

MANIFESTATION PRESENTS



THE PHOENAUX

March 2024

8

COMPELLING
ENTITIES

JAREAM
CHRIS ROYALE
GRZZ
THEONLYAB
BRAZY
MICKSHONTAY
HOYBLANKS

APRIL
EDITION
#1

HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF THE NEW WAVE OF
TALENT TAKING THE WORLD BY STORM



LINK PAGE

THE PHOENAUX PLAYLIST



You can click each
@ name to follow
them on Instagram
and you can also
click the name of
their song to add it
to your playlist.



JAREAM

@IMJAREAM

TOO EASY

IN "TOO EASY," YOU EXPRESS A STRONG SENSE OF AMBITION AND CONFIDENCE. CAN YOU SHARE THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OR MINDSET THAT INFLUENCED THE CREATION OF SUCH EMPOWERING LYRICS?

I WOKE UP ONE DAY AND HAD A SMALL LITTLE PAYMENT FROM DISTRIBUTION, THAT PAYMENT WAS DWARFED BY WHAT I RECEIVED ON MY OWN PLATFORMS. I ALSO HAD A CLIENT COMING TO RECORD MUSIC AND GOT PAID FOR THAT AS WELL AS DESIGNING COVER ART. I WOKE UP WITH ONE AMOUNT AND BEFORE I EVEN STEPPED OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR LUNCH I HAD ALREADY DOUBLED THAT MONEY. ALL WITHOUT CLOCKING INTO A 9-5. AND TRANSPARENTLY SPEAKING WHEN I WORK FOR MYSELF I EARN MORE MONEY BY THE HOUR. I DON'T MIND THE GRIND, BUT A MONEY FLOW IS BETTER. I REMEMBER JUST TELLING MYSELF I WANNA GET PAID EVERY DAY FUCK BI-WEEKLY.

THAT BI-WEEKLY SHIT CAN BE A GREAT RESOURCE BUT IT CAN VERY RARELY BREAK FINANCIAL BARRIERS. THAT'S BY DESIGN THO BY THE POWERS AT BE. BUT DON'T GET ME STARTED.



AB

@THEONYLYAB

RIDE WITH ME

COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT INSPIRED RIDE WITH ME? IT SEEMS LIKE THERE HAD TO BE A TON OF REAL LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES OCCURRING?

RIDE WITH ME WAS HONESTLY KIND OF A LAZY SONG FOR ME. I WASN'T REALLY IN THE MOOD TO RECORD AT THE TIME, JUST WASN'T INSPIRED. OUT OF THAT FEELING, I CAME UP WITH THE HOOK " I HATE WHEN I FEEL THIS WAY" AND THE SONG KIND OF CAME TOGETHER FROM THERE.

CONGRATULATIONS AS WELL ON YOUR NEW PARTNERSHIP. AS I SEE THAT YOU ARE NOW AN AFFILIATE WITH THE BIG O AND THE AWESOME LIKES OF KING KHALIL. COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT THAT'S BEEN LIKE FOR YOU SO FAR ?

THE BIG O HAS BEEN AMAZING. THE WHOLE GROUP IS SO SUPPORTIVE AND AMAZING TALENTS. EVERYBODY HAS DIFFERENT STRENGTHS AND WE ALL UP LIFT EACH OTHER. IT'S A FAMILY DYNAMIC IN MUSIC I FELT BEFORE BUT THIS EXPERIENCE IS HEIGHTENED. IT FEELS NEXT LEVEL.



AB

@THEONYLYAB

RIDE WITH ME

I ALSO FIND YOU TO BE INCREDIBLY UNIQUE IN YOUR DELIVERY BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK SETS YOUR MUSIC APART FROM OTHERS IN THE RAP GENRE?

MY MUSIC SETS ME APART FROM OTHERS BECAUSE I STAY IN MY LANE. I'M PATIENT WITH MY MUSIC AND I MAKE SURE I FEEL WHAT I PUT OUT. EVERY SONG HAS A STORY AND EVERY BAR IS FACTS! I LIKE TO POP MY SHIT IN A WAY THAT IS SO SAUCY, IT'S UNDENIABLE. MINIMAL METAPHORS AND PUNCH LINES BUT MORE FOCUS ON FLOW AND WORD PLAY.



