

MARCH MUSIC MADNESS

COLUMN BY
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LIFE EDITOR

If you haven't been tuned in to the radio, Spotify, TikTok or wherever you discover new music lately, you have missed out on a month full of extraordinary new music. From albums to EPs: March has been absolute music madness.

It would be hard to listen to all the music that has been released in March so far, so here are my top picks for what should be on your March playlist. **"Djesse Vol. 4" by Jacob Collier**

Official Score: 8/10

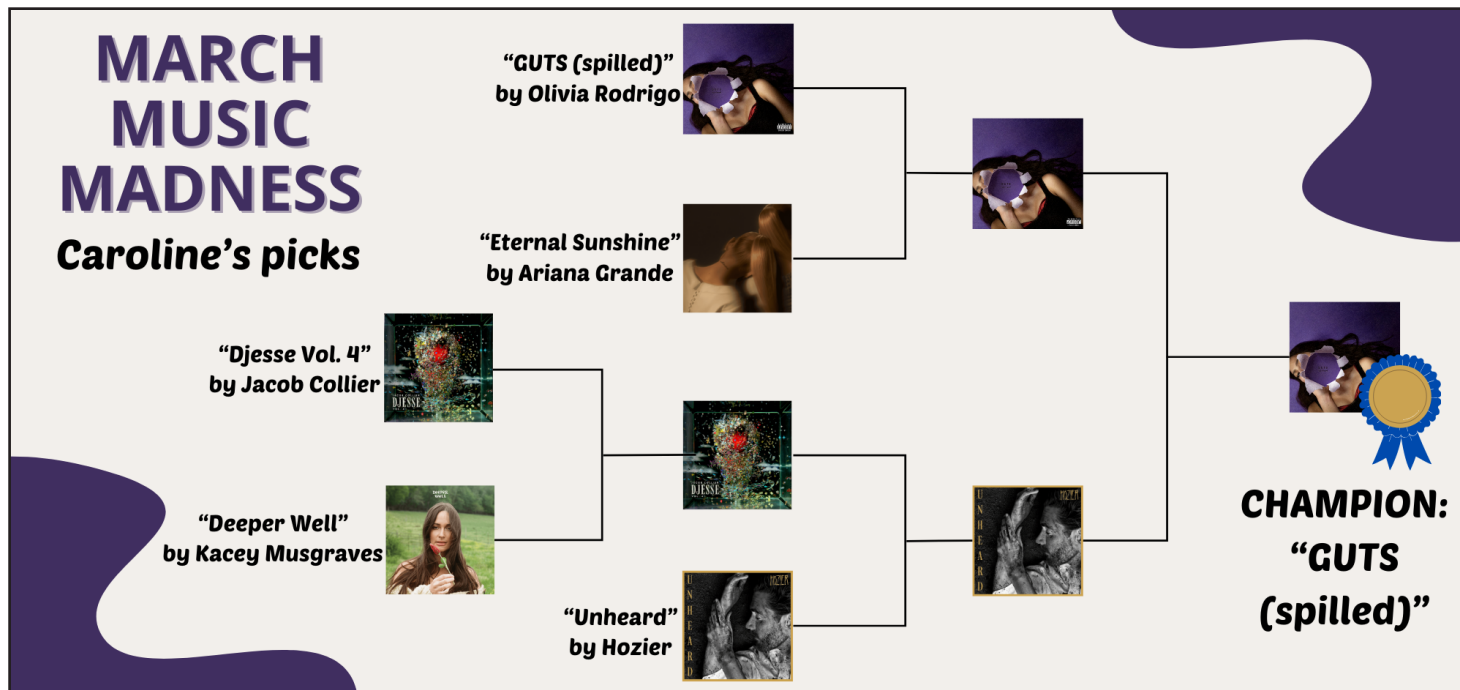
No matter your favorite genre, "Djesse Vol. 4" has something for you. This album hits notes of pop, jazz and even metal.

At times, this makes the album feel scattered, but it is still impressive to see each direction Collier can take his music.

