhere different
If I texted when you're home
If I made sure that you listen
Then maybe I'd be your home

If I put you at the front of your seat then
Maybe maybe
You'd feel the urge to stay with me then
Maybe maybe