

R G P M U S E

F e a t u r i n g P D B R O D Y a n d M o r e



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Released March 2021. RGP Muse Magazine is a music and literary based magazine centered on interviews from musicians and authors.

08. Hannah Abiona tells her story of how she became a writer and now a newly debuted author.

12. Nick Keena showcases his music expertise, shares his beginnings and future in music.

EDITOR'S NOTE



To start with, let me just say that I am a person who has always been inspired by other people's stories. Ever since I started writing my own novels and being more creative in terms of web content, interviewing people has remained my constant go to.

I hope to share others struggles, creativity, inspirations and dreams with those that will read and listen.

The past year has been a troubling time for everyone but we can't let tough times keep us from doing the work that we care to share and achieve.

These stories are all different. I hope they inspire and give readers insight to someone else's journey, no matter how big or small.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wynter Aiken".

Wynter Aiken
Editor-In-Chief

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Go inside Brody's music and teaching journey amid the pandemic.



ONE LYRIC AT A TIME.

Artists of all kinds are still struggling to find their ground every since we were hit with the unexpected pandemic of COVID-19. Although the world has changed tremendously, artist/musician and teacher PD Brody found a way to keep his musical expression alive, keep his spirits up, and keep the money flowing.

Before the pandemic escalated, Brody was living the rock star life, hitting the road and going on a country wide tour from places like California, Austin, TX., Memphis, TN. and newly discovered Staunton, VA. while getting his name on the music map, meeting and making personal connections with people, connections that would last a lifetime.

Unfortunately, when the pandemic hit, those connections were made in a different way. And, even though Brody is blessed to have another career in teaching special needs children, his passion for playing music was still hanging in the balance.

"Everything was rolling, making real good money, and I was tired as hell but it was working and all just coming together. I was in my groove, and I remember it was March 14th, had 3-4 gigs in a row that weekend and that Monday everything shut down," Brody says of the experience. "Literally hero to zero."

We are all trying to adapt to this new reality in the hope that the pandemic will end soon, although it is impossible to predict how long it will last and what consequences it will have for all and for Brody that is no different.

"The door has been opened for me to say something, and seeing people I look up to say something gives me the encouragement to do the same."



All photo credit belongs to PD Brody.

ROCK ON THROUGH TROUBLING TIMES!

"I BECAME MORE APPRECIATIVE."



“The two worlds coexist and there is happiness in having security.”

"I am blessed to have another career. I have means to pay the rent, put gas in the car but it sucked, music wise. It was very strange to not do anything. I went to nothing, being in my apartment for weeks on end," Brody explains his sheltering in place experience. "I wasn't gigging or playing. I lost my callouses in my fingers and it was just not the life I was used to living."

To have someone playing music, doing what they love while lifting spirits in the most meaningful yet subtle way is great, inspiring and needed in these dark times of lockdown uncertainty and isolation.

Brody did just that by doing at home livestreams like Facebook Live to play music and doing small outdoor live shows. With restrictions lifting day by day, people are able to enjoy outside again and in turn Brody continues to make his connections with people through his music. It's all about creating a safe yet creative balance in times of uncertainty.

"Daddy Matty's BBQ in Madison had a patio where I could livestream and play outside. It was advertising for the restaurant and people could come out to listen to some tunes. I was pleasantly surprised by the neighborhood that embraced me sitting on the stoop playing guitar," Brody says. "People would come by in their car taking a video, drop by but it was refreshing because people were appreciative of it."





"There's a certain art to when being in room with somebody when they're teaching you how to do something,"

Brody, though he had to switch up in terms of creativity for his music playing, thankfully he was still able to teach his students in a creative and productive manner via Google Classroom. Music this way didn't stop in his or his students lives despite abrupt change in routine.

"It wasn't the scale in which I was used to playing at but I still felt that I was creating my art and still doing my thang." Brody says, recalling how it felt to be in tight space for so long. "I became more appreciative as well, and I had to hunker down. I work with special needs children as well and I never knew how much I needed that and music to co-exist until this point in time."

If anyone has learned anything from this pandemic, it is to be thankful for what you have because anything can change in a blink of an eye with no absolute warning.

"As far as music teaching, it's been harder to articulate what I want my kids to do as far as exercises and playing cause I'm not physically there to show them. There's a certain art to when being in room with somebody when they're teaching you how to do something," Brody continues. "It's cross disciplinary for me and my kids handled it pretty well, they really put forth an effort and they're engaged and have adapted to it."

A forced pause on our relentlessly busy lives has compelled many of us to take an uncommonly hard long look within ourselves at how we're doing life and luckily Brody is able to easily adapt to change. Music and teaching are both his passion and livelihood and as long as he has both, his motivation won't dwindle.

"God forbid anything like this occurs again, I have a safety net. The two worlds coexist and there is happiness in having security."

TAKE A STAND. USE YOUR VOICE.

"I think there's a responsibility of anybody that has a platform to reach any number of people, small or large to say and do the right thing."

- *Brody shares his personal thoughts on police brutality amid the pandemic.*

Police brutality in midst of disease. Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron had the audacity to say that those with a platform shouldn't speak on injustices such as the murder of Breonna Taylor. Brody, being a platform himself like so many others felt that it just isn't right for any person to endure. He shared his personal stance on the subject.

"I think there's a responsibility of anybody that has a platform to reach any number of people, small or large to say and do the right thing. It would be irresponsible of me to not say something," Brody says. "I released a video a while back after George Floyd on my experience with racial profiling by law enforcement,"

We are battling a pandemic, police brutality and all kinds of injustices day to day and no matter if you're an artist, celebrity, or teacher and musician like PD Brody, it's important for you to speak up, be heard and do the right thing.

"I was thinking that I was going to be the next hashtag and it's scary not just what happens to us but what happens afterwards because no one is getting repercussions."

NEW AUTHOR DEBUT! HANNAH ABIONA

Making the decision to become a writer is serious business. One has to have patience, dedication and the motivation to share stories that will hopefully one day be read by others.

Hannah Abiona, newly debuted author of the 2020-2021 literary season has released her new book "Office Mouse" and the road to bringing the story to life was fulfilling and at times demanding. When asked what made the creation of her novel come to be, Abiona just wanted to let her creativity flow and be shared.

"I honestly just wanted to share my thoughts with the world. I'm constantly thinking and can make a story out of anything," Abiona says. "I love people watching and creating a life for them in my head. It helps inspire most of my work."

Creating characters that have depth and originality can be a challenge and sometimes it's better to gain inspiration from other literary works or even authors because then one can see how the imaginary worlds and characters are formed.

Anyone can gain inspiration from other forms of art but it takes true talent to do it on your own. Abiona uses her own form of art to create her characters and uses inspiration to further accentuate her novel.

"I don't necessarily have any that inspired me but I do have a few that helped me with my own writing."



All photo credit belongs to Hannah Abiona.

"Authors: Charlene Harris, Shea Ernshaw and Katee Robert showed me that it is okay to write about sexual experiences and that it is okay to be overly descriptive."



Office MOUSE

EXCLUSIVE

"As quiet as a mouse, Winifred Mills is just another hardworking editor in the city of Manhattan that buries herself in work. That's until she meets her boss' son, Ryan McCarthy. Suddenly, work has become more interesting. She continues to hide, but soon realizes she's in a game of cat and mouse. Afraid of getting hurt, she is stuck between following the office rules and following her heart."

She's Just Getting Started!

WRITE TO YOUR HEARTS CONTENT!

Writing a book for the first time can be nerve-racking and even at times stressful. One can have moments of wanting to give up because perhaps you feel what your writing isn't good enough. Abiona, being a first time author knows all about having hard moments during the writing and publishing process.

"The hardest part about getting it published was typing it up and sending it in. I want to be a copy writer/book editor," Abiona says. "I constantly edit my own work, rewrite scenes and move stuff around. So getting it finished is usually the hardest part."

"Writing has been about the same since releasing my first book, but I am more eager to get my ideas out to the world."

The true origin of a book can come from anything and anyone. It could be from a random dream or a passing conversation with a friend that can trigger inspiration for a whirlwind novel. "Office Mouse" came to be simple from Abiona's own imagination that eventually sets her characters Winifred and Ryan on a sexy, steamy and wild ride.

"It's so simple, it's almost funny. I was driving on a road that I took almost everyday when I was going to school and I probably passed this building a million times," Abiona continues. "I thought what would it be like for people to have affairs in their offices. And that is where the main plot for "Office Mouse" came from."



amazon



AN AUTHOR KNOWS THE INSIDES OF A NOVEL!

**"PUBLISHING
WAS THE
FIRST STEP
AND NOW
THAT I HAVE,
THERE IS
NOTHING
STOPPING ME."**

Being isolated in such a way could cause one to lose all sense of motivation but luckily Abiona has a way to keep her ideas flowing and inspiration for a story fresh.

"Keep a journal and a pen to catch floating ideas and get it done! A weight will be lifted off your shoulders," Abiona says. "Even if it's just a few sentences a day, you can do it,"

Abiona shared that during months of quarantine, she suffered from writer's block from time to time but was eventually able to get back in touch with what she does best-write!

"I wouldn't say it made me a better writer but encouraged me to show people what I'm capable of. I had the worst case of writer's block before hand and the pandemic made it worse," Abiona says of how her writing has remained constant. "I was ashamed to look at my desk. However, I was able to write down my thoughts and feelings a lot easier."

