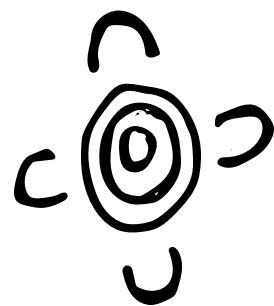


ISSUE 2  
2023



# VERMILION

M A G A Z I N E



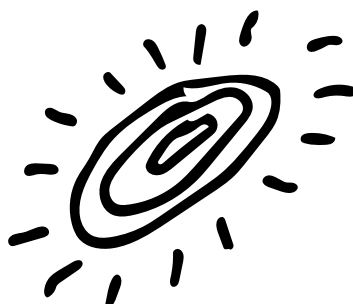
## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



# ABOUT VERMILION

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations owners of the land where QUT now stands, the Turrbal and Jagera peoples and respect their Elders past, present, and emerging. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, creation, and storytelling. We acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples play within the Meanjin community.



### Contributors

Chief Editor & Layout Design – Marjani Abdur-Raheem  
Content Writer & Editor – Oliver North  
Content Writer – Amy Marks  
Photography – Alana Heaton, Phlawy Mclean, & Jack Woolrych



Vermilion Records is Australia's only student-run record label and music production house. Based out of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, we recruit emerging artists to our roster and provide our final-year students with the opportunity to guide all aspects of these artist's development. For example, our live events team liaises with local venues to curate live performances to promote our artists, and our artist liaisons assist artists with marketing and promotional strategies. We also have a production house of composers, sound designers, and recording engineers, and along with world-class recording facilities, we offer services such as recording, film scoring, mixing, and mastering. In addition, our house composers write for our royalty-free music library, which are downloadable at our website for anybody to use in accompanying their visual content. We collaborate with QUT's film and animation, creative writing, and visual arts departments to develop promotional assets such as a magazine, music videos, live performance videos, merchandise, album artwork, graphic design, and photography. Community is important to us, we provide opportunities for high school students to collaborate with us on producing their music for promotion and release. We created Vermilion

Magazine not only for Vermilion Records, but for you and all other music fans across Australia. Six years ago, the first issue was published alongside the founding of the university-run record label. In the six years since Vermilion Magazine and Vermilion Records were established, this magazine has featured music reviews, career advice, artist interviews and everything else there is to know about the Brisbane music scene. We don't just want to advertise our artists — we want to help you find the best places in Brisbane to come together with friends and listen to great live music.





# OUR 2023 ARTISTS



## MAIRA

19-year-old Maira is a singer-songwriter and musician from Brisbane, Australia who is passionate about storytelling and connecting with people through her songs. She is dedicated to crafting her own unique blend of ambient soundscapes, grungy guitars, and a voice that's not afraid to speak her mind. Her relatable and unfiltered lyricism meets infectious melodies that will sweep over you when you need them most. This semester she has had the opportunity to record her third single 'Conversations' with her team in the QUT studios, which is set for release later this year!



## RYN

'Ryan Kelly, professionally known as RYN, is a Brisbane-based producer and songwriter who blends exciting pop hooks with innovative electronic production techniques. As an independent artist, RYN records, produces, mixes, and masters his own music. This semester he has produced and released his debut single 'Wide Eyed' which explores the feelings and emotions that are inevitably attached to that familiar, all-consuming attraction to someone. As a producer he has also worked on other projects such as 'The Night We Met' by Mackenzie May and 'Conversations' by Maira — both upcoming local artists.



## JORJA B

21-year-old singer-songwriter Jorja B is one of Brisbane's newly rising pop-punk princesses. Jorja has had a lively year with Vermilion, playing consistent gigs and learning all sorts of skills regarding production, promotion, and performing. Above all, Jorja has truly leapt out of her comfort zone, through sharing her music. At the start of the year, Jorja brought her team a slow and sad-tempered demo. Over 2023, they have worked in and out of studio sessions creating the now bouncy synth-pop ballad 'If I had the chance' with an animated video and cover art theme to go with it. 'If I had the chance' will be released on the 13th of October 2023.



## SOFIA CIRINO

Sofia Cirino is an emerging indie-folk artist aspiring to create relatable music through poetic lyricism. With inspirations like Adrianne Lenker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Hozier, Sofia strives to build connections through her music above all else. This semester in Vermilion, Sofia has been working on her upcoming single 'Every Time' as well as performing her original music live around Brisbane.



