

SINGLE REVIEWS | Issue 5

This issue's reviewers are Rory Williams, Rita Sousa, Nancy Naden, Hassan Zaigham, Jack O'Sullivan and Ngaire Ruth. Send your blurb and a link to have your music featured to thebuzz@acm.ac.uk

Elfi, [Dream of Me](#)



Elfie describes her soulful pop ballad, new single, Dream of Me, as “Almost like a journal entry” which makes sense to us because from the off we are thrown into a sense of longing and reflection. She does this through raw and intimate lyricism matched with immaculate composition.

Rory is attracted to the production elements, and the attention to detail which means every listener will pick out something different and connect. For Rita, the violins are

front and centre. Nancy is swooning over the bridge; she builds up the song and returns to the piano and vocals later. Dream of Me is looking inward after a busy day.

We're looking forward to the album. (RR, NN, RC and NR)

Follow [Elfi](#) on Instagram.

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Rita Carolina, [Peace of Mind](#)



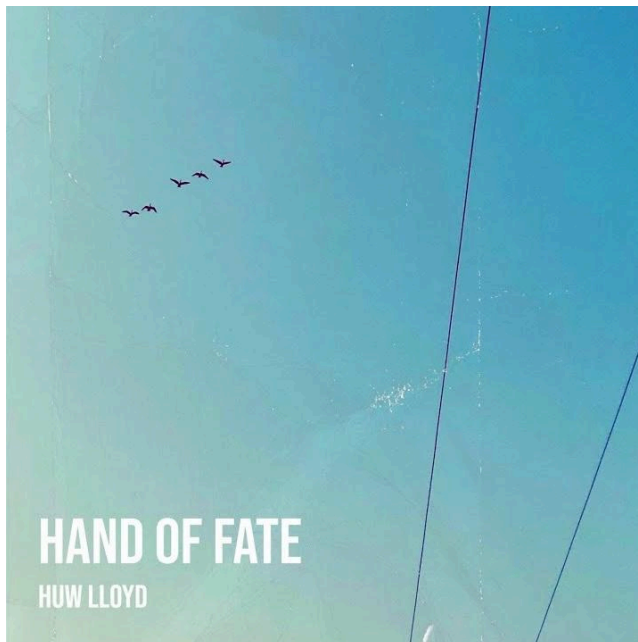
Rita Carolina is a prophetic songwriter, wrapping phrases about love, letting go and longing into these six tracks (Hopeless Romantic, Fall, Inevitable). This is her debut EP. Each song demonstrates a master class in songwriting structure and an eye on Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande audiences - if you need a 'sounds like', think Madison Beer. That said, the production at this stage shares the simplicity and joy of bedroom pop, suggesting these songs will also hit the spot for her peer group. That said, there's also a flavour of her Portuguese background: minor keys and slow, deliberate tempos that create a reflective mood.

Stand-out tracks here, for me, are Love Myself, stripped-down production with the lyrics taking the front row seat and showing some of Carolina's vocal range and a style of arrangement. The title track Peace of Mind is a 'coming of age' scenario, reflective and soulful using piano and a chorus that will have you joining in. (NR)

Follow [Rita Carolina](#) on Instagram.

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Huw Lloyd, [Hand of Fate](#)



Old-school Elton John is reborn through Huw Lloyd's new single, Hand of Fate. This soulful rock track, the second single from the singer's new EP, I can only describe as gorgeous and immensely fulfilling. With each listen I notice a new detail, from the muted lead guitar to the drums, all sitting perfectly in the mix to support the crown jewel of the song: Lloyd's vocals. His performance builds the song effortlessly; a smooth voice lending itself to the vintage feel of the music. Huw Lloyd's clean tone is not one that's seen often, weaving emotion through every lyric.

It's no wonder this Welsh musician is compared to the likes of Billy Joel and Elton John, with Tiny Dancer coming to mind. Lloyd is talented at eliciting the same warm feeling that we get listening to these '70s giants.

As one of four songs on Lloyd's EP, it's a fantastic taste of the full body of work. (RR)

Follow [Huw Lloyd](#) on Instagram.

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Molly, [Lovesick](#)



If Lana Del Rey, Clairo and Men I Trust had a baby it would sound like this.

Echoing guitar riffs, groovy basslines and a fresh, danceable beat sets the perfect tone for Molly to delve into the addictive nature of falling in love, capturing the essence of being well.... "lovesick". This unforgettable track is taken from her latest EP, released this summer.

As a fellow guitarist myself I must admit the riff is undeniably catchy, it has just the right amount of chorus and reverb to put you into a nostalgic state. The instruments blend seamlessly, creating a romantic bedroom pop vibe. Molly's vocal delivery adds a layer of angst to this track which works well with the story she narrates. She effortlessly glides through vocal runs and harmonies truly encapsulate the romanticism. (EO)

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Amethyst Girlz, [Pull Up](#)



2000s RnB is back! Amethyst Girlz new release, Pull Up, encompasses everything you've been craving from the RnB scene. The unproblematic duo is focused on one thing, the music. Pull Up is a chill RnB track that helps set the vibe of any atmosphere. The track references genres like jazz and reggae with vocal and percussion arrangements. The catchy chorus sets the tone for the track, creating an exciting feeling for the listener with immaculate production.

This is the first track they have chosen to use a picture of themselves as the cover, following the mysterious yet neon-dark theme that follows their portfolio. The new duo seem to have experience within the music industry, both having already released music as individuals, and it is shown in the quality of sound they have created and seemingly releasing under their label. (RS)

Follow [Amethyst Girlz](#) on Instagram.

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MHAIRI, [L2L](#)



Singer-songwriter, MHAIRI, based in London, releases her first single, L2L and it's a rollercoaster. This track serves as a pop single that sets you off-kilter with its eerie instrumental opening. MHAIRI's voice then leads an emotional and uplifting journey that embraces her personal battles and her footsteps towards "learning to love." The song has a strong build-up to a bouncing, cinematic chorus which features fast-paced drums- similar to those you would hear on a drum & bass track.

The second verse features an epic guitar melody which carries through the rest of the track giving the song a euphoric experience, as do the string sections; not to mention her majestic vocals. If you are a fan of pop artists like The Weeknd and Beyoncé, then this track is absolutely for you and I would recommend it.

I will definitely be on the lookout for more music from MHAIRI. (HZ)

Follow [MHAIRI](#) on Instagram.

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Danny Marriott, [Lift Me Up](#)



Escalating the punk with its eponymous tune, [Lift Me Up](#) is an angst-filled panic. Far from idealistic, as we've previously seen with [Japan](#) or [Faces](#). Here we enter a darker age.

Reminiscent of [Surf Curse](#) or a [Doolittle](#) era Pixies yet maintaining that stamp of authenticity Danny carries wherever he goes.

Each single compliments the other. Lift Me up works its way up to a fever while Worth refuses to mellow out but carries on melancholically. Both thematically nihilistic but sonically motivating. (JO)

Follow [Danny Marriott](#) on Instagram.

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