MUSIC TRANSCENDS TIME AND NICK KEENA MAKES THE BEST OF HIS.

There's no doubt that when you hear music, it takes you away, away to a place of healing and good vibes.



All photo credit belongs to Nick Keena.

Music is an art form that transcends time and it brings people together. Despite the world being overtaken by a pandemic and many people losing hope in not only themselves but their art, Nick Keena was and still is able to keep the faith, keep the love and most of all, keep the music alive.

Keena's entering into the music industry began at a young age under the guidance, teachings, expertise, and most of all inspiration of his father.

Being under his father's musical wings gave Keena the start of a career into not only the business of music but a passion and livelihood that would last forever.

"My father and his brothers are all musicians. I came up around musicians. Going to my fathers gigs and helping to run sound when I was 13 showed me the ropes. It showed me that this is work, work that I wanted to do."

Inspiration is everywhere, in all art forms, and Keena was able to absorb inspiration not only through his father but from musical greats that came before him. It paved a way for him to create musical greatness too.

"Led Zeppelin and Willie Dixon were two of my earliest and biggest musical influences. Dixon's work with Chess Records was very influential in building the bridge from blues to rock. Zeppelin was the result. They weren't rock. They weren't metal," Keena says. "They were electric blues! Raw and dirty, unapologetic and inviting! As time went on, I found inspiration in poets and songwriters from Joan Baez to Wu-Tang."

PANDEMIC WHAT?!

*CAN'T LET
NOTHING STOP
THE MUSIC.*

**INSIDE KEENA'S WORLD OF
MUSIC.**

Creativity was applied to the max for musicians and artists across the aisle. Audiences' vibes and energy is what keep performers in business and without being able to perform in person, boredom and impatience eventually sets in.

Keena was able to sooth troubled minds with his lyrics during live stream, so things weren't so bad.

"The boredom and the lack of audience started to get to me. So I started a Facebook live show (Uncle Nick's Happy Fun Time Show)," Keena says. "Streaming for an hour or so a couple times a week, and folks were kind. I even made a few bucks in tips."

Social media was the main tool for artists and musicians to use in order to reach audiences world wide.

Keena took advantage of social media by making use of open spaces, plugging in his guitar and belting out tunes for his listeners, no matter how big or small.

"Folks were kind! Lots of people tossed me tips, which was great since I wasn't getting any help from unemployment. It's a weird thing, though," Keena expressed.

"Performing alone in a room... isolated. It can't compete with a live audience. No contest."



Inside Keena's World of Music Cont.

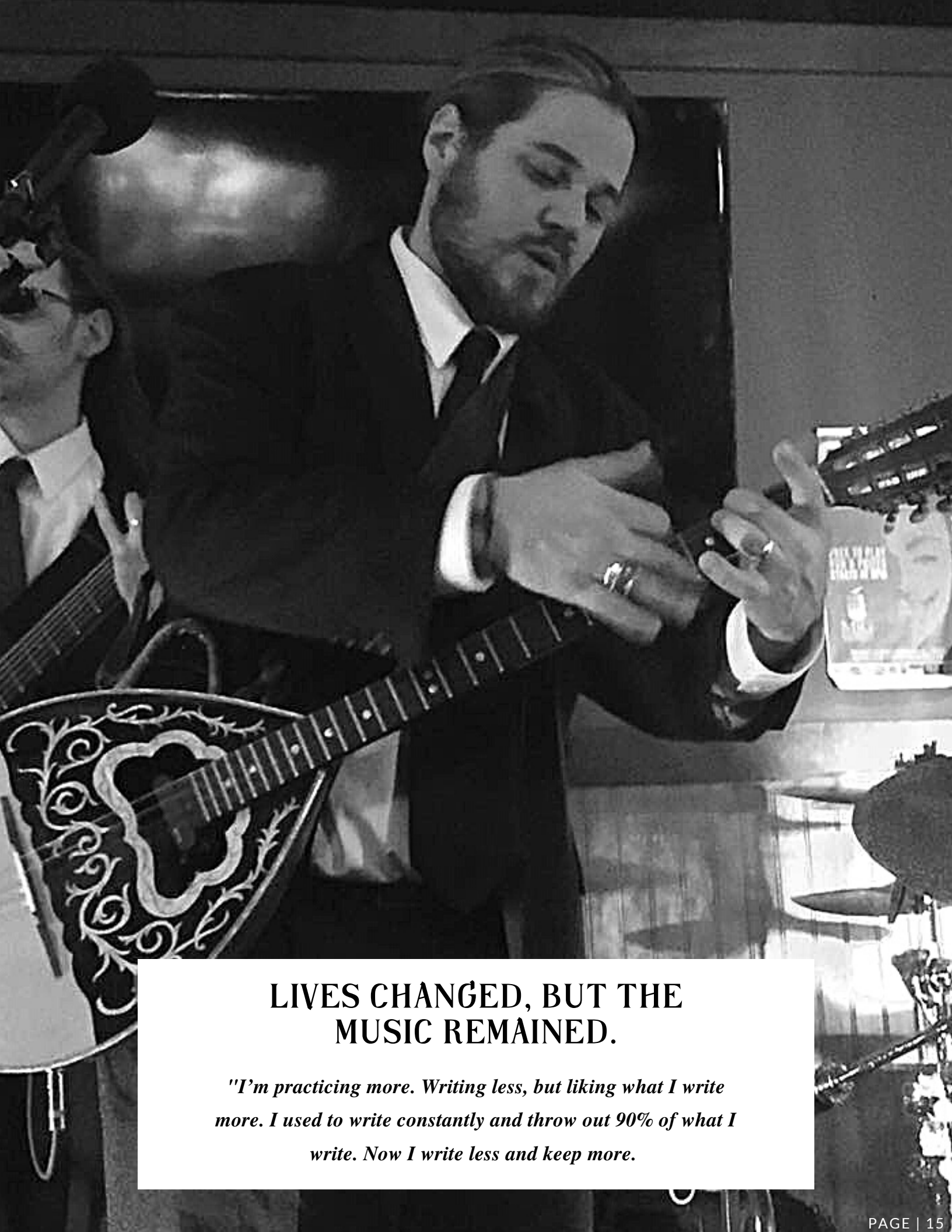
**MUSIC MAKES
CONNECTIONS THAT
LAST A LIFE TIME.**

That personal connection between people and music was hanging in the balance but luckily Keena was able to prevail, think quickly on his feet, and keep his music alive for those that would continue to listen.

"This was the first time in years that I haven't been working 6-7 nights a week. So I took advantage of being stuck in my girlfriends apartment," Keena says. "I turned her pantry into a makeshift sound booth and recorded vocal and instrument tracks using my phone."

Business didn't waver and Keena made use of his extended time by birthing a new EP.

"I sent them to my friend/producer Victor Phillips and he started mixing," Keena continues. "When we were able to leave her apartment, I went straight into the studios at Original Music School of Morristown and we finished my EP (I've Been Called Worse)."



LIVES CHANGED, BUT THE MUSIC REMAINED.

"I'm practicing more. Writing less, but liking what I write more. I used to write constantly and throw out 90% of what I write. Now I write less and keep more."

Independent Musician with an American Vibe

Being an independent artist can have its ups and downs especially in times like this where there is no security put in place for musicians and artists to survive. You're on your own and perhaps struggling to figure out when the next gig is going to happen.

Keena, being independent, has remained positive. He is able to continue his work despite lockdowns and doesn't have to worry about the hassle of a label dictating his next move.

"The labels don't do anything for you anymore. You have to have over a million followers before they'll even sniff your socks," Keena insisted. "So do the work yourself. Be your promotion and your management."

Being a musician is for free expression and no one can put a price on talent. Be in the game for the right reasons, be in it for the love of the craft otherwise it all seems meaningless.

"If you want to work, work. If you want to be famous, you're in it for the wrong reasons," Keena continues. "Take some business classes because this business is filled with people who will try and rob you blind."

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*"Decide for yourself.
If you don't like a
band, change the
station. If you love
what you're hearing,
TURN IT UP!"*

NICK KEENA, LIKE MANY HAD TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. IT WASN'T EASY AT TIMES BUT WITH THE LOVE, SUPPORT, AND AMAZING ENERGY OF HIS FIANCÉ, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS, HIS MUSIC IS ALIVE, VIBRANT AND ELECTRIC.

How did you stay motivated and creative while in quarantine? Did you work on new music and if so, how did you manage?

"Motivation has been plentiful this year! We've had some sad news, we've (my family) lost loved ones this year. But I also got engaged, we're expecting a little one in a couple months, so...take the good with the bad. Can't enjoy the sunrise if you don't sit in the dark first."

Any new projects coming up or projects you have just released?

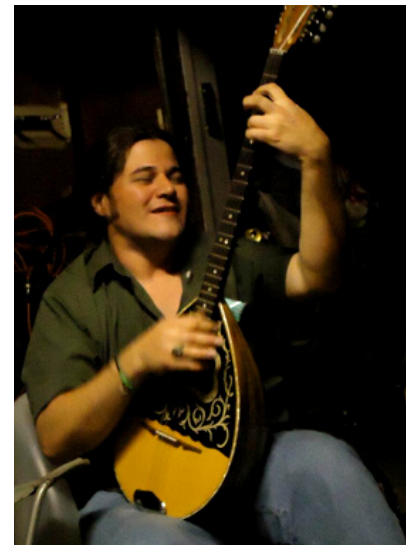
"My EP 'I've Been Called Worse' is available wherever you steal your music from. Physical copies are available too through my website. Working on a new single and another EP that'll hopefully be done by May. I hope to be touring again."

