SINGLES AND AN ALBUM

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CONN13, Tied To You

This original track from **Conni** reflects a soul singer's vocal range and an artist who's starting to feel around for their voice, in terms of reflecting her time and place: genre and lyrical content, influenced by hip hop and tricky bpms but sweet as soul should be - for us traditionalists.

Our music students get a song in their head, write it down, share the building of it on Logic with another student (production) and bish bash bosh it's available to stream. This shows confidence, not in how you may think, but in 'knowing that she will wake up tomorrow with three more ideas better than the last one'. I do want to give her a good

shake though. to get the ghosts of the great female singers she aspires to out - that would be Etta James, Amy Winehouse… (NR)

Let's hear your thoughts:

thebuzz@acm.ac.uk

@conn13official

EFFO, Sweet Release

Fresh from his SSL studio session, Ollie Frith (aka **EFFO**) is a Rap and MC student at ACM Guildford. Now is your chance to say you were there on his way up.

Sweet Release is a genre-hopping confection for the ears, improving with every piece of minutia with each listen. EFFO flows effortlessly on this, perfectly complemented by featured vocalist **Sonny Zuco**'s; soul-inspired crooning in catchy hooks dotted tastefully throughout the track. The real sweet release in this song comes as EFFO flexes his abilities by fluctuating in tempo throughout his third verse. This demonstrates his assuredness and control in his performance which sets EFFO apart from his competition. Influenced by artists like Rizzle Kicks and Loyle Carner, EFFO has carved a clear artistic niche and will gather quite the following in the coming years.

I urge you to delve into EFFO's discography and discover for yourself the fun that you are missing out on. You can even see him perform in the SSL studio sessions series if his discography is not enough for you. With more releases scheduled in the future, now is the time to dip your toes in the water and join the bandwagon. Even if he is a little bit on the shorter side. (JO)

Let's hear your thoughts:

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ROOTED, Your Definition

It hurts, doesn't it? Feeling like an outcast because of how you look, feeling like you are not good enough. So you change, you carve and sculpt yourself into the ‘perfect’ body type because that’s what is only accepted by society. Why do we do it? It's a trend is it not? Well, the rising rock band ROOTED are ready to rebel against the stereotypes by releasing their new single Your Definition and you should not hesitate to listen to it.

There may only be three of them but they sure know how to send a loud message. Instantly, I was grabbed by the looming bassline and the tease of the drum cymbals. It sucked me in bar by bar and then I was greeted by an explosion of the epic sound of rock and rebellion. You can’t help but feel like you want to jump around and be engulfed by the music.

The powerhouse vocals of Lily Hartley are bare symmetry to the legends Lady Gaga and Blondie and are truly captivating. Matching this with the epic talents and sounds of Ethan Noble’s awesome grungy guitar skills and Joe Horton-Hackett’s rocky and rhythmically complex drums, creates an unstoppable dynamic, making it impossible to resist their sound.

Lyrically. The message expressed is hauntingly relatable to modern society's perfect body image. The leading line in the chorus *"Carve me up, dissect me into something, that might fit your definition"* truly describes (in a very visual and gruesome way), the reality of the lack of control people have over their appearances and how it is deemed normal to change the way we look to fit and feel appreciated in a corrupt world of unrealistic beauty standards. The middle 8/ bridge of the song is stripped back and pulls the listener in by reintroducing the intro bassline, followed by the repeating lyrics *"Butcher me with empty smiles"*. It describes the fake reality in which we live by saying that people's smiles are empty but they are also sung with a feeling of anger and hurt. These emotions grow more as this section of the song progresses, after starting intimately to making me feel interrogated by the end, a musical riot, and continuing throughout the final chorus.

This song is powerful and emotional. It's a statement to the world, that change needs to happen. We need to stop carving and dissecting ourselves and feel seen and loved in a perfect reality, which does not exist. I love this song and I know you will too. Give it a listen and you no doubt will feel empowered.

Let us hear your thoughts:

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@musicbyrooted

ALBUM REVIEW

Rhirhi Getting *Older, Getting Older*

Jack O’Sullivan delves into rhirhi’s debut album, all about childhood bliss and the woes of growing up against nostalgia.

There’s a cheerful misery in this ode to youth. With age, many would argue, we lose. Whether it's our childlike wonder, innocence or naivety, *Getting Older, Getting Older* is both a celebration of these as well as a demonstration of the struggle to cling to all that is safe in childhood. They mesh a lyrical frankness and brash candour akin to Elliot Smith with a willowy shyness reminiscent of Dodie.

Her first full-length album, we’re seeing more of rhirhi on one release than we have so far. Not just in length but in versatility, we still hear the minimalistic and raw records we’re familiar with demonstrated in Bittersweet and 15 Forever as well as an exploration into more abstract subsets of sound that manage to envelope you as a listener like Pass By and High.

Recounting the joys, in the blissfully simple but sugary sweet Perfect Day, and the all-to-common sorrows of absent self-esteem, grief and that nagging sense of

inadequacy, which we hear healthily discussed throughout the album, although most efficiently portrayed in the title track.

Perfect Day reminds you of a pre-beatnik love song, something that one could imagine being plucked from the age of crooners and the jukebox. While Getting Older, Getting Older opens the album with an apprehension to go forward, weighed down by a longing for youth and the sense that time has left us in its wake.

Each track moves between moods and topics, yet the album does not lose its momentum. It may be an album sharing lived experiences you are prompted to look within yourself.

Little Things Today embodies this sentiment of self-reflection structurally beginning in 1st person with a confession, the spouting of innermost thoughts, before shifting to a second-person direct reference message of reassurance and familiar comfort that inevitably seems aimed at the listener.

Stream *Getting Older, Getting Older*
Getting Older, Getting Older

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