This song features a dozen collaborations, my favorite of which is Lizzy McAlpine and John Mayer with the song "Never Gonna Be Alone."

My favorite part of this album is the way each song seems to flow into the next if you listen to it from top to bottom.

Don't miss out on this all-encompassing album (and maybe even check out the previous installments of the "Djesse" project).



"Eternal Sunshine" by Ariana Grande

Official Score: 8/10

After three years of waiting, Ariana Grande fans finally have a new album to dance and cry to.

I have always loved Grande for her powerhouse voice and pristine vocal technique. But she isn't just a voice; this album brings beautiful writing and fun production into a stellar record.

After facing controversy due to her relationship with Ethan Slater, this album seems to address the rumors, as well as issues with her separation from Dalton Gomez.

This album suffers from an issue I see with artists all the time: the lead single is the worst song on the record. If you have only heard "yes, and?" don't let that turn you

off from the rest of the project.

"Eternal Sunshine" is topping the charts, so you won't want to miss this supernatural album.

"Deeper Well" by Kacey Musgraves

Official Score: 7/10

Musgraves departs from the upbeat production you may know from "Butterflies" and "breadwinner" and takes a more mature approach to "Deeper Well."

This is a soft, feminine album that makes you feel like you are sitting with her on her bedroom floor as she weeps to her guitar.

This is not her best work, but it still showcases her beautiful voice and unconventional approach to country music.

Unlike her previous albums,

"Deeper Well" doesn't have any clear anthems. But, if you like introspective lyrics and cosmic country, this is a great low-key album that feels like a walk through a meadow at sunrise.

"Unheard" by Hozier

Official Score: 10/10

This may be only a four-song project, but it packs a punch. These songs did not make the cut for his previous album "Unreal Unearth," but are still masterpieces in their own right.

Its most popular song, as well as my personal favorite, is "Too Sweet," which originally went viral on TikTok before being released.

The EP also features a collaboration with Allison Russell on "Wildflower and Barley," whose melodic voice blends beautifully with Hozier's

Graphic by Caroline Averitt | Life Editor

whiskey-flavored sound.

Even though "Unheard" is only 14 minutes long, it is an immersive experience complete with haunting vocals and perfect folk production.

Don't leave this gorgeous project unheard.

"GUTS (spilled)" by Olivia Rodrigo

Official Score: 10/10

Allow me to spill my guts for a moment: "GUTS (spilled)" is my favorite music project from March and has my favorite songs from Olivia Rodrigo to date.

"GUTS" first came out in September, but this new deluxe version adds five new songs that showcase all of Rodrigo's strengths.

The first new track

"obsessed," an upbeat rock song, was well-known before this release since it is on the setlist of Rodrigo's ongoing world tour.

The deluxe album also features "girl i've always been" and "stranger," a departure from her typical sound with a folk twang. It wouldn't be Olivia Rodrigo without an acoustic ballad which she satisfies with "scared of my guitar."

Finally, "so american" is Rodrigo's first-ever love song. She is no stranger to writing about heartbreak, but this track marries the classic Olivia Rodrigo sound with a positive and giddy subject matter. If you only listen to one release from March, I recommend this one: you'll be obsessed.

Honorable Mentions

If you still haven't gotten your music fix yet, check out some of these other projects from this month.

- "Underdressed at the Symphony" by Faye Webster
- "Bleachers" by Bleachers
- "Visions" by Norah Jones
- "Alley Rose" by Conan Gray
- "You Need Me Now?" by girl in red and Sabrina Carpenter

Upcoming Releases

March isn't over and if you want some music to look forward to, check out these upcoming records.

- "Cowboy Carter" by Beyoncé
- "Evolution" by Sheryl Crow

The kids shouldn't have to stay quiet on set

COLUMN BY
CAROLINE AVERITT
LIFE EDITOR

If you are like me, you grew up watching Nickelodeon shows like "iCarly," "Victorious," "Drake and Josh," and more.

Despite the silly, carefree nature of these TV shows, a recent docuseries, "Quiet on Set: The Dark Side of Kids TV," exposed many Nickelodeon employees for the mistreatment and abuse of their child actors.