"A LITTLE SLICE OF LOVE IS BETTER THAN NONE!"

Replaying in venues when places started opening back up, did the atmosphere and vibes while working change for you? Did it seem less personal, less fun and inviting since we have to be careful due to the virus?

"It's definitely a different vibe. No hugs, no carousing around a room full of weirdos shoulder to shoulder... but getting back out has been cathartic for me. And certainly helped my friends who come to my open mic jams."

"KEEP KINDNESS IN YOUR HEARTS AND ON YOUR MINDS."



A man with a beard and a dark hoodie stands in front of a wall with circular patterns. The word "EVOLUTION" is written in yellow on a black background in the top left corner.

EVOLUTION

THE RISE OF JAREZ BARON ***AKA DOUBLE 2X "DOUBLE 2 TIMES"***

"Everywhere I would go, I would try to showcase my gift. Rapping was my gift."

The various styles of music from rapping to the belching of the soul goes on in a never ending cycle. Some people do it as a hobby or as a way of distraction from life. And some are simply born for the lyrical form of expressing emotions and harmonic power into others.

For Jarez Baron, music came in the form of a gift. A rough around the edges yet pure, hard to the core gift.

Baron's rise into his double career began at the tender age of 14 where he would do rap battles as a freshman and sophomore along with others involved in the rap scene.

The move took the meaning of local creative to a whole nother level. Baron was setting in stone a name for himself as a rapper, not just at home but in surrounding cities as well.

"They used to have these things called Smack DVDs that had battles and rappers on there so I would try to be like that," Baron says.

Rap legends come and go but they're legacy lives on. Baron took inspiration from legends such as The Diplomats (Dipset) in order to absorb and represent the image that they portrayed in a positive way.

"Used to cut up bandanas and have it tailored to our air-forces and our shirts. I would try to do everything that they would do," Baron continues. "For a long time I was just a street rapper and everybody just knew "that person raps."



A Passion That Never Fades, Only Evolves.

All photo credit belongs to Jarez Baron.



To get your name out there is support others, stay true to yourself and go where the money and good business takes you. Baron jumped through many difficult hoops to get where he is today. It took faith, patience, dedication, motivation and most of all-never losing his passion.

His beginnings in the music industry started from the streets in high school to later doing showcases from Elizabeth, NJ and Manhattan, NY to North Carolina and Washington D.C. Everywhere Baron set foot, good vibes and hot lyrics came alive and the passion for his craft only intensified.

"Everybody called me Double, Double R. A Rebel with Reason. I never used to take this serious, I used to pay a lot of money in the studio to go record, to not even drop a tape. Just go have fun. That was me and my friends way of staying out of trouble, just go to the studio, record the track and go listen to it in the car."

When a passion rises, evolves and becomes apart of you, there's no stopping it. It evolves into something bigger than imagined and Baron, who wasn't serious about rapping in the beginning of his career, decided it was time to take it to the next level. Time to become a brand and thus Wavy Goonz Mafia the label and Baron's 1st solo album "New Jersey Drill" was born.

Baron's time and effort was put into over drive when he released a few EPs, one end of 2020 solo drop being called "2 Times" and another called "Trap Rhythm, and Blues Blood" in collaboration with Rapper and Singer Nite Shine that was released in March, 2020. Baron's 1st solo album "New Jersey Drill" was released in May, 2020 respectfully.

"Collaborating means more marketing, more streaming. I like doing collaborations but you gotta network with people and a lot of people don't work as hard," Baron says of working with other artists on projects. "If I'm going to collaborate with somebody, they gotta be able to keep up, gotta be able to work."

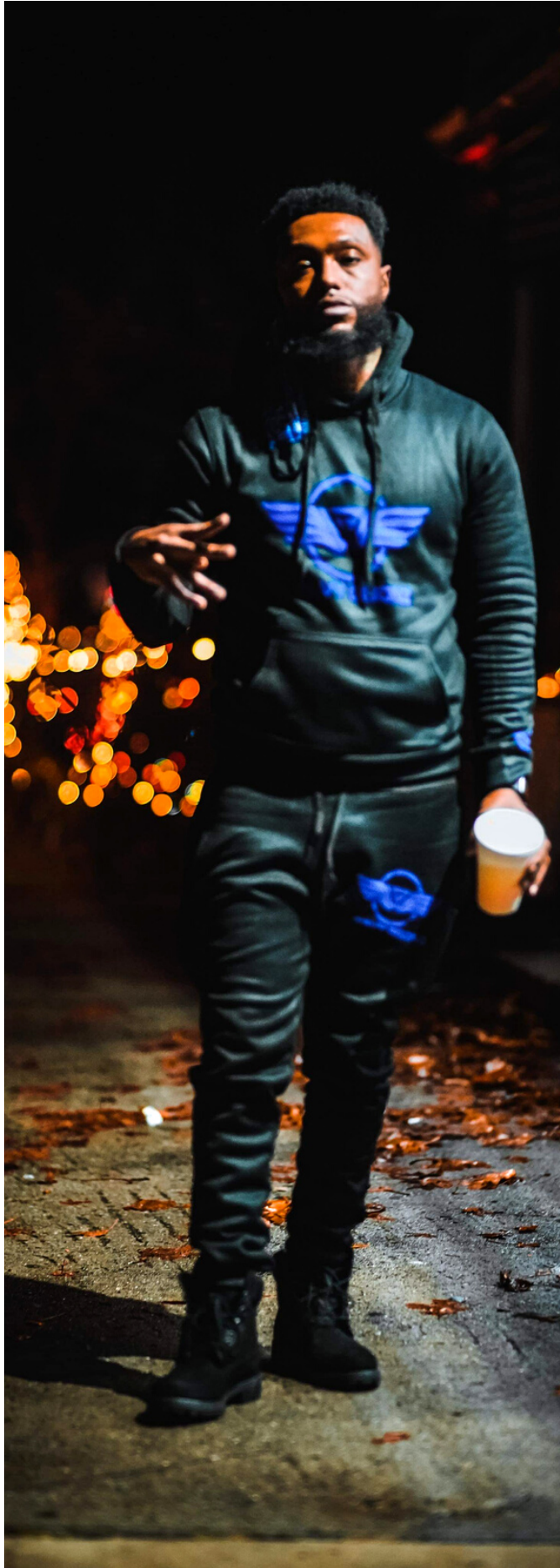
Collaborations is a great way to get more projects released but sometimes it can be a hassle to gather all necessary sources. If you want to be on team Wavy Goon, you got to put in the work!

"You want to shoot a video, you want to record a song and put it on a tape, you gotta keep up and not a lot of people is able to do that," Baron says. "To get people to catch on to me, I hit the ground. Old school method of a street team."



STAY OUT THE WAY. STAY BUSY.

"I've been in compromisable predicaments. My life was on the line. My freedom was on the line. When you been through so much problems and turmoil, trials and tribulations, you don't want to put yourself back there cause you may not make it again."



Jarez Baron

An Expanding Entrepreneur

Inside the Merchandise Process

Starting a clothing business can have its challenges especially when you are an fully operating business. It can be draining trying to decide on not only the layout and the clothing material, but also the cut, color and styles have to be precise in order to make the impression one is expecting to display.

Baron with his multi-membered team including CEO Gmvcc Bandz has fully expanded on his creative wave in not only elevating the Wavy Goonz Mafia image into a record label but into a clothing brand that anyone and everyone can rock in style.

"I hit the pavement. I would go into all the clubs, I would give away free merch, set my merch price at a low price where you couldn't resist it," Baron said. "It's custom colors and I call it a quick flip. You giving people quality stuff for the lowest price,"

"It's a quick flip. Quality for the lowest price. I turned a negative into a positive."

Building a brand from the ground up takes courage, discipline and dedication. Fame and money isn't the end all be all as Baron puts it, but because he changed his life around for himself, for the better, Wavy Goonz Mafia in all aspects is able to flourish and continue to shine.

"Everything I had negative going on in my life that I did wrong, I turned it into a positive and it worked out for me. It ain't stop working for me yet."

By selling merchandise in the way Baron does, he is able to give back to a community that he himself was apart of. His character shows up in the work he puts out and it all comes back in blessings full circle.

"I love to give back because nobody gave nothing to me. I had to figure it out. Whether I help five people start they business, I don't print no one else stuff," Baron explains. "I give back by not holding back information, I give a lot of charity. That's just the type of person I am, I want to make a legacy cause I got big dreams."

RAPPERS, MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS ALIKE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO JUST WANT TO SHARE THEIR OWN CREATIVE VISION ON THE WORLD AROUND THEM. BARON'S WAY OF EXPRESSION THROUGH HIS EP'S AND NOW 1ST SOLO ALBUM SHOWCASES HIS LYRICAL GIFT, TRANSLATES INTO HIS SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM WORD TO WORD AND INTO TO THE POWER BEHIND EACH MEANING. BARON'S SONGS REPRESENT EVERY ASPECT OF WHO JAREZ BARON AKA DOUBLE 2X "DOUBLE 2 TIMES" REALLY IS. ALL HIS LIFE'S EXPERIENCES WRAPPED IN LYRICS TO TELL A STORY.

