

Music for Healing Q&A: Rebecca Garcia, singer-songwriter from Miami, Florida



By Alyssa Suarez

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Rebecca Garcia is an independent and aspiring singer, songwriter, composer, and producer living in Miami, Florida, USA. Garcia, a 22-year-old Cuban-American, has released over 10 covers and has written, composed, and produced many songs under her name. Throughout her music career, she has performed as a solo artist on open-mic events and musical competitions at many locations in Miami such as the Miami DaDe College Sound Off Competition, the Vocal Fushion Club Koffee House, the Fish House, and many more. In addition, Garcia has also featured in many other artists' tracks and EPs such as PJ Aviles's, "Tides." Currently, Garcia has public music profiles such as Instagram and Soundcloud, where she posts her covers, original songs, and features. Garcia is being interviewed today to discuss more about her music career and what she envisions her goals to be in the future.

What is your methodology when composing songs? What are the steps or what goes through your mind?

Typically, what I do is I tend to either get the ideas for the lyrics first from anything that inspires me, whether that be from nature, a personal or emotional event, or even inanimate objects I see laying around. From there, I will toy around with many different chord progressions to see what will fit the theme or genre of the song, however, there are times where a melody sticks in my head, which in that instance, if the melody matches or fits with lyrics I have written, then I can modify it. Usually, I tend to let the music flow and not necessarily force the creativity process because that is how I usually am able to finish writing a full song. In other words, the inspiration should come naturally, rather than forcefully. After this process, I then tend to just think about the composition from a production sense, such as how I want to record the music and what instruments I would like to add and so on.

When composing, what is most important? The melodies? The lyricism? Both? What is placed on priority?

For me personally, I would say lyrics are my favorite part. I tend to care very much about the lyrics, and I tend to spend a long time editing and fixing them in accordance to the story I want to tell. If the lyrics don't make sense or they don't flow in the way I would like—especially if the lyrics don't roll off the tongue—I tend to then spend a really long time rewriting a line with just the lyrics. The melody is important, however, personally I see the melody as the method in which I tell my stories, or a story in general. The melody is an accompaniment to my lyrics; that is, the melody is something I pair with the words, rather than pairing the words with the melody.

What advice can you offer other people who are seeking a music career in the industry?

Giving someone advice is a bit difficult since many of the opportunities any musician or singer can get depends on the connections one has and how young people start their careers, or at least start to pursue them. I would say, however, that if you really like to make music and enjoy singing and you know that you like to do this, then take every opportunity possible to perform and work with other people to get your name out in the industry. Make sure you make a name for yourself by working with other people in the industry, especially if they are more skilled than you because they will guide you and you can learn many techniques in order to build you network. Introduce yourself to other people; find a healthy way to promote yourself on social media without comparing yourself to other people. I believe that if you follow these steps, then you will eventually find an audience that is right for you regardless of size.

What artists do you take as inspiration for composing songs? What is it about these artists that inspire you?

I really love artists such as Joanna Newsom. I also really enjoy music genres such as classic country music—old Americano genres. In addition, I also enjoy other artists such as Joney Mitchell, Laura Marley, Laura Marling, Lianne La Havas, and Neil Young. I feel now, since the [previous artist's] music genre is not as mainstream as these other artists, listening to BTS (South Korean boy group) or just K-pop (Korean pop) in general, I feel refreshed. With BTS, their work ethic is very refreshing and good that they inspire me to work extremely hard with music and what I am passionate about and become a perfectionist about how I approach and do musical projects (and in everyday activities in general). To add, as far as the artists I listen to, a musicality method I use

are observing, researching, and listening to what my favorite artists' favorite artists are. I like to study them to understand how they might write and compose their music to inspire me or learn better techniques as to how I write my own music. This is my preferred approach with composing, rather than writing or going into the music industry impulsively.

In terms of music, what do you hope to accomplish in the next year?

At least for short-term goals, I think that as soon as graduation ends, I plan on recording and releasing my first single officially. From there, a friend of mine has planned to place that soundtrack in her upcoming movie, so I am very excited to be working on this project and how the final product will look like. I am planning on travelling to South Korea next year to teach English to elementary school children. While I am there, my hope is to work extremely hard in South Korea to network with people in the music industry or pursuing music to get into the R&B scene there. If there is a coffee shop singer-songwriter job opportunity or gig, I would love to be part of that. I think my experience in South Korea is my long-term goal, while the release of my debut single is my short-term goal.

Rebecca can be found on SoundCloud and Instagram, with the following links:

<https://soundcloud.com/songsbybecc>

<https://www.instagram.com/bebeccer/>