

FLEXI media



View Online

Edition 7 2026

**Art Competition Finalists
Len & Violet**

**Brashen tells the Jeff
Buckley Story**



**Alex The Artist Talks
Graffiti**

**Ella & Charlie Quickfire
Questions**

**Jemzel Quickfire
Questions**

**Layla Reviews Race By
Alex G**

**Izzy & Jasper Musician
Spotlight**

ALBUM REVIEW

By Layla Dyer

As always, for each Flexi magazine, we invite a Young Person to review an album, old or new, that means a lot to them. For this edition, Layla will be reviewing one of their favourite albums, “Race” by Alex G.

Alex G, formerly Sandy Alex G, is a solo American singer. He was born on the 3rd of February 1993. Alex started his career by joining local bands before pursuing a solo career, with his first song being released on Bandcamp in 2008. The music he releases is indie rock, lo-fi, and DIY. His songs are open to interpretation, with some people, including my friend jokingly describing his old songs as ‘like a teenage boy on the verge of crying’. However, his songs are open to the interpretation of the listeners, and to me, very meaningful.

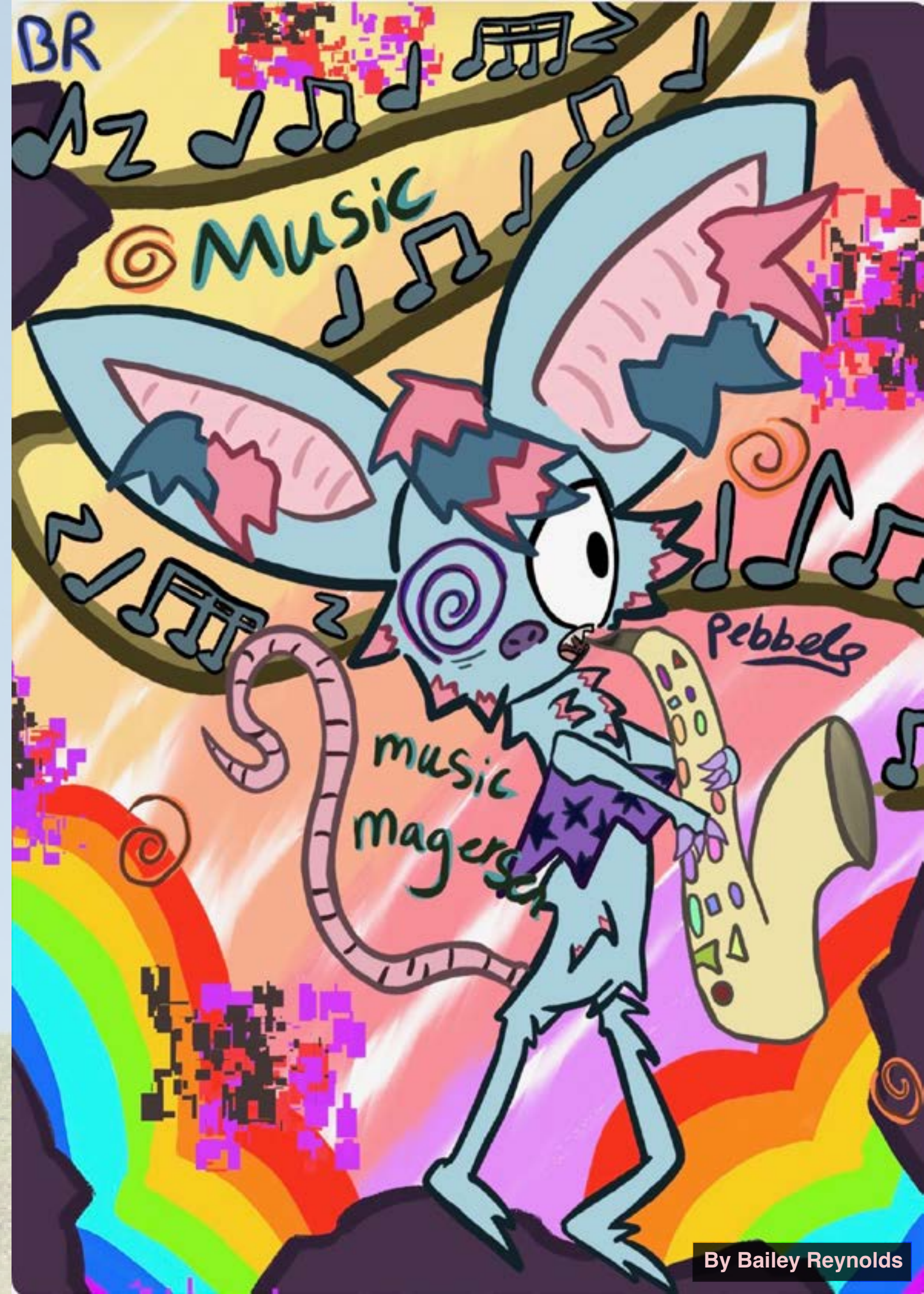


A majority of Race’s songs have an interpreted theme of depression. For example, the song “Things to Do” has a big part in it with the lyrics “There’s nothing left to look forward to” and “I was asleep for days, and now you’re the only thing keeping me awake.” I believe Alex G is covering depression and encouraging people to find something that helps or comforts them. In this case, particularly, I think Alex G is encouraging people who suffer with depression to reach out for support and not suffer in silence.

The impact this album had on me was getting introduced to more music artists similar to Alex G, like Adrienne Lenker. It made me appreciate music more, especially with indie/sad music. I like the songs since they’re calm, and I can listen to them anytime, sad or not.