"ROLLING STONE"

"I wrote that song while in prison and it speaks for itself. Papa was a rolling stone, being promiscuous. Where ever I laid my hat is my home, we're just going with the flow whether you a man or a woman. Whatever side you on, living day to day. Carefree and reckless. The way I put the song is soothing, a comfort with the harshness of the words that I'm saying. Kinda slick."

"ON THE DOUBLE"

"It's a playoff off my name, quick, fast and in a hurry. It's a playoff off the saying, all in the same way. Adding to my name, Wavy was inspired my Max B. Wavy was a term that he kind of made popular "I'm Wavy". Wavy Goonz is a harsh comfort. You can be cool, be calm, could always be wavy, always evolve. I'm taking in what I know and coming in twice as hard."



INSIDE DOUBLE 2X'S LYRICS, MEANINGS & INSPIRATIONS



"VIOLATION"

"I just feel like when I came back into society after being away for a little bit, I started realizing with social media and the time changes, people are alot less focused on morals and principles, everyone is violating each other. It's getting to older people and people are ugly inside. I came back into society so pure and I just got hurt. Every person I went to just hurt me and life had stopped for me. It hit me hard. Everything was a violation to me. "

"Topic"

"We the topic. It's me, it's everybody involved. We be the topic of conversations cause you doing something. If you ain't doing nothing, what is there to talk about? If I didn't have anything going for myself, there would be nothing to talk about. I touched on a lot of different subjects and it means something to me."



"STUDIO GANGSTA"

"It's inspired by studio gangster's, people that's in the now. A studio gangsta is a person whose basically lying, a person who never experienced the things that they talk about. You gotta live up to everything you say. Stand by it. If I did it, I did it. I can stand by it as a man. Accountability."





I AM WHO I AM.

"I JUST DISCOVERED WHO JAREZ WAS."

Jarez Baron is a jack of all trades, an artist with a variety of skills and knowledge along with a drive to achieve and succeed. Despite the obstacles he's faced, he is able to focus on his craft as a rapper and entrepreneur, giving people sides of him that he is proud to share those that continue to love and support all him.

"Even if somebody doesn't like my music or my clothes, at least they can say "Dang!" I like him as a person," Baron says. "I like his work ethic", or "how he presents himself or "I like his passion,".

And yet, there is still a part of him, the "Jarez" part of him that he keeps private and sacred, only so he can keep a sense of peace while living life constantly busy.

"I'm going to give you all I got as an artist. You can't give it all away but I save something for me. My privacy is my peace."

As long as the passion is still sizzling, the creativity is still blossoming and the music is still bumping, Baron can continue to evolve in all aspects of an artist.

"Long as I invest in myself and have the motivation, whose stopping me? I try to incorporate Jarez in everything I do. I just found out who I was, but now I gotta be Double at the same time and still be Jarez who I just discovered," Baron continues. "I can be a rapper, clothing designer, a Wavy Goon but Jarez is in there, in everything I accomplish."

FARROD KHARI ROBINSON

BLOCK OUT THE OUTSIDE NOISE!



"Never give up on your passion. Always follow your heart and dreams."

Artists of all walks of life remain one of a kind. Each one finding their niche and setting their own stage in order to prepare themselves to release their very beings into the music they sing, rap, and more.

Khari Robinson, an independent and underground rapper, has set his sights on being more exposed. He wants to achieve more in getting his name on the rap scene map and his life in lyrics heard.

He has ambition to get his name out and won't let nothing stand in his way.

"The feeling is amazing. I'm excited and just eager to attack the best way I can. I'm a student before anything."

Robinson who first got his start into music in 2009 and began rapping at the tender age of 13. He was young and motivated with an intent to get his word in.

Once reaching the age of 17, Robinson began to perfect his craft professionally under the inspirational cloud from lyrical greats such as Big L, Slim Shady, Drake, J.Cole, Fabulous, 50 cent, and Max B.

Now at 28, Robinson has since released 2 albums and 3 mixtapes-albums "69", Dec. 2019 and "Art of War", Mar. 2020, and mixtapes "Cool High Niggaz Part 1", Jan. 2018, "Blaqtape", Sept. 2018, and "The Rap Tape", Jan. 2021, respectfully.

"The process comes naturally after you learn what you need to do personally. When I record for an EP/album, I'm always excited to see what type of work I'll come out with."



Staying Unique Is The Wave

Robinson details his life and recording experience during quarantine.

“

"My life was falling apart, but it was a blessing in disguise."

”

The pandemic struck everyone no matter the creative circle. For Robinson, life became a bit difficult but with inner spiritual guidance and self-affirmation, he was able to keep busy, stay focused on his work, and release his second album "Art of War" that is now available on all music streaming platforms.

"My path during this rough time was unique and a learning experience. I kept my self busy by working on new projects and growing my spiritual journey," Robinson says. "I was able to meet a lot of people along the way."

Despite multiple closings including the closings of studios, Robinson was still able to get studio time to shoot a music video and collaborate with other artists such as Nite Shine, Reem Ali , Flamz and TruID. The drive to put out music one after another and do music collaborations didn't stop despite the pandemic and him being an introvert.

"I'm very introverted and I'm more of a solo artist but the process is dope if two artists are on the same page. Beautiful things can happen."

Friends encouragement and support kept Robinson in the rap game despite moments of uncertainty.

"A friend of mine who I do music with encouraged me to keep it going even more," Robinson continues. "I made 3 projects after that and I have a personal studio so it wasn't closed for me. I got some more projects in the works right now."





ORIGINALITY IS KEY.

"I see myself leading by positive example. getting my music out there more, me being able to use my gift and help people whether it's emotionally or mentally. music wise imma keep serving humanity with my music."



*"POWER,
STRENGTH, AND
THE WILL TO WANT
TO SUCCEED AND
BE GREAT."*

Being original in an ever changing industry is detrimental to not only staying relevant in terms of support and music taste but also important to being unique in terms of artistic ability.

Robinson, being an independent rapper knows the struggles of being an artist that many do not know of. Being who he is as a person is what makes the talent he has show up in a more meaningful and unique way.

"The originality of music and rap is kind of lost. You see a lot artists trying to do the same style. I wanted to be different from what's popular. What changed to me was the style," Robinson says. "Like the mumble rap and auto tune wave. I stay true to myself by simply being myself. The music is always changing but you have to adapt in anyway possible."

Artists are in a competitive arena all on their own and as a rapper who has a story to tell by word of mouth, it is so much worth more than streaming and popularity on the music charts,

"A lot of my music is personal or I'm writing from another side or point of view," Robinson says. "It's definitely more than talent but streams and popularity definitely is a main source for it in these current music times."

When asked how he is able stay positive and motivated when there are newer and catchier rappers taking the spotlight, Robinson remains optimistic and stays true that he will be recognized when it's his time.

"Stay positive. And have a relationship with God, Do your homework and learn the business," Robinson encourages other artists. "Believe in the abilities that God gave you. I'm independent and it's a tuff road but worth it if done properly."

I N S I D E
THE LYRICS

"69" DEBUT ALBUM DECEMBER 2019

"SOUL PURPOSE"

"I would drop a tear this, and show you what it really means..."

"MEANT TO BE FAMOUS"

"This is life let me introduce you, when things were looking hectic.."

"QUESTIONS"

I wasn't no saint man, my life was an obstacle. Far from the sands in the Tropical.."



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KHARI

Artistry Meets Precision.

PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

"BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF."



Robinson's music continues to grow and expand. He puts all his heart, worth, and passion into the lyrics that he recites as he goes into the studio with a mission on his mind. A mission to be the best man, artist, and rapper he can be.

He may not be known by many, but those that know his name, know his struggles, his wrongs and his rights, know that the lyrics he says into the mic are worthy of a listen and understanding.

He's on a personal journey to stand out and attack against those who don't think he can make it.

"Being able to express, heal, and inspire, I'm well in tune with my emotions. My messages that I carry is power, strength, the will to want to succeed and be great," Robinson says of his emotional journey through rapping. "Love and anger, every emotion you can think of, being free and having a creative mind. My message is be the best version of yourself."



All photo credit belongs to Khari Robinson.



COURAGE BECOMES REALITY!

For most musicians, the road to a viable and fulfilling career is gradual, not instantaneous. You get there by baby steps, by a continued presence in the music scene, and by the accumulation of life experiences and perspectives.

Julia Kirk, who always knew she had the gift of singing and playing music, just needed the right push in the right direction to make her love for music into a full-fledged reality.

"I've always loved music and knew I could sing and I played some instruments as a kid," Kirk says. "But I was always too shy to actually perform or show anyone, so I sort of stopped playing as I got older,"



All photo credit belongs to Julia Kirk.

Getting on a stage and singing in front of others doesn't come easy to many but with the right amount of self-praise and drive, anything is possible. People will then hear the lyrics that's been waiting to be heard.

"I was 22 and working as a waitress at a restaurant and this musician named John Monnecka started setting up and he played throughout the night and it was incredible."

Julia Kirk recently released her first solo single called "Alter-Ego" on Spotify and Apple Music and all of those other streaming sites. Follow her on Facebook and other social media platforms @Julia Kirk.