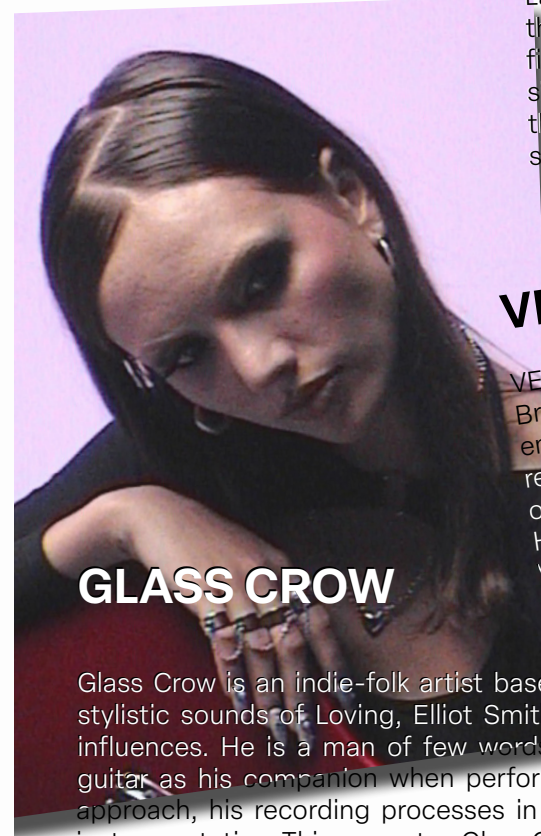
## DUBLIN ROSE

Dublin Rose is a 19-year-old singer, songwriter, and guitarist from Brisbane. She has an upbeat and playful style mainly of the indie-pop genre. Currently in her second year studying a BFA (Music) at QUT, Dublin is a part of the student-run Vermilion Records. In 2023, Dublin and her backing band made their debut at The Brightside, sold out their first headline show at The Junk Bar, and won the QUT Battle of the Bands. Her most recent song 'The Last Night of Summer' has been played across Brisbane radio stations, including ABC, 4ZZZ, and Bridge FM. Dublin showcases her original music performing regularly at festivals, weddings, events, and bars.



## LAURA FORDEN

Laura Forden's has been singing, song writing and playing piano from a young age. She is inspired and influenced by artists such as Gracie Abrams, Taylor Swift, Kelsea Ballerini, Phoebe Bridgers and Olivia Rodrigo. This semester, Laura Forden has been hard at work with her team, headlining for the first time this September at The End Bar in West End. She has been busy in the studio finalising production of her newly released single 'June' and the follow-up single 'Keyed Your Car' which is coming at the end of the year! To accompany this Laura has done two professional photoshoots, shot a music video for her single, and was featured on our live video series, 'Vermilion Presents'. This is just the start of a wonderful career in music for Laura.



## VENÜS

VENÜS, also known as Cass, is an up-and-coming pop artist from South Brisbane, whose music narrates her personal experiences, thoughts, and emotions. Her electronic-pop sound was established earlier this year with the release of her debut single 'M'. Since this release, VENÜS has been revisiting old tracks and demos which she created at significant milestones in her life. Her upcoming EP encapsulates the best of these raw demos and showcases VENÜS's talents as a producer and a storyteller. The EP contains 4 tracks: 'HARD', 'Can't Seem to Change', 'NITE', and 'Until Dawn'.

## GLASS CROW

Glass Crow is an indie-folk artist based in Meanjin (Brisbane), inheriting the stylistic sounds of Loving, Elliot Smith, Mage Tears, and many more similar influences. He is a man of few words and has a humble, singular acoustic guitar as his companion when performing live. Though he has a minimalist approach, his recording processes in the studio are embellished more with instrumentation. This semester, Glass Crow has been working on his next single 'Dear Lily', laying down vocal doubles, guitar tracks, and still yet to decide further instrumentation. Alongside this, he has been expanding his capacity for live shows and will be performing for the Vermilion Festival at Ric's Backyard, and participating in another Vermilion Presents performance as per last semester.







## What is Vermilion High?

Vermilion High is a project initiated by QUT's student-run record label Vermilion Records. The label teams up with high school students to give them a platform to record and release an original song. Where the average high school student may consider their bedroom music-making hobby to be 'messing around,' Vermilion High calls that potential! The program support bands, solo artists and anything in between – no genre is off the table.

With the goal to get original local Brisbane music heard, Vermilion Records coordinates this awesome initiative every year. Industry professionals and final-year university student mentors give feedback to the high school entrants. From there, the lucky winners get the opportunity to workshop their song and are invited to record and produce their track in QUT's state-of-the-art studios.

Once the young up-and-coming artists have had their music professionally workshoped, recorded and produced, Vermilion Records releases and promotes an album of high quality, catchy tunes. The label handles licencing for a year, while the students keep the copyright to their song. Vermilion High is dedicated to supporting and collaborating with students who may not otherwise be encouraged to follow their dreams. This year some of our selected high school students have also had the opportunity to team up with QUT film students to have their music realised in a professional quality music video.

### BIANCA MANTARRO

Bianca Mantarro is a vocalist, songwriter, and music lover from the Sunny Coast. She has a love and appreciation for all styles of music but writes a majority of her songs in the pop genre with an interest in genre fusion and blending styles. Currently, she is completing high school and focusing on her passion in composing, performing within school and externally.

This semester, Bianca was a part of Vermilion High as the principal artist, getting to experience music videos, photoshoots, and the mind-blowing production of her song. Other highlights include getting ready to perform at her high school formal with her school rock band, final Grade 12 performances, and school musicals. She is most excited to grow as a musician using everything she has learned from Vermilion High!



## MACKENZIE DENNIS

Mackenzie May, a singer-songwriter hailing from Central Queensland, is quickly making her mark on the country music scene. Drawing inspiration from influential artists such as Chris Stapleton, Colter Wall, and Sierra Ferrell, Mackenzie infuses her music with authentic emotions derived from her own life experiences. Having honed her craft through numerous local performances, Mackenzie's talent and dedication have brought her to the brink of recording her very first single. Building upon her recent achievements, including graduating from the Junior Academy of Country Music and being named a finalist in the 2023 Ekka Country Music Showdown, Mackenzie is steadily carving out her place in the industry.