Race was his first album and was originally posted on Bandcamp, an online music platform, in 2008. It is the second most popular album by Alex G, with over 446 million streams.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend this album. This is because I find the songs really relatable, specifically to teenagers with their focus on mental health and everyday experiences.



Last term, two of our students, Len and Violet, once again reached the finals of the Caloundra Regional Art Gallery competition, building on the success of fellow resident artist Evie in last year's event. To celebrate this year's achievement, we caught up with Len and Violet to talk about their art and what inspires their work. For part one of this series, we spoke with Len.

What is your picture about and what made you decide to participate in the art comp?

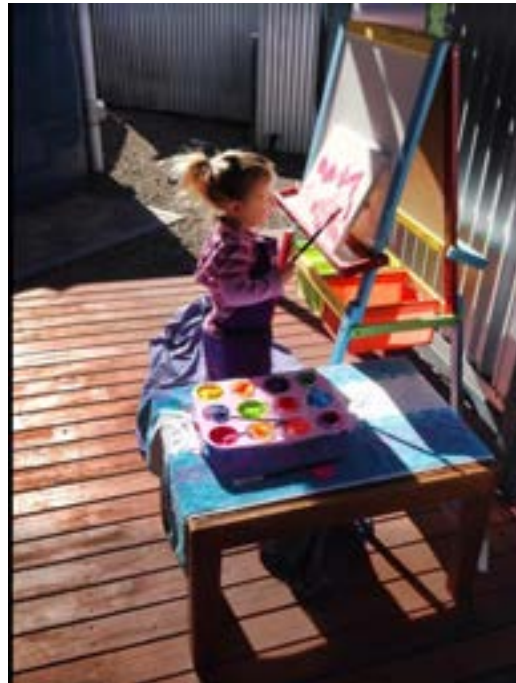
"Bainsey told me about it. I think it was about three days before the comp and he's like, "if you want, you can do it" and I was like, "okay". The painting is about a reef with a whale, because there are whales in Noosa. I chose it because I thought the colours would look really nice together. I chose the whale because it reminds me more of Noosa than if I drew a whale shark, for example, that would more remind me of Western Australia."

What inspires your artwork?

"My brain, actually. I don't really go on Pinterest or whatever normally. I just kind of think about it. I've got a big imagination. I think about it, I write it in my notes but half of them aren't done. They're just sitting at the bottom of my notes app!"

What's your medium of choice?

"My medium of choice is normally acrylic paint. I do like working with pencils and shadows and shades a lot, but acrylic paint, I've kind of just been drawn to it my whole life. I like how it's just easier than oil paints and all the bright colours and it's less expensive. Also, watercolour is not as pigmented."



***Starting Young:** Len seen here
Age 2*

How long on average does it take you to finish an artwork?