Watching this documentary felt like a punch to the gut, as it showed the jokes we laughed at as children had undertones of innuendo and the kids we felt like we were friends with were being abused behind the scenes.

Much of the series revolved around Dan Schneider, the creator and producer of several popular Nickelodeon shows. He has been accused of creating a hostile work environment, gender discrimination and creating scenes with sexual implications.

In addition, dialogue coach Brian Peck and production assistant Jason Michael Handy were accused of sexual abuse.

I would go into more detail about their specific charges,

but I will instead let Drake Bell from "Drake and Josh" and "The Amanda Show" speak to the allegations.

"Why don't you think of the worst that someone can do to somebody as a sexual assault?" he said in the docuseries regarding his abuse from Peck, "I don't know how else to put it."

Most of these kids just wanted to be actors or comedians, but instead faced the unspeakable from those who decided whether they had a job or not. Luckily, Bell received a bit of justice as his abuser lost his case in court, but that is a rarity.

This causes a problematic power dynamic. It is no wonder it has taken this long for some of these people to speak out about what happened to them.

However, this is not the first time a Nickelodeon child actor has alleged claims like this. In fact, Jennette McCurdy, famous for her character Sam on "iCarly," said in her memoir "I'm Glad My Mom Died" that she was offered \$300,000 in hush money to not put certain things in her book. She alleges "the Creator" pressured her to drink while underage and massaged her.

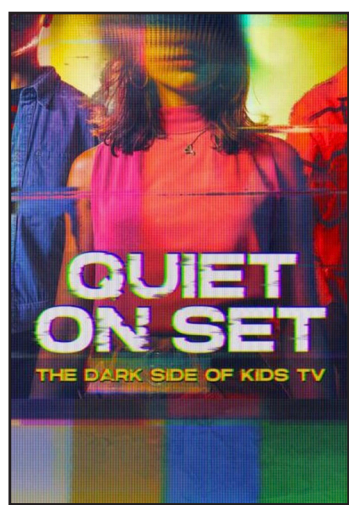


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

This has led many to believe that other Nickelodeon stars who have kept quiet during the release of this docuseries accepted money to stay silent about abuse that may have happened.

It is heartbreaking that so many kids have gone through this type of abuse and they felt like they couldn't do anything about it. The kids should not have to stay quiet on set. They should feel safe at all times and shouldn't be put in a position where they have to speak up.

I am glad this story is being told and I wish nothing but healing and justice for all of them.

The internet has made us cruel

COLUMN BY
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OPINION EDITOR

Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales, has been the topic of intense online debate and conspiracy surrounding her "disappearance" from the public eye following reports of her being admitted for a "planned abdominal surgery" in January.

The internet was red hot with intense speculation surrounding her whereabouts for weeks on end until this past week when Middleton made a public statement revealing her cancer diagnosis and asking for privacy moving forward.

This situation seemed eerily similar to the internet's reaction to Chadwick Boseman's physical appearance in a video posted to the actor's Instagram in 2020. People were similarly obsessed with conspiracies of his alleged drug use and some online even mocked the actor's appearance.

When Boseman died in August of 2020, it was revealed he died of colon cancer and his weight loss was due to his chemotherapy treatments.

The online reaction was similar to Middleton's as many backtracked their tasteless jokes and conspiracies and



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX NEWS

Kate Middleton in her personal video message announcing her cancer diagnosis.

replaced them with well wishes and condolences.

This common trend of the internet running wild with rumors and speculations surrounding public figures is nothing new, but does reveal an alarming trend: the internet has made us cruel.

We are far too quick to jump on the bandwagon of speculation and conspiracy when things "don't add up." We treat celebrities and public figures as sources of entertainment so frequently that we are unable to consider the possibility of them going through real situations that do not need to be publicized.

The desire to be someone

who uncovers the supposed mystery of a situation has become more important than simply hoping for the best and minding your own business.

We know the internet is invasive, but it has reached new levels where now people online feel entitled to public figures' personal business simply because they are in the public eye. People are entitled to their privacy and we should not expect to know everything there is to know about someone just because they are famous.