## SAMUEL CUTHBERT

Sammy Smooth is a force to be reckoned with. Hailing from the Gold Coast, fresh-faced DJ/Producer Sammy Smooth embarked on his musical journey at just 14 years old, learning to hone his skills as a bedroom producer. His breakthrough came when he won Radio Metro's 2022 Metro Makin Music Competition, leading to a second record deal with the Vicious Recording Group. Since then, Sammy was selected to be a part of QUT's Vermilion High program, releasing his track 'Love of Yesterday' in October followed by his debut EP 'Tied Up' with Sorta Kinda Music. Sammy seamlessly blends New Skool and Old Skool vibes, crafting electrifying live electronic dance music sets using his philosophy of embracing diverse electronic music genres.

## WESLEY MAGUIRE

Wayward Way is a psychedelic-rock band hailing from Meanjin, who set out to craft dreamy indie tunes with influences from psychedelia to pop. Wayward put an emphasis on crafting their kaleidoscopic sound, culminating in swirling guitars, barrelling drumbeats, and charming synthesizers. With pulsating basslines and ethereal vocals, their songs are a sonic fusion of dreamy melodies, hypnotic rhythms, and mind-expanding lyrics that explore themes of introspection, existentialism, and more. Wayward emerged onto the scene in 2023 with their debut show at the Reload Espresso Bar for Vermilion Records, followed by myriad house shows. They've just released their chilled-out psychtune 'Dragonfly' and have much more on the way.

## SURAJ ESWARAN

As a 16-Year-old living in Brisbane, suri is a self-sufficient musician, giving full attention to detail in his work. His sound has been compared to that of Tame Impala but with his own unique twist. A fusion of R&B, soul, and alternative music that harkens back to early 70's soul but with a modern take. Every instrument is thoughtfully chosen, creating a rich tapestry of melancholic and hopeful sounds. suri has taken many strides in the industry so far such as participating in QUT's Vermilion High program along with events run by Brisbane-Based record label BrokenRecords. Additionally, he has played many showcases including at the Queensland Parliament House. It is evident that suri has got a long and fulfilling journey ahead of him.

## MITCHELL RIX

Mitchell Rix is a young solo artist from Queensland, Australia who aims to change the world with his music. His biggest goal is to change the false negative perceptions of the metal genre to what it really is, an emotional journey through music. Playing various school events and small gigs, Mitchell has learned a lot about what it is to be a musician. The QUT Vermilion High experience has greatly helped him advance his musical understanding both in the realm of playing and producing. It has been a great honour for Mitchell to work with his Vermilion High team.





# CAREERS IN MUSIC

By Amy Marks

As I near the end of my BFA in music, the “what’s next?” question looms like never before. Family, friends, tutors, and acquaintances all seem to wonder how I, or anyone getting into the Australian music world, would be able to make a living. This question has nagged at me since high school when I chose to do this degree. However, the uncertainty is part of what drew me to it. I have never wanted to be tied to a desk working a job I wasn’t truly happy with, so if pursuing a career in music means uncertainty, so be it!

There are a vast number of opportunities out there for those musically inclined, from on the stage to behind the scenes. I’m going to start off with the most obvious choices, first of which being a performing musician. From playing cover gigs at restaurants, markets, and weddings to headline shows in huge venues playing original music — there’s a space for it! Composer is another top choice for many which can involve writing music for films, TV, video games, or commercials. Leading from this, many choose to utilise their talent with words by writing songs for performing artists. The role of session musicians is similar to this as it involves lending talents to various recording projects. Once recording is finished, there’s the

world of producers, audio, mixing, and mastering engineers. However, all of these more creative options are often the least financially stable out of the available jobs in the Australian music world (not that we’re going into the industry for the money!).

Once music is ready to be heard by the world it moves on to the business side of the industry. While it may seem boring at first, aspects of the business side such as distribution are actually a large and important part of what we do. Record labels, booking agents, festival organisers, promoters — there are so many options! Or there’s some more “socially respectable” opportunities like teaching music. Whether it be in high schools, private lessons, tutorials, or even as a music therapist who use their talents to improve people’s lives.

If you can think it, you can do it, there is a pathway out there for everyone in this industry. And while they all may not be the most financially stable careers; it’s what you love doing so do yourself a favour and give it everything you’ve got!

# LIFE AS A MUSIC STUDENT

By JORJA B

Hey! I’m Jorja B, a 21-year-old singer-songwriter from Brisbane and this is a day in my life. I’m not going to lie, waking up at a reasonable hour is without a doubt the hardest part of my day. After the morning TikTok scroll, my days always start with hygiene. I shower, get dressed and then begin addressing my social media — responding to comments and DM’s and sometimes being organised enough to schedule content.

If I’m not forcing myself to go to the gym after work nights, I can normally fit in that hour of running and pretending to lift weights during the morning.

Once I’ve finished my general to-do list of smaller tasks like making my bed, doing the laundry, and finishing vocals to be sent off, I’ll most likely chip away at some uni work. But if I’m caught up for the week it will almost always be a music day. I spend music days filming and editing short covers for my social media accounts. I’m trying to get more YouTube content out too, so that’s on the list for these days as well.

Once that’s worn me out a fair bit (I study IT at uni so my brain will most definitely be fried by this point), I love to chill in bed and get some of that content up and running. Even if it’s just preparing

the videos for upload or sending vocals or ideas to my producer. This is also when I can get most distracted falling down the TikTok rabbit hole.