"So the artwork that I've put into the competition only took me three days to finish, but others could take me nine days or five days. That one is very detailed. It took me three days but I spent sessions on top of sessions, just never really leaving the art room. But, for example, the one that took me nine days, it's very detailed but I've been able to take breaks and not consistently just be sitting at a chair and a desk and painting."

What does your process look like? Do you do much preparation, or do you just dive right in?

"My process is: I think of something, get the colours, sketch it out with the paint, and then go for it and dive right in. I've got a routine."



QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

For this issue, we chatted with local musician and collaborator of Noosa Flexi, Jemzel!

What's your favourite artist right now?

"Probably the Belair Lip Bombs."

What's the first song you remember hearing as a child?

"I don't really remember, but I've heard stories from family members and apparently when I was a baby, I wouldn't stop crying or go to sleep until I heard an Alan Jackson song, which is really funny because that's like full on country music."

What's your dream gig/stage?

"I mean, for a while it was The Tivoli (in Brisbane), but now I've already played there, I feel like the Glastonbury stage would be it."

What's an instrument you'd want to learn?

"I'd love to get really, really good at drumming. It's a really nice feeling to play drums. Also, something I've never touched in my life, but I think it would be cool, is a saxophone, a tenor saxophone."

What's your least favourite genre of music?

"I can't say a least favourite in the sense of, like, 'I hate this genre' because I think there's always something good about every genre. It's like Country and Western, I mean, I won't listen to country voluntarily, but I don't specifically hate it."

What's your favourite genre of music then?

"On the way here I was listening to more soft rock and, and like your classic band stuff like I was listening to The Cure and The Smiths and I was belting out Grace by Jeff Buckley. So favourites when it comes to genres is a hard one for me."

If you were a bird, which bird would you be?

"I just feel like I'm a chicken. It's the way their heads move. I think it's hilarious, and I think I resonate with chickens."



MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Izzy started playing bass in ensembles with us here at Flexi last year. Izzy brings a calm but enthusiastic approach to playing music and collaborating in ensembles and is always keen to play and be involved in musical projects. Izzy has a knack of learning new bass parts really quickly and is always a solid and reliable fellow band member.

Izzy's debut performance at Flexi was at last year's Flexi Fest event when they played bass on an excellent cover of Alex G's song Runner. Izzy then demonstrated more skills by being assistant Stage Manager at last year's Graduation Ceremony at The J, which is a huge responsibility and contributed greatly to a hugely enjoyable and successful Grad.

Izzy has spent the beginning of this year busily working in new collaborations and learning new songs as well as enrolling in our Certificate II in Music here at school. They also played in our Easter acoustic performance at the end of last term. You can be sure that there will be plenty more performances to come from Izzy this year!



YZZ

NOOSA FLEXIBLE SCHOOL PRESENTS

FLEXI FESTIVAL

10.09.26

Featuring special performances by

FLEXI'S YOUNG PEOPLE & SPECIAL GUEST

Live Music • Food trucks • Face paint • Culture • Raffle • Art

2 Girraween Crt, Sunshine Beach QLD 4567

Flexi Fest is a festival hosted by Noosa Flexible School

Last term, we took the opportunity to interview long-time collaborator of Flexi, Alex the Artist, while he was working on the wonderful mural on the music room wall. We asked him about his art, his influences, and what it's like for him working at Flexi.

What influenced you to start making art?

"Comic books. When I was 13 or 14, I started copying comic books, and then I was lucky enough to get into a fine arts high school. So I was going to school from 6:30 am until 6:00 pm, and I learned a very different array of art techniques. We started doing stencils when I was 18, mainly using stencilling for street art—going out and painting walls and just putting our art out there without asking for permission. I think we were really into the rush of doing street art, you know, the adrenaline. Later on, I discovered that painting during the day is much better than painting at night."

What is it about street art that interests you?

"The fact that art is for everyone. I don't mind museums at all—I'll occasionally go and see something at a museum—but I find it really interesting that street art goes out and finds you, and it's available to everyone. It's not just reserved for people to go somewhere to see it. You can just be walking and find it there. You've got the big murals, but you've also got artists doing very small things and hiding them around. It's like little Easter eggs, you know, for you to find around the place. I like that idea."

What do you like about graffiti that most people don't know about?

