

## **keshi's Sophomore Album : *Requiem***

*Written by Kya Brogdon*

One of the most highly anticipated albums of 2024 (at least, for myself) finally dropped September 13th. [Requiem](#), the second full length album by Vietnamese American singer-songwriter keshi, is a peek into the mindset of its author. While most of keshi's music tends to reflect on the singer's mind, *Requiem* follows more of an upbeat vibe of emotional experiences, unlike his past releases like "[Limbo](#)" or "[bandaids](#)". In a series of prereleases spanning from July to September, fans were able to get their hands (and ears) on four of the tracks from the album: "[Say](#)", "[Dream](#)", "[Texas](#)", and "[Soft Spot](#)".

Coming off of the reflective mood of his previous album [Gabriel](#), the funkiness of "Say" was a welcome change. As much as I am a fan of the "sad boy" style of keshi songs, hearing him sing about falling in love will always be something I cherish. The lyrics of "Say" reflect on the emotional rollercoaster that is falling in love with someone for the first time. Taking the point of view of someone who is afraid to say the L word first, keshi sings "*I know what you're thinking, but just say it first*" in a plea for the subject to put him out of his misery. In a similar vein, "Soft Spot" shares the story of falling in love after closing yourself off for a long time. The lyric "*Don't believe in love, but no one makes me feel like you do*" sticks out to me the most in this track, and while the message is obvious, it's still a powerful one.

One of my immediate favorites off of the album is "Texas", and it's not just because I used to live there when I was younger. "Texas" falls into line with some of keshi's older "sad boy" tracks, but rather than reflecting on a lost love or emotional breakup, this track focuses on the feeling of being lost and confused with one's path in life, and hanging on to the nostalgia of one's hometown. While this song is a reflection on keshi's feelings towards his hometown of Sugar Land, Texas; the *Texas* spoken about can easily be a placeholder for somewhere that is near and dear to the listeners heart. The melody itself is relatively simple compared to other tracks on the album like "[Id](#)" or "[Like That](#)", but it carries the nostalgia of the lyrics perfectly. The juxtaposition between the beginning line "*Don't know where I'm going, but I think I gotta leave*" and the ending "*I know where I'm going, and it's where I'm supposed to be*" is emotionally charged and hard hitting to those who are also struggling with finding the right path or sense of contentment in their current lives.

From beginning to end, *Requiem* is a masterpiece of an album - well worth the two year wait between it and *Gabriel*. keshi has managed to perfect the art of exploring new styles and genres while being quintessentially himself throughout the process, and his authenticity is refreshing in an industry that is so often fake. After seeing him in concert a few times in previous years and knowing how amazing he sounds in a live setting, I cannot wait to experience the *Requiem* album in the same way.