I work at a bar part-time, so my nights usually always include working. It’s either the gaming or closing shift and then my day is almost over. I’m terrible at forcing myself to do anything productive once I’ve got home from work, so I’ll usually just have a late dinner, shower, and then I’m off to bed. Meditation really calms me — I’ve been trying to stay consistent with it before bed — so I’ll give that a crack. Lastly, it’s one more scroll on my phone often responding to friends and then I’m passed out in a second.

I would love to say that I am motivated and switched on enough to follow this routine every day, but I want to be clear that sometimes that just isn’t the case. Sometimes I’ll see my producer for the day which is always more chill or maybe I’ll just stay in bed. Every day is different, but this is the schedule I try to stick to. Thanks for coming along on my day with me!



Scan to see  
it on TikTok!





# WHY I DO MUSIC

By Laura Forden

Originally born in Canberra, 22-year-old Laura moved to the Gold Coast at the age of eight. She has been singing, songwriting, and playing piano from a young age. In her spare time, she loves hiking, swimming, going to the gym, and writing new music. Laura is studying a Bachelor of Education and is eager to support young students in finding themselves. Her voice has a smooth soft tone with similar attributes to Missy Higgins, Gracie Abrams, and Adele. These artists inspire and influence her along with others such as Taylor Swift, Kelsea Ballerini, Grace Enger, Phoebe Bridgers, Olivia Rodrigo, Gretta Ray, and Maisie Peters.

Laura explained that listening to music and writing her own allows her to just get “lost in a whole other world”. She enjoys singing covers and writing original music inspired by personal experiences and the emotions that come with life. She hopes to write and share music about universal emotions and experiences that people can relate to. Laura wants people — especially young adults — who could be feeling these emotions to not feel so alone.

Laura has a passion for music genres such as pop, contemporary-pop, folk, country, country-rock, and more. She enjoys country artists and the stories

they tell and sometimes even hears a slight twang in her own voice. Laura loves focusing on lyrics as she believes the lyrics an artist writes connect to what they’re expressing, and she hopes to connect with others through her music in similar ways. Laura has used music to express herself when words were difficult, and it became a haven for her to reflect and digest her own emotions through difficult times. She has busked at shopping centres, performed paid gigs at her university, and recently did her first headline gig at The End Bar in Brisbane. In 2021, Laura released her first single ‘Parts of Me’ on all streaming platforms. ‘Parts of Me’ is about a difficult heartbreak and all the intertwining emotions that come with that. Laura thoroughly enjoyed recording the song in the studio and is excited to release more. She is currently writing more original music and hopes to release some of it soon.



# GLASS CROW 'APPLE DOESN'T FALL' SINGLE REVIEW

By Harper Kodicek

The first sounds of ‘Apple Doesn’t Fall’ by Glass Crow (Kaelin Stemmler) invite you in like an old friend would for a reunion at their place. The tone is set by hopeful chord structures that transform into tumbling melodies weaving between the vocals. As you listen you feel as though the instrument is sitting right in front of you, accompanying a story rather than performing. The innocently delivered, double-tracked vocals are intimate in the vein of storytellers like Elliot Smith and Bon Iver. The vocals also create an atmosphere so enchanting that you almost don’t notice the themes underscoring the narrative. Lines like “Pour me a drink of double standards” and “With all these self-entitled assholes running around we’ll soon find out” connect with listeners as covertly shared experiences.

The track will make you smile at its wittiness and then hug you with warm, open harmonies that emerge from the refrain. Synth lines peek out from behind the vocals, contributing to the sweet familiarity of the chorus. As it unfolds, you’re taken on a meandering journey that builds to a colourful instrumental bridge. It sweeps you into whimsical production and dreamy chords that veer away from the song’s key before returning to the melodic

passages of the verse.

As the final chorus ends, a buoyant synth melody and whistle carry through the uplifting atmosphere of the track while cheekily reminding you of the message. In its closing moments beautiful vocal textures swell and dissipate, abandoning the cheerful tempo of the previous sections for a more haunting and contemplative atmosphere; a breath for you to reflect. With his debut single, Glass Crow manages to lay his exasperation on a backdrop of playful innocence, balancing his frustrations with enchanting instrumentation, textures, and delivery for a delightfully irreverent outcome.





# THE BRISBANE MUSIC SCENE

By Oliver North

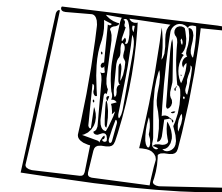
## THE FUNNY JIMS

The Funny Jims (TFJ) is a 7-piece band with a diverse alternative rock sound. Formed in Townsville in 2018, TFJ have been gigging the Brisbane nightlife circuit for a few years now. Their mission statement is simple: they do whatever they want, whenever they want, and their sound reflects this. Going from heavier cuts like '1995 Fantasy' that are reminiscent of Deftones and The Cure to the minimal 'Waiting' with its sweet chorus and acoustic guitar. TFJ provide a unique contrast to their raging vocals and instrumentals by throwing in smooth saxophones that build on the venting feel of their tracks. You can never predict what TFJ will pull out next, but you can count on it getting you moving. On the TFJ YouTube you can check out a few of their live sets and see for yourself how effortlessly they can get a crowd jumping. They'll be playing at UQ's Indieopia festival on October 6th so don't miss your chance to experience the therapeutic release that TFJ provide.



