

Milla Berntsen (voice)

Performance 2A Recital

Performance Space, City, University of London

2 June 2021

4:45PM

Keshi, “Drunk” from the album *always* (2020). Written by Casey Luong (Keshi).

Casey Luong, professionally known as Keshi, is a 26-year-old American singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist from Houston, Texas, USA. He began his musical career by sharing his music on Soundcloud, where he eventually gained enough popularity to gain confidence to quit his job as a nurse and fly to New York City to sign with Island Records. He’s best known for his falsetto vocals and textural instrumentals in alternative, indie, and R&B music.

This alternative/indie song is about feeling alone and missing being in love. The main character is left by himself while his friends are drunk, which causes him to think about his past lovers. It has a soothing moodiness to it along with a bit of playfulness in its melodramatic kick. I’ve chosen this song because I want to begin this performance by allowing the audience to layback as the song plays with both the high and low register of the voice. Let us take a sip, shall we?

The Neighbourhood, “Stargazing” from the album *Chip Chrome & The Mono-Tones* (2020). Written by Jesse James Rutherford (vocalist), Brandon Fried (drummer), Jeremiah Freedman (guitarist), Micheal Margott (bassist), Zachary Abels (guitarist), and Danny Parra.

The Neighbourhood are an American rock band that formed in Newbury Park, California, in 2011. They use the British spelling of “neighbourhood” in order to distinguish themselves from a band already using the American spelling of “neighborhood.” Their musical style is described as alternative rock, indie rock/pop, and some elements of electronic, hip hop, and R&B.

Their song “Stargazing” is an Indie Pop/Rock song that takes you out of this world and into the stars! This track entails the personal battle of moving to a new place and finding it hard to fit in. The piece starts with a spark and leaves us on fire. In the music video for Stargazing it shows a character, which the band call “Chip”, looking of similar aesthetic to David Bowie as he’s sparkling in silver paint from head to toe. He is a character searching for a purpose. Taking the audience from a laidback stance to now kicking in some groove and fun. I’ve wanted to perform this song after Drunk to take lonely hearts into a dreamland of adventure and fun through Stargazing.

Halsey, “Finally // beautiful stranger”, from the album *Manic* (2020). Written by Ashley Frangipane (Halsey) & Greg Kurstin.

Ashley Nicolette Frangipane, known professionally as Halsey, is a 26-year-old American singer and songwriter from Edison, New Jersey, USA. She started to gain attention from self-released music on social media platforms, and later signed to Astralwerks in 2014 where she released her debut EP, *Room 93*. She chose her stage name “Halsey” because it is an anagram of her first name and also refers to Halsey Street station of the New York City Subway in Brooklyn, where she spent a lot of time as a teenager. Halsey’s musical style is described as pop, electropop, synth-pop, and R&B.

To *Finally* end things, I take you through this Alternative Country Ballad, which is very different from any genre Halsey has done before. This song is about finally being in love with someone. I like to think that after the loneliness of *Drunk*, and the dreaming of *Stargazing*, we have finally reached a point of finding who we are and loving the feeling. This love song, which feels like a first dance wedding song, takes a similar approach as *Drunk* did, with its playfulness in both the high and low registers of the voice. It almost feels like a song that is being spoken more than sung, so it feels a lot like a written letter. I’ve chosen to perform this song because it has a lot of personal meaning to me that brings me comfort and safety, which I hope I can bring to the audience with this final piece of the performance.