"It's very interesting to see the story behind each artist. You might see pieces in places where you think, 'Oh my God,' and then you meet the person and you're like, 'Oh, I didn't imagine it would be you.'"

How does your own art inspire you in your everyday life?

"I always challenge myself to do things. Even if I'm afraid of doing something, I do it anyway. Sometimes doing street art is scary—putting yourself out there is scary. Maybe you try a new line of work and you don't know how people are going to react. And sometimes you have to have a certain vulnerability to put yourself out there."

"Don't stop. Never stop learning new stuff. Just keep on learning new skills"



Do you have an artistic mentor, coach, or inspiration?

“There are so many, because I do a bunch of different stuff. Music is very inspiring to me. I listen to a lot of progressive rock bands, like Tool. I used to listen to Nirvana a lot, and the whole punk rock ideal is really appealing to me as well—trying to break the rules and go against the system.”

Is it tough to make a living as an artist?

“Yeah, but everything’s tough. Being in an office 24/7 is tough as well—that’s something I wouldn’t be able to do. I think I only had a desk job once, doing video editing for a company. You just choose your heart. Working in an office is hard, working as an artist is hard—but everything has its benefits.

Maybe working in an office gives you a certain level of economic stability, but if you’re an artist, there’s a reason you do that. There’s stuff you need to get out constantly. If you don’t have that outlet, you’re going to have to find it somewhere else, and usually that ‘somewhere else’ might not be good.”

What advice would you give to any emerging young artists who want to make a living out of their art?

“Don’t stop. Never stop learning new stuff. It doesn’t matter if today you’re doing music, tomorrow you’re painting, and then you’re performing or whatever. Just keep on learning new skills. Everything will complement everything else. If you’re inclined to learn videography, go learn it. If you’re inclined to learn a new instrument, just go and do it. Just keep on learning.

Spend as much time as you can off your phone. Your phone will mess you up. When I grew up, we didn’t have phones, and I look back now and realise the amount of things that I learned back in the day because I didn’t have a phone. In my house, we didn’t have a TV, so I was bored, and from that boredom, a lot of things came out. I think a lot of the creative stuff comes from being bored. So that’s the best advice I can give you.

“I always challenge myself to do things. Even if I’m afraid of doing something, I do it anyway”

Is there any other materials you enjoy working with more than spray paint?

“Yeah, I’ve been doing a lot with live visuals and projections—that’s been a lot of fun. There’s software called Resolume Arena where you mix clips and put effects on them, and that’s been really enjoyable. I also do a bit of videography.

I do stand-up comedy as well, and I’m a circus performer. I worked as a juggler from when I was 16 until I was 30—on the streets in Argentina, at traffic lights. So I do a lot of different stuff. I get very curious about different things.

So that’s what I’m saying—you should go and try things, and try new things all the time.”

What have you enjoyed about working with young people at Flexi?

“The sassiness, you know—the honesty. I like the honesty. I like how you guys are honest about things: ‘No, I don’t like that,’ ‘Yeah, I love that.’ And then I see the progress.

I like teaching a lot, so I enjoy seeing people being engaged with what we’re doing, and the reaction when they do something—they’ve created something. You know, that reaction of doing something new is great. I like to see that.”

Is there any insights or inspirations young people at Flexi have given you about art?

“Yeah, actually, the first time I did a class here, I brought some of my own stencils for everyone to print. The art class was crowded and everyone was printing, and they were taking risks with the prints because it was their first time doing it. They were like, ‘Oh, we can try this and that.’

That’s something I’d never tried before, and it really made me rethink how I was playing it safe with my own stencils—not at the time of cutting, but at the time of printing them. I realised I was sticking to what I already knew worked.

Then I came here, I just gave you guys the stencils, and you were throwing paint over them. And when we removed the stencils, it was like, ‘Oh, wow, that looks so cool.’ It was a reminder for me—maybe just take more risks.”



QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

For this quickfire questions we spoke with Ella & Charlie about their experiences with music growing up, as well as what they're currently listening to.

What's the first song you remember hearing as a child?

Ella: "Lola, I think (by The Kinks). It was one of my mum's favourite songs when I was younger. I just remember always hearing it in the car."

Charlie: "Mine was Black Betty by Spiderbait."

If you were to see any artist, dead or alive, who would it be?