## BEAN MAGAZINE

Bean Magazine is a rock & roll trio consisting of Gabrielle Beiers, Seb Baren, and Henry Creamer. Starting out riffing in Gabby's parent's spare room, Bean Magazine have refined their sound to create a chaotic and rebellious signature. Over the last year they've been gigging throughout Brisbane, even supporting Ballpark Music on the Brisbane leg of their 'GTFNBO' tour. Their most recent single, 'FIRE' showcases their knack for creating melodies that you can't help but sing along to. 'When I Get Older' from their self-titled EP shows the range that the trio has as it's a much more sombre cut. Check out Bean Magazine playing at CreepShow on October 27th, supporting The Terrys at the Coolangatta Hotel on November 24th, and headlining The Brightside the next night on November 25th. With so much success already, momentum just keeps on building for Bean Magazine so don't miss your chance to support them.



## ARCHES

Arches is a fresh genre-bending duo consisting of members Mason Rowley and Samuela Naborisi. Both with Islander backgrounds, they grew up with music in their blood. You could classify their music as hyper-pop but where hyper-pop artists tend to hide their vocals behind the chaotic production, Arches use a minimal take to instead enhance their vocals. Particularly, Sam's voice — moulded by growing up in choirs — glides over the tracks in a way that makes you stop what you're doing and pay attention. Arches is a part of this new wave that is defying the restrictions of genres and just playing it by ear. It's so easy to imagine an Arches song taking off as the newest viral TikTok sound. If you don't believe me, check out their most recent single 'Banshee' and its music video on YouTube. With a recent successful set at BigSound and the strong backing of Triple J, Arches is a group to look out for as they've got star-quality written all over them and plenty more releases coming soon. Seriously, start following them now so when they take over the radio you can brag that you were a day one fan.



## LATE NOVEMBER

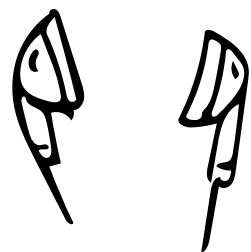
Late November is an 8-piece alt-rock outfit coming out of Townsville and North Queensland. They have a sound reminiscent of grungy anthems of the 2000s that would be mandatory at every house party. Tracks like 'Mr Invincible' and 'Restless' are designed to get everyone singing along and pissing off the neighbours. Similar to TFJ, Late November use horns to lighten their tracks up, providing a clean contrast to the grubby instrumentals and gritty vocals. The two bands even collaborated on 'Teenage Suicide' from TFJ's 'Dying Together' EP. Late November recently went on tour in Japan and are doing their first east coast tour in November. Late November is growing at a rapid rate and have cultivated a loyal fanbase that is just begging for their continued success. So, don't be surprised if you start seeing Late November everywhere you go in the next few years.







# 'WIDE EYED'



BY RYM



## Verse 1

*Keep holding your breath  
I'll be damned if I hear it  
Closed eyes so I can lie and pretend that  
you feel it too*

**Meaning** — The opening lyrics explore a mix of frustration, denial, and a desire for a connection that may not be genuine or reciprocated. The theme revolves around the complexities of emotions and relationships, where one party might be trying to convince themselves of something that deep down, they know isn't true. Instead, they choose to believe or maintain an illusion. This person craves a feeling that they know isn't reciprocated but will keep telling themselves differently until it comes true.

## Verse 2

*Fine line — yeah, we bend just a little  
My heart and mind take sides and I'm stuck  
in the middle.*

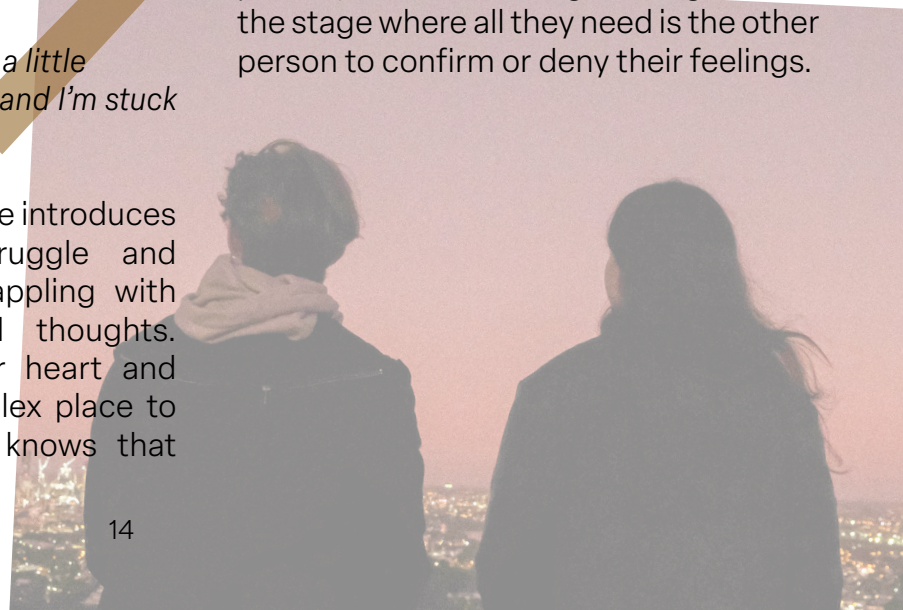
**Meaning** — The second verse introduces a sense of internal struggle and indecision — someone grappling with conflicting emotions and thoughts. Being stuck between your heart and mind is an incredibly complex place to be. Logically, this person knows that

their feelings aren't reciprocated but their heart is telling them a completely different story. The "fine line" they mention represents the delicate balance they are trying to maintain, but they find themselves unable to fully commit to one emotion or feeling, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and inner conflict.