BRAZY

@IUPBRAZY

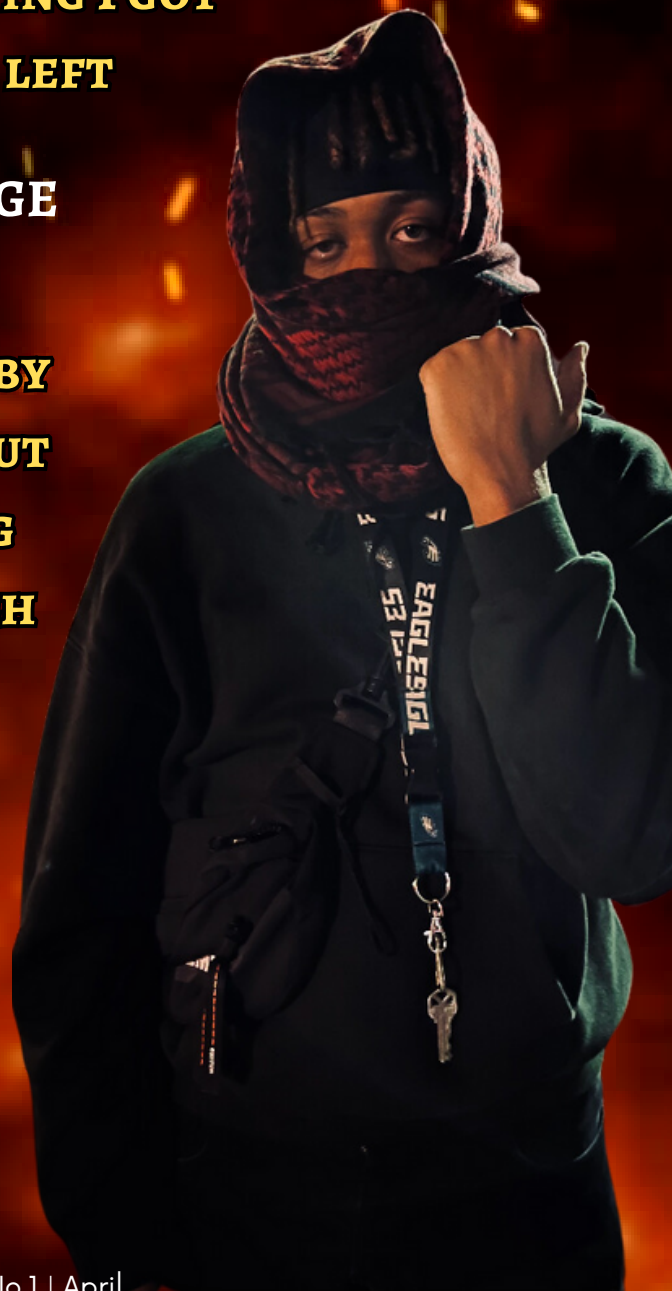
TRYNA GET RICH
BIGGER UP

HOW DO YOU STAY CREATIVE AND INSPIRED WHEN FACING CHALLENGES IN YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY?

JUST REALLY STICKING TO MYSELF KNOWING I GOT A MISSION I CAN'T FAIL THIS IS ALL I GOT LEFT

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR NEW AGE SOUND ?

I DESCRIBE MYSELF IN ANY TYPE OF RAP BY FEELINGS IF I FEEL SAVAGE IMA RAP ABOUT SOMETHING RAGE IF I'M SAD I'M RAPPING ABOUT MY PAIN BUT MY GOAL IS TO MATCH MY ENERGY THRU MY MUSIC SO PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND ME



GRZZ

@CRZEGRZZ

STUPID MONEY SMART MOVES

WHO ARE YOUR MUSICAL INSPIRATIONS? WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR MUSIC MOST?

WHILE RIDING AROUND WITH MY FATHER I WAS LISTENING TO ARTISTS LIKE NAS , DAMIAN MARLEY , LUPE FIASCO AND BLACKSTARS . WHILE WITH MY MOM I LISTENED TO ARTISTS LIKE WAYNE , EVE , ASHANTI , SWV , MONICA AND DESTINY'S CHILD. THOSE 2 LISTS OF ARTISTS DON'T EVEN TELL HALF OF THE STORY AS I GREW UP IN HOUSEHOLDS THAT INFLUENCED A VERY VERSATILE MUSIC TASTE. IF YOU NAME AN ARTIST I CAN PROBABLY SAY I KNOW A FAIR AMOUNT OF THEIR DISCOGRAPHY.