Ella: "Kurt Cobain—Nirvana. 100%."

Charlie: "I'm not sure!"

If you could be in any band, what band would you be in?

Ella: "I don't know—I think it would actually be pretty cool to go with Nirvana."

What song do you think relates to you the most?

Ella: "Probably Broken Window Serenade by Whiskey Myers. It's a very emotional one."

If you could play and master any instrument, what instrument would you choose?

Ella: "Probably drums. That's something I've always wanted to try and get into, but I don't think I've got the hand coordination for it! I love watching Jeremiah get on the drums."

What song are you listening to on repeat right now?

Ella: "I've got a lot of songs on repeat, actually. Probably Enuff Said by Nter."

Charlie: "Sweet Child O' Mine by Guns N' Roses."

Ella: "I wouldn't have expected that from you, Charlie!"

What's your favourite music genre and why?

Ella: "Probably, like, the '90s era. I don't know—it just sort of brings me back to my childhood, my mum, because that's what I always listened to growing up. It just brings me back home, so it's funny."

Charlie: "Mine might be country music. I used to go to a bunch of rodeos when I was younger—behind the chutes and all that. I had a bunch of family members who used to bull ride."



Continuing our interview series with Flexi finalists in this year's Caloundra Regional Art Gallery competition, we caught up with Violet to learn more about her artwork, inspirations, and creative process.

What is your picture about and what made you decide to participate in the art competition?

"My picture is about Noosa National Park from a bird's-eye view, and I participated because I thought I might want to do something like art when I'm older."

What's your medium of choice?

"It's probably acrylic paint because it's really good for texture and colours."

What inspires your artwork?

"It was a realistic picture of Noosa National Park that inspired me to try and use that as an idea. I use images, or I just think in my head and get an image, then I draw it first and paint it. It's mostly the sky and the water, but this time I wanted to do something different, so I chose nature."

How long, on average, does it take you to finish art?

"This one took, I think, three days. But normally, if I'm working on a big art piece, it would take about a week, and if it's just a small one, it would take a day."

What does your process look like? Do you do much preparation, or do you just dive right in?

"Sometimes I prepare, but other times I just dive right in and do it straight away. I think about the colours and then get those colours and use them. But sometimes I just pick random colours and use what I have."



Len & Violet at the exhibition



MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

The most surprising thing about this musician profile on Jasper is that we haven't already done one on him sooner!

Jasper has been one of the main drummers in our bands for quite some time now. He has played at both Flexi Fests and multiple school Graduation Ceremonies and is an integral part of our music community.

Anyone who knows Jasper knows he is a huge fan of The Strokes, and whenever he is in the music control room, you can almost guarantee they'll get played at some point. But that's ok, because who doesn't like The Strokes?

Jasper is a very accomplished drummer. Before starting at Flexi, he was already having regular jazz drumming lessons and, during his time here, has further developed into a rock-solid and reliable bandmate who is becoming more and more like a human metronome as his skills continue to grow. This is especially noticeable when he plays drums on our version of *Jigsaw Falling into Place* by Radiohead.

We're looking forward to seeing Jasper perform with our bands again at Flexi Fest next term. He is one of the many musicians we are lucky to have here at Flexi who brings that extra bit of X-factor to every song he plays on.

JASPER



It's Never Over

The Jeff Buckley Story

By Brashen Burgess

Me and a few students went to see the new Jeff Buckley documentary in cinemas, directed by Amy Berg. The movie inspired me to retell his story here in the Music Magazine for those who are new to Jeff and his amazing music.

The Jeff Buckley film starts with a voice recording of Jeff Buckley saying, “Come into my world,” along with several other voice messages of him describing his life. Throughout the entire film, there are striking and attention-grabbing artistic designs following along with what’s being talked about in the current situation.

As a child, Jeff Buckley was constantly around music that influenced him as he grew up, including Led Zeppelin, Nina Simone, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Bob Dylan, and Edith Piaf. At the age of 5, Jeff found an old acoustic guitar in his grandmother’s closet and would never put it down, no matter where he was. At 12, he made a firm decision to become a musician and finally, at 13, he got his first guitar, a black Memphis Les Paul copy. His father, Tim Buckley, was also a giant influence on him becoming a musician. When Jeff’s mum found out she was pregnant and told Tim Buckley, he gave her an ultimatum regarding a divorce or an abortion and replied, “You do whatever you have to do, baby.”

