

# POP FLASH.



Blackpink are *officially* in your area.

Even though the K-pop girl group released a Japanese studio album named after that signature phrase back in 2018, mostly as a means of collecting all their singles to date, this past Friday marked their formal debut full-length, ceremoniously titled *The Album*. Kicking off said album with the highest-charting female K-pop single to date, “Ice Cream,” a collaboration with Selena Gomez released in late August, the record is already having a huge impact during a year where pop stadium tours have been placed on hold due to the pandemic.

Following the examples of Charli XCX and Taylor Swift before them, Blackpink wrote and recorded *The Album* during the pandemic, with all four members, Jennie (Kim), Lisa (Lalisa Manoban), Rosé (Chae-young Park), and Jisoo (Ji-soo Kim), singing in English, save a few Korean verses here and there. Though American and other English-speaking audiences are growing more and more accustomed to singing along to pop songs in other languages — due not just to the influx of Latinx pop, but other K-Pop groups like BTS — the increased accessibility of lyrics can’t hurt. Not that anything was holding them back in the first place, it’s almost hard to keep up with the speed at which the group’s songs break and set records when it comes to [most streamed and most watched](#).

— Caitlin White, Uproxx Pop Critic, on Blackpink’s [massive debut, \*The Album\*](#)

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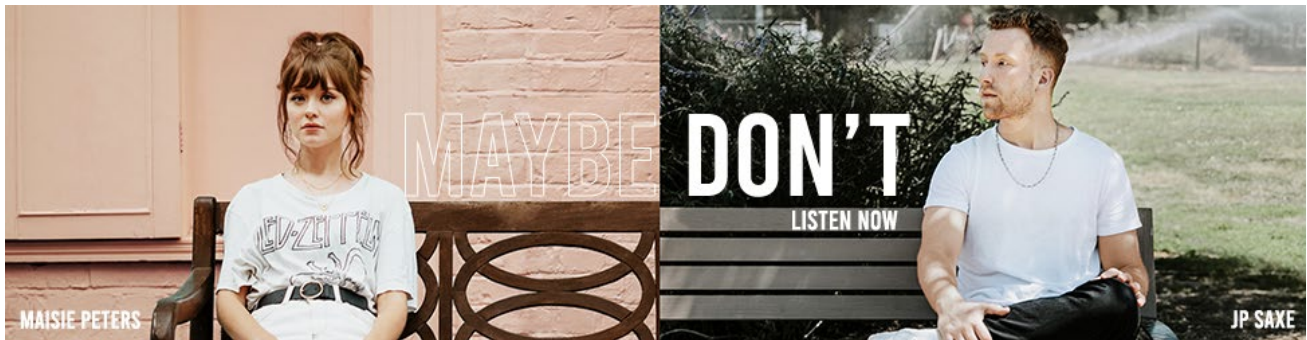
## NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



## TRAVIS SCOTT

Travis Scott did something that's almost unthinkable in a year that's totally devoid of his signature raucous stadium shows — he brought the house down on a *Billboard* record without a crowd in sight. Debuting not one, not two, but *three* songs at No. 1 in the span of a year, his latest gargantuan single “Franchise,” features both Young Thug and MIA, becoming the first-ever No. 1 for Maya and second for Thugger. Following up October 2019’s “Highest In The Room” and his May 2020 single, “The Scotts,” featuring Kid Cudi, this third chart-topper cements Travis as not just a hip-hop star, but a full-fledged, mainstream pop force. And Scott aside, damn does it feel good to hear MIA talking her shit again.

**LISTEN**



## BUBBLING UNDER



## TAYLA PARX

After co-writing with superstar artists like Ariana Grande, Panic! At The Disco, and plenty of others, and releasing her own incredible debut album *We Need To Talk* in 2019, Tayla Parx has returned with a brief three-song cover EP, *A Blue State*, proving she's versatile enough to shine not just as a songwriter, but solely as a performer, too. Covering "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye, "Everything Is Everything" by Lauryn Hill, and "I Smile" by Kirk Franklin, Tayla offers her take on classic songs of empowerment and courage in the face of adversity. These aren't easy songs to make your own, but her personality and voice are big enough to take them on.

LISTEN

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 'JAGGED LITTLE PILL' by ALANIS MORISSETTE



If it was 1995, this would be the day before one of the most important moments in Alanis Morissette's life. Sure, maybe Gen Z isn't as familiar with the hits off *Jagged Little Pill* as Millennials, but there are still plenty of teens who are reaping the benefits of the Alanis influence in a new wave of feminist pop and rock stars. In early October back in the mid-90s, Morissette's third album was about to hit the No. 1 spot on the *Billboard* chart, going on to sell over 30 million copies and become the best-selling album ever released by a woman.

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## LOVE LETTERS



## BISHOP BRIGGS

Bishop Briggs has steadily been building a cult following since her 2016 breakout hit “River” catapulted her to the realms of indie music royalty. Releasing a steady stream of similarly catchy, explosive anthems — including two full-length albums in 2018 and 2019 — Briggs has taken the potential weariness of quarantine and channeled it into the kind of uplifting pop song that can cure even the worst case of helplessness blues. Throw on “Higher” during the dog days of 2020 and watch your depression scamper away, staved off by the sheer force of her energetic alto. It’s not a song that reaches for happiness without acknowledging the darkness, but does so in spite of it. If there’s any song that can pull you out of a slump, it’s this brand new banger.



LISTEN



- 1 **FRANCHISE (feat. Young Thug & M.I.A.)**  
Travis Scott, Young Thug, M.I.A.
- 2 **Bet You Wanna (feat. Cardi B)**  
BLACKPINK, Cardi B
- 3 **Better**  
ZAYN
- 4 **Passive Aggressive**  
Charlotte Cardin
- 5 **High Hopes (feat. Omar Apollo)**  
Joji, Omar Apollo

PLAY



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