

Creation Assignment Element 1: Written Proposal

The Journey: a musical project by Richsamuel Manso

This project will be an LP called “The Journey”.

In my Christian journey there have been a lot of challenges that I’ve been facing. From my childhood, to my teenage, to my adolescence up to now in my early years of adulthood. It’s called “The Journey” because of the struggles and those things that developed along my growth as person. I believe that struggles mature together with the person; they might change form but not nature, even if they look different, they are there, and their identity is loyal their originator. This LP it is called “The Journey” because it is personal to me, but at the same time relatable to others in a way or the other. The experiences might be different but the way of managing it or the way of feeling about a struggle might be the same, because at the end of the day we are all humans and we do all have feelings, some more and some less. In this LP my intention is to be transparent about who I am as a person, as a Christian and about the values that I believe in and I try to represent each day, wherever I find myself. In order to achieve this, my plan is to write about topics that are usually avoided, because of the embarrassment that they arouse among our community and generations. With that being said, my plan is to show my checkpoints as a creative that got me from being depressed to fully rely on and find myself in Christ. Masturbation is also a topic I will write about, giving an insight on what the Christian’s take on mental illness is and about how ego affects us, and we do not even recognize, about how our feelings can make us do the silliest mistakes that are then followed by infinite regrets. I also have in mind to write about the reality of being a Christian. Most of the time people think about Christianity as a religion, when that’s completely wrong and for this project I intend to take this idea apart and show that Christians are normal people who mess up every time like the rest of the world does but, by the grace of God, have understood God’s plan for humanity and so they are now walking in this knowledge a day by day relying on God.

In this LP I am showcasing all the shades that represents my different approaches to different styles of music. The reason why I am not focusing on only one genre is because I believe that as a producer is important to be as versatile as possible because of the different demands that different clients can have. “The Journey” will take the listener through my journey as I as an artist and a person I shift my focus on different things in life; from girls, to being depressed because of loneliness and trust issues to aspire to being a DJ and wanting to be part of “one of the world’s most influential labels, Spinnin’ Records” (Shaw, 2018), to realising that all that I am pursuing is not giving me what that sense of realization and satisfaction. So, in the second half of the EP, I start to write letters to God on instrumentals that are a bit unusual in the gospel genre. As an example, Dancehall and Soul are two genres that when mixed give a very bouncy feel that makes the listener swing from a side to the other, and this is what is happening in one of the tracks, “Distractions”.

Being personal and transparent in a musical project is something risky to do, but that does not mean that it cannot work. If we take Drake as an example, his album “Take Care” released in 2011, is “undoubtedly Drake's masterpiece” (Ahlgrim, 2019) and that is a huge step to take since at his time “everyone wanted classic rap songs for the radio” (Ahlgrim, 2019). Another

thing that is appreciated is being open about our own faith and Tori Kelly is a formidable example. Her “Hiding place”, “debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Top Gospel Albums chart and had the highest-selling week of any 2018 gospel album.” (Yap, 2018).

One interesting thing is that this collection includes tracks that are only instrumental and this artistic decision comes from the fact that sometimes, sounds do not need to be shadowed by lyrics but have to be felt without no middle man that can distract us from us navigating through our thoughts.

To give birth to this project, the procedures that I am going to take, are listening to sessions, while taking notes the different elements that are key to the genre that I will deal with and experimenting; so, this will be the main operations that will take me through the process of every piece of music that will be part of “The Journey”. I will be listening not only to the genres that I will produce but also to other genres in order to bring something innovative and get out of boxes that even though they could be guidelines to follow, they could also be obstacles to the creativity that I have inside and that I cannot afford to suppress in the name of sticking to what is typical.

Another process that could have been an alternative was to do a research of the most successful artists and study their approach on their music and see what are the characteristics that make each and everyone of them unique and on top of the game in their genre.

The reason for not taking this approach is the fact that I don't want to limit myself with what is too much popular, denying me the chance to listen to the ones that maybe might not be leading the charts but that can still give ideas and inspire me through their approach to music.

All these songs will be recorded, produced, mixed and mastered in a period of a month, and it will involve, different musicians and writers to make it even more beautiful and diverse so that the listeners can always wonder how the track after will sound.

Bibliography:

Shaw, A. (2018) ‘Spinnin’ Records to host two huge ADE showcases’, *We rave you*, 3rd October. Available at: <https://weraveyou.com/2018/10/spinnin-records-interview-ade/> (Accessed: 20 October 2021).

Ahlgrim, C. (2019) ‘Every single Drake album, ranked from worst to best’, *Insider*, 23rd October. Available at: <https://www.insider.com/drake-albums-ranked-worst-to-best-2019-10> (Accessed: 20 October 2021).