GROWING UP IN AN ERA THAT CONSTANTLY HAD CHANNELS PLAYING MUSIC VIDEOS GAVE ME A CHANCE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I PERSONALLY LIKED AS WELL. IN A NUTSHELL GOOD MUSIC IS WHAT INSPIRED ME . GOOD MUSIC IS VERY SUBJECTIVE SO I CAN BE DRAWN TO MUSIC BY LYRICS , INSTRUMENTALS , FLOWS OR EVEN HOW IT SOUNDS SONICALLY . I AM A FAN OF THE CURRENT MUSIC AND APPRECIATE THE EVOLUTION OF HIP HOP BEING AS THOUGH THE GENRE IS ONLY ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD. THE IDEA OF ONE BEING ABLE TO EXPRESS THROUGH SOUNDS IS INSPIRING TO ME AND IT'S BEAUTIFUL HOW FREE MUSIC CAN MAKE YOU FEEL.



GRZZ

@CRZEGRZZ

STUPID MONEY SMART MOVES

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING ARTISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO FIND THEIR UNIQUE SOUND?

MY ADVICE TO ASPIRING ARTIST WOULD BE TO CREATE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES . PUTTING YOURSELF IN A BOX HINDERS YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS . ALSO IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE INSPIRED BECAUSE NOTHING REALLY NEW , WE JUST CREATE OUR OWN VERSION OF THINGS AND MIX AND MATCH THINGS WE'VE LOVED THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES . BEING A CREATOR CAN BE OVERWHELMING AND IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE . IT CAN BE NERVE WRACKING TO TAKE YOUR CREATIONS AND PUT THEM INTO THE WORLD FOR ANYONE TO JUDGE. ALWAYS MAKE MUSIC FOR YOURSELF FIRST BUT DON'T BE AFRAID OF OPINIONS BECAUSE EVERYONE HAS THEM AND THAT'S OK. NEVER DO IT FOR THE VIEWS ... DO IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE IT. IF YOU GET 50 VIEWS , LIKE OR POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS , IMAGINE IF 50 PEOPLE STOOD IN FRONT OF YOU AND SAID "WOW I LOVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING!." ALL IN ALL APPRECIATE YOUR ART AND SMILE ABOUT THE LOVE THAT YOU DO GET INSTEAD OF THE LOVE THAT YOU DON'T



CHRIS ROYALE

@CHRISROYALE215

Back

I'VE SEEN YOU LIVE AND I'VE LISTENED TO YOUR CATALOG AND I MUST SAY YOU HAVE TO BE ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE ARTIST OUT RIGHT NOW. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANY STYLE OR GENRE YOU CAN'T DO. HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT EVOLVING YOUR STYLE SINCE THE START OF YOUR MUSIC CAREER?

I GREW UP LISTENING TO WIDE RANGES OF MUSIC THAT CAUGHT MY EAR AND CAPTIVATED MY IMAGINATION SO I DECIDED TO CREATE BASED ON WHAT I FEEL RATHER THAN WHATEVER STYLE THE WORLD MAY CATER TO.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW SOUNDS WHILE MAINTAINING A COHESIVE IDENTITY IN YOUR MUSIC?

I TREAT MY SOUND LIKE THE CLOTHES I WEAR. I HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF OUTFITS, BUT NO ONE CAN PUT THOSE OUTFITS TOGETHER AND ROCK THEM LIKE ME. THAT'S MY IDENTITY MAINTENANCE PERSONIFIED.



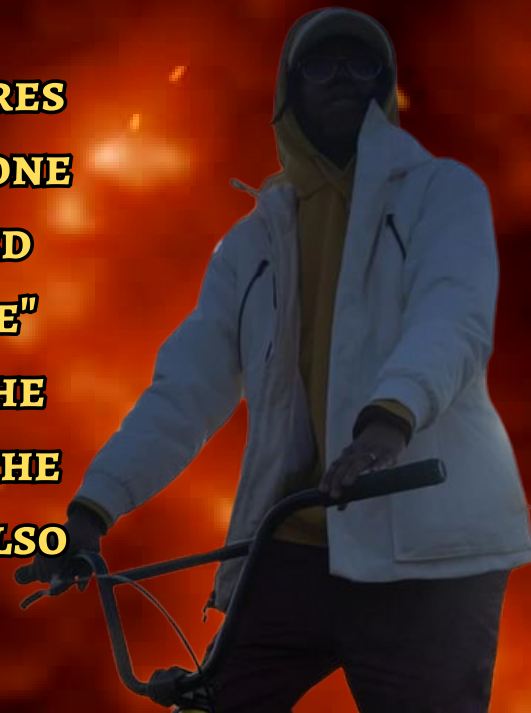
MICK SHONTAY

@MICKSHONTAY

Light A Candle

WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES PLAY IN YOUR MUSIC?