If more people were reminded of this fact, the internet would be a much better place.

Club Spotlight: Fibers Club

LAILA CASIANO

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The Fibers Club threads artistry and collaborations by crafting fun projects and friendships here at Arkansas State University.

The Fibers Club teaches students various techniques and skills related to fiber-based artworks, such as sewing, crocheting, knitting, felting, machine gun tufting, beading, fabric echo printing and more.

It encourages students to improve their skills and knowledge through various student and professor-led demonstrations. The club began in the fall when Kristen Franyutti, assistant professor of drawing + fiber, asked one of her students, Lauren Vansandt, to create the Fibers Club together.

“As the fiber arts professor, my intention was to establish a club that would enable students to delve into various facets of fiber art and provide a platform for interaction and cooperation among students from different areas of the campus and the Jonesboro community,” Franyutti said.

Franyutti wanted to expand her reach in teaching fiber arts to a wider range of students, providing opportunities and connections to those who could not enroll in studio courses.

Vansandt, a senior fine arts major with an emphasis in fiber

arts from DeWitt, Arkansas, is president of the club.

Vansandt helped create the club alongside Franyutti when the newly offered fiber arts course piqued interest in the craft.

“The club is all about finding community in creating fiber arts,” Vansandt said. “We all love to sit and chit-chat while working on our own individual projects.”

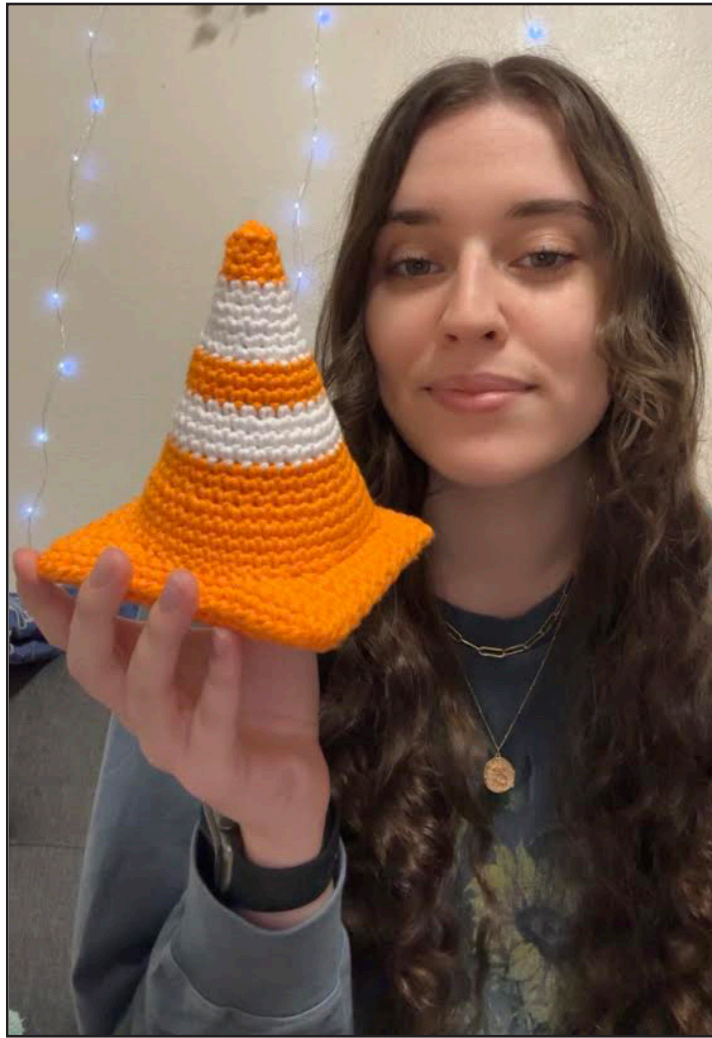
Franyutti, the club’s adviser, said she helps gather materials, tools and demos for student members.

“I also bring in my own professional fiber-based artwork to work on while the students are working on their own project,” Franyutti said. “This allows students to have a behind-the-scenes look at how professional artists create their work.”