## Chorus

*Wide eyed revelation from you  
I never thought I could need this but I do*

**Combined** — The chorus reveals a significant, eye-opening moment in the story. A sense of surprise and transformation. This revelation likely comes from someone else, as indicated by "from you". This person genuinely never thought they'd get to a point where they need a confession from the other person, but their feelings have gotten to the stage where all they need is the other person to confirm or deny their feelings.



# SUITCASE RECORDS VINYL PRESS PLANT

By Amy Marks

Suitcase Records is breaking barriers as Brisbane's only vinyl pressing plant. Family-owned and community-focused, Suitcase Records was established in September of 2022. Just having celebrated their first birthday, they are truly making a name for themselves in the Brisbane music industry. With strong values of accessibility, support, and sustainability, there isn't much not to like about them!

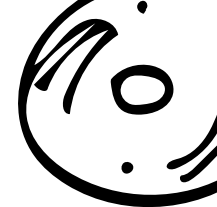
This vinyl press is not your typical corporate run business; it's a labour of love for music and is a testament to the bonds that can be made through it. Musicians — both emerging and seasoned — have found a welcoming environment where their creative visions can be transformed into tangible, sellable records. Suitcase Records have made it their mission to break down barriers for independent artists who thought that producing their music onto vinyl was impossible. In the modern day of streaming, selling physical merch such as vinyl is the largest way for artists to make an income and create a meaningful connection with their fans.

The importance of mental health is also a pride of Suitcase Records, as they have recently started working

with Stepping Stone. Stepping Stone is a community-based organisation that addresses the impact of mental health and focuses on aiding in the recovery process. Suitcase Records have partnered with Stepping Stone to help get those effected by mental illness back into the workforce by providing the opportunity to work at their vinyl pressing plant.

Sustainability is also a core part of the company's ethos. In the current day, reducing waste is at the forefront of many people's minds. The vinyl pressing process inherently produces waste, but the Suitcase Records team has created a way to minimize this. They recycle excess vinyl by making coasters and they use eco-friendly packaging for their records.

Suitcase Records is a testament to what can be done with the right intent. They have created an accessible, sustainable, do-good environment for emerging independent artists, as well as those seasoned musicians. In a world that is often too fast-paced, Suitcase Records is a reminder that success is not only about profit but also about making a positive difference and leaving a legacy.





# 'AFTERTHOUGHT'

## BY MAIRA

### VERSE 1:

*sit in my car, driving home  
but it doesn't start, and there's nowhere to go  
it's getting dark, haven't moved in a while  
put it in park, cause' i've been driving for miles*

### PRE-CHORUS 1:

*but we're slowing down again  
if i disappeared would you care?*

### CHORUS 1:

*am i just an afterthought?  
do i even cross your mind?  
cause i'm here waiting  
standing still at this red light*

### VERSE 2:

*i wish you'd call, maybe you'd say  
hey, we should hangout some day  
but i'm going ten in a ninety zone  
so stuck, i've never felt so alone*

### PRE-CHORUS 2:

*we're slowing down again  
if i disappeared would you care?*

### CHORUS:

*am i just an afterthought?  
do i even cross your mind?  
cause i'm here waiting  
standing still at this red light.*

### BRIDGE:

*stuck in traffic  
my mind is racing  
call me dramatic but i'm never getting out of  
here  
i'm sick of waiting  
but this is weighing  
on my chest and i'm a mess  
and i don't know what to feel  
(it's weighing, weighing down)  
on my chest and i'm a mess and i don't  
know what to feel  
(it's weighing, weighing down)  
on my chest and i'm a mess and i don't know  
what to feel*

### CHORUS:

*am i just an afterthought?  
do i even cross your mind?  
cause i'm here waiting  
standing still at this red light*

- guitar solo -

### CHORUS:

*am i just an afterthought?  
am i someone you forgot?  
am i just a waste of time?  
have i lost my mind?  
am i just*

I wrote 'afterthought' in December last year, a time when I was feeling alone. The song is about feeling forgotten and like you'll never be someone's first choice. Even though this may not be true, it is so easy to get caught up in your anxieties and start overthinking like: "why am I the one who has to make plans?" or "why do I have to text first?". I tried to capture the frustration of constantly having one-sided relationships where they never reach out to you first and so it's always up to you to contact them if you ever want to see them. It makes you think that they must not care about you, or they really have forgotten about you.

*but i'm going ten in a ninety zone  
so stuck, i've never felt so alone*

*we're slowing down again  
if i disappeared would you care?*

*am i just an afterthought?  
do i even cross your mind?  
cause i'm here waiting  
standing still at this red light*

I used this idea of being stuck in traffic throughout the song, specifically to show how isolated and alone I felt at the time. In the chorus I mention waiting at a red light to cross someone's mind, and what I left unsaid is that the light never turns green because they never think about you or reach out to you :(

LYRIC BREAKDOWN



# WHAT YOUR MUSIC TASTE SAYS ABOUT YOU

By Oliver North

When you're getting to know someone new it's always interesting to learn what their favourite music is because we feel like we can learn more about them this way. Imagine if you met someone new and they said, "All I listen to is Pitbull and I can't help crying". Just with that short sentence you assume so much about their personality like that they're a pop music lover so maybe they don't listen to much music, Pitbull makes them cry so they're probably sensitive, and they almost certainly have an expensive relationship with their therapist. A 2006 study by Rentfrow & Gosling confirmed that music was the most common conversational topic when people were getting to know each other. This study also found that musical preferences provided accurate information about an individual's personality. So, you may now be wondering, "What do people think about me when I share my favourite music?"