AS A MUSICIAN, I DRAW FROM MY OWN LIFE EXPERIENCES, ESPECIALLY GROWING UP AS A BLACK KID IN NORTH PHILLY IN THE EARLY 2000S. IN MY SONG, I TALK ABOUT LIVING IN AN ABANDONED HOUSE ("BANDO") WHERE THINGS WERE ... CRAZY TO SAY THE LEAST. THE HOOK "WE WAS LIVING IN A BANDO, THE LIGHTS OFF, LIGHT A CANDLE, SETTING FIRE LIKE SOME VANDALS" SYMBOLIZES THE CHAOTIC ENVIRONMENT I GREW UP IN, INCLUDING TWO FIRES THAT HAPPENED THERE—ONE ON PURPOSE AND ONE BY ACCIDENT. DESPITE THE SITUATIONS I'VE LIVED THROUGH, THE LINE "LIGHTS OFF, LIGHT A CANDLE" SHOWS FINDING STRENGTH AND HOPE EVEN IN THE DARKEST SITUATIONS. MY LYRICS AIM TO SHOW THE CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE LIKE ME WHILE ALSO SHARING A MESSAGE OF RESILIENCE.



MICK SHONTAY

@MICKSHONTAY

Light A Candle

LIGHT A CANDLE IS A HARD HITTING INVITATION TO YOUR LIFE AND STORY. WE ALL APPRECIATE THE TRANSPARENCY IN YOUR ART. WHAT MESSAGE ARE YOU HOPING STRIKES MOST IN THIS RECORD?

THANK YOU. DESPITE THE HARDSHIPS AND CHALLENGES DEPICTED IN "LIGHT A CANDLE", I WANT LISTENERS TO FEEL EMPOWERED BY THE MESSAGE OF PERSEVERANCE AND FINDING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS. ULTIMATELY, I HOPE THAT MY MUSIC RESONATES WITH OTHERS WHO MAY HAVE FACED SIMILAR STRUGGLES AND INSPIRES THEM TO KEEP PUSHING FORWARD, NO MATTER THE OBSTACLES THEY ENCOUNTER.



MICK SHONTAY

@MICKSHONTAY

Light A Candle

ARE THERE SPECIFIC TOPICS OR CAUSES YOU ARE PARTICULARLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I AM PARTICULARLY FOCUSED ON ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FACING ADVERSITY. GROWING UP IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS, LIKE I DID, CAN HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF YOUTH. I AM DEDICATED TO PROMOTING ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES THAT ADDRESS THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING COUNSELING, THERAPY, AND SUPPORT GROUPS, AS PART OF HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. IN MY SONG "LIGHT A CANDLE," I PAINT A RAW PICTURE OF THE STRUGGLES FACED BY YOUTH GROWING UP IN ADVERSITY, LIKE POVERTY, FAMILY CHALLENGES, AND EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE AND ADDICTION.



MICK SHONTAY

@MICKSHONTAY

Light A Candle

THE LINE "GRANNY GOT ME IN CHURCH EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HER I DIDN'T WANNA GO. WE BEEN 3 DAYS IN A ROW, SHE WAS REALLY TRYNA SAVE MY SOUL, CAUSE WE WAS LIVING IN A BANDO" ADDS DEPTH TO THIS NARRATIVE, ILLUSTRATING THE EFFORTS OF CAREGIVERS LIKE MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND HOPE AMIDST THE CHAOS.

DESPITE RESISTANCE, GRANNY'S PERSISTENCE IN TRYING TO SAVE MY SOUL SPEAKS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY. BY

ADVOCATING FOR OVERALL HEALTH SUPPORT AND COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, I AIM TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE FACING SIMILAR

CIRCUMSTANCES TO OVERCOME THEIR CHALLENGES, BUILD RESILIENCE, AND FIND HOPE IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES.

THROUGH MY MUSIC, I STRIVE TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AND INSPIRE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF MARGINALIZED YOUTH.



A.M.P DOO

@Dooski

All In

CAN YOU SHARE SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS WHEN MAKING MUSIC? DO YOU START WITH LYRICS FIRST OR DO YOU BEGIN WITH TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT INSTRUMENTAL

USUALLY WHEN I GO ABOUT IT I JUST LOOK FOR BEATS. IM BIG ON FINDING THE PERFECT SOUND TO MATCH THE DIRECTION I WANNA GO. I MIGHT SPEND HOURS LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT SOUND SOMETIMES. IT'LL BE TIMES IM LOOKIN FOR A CERTAIN VIBE AND I MIGHT FIND A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ONE BY ACCIDENT AND START BRAINSTORMING ON TWO DIFFERENT ONES. ONCE I FIND A SOUND I LIKE I IMMEDIATELY START THE WRITING PROCESS, I NEVER BEEN THE FREESTYLE TYPE BULL. IT IS TIMES WHERE I DO COME UP WITH RANDOM WORDPLAY WITH NO BEAT AND I'LL JUST START BUILDING ON IT UNTIL I FIND BEAT THAT I LIKE. IM A PERFECTIONIST TOO SO IF I REALLY LIKE SOMETHING I CAME UP WITH I'LL SIT ON IT TILL I FEEL ITS PERFECTED.