When the Lyrics meet a Guitar Cord!

THE BEST NOISE IS THE SOUND OF MELODIES COMING FROM THE HEART.

Just by meeting somebody by chance can give you the motivation and needed courage to show the world that you got the guts and talent to do anything and in this case, Kirk got the push she needed to become the singer and musician she was meant to be.

"We began talking (with musician named John Monnecka) and eventually he found a video of me singing on Facebook and after that he would try and get me to perform while I was working," Kirk reminisces about the meeting that changed everything. "One day I did it, and it sparked everything."

When things are meant to be, even in unsure times, sometimes you have to put on your guitar string and hit the mic.

"I started doing open mics all of the time after that and then once I learned and had enough experience the idea to gig for money just seemed so achievable," Kirk says. "And I've never looked back, this has been my full time career since then."

Eventually when the time came to write her own lyrics, Kirk dove in fully and hasn't put the pen down since.

"I spent so much time listening to music and learning covers of other people's tunes when learning how to play, so it took awhile for me to start writing my own music," Kirk explains. "I always have snippets and hundreds of voice memos in my phone of ideas, but about three years ago I finished my first song ever."

THE STORY BEHIND THE LYRICS OF "ALTER EGO"

"IT FELT LIKE THOSE NEGATIVE FEELINGS I HAD JUST CHANNELED ITSELF INTO MUSIC.
IT WAS REALLY CATHARTIC."



"GONE OFF THE
DEEP END
LOSING SLEEP
WASTING TIME
WITH THINGS I
SHOULDN'T BE
LOST IN MY
OWN MIND
CAN'T SEEM TO
TRY AND FIND
A REASON TO
CHANGE."

ALTER EGO

Lyrics to a song tend to rely heavily on life experiences and emotions. Whether it's a happy occasion or a broken heart, a song comes alive when you pour your everything into it.

Kirk's experiences created her first solo release called "*Alter Ego*", a song about heartbreak, identity and a pool of dark emotions waiting to be spilled.

"I was just dumped by some guy that I really liked and I was living with my mom at the time and I just felt very depressed about my life and lack of direction," Kirk recalled of the feelings she had at the time. "I took my guitar and lyrics just came up out of nowhere and I wrote the whole tune in ten minutes."

Even the slightest of emotion or feeling can be poured into something light, beautiful, deep. It's empowering to re-find yourself again.

"The song is about my anxiety and depression teaming up and turning me into someone I barely know," Kirk says of her first solo single. "How once I'm that person, it can feel really difficult to change back."

Music is about expression, passion, and everything in-between. A song is formed from those elements to create a story. Kirk's first solo release was created and now it's out for all to connect with on all music streaming platforms.

THE PANDEMIC STRUCK A CORD

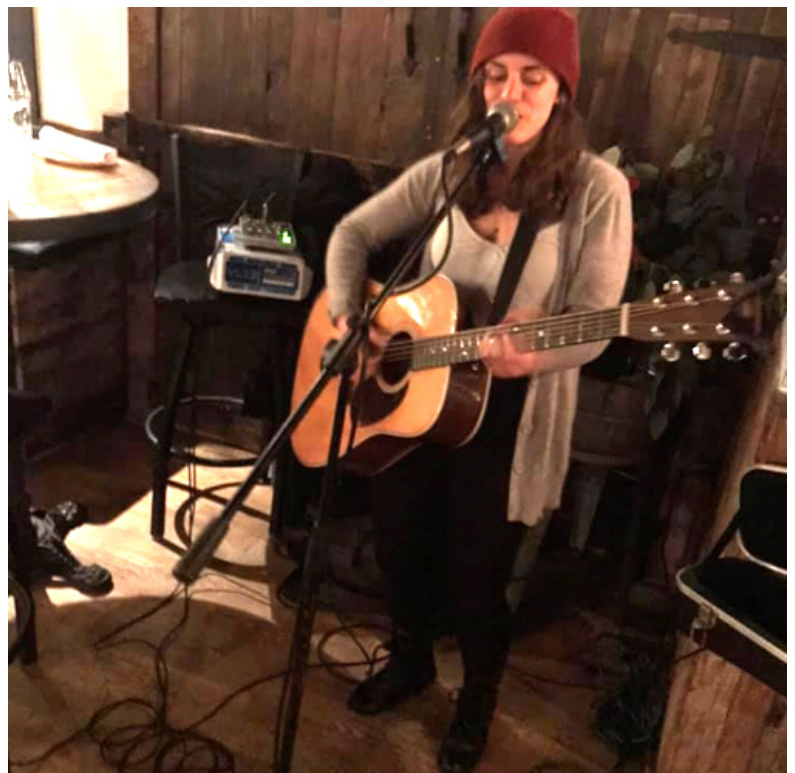
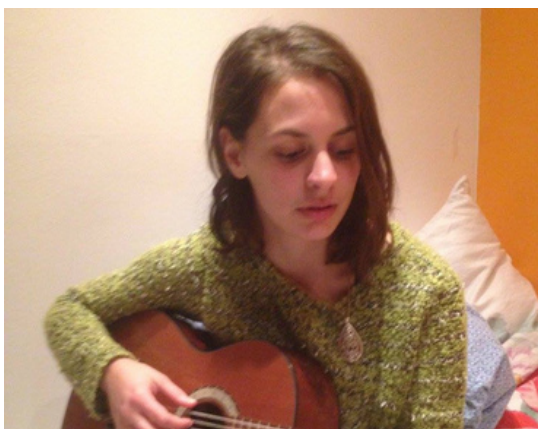


BUT KIRK'S SHOW MUST GO ON!

During the months of quarantine, it was a time of rediscovery of oneself and adjustment to a new way of living and working. Kirk, being an independent artist had to make adjustments in her own way in order to still do music on a professional level.

Luckily, social media was the key route that many artists were taking to keep their talent on the radar and make money. When asked how she felt about managing playing music during the pandemic, Kirk of course was worried but she was able to get back in the groove by following the examples of friends and peers.

"It was hard at first not having any gigs and I was worried about money for a bit. I saw all of my music friends doing livestreams on Facebook so I figured I should do that too," Kirk says. "I did live streams twice a week on Wednesdays and Sundays and it was awesome because all of my family and friends would show up and watch every time."



Live streaming personal shows to audiences through Facebook and Instagram were easy enough since playing in person wasn't an option at the time but Kirk noted her discouragement through its use especially with little or no audience connection.

"With the live streams, well if no one's watching it just feels really pointless, but even when people are watching and engaging and commenting, it still feels like a whole lot of energy is being put out for me to do it," Kirk says. "I don't always feel that reward coming from the other end. There's still a disconnect to the audience for me."

Kirk's quick way of adjusting to doing music only on social media until venues were open again and it was safe to do so, helped her secure audiences even in the digital sense. People engaged with her performances making them much more special.

"They would type in the comments section for requests and then I would play the tunes they wanted to hear. I started posting my streams to different music groups and then random people started watching as well."

Kirk never lost her music edge and was rewarded with audience's' love and enthusiasm to hear her sing.

"People were really gracious with the virtual tip jars, and it was really rewarding to be able to perform for people I'd probably never see while playing at a bar in New Jersey. It was cool to be able to perform and network at the same time and I really did gain a lot of new fans."

A LITTLE QUARANTINE BLUES

KIRK SHARES HOW SHE COPEDED PLAYING ONLY VIRTUAL JAMS

As Kirk was able to get back to playing in person when the time came, she still worried that when being virtual for so long, it might have changed the way people connect with each other but the upside was that through her music, it made someone's day better regardless of how they viewed and listened.

"At one gig a guy came up to me after I was playing and said that he was having a horrible week and that after listening to me play he felt better, and I found his honesty to be really refreshing," says Kirk.

Being in quarantine might of had musicians playing music differently but Kirk while stuck at home still enjoyed the downtime quarantine gave and she was even able to pick up new skills and improve as well.

"Honestly I appreciated the slower paced lifestyle. I had so much extra time now to practice and work on my guitar and vocal chops."

Kirk's motivation for playing amplified, giving the impression that audiences are in for a new and evolved Julia Kirk.

"I also learned new instruments and production and it's really keeping me motivated," Kirk continues. "It seems like the possibilities are endless for what I can do musically if I keep practicing like this."





"Being independent means you're the boss."



Advice From  Kirk:

"It's Hard Work but Rewarding."

Julia Kirk rocks to her own beat. She sets her days and nights under her own will as an independent musician. Her journey is her own and no one stands in her way, only herself if she lets it happen.

"Being independent means you're the boss. You set the goals, the deadlines, and the tasks. So it helps to get familiar with doing a lot of things yourself. You should try and teach yourself some production," Kirk explains. "You need to gather a lot of skills on your own musically. You need to find a way to finance studio time."

All production, marketing and networking comes out of you as the independent artist, there's no one to hold your hand as you work your way into the music industry. As long as you're confident in yourself and in your music, it can be done.

"You have to do your own marketing. Being independent is hard work but it's super rewarding when you get into a groove and realize you can do a lot of these things on your own."

A DEEPER OUTLOOK

A MUSICIAN'S THOUGHTS

Kirk's Personal Message and Opinion on the Music Industry as a whole.

Music touches people in a variety of ways, it touches your heart, soul, mind and just overall very being. The story the lyrics carry and the message the artist sings is what makes music the endless form that it is.

