

Title

Amira McCormick

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Ellora Devulapally

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Riana Doctor

Playlists from a Computer Science Major

MUSIC: A Polarizing Experience

After years of teases, fake drop dates, and an agonizing wait of four and a half years, Playboi Carti has finally released his third studio album, MUSIC. As one of the most anticipated hip-hop albums in recent history, MUSIC arrived with monumental hype due to Carti's massive influence and the long gap since his last album, Whole Lotta Red, which dropped on December 25, 2020. With an ambitious 30-track, 77-minute runtime, the album promises a deep dive into Carti's ever-evolving sound, but the reactions from fans and critics have been anything but uni-

Personal Take on MUSIC

Despite the extreme reactions, I think MUSIC is a strong album overall. Carti continues to bring an energy and sound that is entirely and uniquely his own, showcasing his influence on the modern hip-hop landscape. The album's length, while daunting, is made more digestible thanks to a solid lineup of featured artists (Kendrick Lamar, Travis Scott, Lil Uzi Vert, The Weeknd, Future, etc.), each adding their own flavor and preventing fatigue from setting in. However, the sheer weight of expectation surrounding this album inevitably led to some disappointment. When an album is hyped up as the next great masterpiece, it's almost impossible to satisfy every fan, and in that sense, the backlash and negative view of some listeners is somewhat understandable.

Must-Listen Tracks

- "Rather Lie" (feat. The Weeknd) (8.5/10)
- "Good Credit" (feat. Kendrick Lamar & DJ Swamp Izzo) (8/10)
- "Evil Jordan" (8.5/10)

Seungwoo Baik

A Love or Hate Experience

From the moment the album hit streaming platforms, reactions have been polarizingly divided. Some fans hail it as one of the greatest hip-hop albums ever, praising its unique production, Carti's signature energy, and the fresh collaborations. Others, however, see it as an overlong disappointment, arguing that the hype was impossible to live up to. This stark division is evident in audience ratings: Google reviews show that about 45% of listeners gave it a perfect 5/5, while nearly 40% rated it a 1/5, marking it as one of the most controversial releases in recent memory.

Final Thoughts

MUSIC is far from a perfect album, but it successfully delivers what Playboi Carti does best—unfiltered energy, unique production, and a vibe that few artists can replicate. While the expectations may have been too high for any artist to meet, MUSIC still provides a thrilling experience for those willing to embrace it. Although I won't be adding to my playlist quite a few tracks from the album, a handful of songs have definitely lived up to the hype for me, and that alone makes it a great harvest. Whether you love it or hate it, one thing is certain: Carti remains one of the most talked-about and influential figures in modern hip-hop.

Personal Favorites

- "Philly" (feat. Travis Scott) (7/10)
- "Trim" (feat. Future) (8/10)
- "Radar (prod. Metro Boomin)" (8/10)



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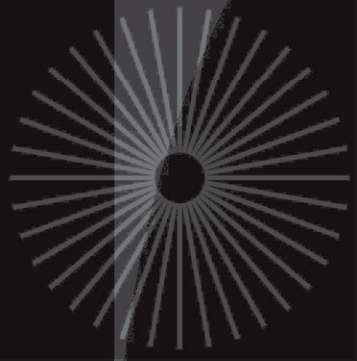


Side B is dedicated to the display of student appreciation of music at Davidson College. We provide a platform for students to share the ways music impacts their lives, and we encourage everyone to share their unique musical perspectives, no matter one's academic discipline.



Upcoming Albums

- MAY 9
Arcade Fire, Pink Elephant
- MAY 16
Damiano David, of a Lost World
The Cure, Mixes the Trees
Hearts, Talkin' to Neil Young and the Chrome
- JUNE 6
Addison Rae, Beautiful Something
- JUNE 13
Maren Morris, Dreamsicle
Fancy That
- JUNE 20
Morgan Wallen, I'm the Problem
Haim, I Quit
- MAY 23
Joe Jonas, Music for People Who Believe in Love
AVICII, AVICII Forever



Fall Risk by Zach Mordan



Album Reviewed: Astro Lounge

While many know Smash Mouth for their hit song "All Star", a prominent feature in the movie Shrek, you might not have heard of the record that the hit came off of. Their sophomore album *Astro Lounge* is a great piece of American rock, and I find it reminds me of contemporaries like Good Charlotte or Myx. The second song, "Diggin' Your Scene", probably my favorite off the album, has that classic 90s California pop rock sound and it's quite catchy with great lyrics. Another one, "Can't Get Enough of You Baby", is a cover song, originally by the vocal quartet The Four Seasons, but Smash Mouth brings their own flair to it. With Steve Harwell's vocals and the band's own sound, it's one of those covers that's quite different from the original song, but is equally awesome in its own way. "Then The Morning Comes" is another song that just begs to be jammed out to. Both the band's sound and lyrics on this album are fun for listeners, and I urge anyone that might find this album interesting to give it a listen.