

POP FLASH.



Chromatica is an album that constructs an entire world of glittering, pathos-driven bangers, each and every one of them ripe for both official and unofficial remixes, each and every one of them a full-blown, no-holds-barred pop song. Mother Monster knew her limit and that a return to form was necessary, and the songs on *Chromatica* — which is apparently a new planet/universe she constructed to escape this one — still rely heavily on earth’s tried and true house music as a backbone. Even the orchestral interludes – not one, not two, but three — help showcase the bangers through elegant juxtaposition that, in the case of transitions like “Chromatica II” into “911,” enhance the whole listening process through dramatic effect.

Yet, *Chromatica* is not an easy listening album that immediately hits every sweet spot the first time through. In true Gaga fashion, some of the songs are remarkably sad, and in even truer Gaga fashion, plenty of them make absolutely no sense lyrically, sometimes venturing into a hodgepodge of symbols that are never fully fleshed out (See “Alice,” “1000 Doves,” and “Sine From Above,” to name a few). But if it manages to do anything, *Chromatica* creates a specific world and a distinct sound that’s the most cohesive sonic statement she’s released since 2011.

— Caitlin White, Uproxx Pop Critic on Lady Gaga’s long-awaited return to form, [Chromatica](#).

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Ways You Can Help

When You're Done: Educate Yourself. This Doesn't Go
Away Once The Topic Isn't "Trending."

NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



DABABY + RODDY RICCH

Though the double trouble combinations of Beyonce and Megan Thee Stallion with “Savage” Remix and Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande with “Rain On Me” dominated the No. 1 spot on the chart for the last two weeks, DaBaby and Roddy Ricch are back in the saddle this week. And it’s easy to hear why — “Rockstar” has sweet strings, autotuned vocals, and the extremely resonant lyric “f*ck a cop car” right there in the hook. It’s hard to top that during a moment when the Black Lives Matter movement is seeking sweeping, monumental change against the corrupt pervasiveness of targeted police violence, no matter how many synchronized dance moves Ari and Lady Gaga have, or how perfect Beyonce’s lyric about jumping to put jeans on. But things aren’t all bad for Lady Gaga — *Chromatica* hit No. 1 on the album chart, becoming her sixth album to debut there.

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THE NEW SINGLE FROM
TONES AND I
LISTEN NOW

BUBBLING UNDER



GORDI

Gordi — an Australian singer-songwriter who got her break in college when Triple J played some of her early songs — is set to release her second full-length album with Jagjaguwar, and *Our Two Skins* hits a sweet spot between Lorde's accessible emotionalism and Bon Iver's moody layering. After spending years in medical school and working as a doctor up until last year, Gordi, aka Sophie Payten, also realized she was queer, fell in love with a woman, and blew up her longterm safe

relationship to pursue her new feelings. Set against this backdrop, her new record is both tumultuous and self-assured, and incredibly beautiful to boot. Plenty of pop fans will already know Gordi from her appearance on Troye Sivan's "Postcard" — the rest will know her soon enough for her solo work on this breakout album.

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REMEMBER WHEN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KANYE!



Despite this newsletter being dedicated to pop artists in particular, it's hard to imagine the music world at large without the influence of Kanye West. Right in the middle of Gemini season, his birthday yesterday is basically a music holiday. One of the biggest hip-hop artists in the world, and surely someone who helped rap become pop in plenty of ways, it's important to honor Kanye both for his past groundbreaking work and for being a Black artist who continually spoke out against those who tried to silence him and his point of view. Most of his fans were disappointed when that point of view dipped into MAGA territory, but everyone makes mistakes and here's hoping that as he grows older and wiser, Kanye at 43 will begin speaking out for the causes that resonate with the fiercely progressive minds and music listeners in America.

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LOVE LETTERS



THE 1975

It's not often that a band can drop a 22-track album and actually pull it off — but The 1975 aren't just any band. *Notes On A Conditional Form* was delayed a couple different times, but after it was released in late May, all the waiting was more than worth it. From the intro track featuring the words of teen activist Greta Thunberg, to an anguished rock tracks that rage and thrash, to their formidable sparkle-pop melodies reliably wreathed in wry lyrics, this record encapsulates the sound of 2020. It's sad but hopeful, angry but measured, tender and fearless and engaged with the world at large while still relating extremely personal narratives. If there is one album that was worth the wait of three delays, it's this one.

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This email was sent by: Warner Music Group 1633 Broadway New York, NY 10019 USA

This email was sent to: zac.gelfand@uproxx.com

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