Kirk, whose been in the business for a time, shares that even on a roller coaster of emotions, her singing and playing music is what keeps her going, and it's what she hopes can give people a deeper outlook as well.

"I really just play what I feel. I'm a super emotional person. I can be moody. I feel overwhelmed very easily. When those strong emotions arise I grab the guitar super quickly and try to channel it all," Kirk says. "And I'm so grateful that I have music to be this medicine for me when I feel like I'm spiraling."

Music is the love that keeps on giving, and when Kirk hears music herself, the feeling it gives her is endless and makes you want to get lost in good vibes.

"When I listen to music that I like, I feel it on a deep, intrinsic level. It can give me goosebumps and make me cry; it often does. And then when I play it and really get lost in the feeling of it, there's no words to describe it," Kirk says. "It's like an outer body flow state experience that's different every time. It's beautiful and I think if more people could experience this on a daily basis we'd be living in a happier world."

Music changes everyday. The sounds, the beat, transitions and trends of genres artists do are constantly in a battle against each other for the most streams, downloads and even rewards. Musicians and artists are not like the old days and it does seem like music's story in itself is not what it used to be but Kirk remains optimistic on the changes. She knows artists continue to do what they love even if the process has changed.

"You know, I definitely think that a lot of pop music has lost a sense of authenticity. I'm not sure how sincere the intentions are of a lot of songwriters and producers, and I think a lot of what is in the top 40 lists now will just be buried by whatever comes out next," Kirk says of the current state of the industry. "There's not going to be as many 'Michael Jackson-esque' type of hits that stand the test of time. But there are some gems in pop music today."

When asked how she takes what's new in today's music and apply it to her own style especially since most artists today worry about the sales and not the art, Kirk does it in a way she knows her audiences will enjoy.

"Billie Eilish and Finneas are great examples of artists today that can have good songwriting and production that is authentic and true to who they are. You can tell they're writing songs because they love it, not because they're trying to make money. So I try to take that formula and apply it to my music," Kirk continues. "I'm not making music for an audience or for exposure or for money. I'm making music because I love it and I'm writing about personal experiences that I weave into my art. I'm not making music as a selling point."



PLAYING BY KIRK'S RULES!

The music, the show and the good vibes must go on no matter the circumstance. Kirk's music career is just beginning and her future is bright and infinite. Long as music is in Julia Kirk's life than the road ahead is looking mighty good. When asked where she'll be in a few years, she kept it real-singing and making music.

"Maybe playing some shows on Mars? Haha honestly if I played bar gigs for the rest of my life I know I'd be perfectly happy with that, but I would like to get an album out there with my original music," Kirk says. "If I ever saw someone singing my own lyrics while I'm playing a show, that would be really beautiful. "

Kirk is still making use of down time when able and in the future, see's herself going on tour.

"Maybe I'll gain some traction with my original music and go on tour," Kirk continues. "The possibilities are endless, but as long as I'm playing music I know I'll be happy and that is successful enough for me. "

**"I'M MAKING MUSIC BECAUSE I
LOVE IT AND I'M WRITING
ABOUT PERSONAL
EXPERIENCES THAT I WEAVE
INTO MY ART."**

Once the pandemic officially comes to an end, connections between people will hopefully be better and brighter and as long as the music is flowing, it makes the future all the more sweeter. As Kirk plays her tunes for live and digital audiences, it's clear that she's here for a good and long time.

"I think human connection will be stronger for a lot of people once we're through with this. And since music is a part of that connection, I feel super blessed to be in the mix."



PJ'S ROUTE TO GOSPEL

KEEP THE FAITH THROUGH MUSIC.

"Gospel music provides that feeling for me that folks get when they get that hug from grandma or that hot bowl of soup in the middle of December."



In times of turmoil, sadness, grief and forever changes brought on by an unexpected pandemic, music is one form that can help keep faith and bring about a passion unseen. PJ keeps his hopes and prayers soaring through the soulful gatekeep of gospel music.

From a very young age, the calling of gospel was within PJ, even as he had other inspirations from music growing up, he knew that in his heart gospel music was meant for him.

"The genre that always stood out to me was gospel. There's absolutely nothing like it. The singing, the arrangements, the musicality and versatility the musicians had, the feeling it gave but most importantly the message behind it all," PJ says. "My main influence in gospel music is the one and only Mahalia Jackson. To this very day she remains to be a great influence and inspiration to me and how I approach my music."

Most people who surround themselves in the faith are sometimes pushed through it, maybe by a parent or grandparent. Going to church to hear gospels is another way people are enraptured in it, but for PJ it was simply a choice, a path that he knew as soon he became a singer, he wanted to take. It was his calling and his alone and no one could sway him another way.

"I knew at an early age that singing is what I wanted to do with my life, and gospel music in particular was the route for me. I felt the calling on my life to go into music ministry officially in my teenage years," PJ explains. "Usually in gospel, folks will tell you their parents and grandparents pushed them in the direction of gospel music, but for me it was a conscience decision that this is not only what I wanted for my life but this is my purpose."

One of Life's Gifts of Comfort Is In The Form of Music

**GOD LENDS A VOICE TO THOSE THAT WILL DO THEIR BIDDING AND
COMFORT THOSE THAT NEED A VOICE IN TOUGH TIMES.**

Gospel music can take you to a place of comfort especially in dark times, and if you're one to get in touch with spiritual nature, it can be a blessing in disguise.

"Gospel music provides that feeling for me that folks get when they that hug from grandma or that hot bowl of soup in the middle of December, " PJ says. "Gospel music is very much the same you see . . . it warms the heart, soothes the spirit and nourishes the soul, it makes you forget (even if just for a moment) about all your troubles and problems, it provides you with a sense of security, it reminds you that you're not alone and traps you in a moment that you wish that you could stay in forever."



Music has an impact on life that none can truly transcribe into words. The moving of the lyrics and sound can be healing and needed.

For PJ, gospel music is a form of being on the right path and being able to help someone in need especially in church settings where one goes for guidance and reassurance from the lord. "That being said . . . the moment I felt these things from just listening to gospel or singing it, I knew it was my calling."

A hand in the form of music is always needed no matter the circumstance.

"When I realized how people seemed to be affected when I would sing," PJ continues. "Whether it was in churches or elsewhere, that let me know that I was on the right path."



On God's Path From Within!

***TAKE GOD'S HAND AND LET THEM
GUIDE YOU.***

**"I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE MY
LIFE BE FULLILLED THIS WAY.. IT
WAS MAJESTIC, AND INDEED,
MUSIC IS INCREDIBLE."**

PJ, whose music sores out of the church doors had to adjust to not being able to sing along with choirs and music directors. Though social media was everyone's outlet to staying in connection with the public, but it was still hard, daily routine wise.

"Not going to lie, the pandemic definitely threw a wrench in the plans I had for 2020. See for me I was traveling and touring to different churches ALL the time," PJ says. "So it was a sudden halt to everything once the pandemic started. For me I just keep connected to the public mainly via Instagram."

Not all churches are equipped with technology so for them to make that immediate switch wasn't easy and it put a damper on church goers physical enjoyment and frequent attendance.

"Honestly it's been kind of hard networking in the midst of the pandemic, most churches have closed down until the pandemic is over and most are doing online services," PJ explains how the pandemic affected churches. "It's kind of hard to communicate with the music directors of different churches via email and telephone."

PJ, through his networking abilities was able to keep in contact with those for business. Given the pandemic was unexpected, any way to stay connected is helpful for artistic creativeness and professionalism.

"In churches and concerts when you sing you're used to that interaction with the congregation/audience right in front of you, however for me whether I'm singing in front of a congregation or just in a room by myself," PJ says. "I can feel the spirit of the Lord dwelling within and around me just by the words and the feeling of the song itself, see that's what I love about gospel."

TO BE GOSPEL IS TO BE FOR OTHERS

PJ gives his insight on what it truly means to be a Gospel singer.



"My prayer before I sing is that God comes up through me to the listeners and that they receive the message of the song."

The word of God through the message of others is what gospel artists hope to convey as they sing. PJ, when asked how he conveys the word of God through his music, he emphasized that when singing in the lord's name, it is for others, not just for himself.

"Gospel means good news, so I'm just spreading the good news of God's love and His grace and about His son Jesus who came just for us. The word of God itself has been a great foundation for me when I get weary in my musical journey," PJ says. "It provides me strength, courage, endurance and encouragement that I can't find elsewhere."

Not only is it singing that can spread the love and encouragement of the lord, but gaining inspiration from daily scriptures can also be insightful when belting out music in artistic and religious/spiritual spaces.

"I try my best to read my scripture 5 days out of the week and with each page I understand more and more who God is and who I'm singing about and His word makes the messages behind the songs I sing more clear," PJ says of his singing process. "Overall music is to me, what water is to a fish or air is to a bird. Without it I simply couldn't function, I couldn't live without it. Music is my everything."

There is more to just lyrics and the beat of sounds. In the words of the gospel, audiences are captured and bestowed with God's word through the singers that choose to follow that path. When PJ sings, he hopes to not only sing a message of love and faith, but also give someone a purpose, perhaps a purpose that they themselves didn't know they had.