## Pop

Let's start at the top—pop music fans. Extraverted, honest, hardworking, and with high self-esteem, you use music as a way to regulate your mood so if you're sad you'll listen to some upbeat hits (Mr Worldwide perhaps?) to perk up. However, you are nervous, turbulent, and lack creativity. Studies show that you

are also more conscientious, agreeable, conservative, and less open to new experiences. But at least you can hang your uncreative hat on the fact that your personality stands out from the rest of the genres (apart from metal fans who we'll talk about later).

## Rap

Just like pop fans, rap fans are extraverted, energetic, and like to party. You have high self-esteem and are the most personality driven genre. However, unfortunately you tend to blurt out thoughts as soon as they form and apparently, you aren't very eco-friendly.

## Rock

Depending on the type of rock music you like, your personality varies. So, if you like classic rock then you're a hard worker, at ease with yourself, and very nostalgic. If indie rock is more your thing, then you're lazy, have a lower self-esteem, but are very creative. And if you're into punk rock then you're intense, energetic, and low on empathy. In general, rock fans are intuitive and relaxed but are more self-centred than other listeners. You value excitement and courage and, just like pop fans, you tend to use music to regulate your mood.

## R&B

If you like R&B, chances are that you're outgoing, have no problems showing your emotions, and you truly follow your heart. Apparently, you aren't interested in green energy and don't mind the current use of fossil fuel.

## Jazz, Folk, Soul, & Blues

You are open-minded, creative, and reflective. You tend to use music as a way to exercise your brain but often forget to exercise your body. You're extraverted, intelligent, at ease with yourself, and have high self-esteem. It is also more likely that you are politically liberal and have greater access to financial resources. You have an active imagination, value aesthetic experiences, and view yourself as intelligent. If you're a fan of any of these genres, then chances are that you are a highly intuitive person as well.

## Metal

As I mentioned before, metal fans are the only other genre besides pop fans that have a personality that stands out from the rest, but metal fans stand out in an entirely different way to pop fans. You are introverted, intuitive, gentle, and creative, quite the opposite to the rough and rowdy stereotype.

Interestingly, music psychologist Adrian North says that metal fans are just a younger version of classical music fans.

## Classical

Speaking of classical music fans, you have a lot to be proud of. Along with being intuitive and having a healthy amount of self-esteem, you are usually smarter than other music lovers and you view yourself as being intelligent (this phenomenon is known as "The Mozart Effect"). And as if being smarter wasn't enough, you also tend to make more money than fans of other genres and have greater access to financial resources. Your creative mind loves complex symphonies and compositions and sees music listening as a theatrical experience, much like metal fans do. You are thought to value comfort, beauty, intellect, and love. You have an active imagination, are highly intuitive, and are eco-friendly. Interestingly, a 1989 study by Zillmann & Bhatia found that men considered women who expressed interest in classical music as more attractive and sophisticated than women who expressed a preference for heavy metal.



# AN ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE



Featuring Tessa Fleur, Interviewed by Kristina Kelman

**What have you been up to since your Vermilion days?**

I'm releasing my first EP, 'Trial,' on the 3rd of November, which I'm launching at The Junk Bar on the 5th of November. It's been a project I've been working on since 2020. But, in between Vermilion and today, I think last year was a lot about experimenting with music. I did a lot of collaborating with electronic artists such as Phameon. I did a lot of shows and wrote a lot of music with him. I think last year I kind of went through an identity crisis with my music and went through some significant life changes. So, I kind of just experimented with the music and explored electronic music. It was a really interesting time to experiment with that genre and to see where I can go with music. I saw a lot of opportunities with co-writing music for others and producing my own music. I have seen versions of my music going towards ethereal, sub-electronic folk-esque styles. I also did some collaborations with Capre, and we've got a single coming out next year, so it's really exciting. Then I did some performances for another electronic artist called Trace Decay, who I met through Phameon last year — I'd go on stage for him and sing one of his songs... he also played bass in my band for a bit either.

**How about this year? Are you working with a band?**

I've been testing out different musicians; it's really important to get the right vibe. Actually, thanks to Vermilion connections, I had my first band formed for my music, and they were a very, very good band. This year, I now have a different band that supports my music; they are also a very good band.

I'm lucky to know a great community of musicians to perform my music live with.

Thanks to COVID forcing me to think of other ways I can perform, I also like having a rehearsed duo and trio performance in case performing with a band for a show isn't financially feasible.

**What are the challenges for trying to make it as a musician?**

I think performing music in Australia is already a huge difficulty because of its large landmass and there are only 3 main cities on the east coast, to go to before traveling 5 hours to the west coast; touring just isn't financially feasible at the moment unless you're an A-grade artist.

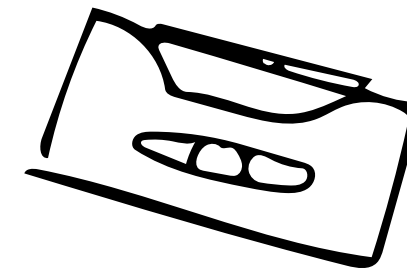
The next challenge is finding your own authenticity in a very dense market, as we all know — if you're putting out music, and you're not marketing your music, you're kind of just essentially throwing it into an endless sea of other new music. Not marketing your music, and not marketing authentically loses the potential for your music to be seen and heard. AND then there is TikTok, which is the most common platform where new artists are being discovered, which requires artists to create authentic content that ties their music with the brand and their brand with their audience. Successful artists that are getting discovered have a really strong online presence; they have trust with their audience and they have very clear brand pillars.