A.M.P DOO

@Dooski

All In

DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING A PERFECTIONIST HELPS OR HURTS YOUR CRAFT?

I THINK IT COULD HURT AND HELP FOREAL FOREAL. IT DEFINITELY CAN GET U CAUGHT UP THINKING AND PROLONGING WHATEVER YOU DOING. ON THE FLIP SIDE, I CAN'T TELL U HOW MANY TIMES I WENT BACK AND FIXED SOME STUFF OR MADE MINOR TWEAKS AND MADE A SONG OR PROJECT THAT MUCH BETTER. ITS LIKE THAT DOUBLE EDGED SWORD BUT IF YOU FACILITATE IT RIGHT BEING A PERFECTIONIST CAN PAY OFF.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE , DO YOU HAVE ANY UPCOMING PROJECTS OR RELEASES PLANNED ?

NOTHING PLANNED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE BUT I DO GOT SOME SH*T READY, I STILL GOT SOME TO RECORD SO I'LL HAVE THE PERFECT MIX TO RELEASE A PERFECT PRODUCT. YOU NEVER KNOW WITH ME THO, SOMETIMES ME AND MY GUY LOS GET IN A BAG WHERE HE MIGHT RECORD SOMETHING FOR ME AND WE'LL HEAR IT AND VIBE AND DROP THAT SHIT RIGHT AWAY.



FREDDY HOYBLANKS

@HoyBlanks

Time 2 Run

IS THERE A SPECIFIC MESSAGE OR EMOTION YOU HOPE THE AUDIENCE TAKES AWAY FROM YOUR MUSIC?

THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE I WANT MY AUDIENCE TO TAKE AWAY FROM MY MUSIC IS TO KEEP ON GOING. NEVER GIVE UP NO MATTER WHAT, LIFE WILL THROW YOU MANY CURVE BALLS. SOME DAYS WILL BE GOOD SOME DAYS WILL BE GREAT, AND SOME DAYS WILL BE HARD. YOU WON'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT BUT GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN EVERYTHING WE NEED. KEEP GETTING UP NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU FAIL. KEEP PURSUING YOUR DREAMS AND GOALS. GROWTH IS IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS. AND ALWAYS KEEP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOT. WITH HIM ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.



FREDDY HOYBLANKS

@HoyBLANKS

Time 2 Run

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW MOST ABOUT YOU AS AN ARTIST?

I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT I'M JUST LIKE YOU. I CAME FROM A TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN BROOKLYN, NY. AT ONE TIME WE HAD 11 FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING WITH US. I'M NO DIFFERENT THAN THE AVERAGE MAN. MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME TO LOVE GOD. SHE ALSO ALWAYS TOLD ME ANYTHING I PUT MY MIND TO I CAN ACHIEVE, ANYTHING YOU SEE ME DOING CAME FROM HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE. I LOVED MUSIC SO I WORKED AT MY CRAFT UNTIL I WAS ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING OUT OF IT. I FOLLOWED MY HEART, THIS IS THE REASON I AM WHO I AM TODAY.



FREDDY HOYBLANKS

@HoyBlanks

Time 2 Run

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO EMBRACE LIVE RENDITIONS OF YOUR MUSIC, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE WIDESPREAD TREND OF LIVE PERFORMANCES OFTEN RELYING ON THE ORIGINAL STUDIO RECORDING IN TODAY'S MUSIC LANDSCAPE?

WHAT MOTIVATED ME MOST WAS MY UPBRINGING. MOST OF MY FAMILY ARE MUSICIANS. I PLAY DRUMS ALSO. GROWING UP SO CLOSE TO MUSIC ALWAYS PUSHED ME TO WANT TO INCORPORATE LIVE INSTRUMENTS. I LOVE THE WAY THE INSTRUMENTS SOUND WHEN I'M CREATING. I DON'T THINK IT HAS MUCH TO DO WITH THE TRENDS OF TODAY, IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT'S A PART OF ME. IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO EMBRACE LIVE INSTRUMENTS AND ADD IT TO MY MUSIC.



JUST RELEASED



THANKS FOR READING

Take the time to follow and support these amazing artists. A little bit of love goes a long way.

-The Phoenix