When Jeff was 8, his mother came up to him and said, “Your dad’s having a show nearby soon, would you like to meet him?” When they went to the show and saw Tim Buckley play, he reportedly had his eyes closed the entire time, but Jeff’s mother knew that he knew they were there. When the show was over, they heard someone yell out, “Jeff!” It was Tim. He had only met his father once, and he had given him a matchbox with his phone number. Jeff tried contacting him but would get no response. A few months after their meeting, it was revealed that Tim Buckley passed away due to a drug overdose. In 1994, when Jeff was 24, he played at a tribute show for his estranged father at St. Ann’s Church in Brooklyn. This was his breakthrough public debut and where he started gaining popularity. This is also where he met Elizabeth Fraser and got into a long-term relationship with her.

In 1992, he started performing at a café in New York, the Sin-é. He’d frequently wash dishes in chaotic times when he wasn’t on stage, rather than lingering in the audience, and basically became family after time. When he was on stage, he’d gather an audience and fill the tiny café within minutes. Jeff would mainly play covers, but every now and then he would experiment and play an original.

These experiences led to Jeff Buckley creating Grace, an album totalling 11 tracks, 8 originals: Grace, Last Goodbye, So Real, Lover, You Should’ve Come Over, Eternal Life, Dream Brother, and Forget Her. Along with three covers—Lilac Wine by James Shelton (famously covered by Nina Simone), Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, and Corpus Christi Carol by Benjamin Britten.

During the creation of the album cover, he wore a woman’s sequin jacket that he thrifted and loved, which later became the iconic photo. Columbia Records executives disliked Jeff’s jacket, complaining that it looked too effeminate or soft. They wanted to market Jeff Buckley as a serious, masculine rock artist. Despite all the pressure, Jeff stuck to his creative freedom and kept the jacket.

When Jeff Buckley started gaining substantial fame from Grace, his relationship with Elizabeth grew more difficult. It was described that they shared an “intense, creatively fertile, and deeply personal bond,” but due to the fame, the relationship dwindled and they grew apart. According to Fraser, it became overwhelming to be with Buckley because of the exhausting professional demands.

After Grace was released, Jeff Buckley’s record label started pressuring him to release his second studio album, My Sweetheart The Drunk. Jeff became extremely stressed and depressive, causing him to argue with some of his bandmates and even distance himself from his mother for some time. Eventually, it led to him having a psychotic break, which many believe was manic depression (bipolar disorder), something he himself openly suspected he had. By the end of everything, his manager described his behaviour as erratic in his last few weeks, such as impulsively trying to buy property, applying for a job at the zoo, and proposing to his current girlfriend, Joan Wasser. In his last few days, Jeff started reaching out to close friends, making several phone calls to seek closure. One of the final phone calls he made was a voice message to his mother, in which he paid tribute to her by saying, “Anybody can be famous, Mary. But it takes a real spirit to raise a kid... I love you.”

Just days later, Jeff Buckley drowned in the Wolf River Harbor. He was waiting for his bandmates to arrive to record the second studio album, and then went on a spontaneous swim fully clothed. He was caught in the wake of a passing tugboat and swept under the water by the strong current. His body was recovered several days later, on June 4th, 1997. Jeff Buckley’s death was highly speculated about, with some saying it was a drug overdose, or that he went swimming drunk and died. The truth was he had one beer, then went for a swim—the tests showed no drugs in his system. Jeff Buckley’s death sent shockwaves through the music industry; it cemented his status as legendary despite his limited body of work. A year after Jeff Buckley’s death, they released his incomplete album, My Sweetheart The Drunk, retitled as Sketches for My Sweetheart the Drunk to reflect that it was unfinished and to protect his legacy. Jeff Buckley will always be remembered for his remarkable, emotional, and soaring multi-octave vocal range, and for being such an amazing songwriter and guitarist.

NOOSA FLEXI MEDIA

Noosa Flexi Media Magazine is produced by young people at Noosa Flexible School. This editions contributors:



Want to contribute to the next edition?

We are always looking for young people to contribute to the magazine. Let us know if you are interested.