"I surely hope so, my hope and prayer is that I have helped someone through a song in some way, shape or form. That's one of the main reasons I do what I do," PJ continues. "My prayer before I sing is that God comes up through me to the listeners and that they receive the message of the song. I want folks to FEEL when I'm singing, whatever feeling that may be. PAGE | 41



PJ'S Message

*"And as a
gospel singer
I'm also a
bridge between
God and the
listeners of my
music."*

This is a delicate time in the world where healing, love, passion, and sensitivity is most needed. In the words of PJ as a gospel singer, he wishes to spread the prayer of unity, and to let other's know that the word of God can help and nurture all those that need it in the way of song and lyric.

"My prayer before I sing is that God comes up through me to the listeners and that they receive the message of the song," PJ says. "I wants folks to FEEL when I'm singing, whatever feeling that may be. Whether it's joy, hope, inspiration, humility, gratefulness, thankfulness and even sorrow."

When asked how God keeps his motivation and prayer alive, PJ shared a hope that through whoever listens to him, that they continue to believe just as he does, especially in these difficult times.

"My prayer is also that whoever is listening to me whether they are wavering in their faith, or unsure about their belief in God or perhaps someone who has just gone astray and wants to get reacquainted with Him," PJ continues. "Or maybe even someone who wants to get to know Him who never knew Him before. My prayer is to be that bridge that brings them closer to God and get them to want to know more about the Lord."



I'm just so excited with the things God has going on in my life and I know even more blessings are going to follow so I'm just forever grateful."

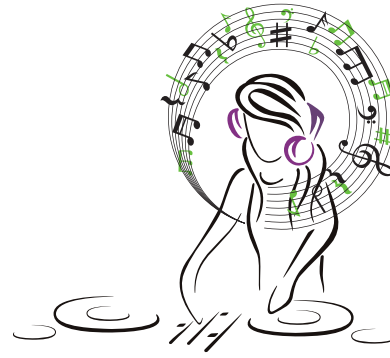
2021, Here I Come!

PJ is ready to take on 2021 with more projects, more music, and more life-fulfillment.

"I am currently working on my demo in NYC at an amazing studio and I'm blessed to be able to say I've been working with a producer/engineer who has worked with Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber and MANY MORE. So I'm super excited to continue to work with him and other engineers/producers as well on my demo," PJ says, sharing his 2021 plans with readers. "I also will be doing a couple of photoshoots this year and I'm in the midst of planning a virtual concert as well that will hopefully take place at a church in NYC! I'm definitely praying on that one to go through without a hitch, I'm just so excited with the things God has going on in my life and I know even more blessings are going to follow so I'm just forever grateful."



The Start Of Something Great



BAGGETT TALKS ABOUT HER START IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY, HER INSPIRATIONS AND HOW EDUCATING IN THE SUBJECT STARTED HER FULFILLING CAREER!

All photo credit belongs to Jessica Baggett.

Jessica Baggett, an author, writer and DJ has been in the media for a long time and she isn't stopping anytime soon!

"I actually started in music first, I was composing and writing songs," Baggett says. "That led to me writing plays which led to screenwriting and eventually started writing books."

And though she took part in the media arts program at New Jersey City University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Media Arts, Baggett's journey initially began at Henry Snyder High School where she was involved in the media arts magnet program. Inspiration arose from not only classrooms but her grandfather.

"When I was eight my grandfather whom I never met sent me a keyboard. When I finally met him, he started teaching me how to play it."

Once Baggett got into her own groove and sound, she eventually expanded her talents into more public spaces like churches.

"I started my own band called "Daylight" with my sister and cousins," Baggett says. "Then at the age of 12, I wrote and directed my first play which was performed at my church."

Eventually Baggett's writing became more in depth, the start of something new and exciting. All in the form of plays and screenplays-her most significant one being called "The Keys Of Life."

"I actually turned that into a book so I could reach a wider audience," Baggett explains. "I went on to filmmaking and doing talk shows as well."

Being an CEO and overall creator of your own content can have it's challenges but for Baggett, the reward is a fulfilled career that is worth every emotion-good and bad.

"I don't consider it to be difficult or stressful because being the CEO I am able to have the freedom to do things and not have to worry about waiting for people to do it for me," Baggett continues. "I learned how to do things on my own from writing, directing, producing and editing."



Hey, it's Pro'ta'jay!

The Start of Pro'ta'jay Productions

The start of a production company is not an easy feat. It takes dedication, hard work ethic and for Baggett, Pro'ta'jay Productions started under the strong influence of creativity.

"I started "Pro'ta'jay Productions" over ten years ago," Baggett says. "First off, the name "Pro'ta'jay actually came from the word "Protegee" which means under the influence of an influence person,"

Inspiration is all around you and Baggett absorbs it as much as she can. Her own production company is a reflection of that.

"I consider myself under the influence of creativity so that is where the name "Pro'ta'jay came from,"

Starting your own company means having one's own artistic direction, as the owner you have the freedom to do what you want and take your vision for yourself to new heights.

"I started the company because I wanted the freedom to create and do things on my own" Baggett says. "I wanted to put out positive and good material for my audience."

The Big Business!

BAGGETT'S WRITING TAKEOFF



INSIDE HER NOVELS

The art of producing has been with Baggett since the tender age of 12. Her journey into production began with a message inspired by the lessons of Easter. She wanted kids who viewed her work, to truly connect with her beyond sacrificial items and goodies. Once she produced her first piece, many began to follow.

"The inspiration was that when Easter came around, some kids only cared about getting a new outfit and sneakers," Baggett says. "I wanted them to know that the true meaning of Easter which was the resurrection of Christ."

When asked what exactly was the first project under Pro'ta'jay Productions in terms of writing novels, Baggett began with a script that eventually evolved into her first book and many there after.

"My first book that I wrote was "The Keys Of Life" I actually wrote it as a script first then I turned it into a book. I was only 16 when I wrote this story. I used some of my experiences dealing with mental health issues and music. The main character Jasmine, was in foster care most of her life after her mother abandoned her," Baggett explains. "Jasmine had a mental illness and she couldn't read but she had a special gift in music. Anything she hears, she can play on the piano. One day a music teacher discovers her gift and wants to help her use her gift."

Baggett's talents don't just end with the production of plays, music, and other forms of creativity. Her novels in particular are an expansion of her life experiences. A reimaged story that she is excited to continue to share.

"I followed up with "The Keys 2 Life" which is the second part of Jasmine's story. This story also has a lot of twists and turns as Jasmine goes through possibly finding her father, being in love and trying to keep her sanity," Baggett says. "Now the third book, "Lessons Learned" is about how peer pressure can effect drugs, alcohol and sex."

"The Keys To Life" novels are triple the emotions, triple the pain, and triple the real life experiences that Baggett has faced.

"It is three stories in one dealing with the different types of peer pressure. I wrote this book because not only do teenagers get pressured but everyone does at some point," Baggett continues. "I wrote this book to appeal to both teens and adults."

"I used some of my experiences dealing with mental health issues and music."





**INSPIRATION IS ALL
AROUND US!**

*"I just think that things happen for
a reason and if it is meant to be, it
will be."*



Baggett Gives Readers An Inside Look At Her Newest Book



"THE STRUGGLE IS REAL"

Baggett has taken her writing journey to new heights. From playwrights, DJing, music, to best selling novels, Baggett is forever expanding in her artistic craft.

Her latest book "The Struggle Is Real" has just hit the debut literary stage and the story is ready to be told and fully embraced.

"I started writing this book believe it or not three years ago. I kept going back and changing certain things because I wanted it to be perfect.," Baggett says. "This book means the most to me because it is my story told through different characters and different situations being a teenager going through mental health issues."

The book is meant for readers to not only connect with Baggett on a personal level, but it's for readers to take a deeper look within themselves. To feel yourself go through mental health struggles that are hard to maintain, but it can be done with time. With time, you can win.

"I wrote the book in such detail that you feel like you are going through it as well. You can actually feel what it is like to have your mind turn against you," Baggett continues. "Not only that, it also gives you inspiration even if you don't have mental health issues, it shows that no matter what you go through, you can still win at the end."

HE'S GOT HIGH NOTES!

ORLANDO DISCUSSES HIS MUSIC BEGINNINGS.



An artist's work can transcend time along with the lasting inspiration and message that it conveys. George Orlando's music transcends beyond not only himself, but those who experience it. Long before he began formal training at age 14, music has been a part of Orlando's life.

"When we were around 7 or 8 years old, my friends and I would put on records and lip-sync the vocals while pretending to play instruments. I found a curved stick and played it like a saxophone. We'd ask our parents and neighbors to come over and pay a dime to watch us perform. Playing music was just something I always wanted to do," Orlando says.

Though he was eventually able to carve out a path for himself as a professional musician, Orlando laments not having any musical influences or mentors from his family. "I was told that some of my uncles and aunts sang and played instruments long before I was born, but only as a hobby. For one reason or another, they stopped playing altogether. By the time I picked up my first instrument, I was the only musician in the entire family."

Many artists in today's music scene have family members that are heavily involved in the industry and have fully cemented their familial roots into it just so their younger generation can get an advantage. Orlando may have lost out on the guidance that having family formally involved in the industry could of given him, but he can say that they had legitimate fears of him being taken advantage of when he finally reached his music peak.

"Some people have had an advantage, more of a head start when music was in their family. If music is in your family, there's a sort of guidance there. One of the guys of Boyz II Men has like 6 children and they're all crazy musically inclined. That's just one example,"

The advice given stayed with him even as he went independent.

