**BIO**

We all have that one friend whose idiosyncrasies and quirks teach us something about ourselves.

You know the buddy who just sees the world differently from pretty much everybody else on the planet and does his own thing?

Well, that’s MyKey…

He eats cereal with chopsticks *(the good kind that don’t splinter)*. It’s not out of character for him to wake up at three in the morning and order a Lego set *(he didn’t remember until the first package showed up from Amazon—then he ordered more)*. He also presides over a handcrafted musical world entirely of his own design *(he sings, plays every instrument, produces, engineers, and even makes his own videos, including stop-motion animation)*.

For as insular as it may seem on the surface, he employs a hyper-sensitive level of empathy by opting to primarily relay the experiences of his friends through songs—rather than focus on himself. Integrating folky storytelling within soundscapes comprised of organic instrumentation and bedroom beat-craft, he emanates an inimitable light on a string of upcoming singles and releases for Warner Records.

“Happiness is very important to me,” he exclaims. “It’s weird I can call this a job. So, it’s pretty easy to be happy. For me, it’s super special to see something through from start to finish. Everything feels like a little personal victory. When I write songs, I’m there for my homies. I try to be respectful of their situations. If somebody is going through a breakup and needs to talk about it, I’ll listen. Then, I’ll write it from a new perspective to give comfort. I try to make everyone feel a little better.”

A series of serendipitous happenings set him on this course. Growing up in Maryland, he took guitar lessons with his dad and older brother at seven-years-old. Pops and big bro quit after two weeks, but MyKey kept up with it. In middle school, he developed a passion for blues, which mom attempted to foster. However, she confused blues with bluegrass and accidentally took him to a bluegrass event at the age of ten.

Nevertheless, he had his guitar with him and ended up with an invitation to join local Maryland bluegrass mainstays Flower Hill String Band.

“I was a head-ass kid who brought his guitar everywhere,” he smiles. “Because of that, I haphazardly ended up in the Flower Hill String Band for ten years.”

During high school, he took a job at a local recording studio and learned the ins and outs of tracking and mixing. He spent countless hours listening to everyone from Bruce Springsteen to John Prine and playing in various local groups *(including a black metal band)*. After a year of college, he split his time between a gig at a coffee shop and the recording studio. In 2017, he decided to create, record, and release his independent debut *Faces*.

“I didn’t realize people put out singles, so the first thing I put out was a 16-track album,” he admits. “I did everything myself. When it comes to music, I try to be as self-sufficient as possible.”

*Faces* quietly stoked a buzz. It amassed nearly 10 million streams driven by the likes of “Monsters in the Dark” [1.6 million Spotify streams], “Untitled Unloved” [1.3 million Spotify streams], and “Maybe I Was the One” [1 million Spotify streams]. Admittedly *“pretty crafty*,*”* he visited Michaels, picked up a 500-sheet stack of multicolored paper, cut out little characters, and placed them in a Photoshop timeline to animate the videos for “Runaway” and “Maybe I Was The One.” At the same time, he grew his social following to over 50K Instagram followers after moving to Los Angeles.

Along the way, Warner Records signed him as he sharpened the edges of his signature style.

“It’s not so much a sound,” he explains. “I consider myself a singer-songwriter. I’m focused on the lyrics, while I go all over the place sonically. There’s some rock, pop, R&B, and even trap production. Melodically and lyrically, it fits in the same pocket, but musically it never stays the same.”

Take the single “Was It Something I Said.” Mellotron and organ crank out a wistful soul melody as MyKey strums breezy chords towards the hypnotic hook, which he sang through *“a shitty mic in a paper towel roll*.*”* Within a few months’ time, it put up over 5 million streams and clinched coveted real estate on playlists such as Spotify’s *Late Night Vibes*, *Bedroom Pop*, *Ultimate Indie*, *Indie Chillout*, and more. Meanwhile, Cavetown jumped on the official remix in 2020.

“It’s about my buddy’s ex,” he says of the tune. “She was bad, and he needed someone to talk to. I was there!”

Meanwhile, “Please Don’t Go” pairs sunny delivery, handclaps, and lithe guitar with observations such as *“I’m at Denny’s with my friends. You’re at home alone again. You scream, ‘We’re done’.” (Of course, the iPhone-shot video features MyKey playing guitar and rollerskating)*. Then, there’s “Hand Me Down.” A sparse beat gives way to *“passionate lyrics about feeling used in a relationship through a bunch of clothes metaphors*.*”*

Like any good friend, MyKey *(and his music)* will be there for you until the end no matter what.

“I want everyone to have a personal connection to the songs,” he leaves off. “We all have those songs we relate to. They make us feel happier. When you hear me, I hope you’re like, *‘That’s my song’*.”