**What advice would you have for emerging artists?**

If it's not fun, don't do it; my mentor told me that last week, and it's great advice. At the end of the day, the music is the most important thing. Don't quit your day job; it's important to have a stable income, make good music, collaborate, meet other musicians, get to know your music lecturers and try out other creative projects that will exercise and grow your music skills."



# THE MUSIC HOUSE



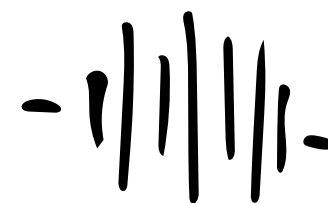
By Max Muir & Samuel Rety

The Music House is the all-encompassing name for a few students in Vermilion Records taking on the prompt work from other Arts projects. The prompts presented to the students range from short opening jingles and intro themes to full orchestral scores, synth pieces, vlog music, and beyond. The students in the Music House strive to provide what is requested of them to the highest standard they can.

Last semester the Music House produced a library of over 100 samples of music and are continuing to expand the collection. The Music House Library has a unique property that sets it apart from other royalty free sound libraries: the ability to contact the composer of any given track. Contacting the composer allows specific adjustments and alterations to the Library's tracks to suit the needs of a project. In this way, the Music House Library is designed to be far more adaptable than the average sound library.

Along with contributing to the library, some Music House students also participate in interdisciplinary practice by composing music for films and animations. Currently, various Music House students are working

on a total of five media projects: three films and two animations. The Music House is great at establishing interdisciplinary networks that are mutually beneficial for directors and composers. It is our hope that these connections lead to future collaborations beyond the scope of Vermilion.





# SEMESTER

## Dublin Rose at The Junk Bar

Supported by Joe's Band and Serendipiti, Dublin Rose headlined the first Vermilion performance in Semester 2 2023. Performing to a sold-out crowd, Dublin, Joe's Band, and Serendipiti were very well received by audiences.

## Laura Forden at The End Bar (ft, Dublin and Jorja)

Laura Forden had her first performance of the semester at The End Bar on the 14th of September 2023. Laura was supported by incredible Vermilion artists Dublin Rose and Jorja B.

## Folk Night at The End Bar

Vermilion artist Sofia Cirino had the opportunity to support Brisbane bands, Thursday Maybe and Love Street for their Folk Night on 27 September at The End Bar.

## Jorja B at the Junk Bar

Headlining her first performance of the semester, Jorja B performed to a sell-out crowd at The Junk Bar on 7 October 2023. Jorja was supported by fellow Vermilion artist, Maira.

## La Boite Performances

Performing a little closer to home, select Vermilion artists also had the opportunity to perform for QUT students and community at La Boite. These events featured Sofia Cirino on the 23rd of August and Glass Crow on the 30th of August.



## Vermilion High Showcase

Each year, Vermilion Records takes on at least six high school students, who were selected from an auditioned pool, to participate in Vermilion High. This year, six very talented high school students were showcased at the Reload Espresso Bar on 15 October.

## Vermilion Fest (Vermilion Records Showcase)

The most anticipated event of the Vermilion calendar occurred on the 19th of October 2023 at Ric's Backyard.

## Vermilion Presents

Continuing a Vermilion tradition, this semester six of our artists recorded and filmed their Vermilion Presents videos, a live studio recording of both a cover and an original song! For the first time, Presents were mixed live, with a live studio audience.

# BEHIND THE SCENES



While the artists of Vermilion Records shine under the spotlight, there are many people that work behind the scenes to help make everything happen. From the Vermilion High Team, Music House, and the Live Events Team, to Content Creation, Film, and Social Media Management, countless members of Vermilion all work hard in their respective areas towards the same goal of sharing what our artists have to offer. See our team (well... most of us) below! We hope all of our efforts this semester are evident to our supporters at the Vermilion High Showcase and Vermilion Fest. Thank you to everyone that dedicated their time to the Vermilion Records Project this semester. On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in producing Issue 2 of 2023. Finally, we would like to thank you, the reader for supporting Vermilion Records and showing an interest in what we do. None of this would matter without you. If you wish to know more about all things Vermilion, please feel free to visit our website at **[vermilionrecords.com](https://vermilionrecords.com)**. We look forward to your ongoing support. Thank you!

*Marjani Abdur-Raheem, Chief Editor*



*Kristina Kelman, Rafael Cancino Garcia, Jake Fink, Lialize du Plessis, Konstantin Simonov, Max Muir, Thomas Wilkinson, Samuel Rety, Henry Dollar, Ella Jones, Jack Woolrych, Jemima Laag, Will McFarlane, Jack Lestone, Tex Keane-Cullen, Caleb Chambers, Cristina Richards, Patrick McClement, Angie Koranski, Emma Burchell, Marjani Abdur-Raheem, Laura Edwards, Lilly Jones, Kai Giovanni Oreta, Sam Webster, Ella Gesler, Alana J. Heaton, Dinah Azhar, Amy Marks, Duong Tu Vy Tran (Hannah), Riley Higgins, Jake Rennie, Oliver North, Thomas Bernal*



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