"Most of the people in my family, especially in my immediate family who didn't do music were nervous about somebody trying to cut a path for their life, for their music," Orlando says. "They said you need to have something to fall back on or music is a hobby. They were not looking at music as a career."

George Orlando can be contacted and followed via Facebook and Instagram @george.orlando.50 and on his website <https://www.georgeorlandomusic.com>.

YOUNG ORLANDO'S MUSIC REALITY

*MORE ON ORLANDO'S
BEGINNINGS AND HIS REALITY
OF OFFICIALLY ENTERING THE
MUSIC INDUSTRY.*

**"I DIDN'T HAVE THAT HEADSTART. I
STARTED EVERYTHING LATE IN
LIFE...EVENTUALLY I FOUND THAT THING"**

Given that George's family were a part of an older, post-war generation, choosing a career path in music was not well understood or received. Having no exposure to the professional music scene, his parents and relatives were unfamiliar with the potential opportunities, and often encouraged him to find a "security blanket" in non-artistic industries.

"Growing up under that mentality put me at a disadvantage because it divided my focus between developing my musical skills and trying to find some other "safe" career path that I really had no interest in," Orlando says. "It was a hinderance that I still have to fight to overcome, because I lost a lot of time....almost 20 years going in all the wrong directions."

Teen years are the years of discovery and growth. Orlando used this time to grow into his artistic craft. Taking lessons was just the start, and he eventually found his groove and turned a hobby into a lasting career.



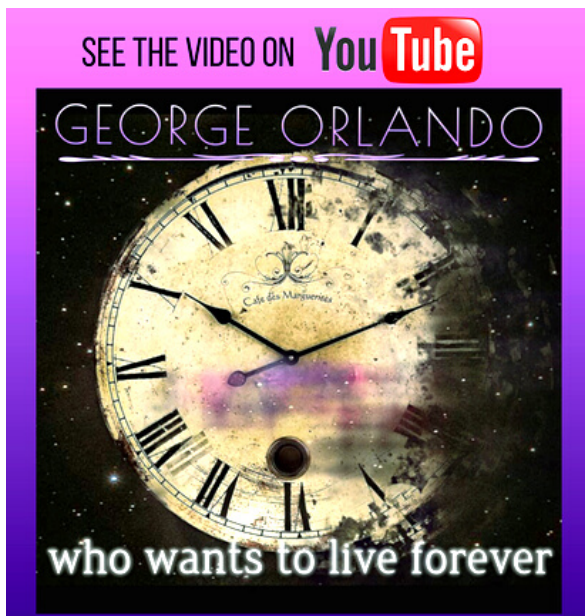
All Photo Credit Belongs To George Orlando.

"After trying everything from sports, to art, to karate, I asked for guitar lessons. She cleaned people's homes for a living, and it was back-breaking work, so she wasn't about to just throw money away. I remember her telling me that if she had to make me practice, she'd pull me right out of music classes."

Orlando found his niche in the guitar, and just couldn't stop playing. Practicing hours at a time day or night, he was jamming to his own rhythm.

"For the first time, my mother would have to call me down to dinner like 2 or 3 times, because I just wouldn't stop playing guitar. Eventually, someone would have to come pull me away," Orlando explains. "It look me a lot longer than most of my peers; many of them started long before they were 10 years old. But eventually, I found that thing...my own place in music."

Inside Orlando's Recovery from Covid-19 and His Latest Cover Single "Who Wants To Live Forever"



Lives have been changed forever due to the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. Artists are dealing with their own unique struggles, having to put a pause on live performances or even give up the music business altogether. George had to endure his own personal battle, having contracted the virus in March, 2020. And while it was touch-and-go, he was able to pull through without letting his artistic light be permanently dimmed. Orlando discusses his history with a particular composition.

"I was working on an original arrangement of a song for piano and voice only. Then the pandemic hit and I got very sick...in fact, it almost killed me," Orlando says. "My breathing was so constricted, I didn't have the capacity to speak, let alone sing. But after over two months of tediously slow recovery, I had to start stretching my legs, so to speak, and start testing my limits...to see what I could still do."

He then covered and produced the music video for the single, "Who Wants To Live Forever". Originally written by Brian May, guitarist for British rock band QUEEN, George felt a strong personal connection with the lyrics; a feeling of rebirth, and a new chance to live life to the fullest.

"I eventually worked up my endurance and got those muscles moving again. And the fact that i could sing something that was originally sung by the great Freddy Mercury....to me, that was a huge win over the virus that tried to take me out," Orlando says.

His experience seems to have given a new voice to the 1986 single, speaking volumes of stories of survival. After enduring a virus that at the time of this publication has claimed the lives of 2.41 million people worldwide, George feels extremely blessed to have lived to tell the tale. In his words, "The show must go on."

"For some reason, this song resonated with me in a way that gave me a new appreciation for life," Orlando says. "The pandemic hit me pretty hard, as it did with so many, and being able to recover from it was a real come-back story."

Anyone that may have suffered through loss or pain may connect with this song...or as Orlando puts it, "...have your own come-back story."

ORLANDO GIVES HIS PERSPECTIVE ON DOING MUSIC DURING THE PANDEMIC.

Being a working musician not only means having talent. When you're an independent artist, everything is on you. When the pandemic hit, artists had to adjust to not seeing crowds in person, and that meant taking their tunes to social media such as Instagram and Facebook Live.

"There's a risk to live performances, but there's also this undefinable energy that can't be replicated any other way...a resonance that tends to smooth out the things that aren't perfect with your performance," Orlando says.

Human connection has now changed, and Orlando has made the best of it. He knows that everyone has to do the best they can, and acknowledges the difference in playing for limited audiences. The music industry is a risky business, no matter the circumstance.

"There's no doubt I'd rather see 4,000 people than 40, but the positive comments that come in from a small audience is still nice," Orlando continues. "I did one actual Facebook Live, and it wasn't a great performance, but I did it just to start performing for some kind of live audience again."

George has always operated without a record label. The pandemic changed everything about art, but Orlando continues to have a passion for music, and is determined to be the best independent artist he can be through thick and thin.

"With all of the restrictions and limited capacities, live performances are a challenge. But beggars can't be choosers; if we are in fact performances and are given the chance to play, then that's the



PASSION IS EMBEDDED IN MUSIC!

"Music is an art. It's about self-expression. We are all subject to the opportunity to create unique, Beautiful art that only you can make."



ETERNAL PROFESSION OF LOVE & MUSIC.

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“MUSIC IS A BUSINESS.

WE ARE THE CREATIVE FORCE.”

Music today has perhaps lost pieces of itself. There isn't much storytelling as there used to be; it's mainly about popularity and the latest Tik-Tok viral dance video. Orlando, as a more seasoned musician has his own opinion on how the music industry and indeed changed over the years.

“As far as intelligent lyrics, rhythm, and creativity, Pop music has diminished in its quality tremendously,” Orlando says.

Not putting himself into a technical music genre-based box, Orlando tends to experiment in all sides of music, having produced musical arrangements that vary in style from non-mainstream to Pop.

“The Blade: Streets of London” is a George Orlando original. “Its style is meant to be palatable,” Orlando continues. “It's not really off the charts as far as thinking outside the box, musically speaking. The lyrics are where I took more creative liberty.”

Forming connections through music and telling a specific story is all an artist hopes for, and George is no different.

“The lyrics explore the character of Jack the Ripper, who was of course a serial killer who preyed upon women. I started to think about the game of love, and how there are a lot of real players out there. In my lyrics, Jack finally messes with the wrong woman, who turns the tables on him. The parallel speaks to all those players who finally end up getting played in the end. So the musical style of the song is Pop, but the lyrics aren't just about a**.”

“Pop has definitely lost some of its creative edge,” Orlando says.

“There are exceptions, but when I was growing up and listening to Pop music, many more of those artists were thinking outside the box a lot more.”

Of course, one can't knock an artist for wanted to stream, make money and get popular. But in Orlando's case, he simply wanted to keep perfecting his craft as a solo artist.

“Everything depends on you; the buck starts and stops with you as a solo artist. You can be independent and not go into debt with a label,” Orlando explains. “Staying independent is often the best option for you.”



Orlando's Message

"I'm going to find something I didn't finish and start working on the next thing."

Everyone who is struggling during this time can turn to music to help them cope with worry and pain. Orlando's cover single, "Who Wants To Live Forever" is a treat for listeners, and a song of return for those who were almost lost in these troubling times.

"We wouldn't be able to communicate or connect as well unless we had music," Orlando says.

"It comes to you and moves through you. I would encourage musicians to take the time to dig deep into themselves and find their own voice."

We're living in a time where quarantining has made us rediscover who we are as people; and for musicians, who they are as artists. Creativity had to take on a newer outlook, and music had to evolve in a different space.

Orlando encourages artists to take some time to rediscover their artistry because it is worth much more than they think.

"You have the opportunity to create something that's unlike anything that's ever been created. The world is unfortunately full of music that's basically candy; it's got a ton of sweetness and pleasurable flavor, but no nourishment or real substance. But there's also music out there...even Pop music, that goes beyond the overused, recycled chord progressions and sophomoric lyrics. And we all have the opportunity to let our own unique voices be heard through the vehicle of music..not just any music, but the best music we can write."

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