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Short Takes (WAAX, Matthew Morgan, Lael Summer & Luca Bash)

June 17, 2015 by [Jen Dan](#)



WAAX - Photo Credit: Dane Beesley

WAAX - "I For An Eye"

Some of musicdom's still-hidden treasures reside in the land of Australia. Hot spots like Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane are bristling with talented and high-energy musical acts that deserve to be unearthed and displayed on the world's stage. One such gem is the Brisbane-based, punk-influenced rock band WAAX. Marie DeVita (vocals, keyboards), Ewan Birtwell (guitars), Tom Griffin (bass), and Tom Bloomfield (drums) bring an explosive energy and a ferocious attitude to their tunes and they just secured a coveted spot on Triple J Unearthed's playlist. Based on recent single "I For An Eye", the band's upcoming EP, which will be unleashed later this year, is going to be a corker!

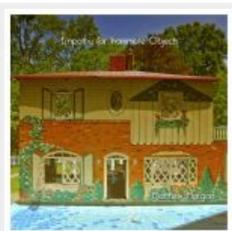
Marie commands full attention from the get-go on the electrifying "I For An Eye", launching into powerfully unhinged wailing replete with throaty throttles and breathlessly gasped out exclamations. The music matches Marie's on-the-edge vocal rampage as the hard-charging, distorted guitar buzz and resoundingly slammed drum beat and cymbals careen along with Marie while she exhorts vehemently "Why do I tell myself / I should look up to you?". It's time to look up to WAAX as a band at the forefront of the current Australian rock movement.

WAAX I For An Eye SOUNDCLOUD Convidi

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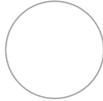
Matthew Morgan - Empathy for Inanimate Objects

Matthew Morgan - "Lost At Sea"

Matthew Morgan is an independent singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Chicago who released his debut solo album, *Red Silhouettes*, in 2011. After that album came out, Matthew formed an alt-folk-rock band named Matthew Morgan and The Lost Brigade. Matthew and company delivered the album *Found* in 2012, but then disbanded just one year later. Matthew has now returned with his second solo recording, the alt-folk EP *Empathy For Inanimate Objects*, which is set to bow mid-June.

Lead single "Lost At Sea" spotlights the best aspects of Matthew's music - nimble acoustic guitar work, aural support via brimming strings and warm, gentle vocals, and perceptive lyrics. Matthew's voice is touched with hopeful melancholy (or is it melancholic hopefulness?) on "Lost At Sea" as he sings about a relationship that has become unmoored. He lightly implores that "I need you to believe in me / For a little bit longer" amid the meandering stream of his picked acoustic guitar, a multitude of strings that includes violin and cello lines, and brisk drum pace. He ties in the song title with his lyrics, entreating "Please don't give in / To the storm we're in."

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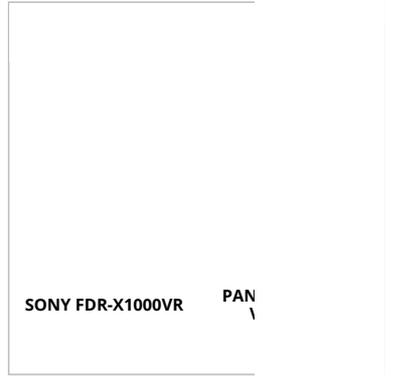
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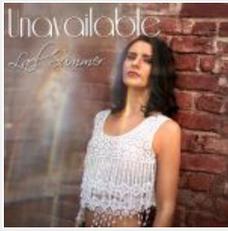
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Lost At Sea by Matthew Morgan



Lael Summer – “Unavailable”

Lael Summer – “Unavailable”

L.A.-based soul-pop singer-songwriter Lael Summer is slated to release her new EP titled *Life In Color* on June 23rd on New York's True Groove Records. She already has an album to her name, *Burden To Bear*, which came out in 2014 on the same label, which was founded and is run by Tomás Doncker. Tomás shares the songwriting credits with Lael on many of the tracks off *Life In Color*, including first single “Unavailable”.

This soul-pop tune is a bit slow out of the gate, but picks up steam mid-way through its run. It starts off with a stop-start strut of clapping and shaken percussion, short reverb guitar riffs, and thrummed bass line. Lael molds her vocals into the brusque groove, sing-talking in a clear tone, but with a sultry attitude that “...one night / ...we talked until the sun came up / The world grew still.” The song gains momentum and interest with the addition of bright, punchy trumpet and trombone notes arranged by Mac Gollehon, more incisive relationship-based lyrics, and Lael's passionate vocal delivery. The full scope of Lael's arresting voice is on display soon after the introduction of the horns, as she blasts through the words with emotive force, exclaiming “You turned around / You ran so fast.”, describing the turn-tail-and-run MO of someone who is emotionally unavailable in a relationship.



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Luca Bash

Luca Bash – “Your Tomorrow”

Rome-native, alt-folk singer-songwriter Luca Bash released a set of four EPs named after colors (*Cyan*, *Magenta*, *Yellow*, and *Key Black*) in 2014 and this year he presents a compilation EP titled *The Single Drops* that features one track off each of those previous EPs, plus the new ballad “Your Tomorrow”. Lucas has worked for three decades in the artistic field, from sculpting to playing music, and he keeps his acoustic songs as uncomplicated as possible, using only two guitars (played by him and long-time collaborator

Giova Pes) and his unadorned vocals. Luca sings in English, but his pronunciation is noticeably unusual, to the American ear at least, because he sometimes accents syllables differently than what is considered to be the standard. It can be disconcerting to listen to, but his lyrics on “Your Tomorrow” are discerning (“The tears won't fall in vain / They'll wash your fears away.”), the flow of the delicately picked, mellifluous acoustic guitars is lovely, and Luca sings in a yearning, heartfelt tone.



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