

POP LIFE.



Sure, *Future Nostalgia* is barely two years old this spring. And sure, Dua hasn't even had the chance to really tour behind it due to the pandemic. And yes, there's been multiple reworks of the project that surely took up some of her time, like the *Club Future Nostalgia* take, and my personal favorite, the *Moonlight Edition*. But even with all of those irons in the fire, that still leaves plenty of time for Dua to have written and recorded her third album! With a potential breakup on the horizon, the freed-up schedule of the pandemic, and increasing recognition from her industry and peers, now is the time for Dua to strike. Release that epic third album midway through your world tour, and let the veteran icons know that a new star is ready to ascend.

— *Uproxx* pop critic Caitlin White on the [most anticipated albums of 2022](#), including a potential new project from Dua Lipa



NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



MARIAH CAREY

It might be a new year, but Mariah Carey is the same Hot 100 queen. Even though Christmas is over, latent holiday streams of “All I Want For Christmas (Is You)” ensured the song another week atop the *Billboard* charts. Feelin’ blue to be back in the office (or at-home office) this week? Give Carey’s tune a whirl and get lost in that magical December feeling once more. Actually, why not? Let’s just start listening to this song year-round and make it an everyday staple. Everyone can start making their Christmas lists early this year and keep Mariah up on cloud nine. At least until Taylor starts up her next nostalgia album cycle and gives us a ten-minute version of “Blank Space” that naturally goes No. 1.

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BUBBLING UNDER



ARIANA GRANDE + KID CUDI

Whether or not you've seen the film itself, a new collaboration from Ariana Grande and Kid Cudi for *Don't Look Up* is a surprisingly poignant new addition to the Ariana duet collection. Sure, "Just Look Up" is a borderline satirical song, but her vocal performance is so strong that it's hard not to kinda take it seriously. It's got that signature slow-burn beginning, a fireworks chorus, a key change, and so many vocal runs you'll almost believe Riley Bina (the fictional character) really thought it was the end of the world. Kid Cudi comes through for his triplet-laden, eerie flow, which feels like an extension of his real-world persona, too, and despite his rhymes, there's no line as fire as "listen to the g*ddamn qualified scientists." Apparently, she even ad-libbed some of these more outrageous lyrics. Ariana forever.

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THE ED SHEERAN MERCH COLLECTION

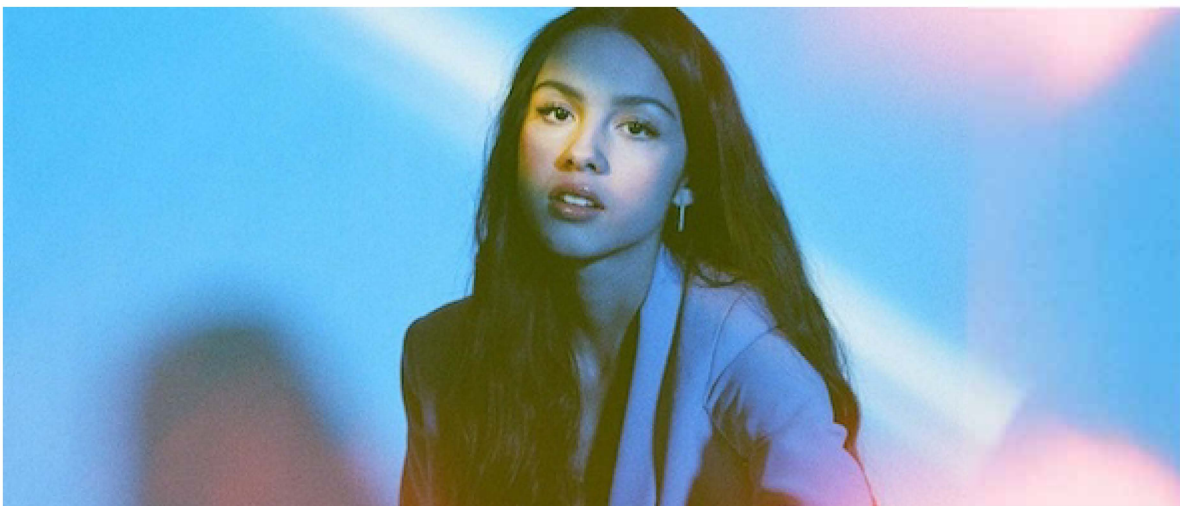


Ed Sheeran has already started rolling out dates for his 2022 'Mathematics' tour, so what better time to stock up on some merch to get ready for the shows? The Ed Sheeran collection is currently stocked with an array of tees, sweatshirts, and even pajamas!

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

REMEMBER WHEN

OLIVIA RODRIGO - "DRIVERS LICENSE"



Look, maybe it's only been one year, and typically musical anniversaries should be acknowledged when a little more time has passed... but the one-year acknowledgement of "Drivers License" feels like the most monumental pop moment of this month by a long shot.

On January 8, 2021, the career of one of the most beloved new artists was quietly launched with a breakup anthem that packed a punch as powerful as a Swiftian classic, and with the unrelenting push of TikTok, Gen Z turned Rodrigo into a Taylor peer, collaborator, and friend in no time. With the follow-up release of "Deja Vu" and "Good 4 U," Olivia proved she was no one-hit-wonder, but "Drivers License" remains the kind of debut that artists dream about. Welcome to one year of Olivia, it only gets better from here.

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LOVE LETTERS



KATY PERRY

Katy Perry just launched a new residency in Vegas, and what better way for the veteran pop star to celebrate that career milestone than an EDM-heavy new collaboration? Working with Swedish DJ Alesso, Katy is speaking directly to someone from her past on "When I'm Gone." She might be happily loved up with Orlando Bloom and their new baby, Daisy, in real life, but Perry still cosplays a jilted lover with the best of them. Add this one to your 2022 workout jams playlist, because after a

few years of more emotionally-focused, softer songs, this one launches Perry right back into certified banger territory.

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