Vansandt said her favorite thing about the club is the friends she has made from various majors outside the art department.

“Whether you’re into sewing, crocheting, knitting, felting or all of the above, you’re welcome here. This is a safe space,” Vansandt said.

Emily Briones, a first-year graphic design major from Bryant, Arkansas, joined the club during the last fall semester when she first heard about the club through Katherine Baker, Ph.D., an associate professor



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMILY BRIONES

Emily Briones, a first-year graphic design major from Bryant, Arkansas, with her crochet projects, a traffic cone and a cow.

of art history. Baker mentioned the club in her art history class and Briones then began to ask around until she found someone who could send her a picture of the Fibers Club flier.

“My favorite thing about being in the Fibers Club is

that I’ve made new friends who crochet,” Briones said. “This club is important to me because it allows me to connect with others who also enjoy my favorite hobby and it gives me dedicated time to work on my crochet projects.”

Briones wants to let people know that although the majority of the members in the Fibers Club mainly crochet, all other fiber arts are welcomed. “Even if you aren’t experienced in a particular fiber art form, you are

always welcome to join the club and learn,” she said.

The Fibers Club meets at the Fine Arts Center in room 217, alternating between Thursday and Friday at 1:30 p.m. each week.

Tips for staying safe as severe weather season begins

RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As spring kicks into gear, the season of severe weather also begins. Arkansas is in Dixie Alley, a part of the southern United States vulnerable to strong tornadoes. Considering tornado season lasts from March until June in Arkansas, brushing up on severe weather tips will save you time and stress later down the line.

Know Where to Go:

Knowing where to go during severe weather may very well save your life. The Reng Student Union is a dedicated severe weather safe area on campus and should be where you go if possible.

However, if you can’t make it, knowing safe areas in your dorm or apartment will help immensely. Ask your RA where to go for your dorm and ask an administrator or professor for whichever building you’re in.

When in doubt, a room on the bottom floor of a building far away from windows is the safest bet. This could be your dorm room closet, a bathroom, or anything else applicable.

If caught outside, either find a way to get inside quickly or find shelter outside. Avoid bridges or overpasses and don’t stay in your car. Your best bet

is to lay face down in a ditch, covering your neck with your hands. If near a concrete culvert, this is a great place to shelter.

Be aware thunderstorms often accompany tornadoes, which can bring lightning with them. If caught outside, stay away from anything tall or metal.

There is a small window of time you have to safely make it to a shelter. If you want to shelter in the Student Union, leave during a tornado watch, or even before then. If you try to leave during a tornado warning (which means there is visible rotation and a high possibility of the funnel cloud touching down), it is too late.

Stay Informed:

Staying informed on weather conditions will be your greatest tool when preparing for severe weather. Watch local weather segments and check the weather app on your phone daily. If severe weather strikes, you can get an approximate time of where you will be when it hits and how to best prepare.

Be sure to sign up for A-State Alerts to be instantly notified via text and email in case of any emergency. You can check official A-State social media accounts and the National Weather Service in Memphis for weather-related alerts. In addition, KASU and

FORECAST	WATCH	WARNING
<p>STAY UP-TO-DATE!</p> <p>Check weather.gov and other resources to see what weather is expected at your location.</p>	<p>BE PREPARED!</p> <p>Conditions are favorable for severe weather. Stay informed and prepare to act if a warning is issued.</p>	<p>TAKE ACTION!</p> <p>Severe weather is occurring or is imminent at your location. Take proper shelter immediately.</p>

Have a plan before severe weather threatens you!

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

A graphic explaining severe weather terminology.

KAIT 8 will broadcast during severe weather. You can livestream KAIT on their website in cases of severe weather, so you can have your phone or laptop open for constant coverage.

However, in case of a power or internet failure, keeping a hand crank radio allows you to tune in for weather updates. If using a hand crank radio, tune into KASU at 91.9 FM.

Make a Plan:

If possible, know when and where you will be when severe weather strikes. If time permits, gather any important items in a bag to take with you when you shelter. Having some non-perishable snacks, bottled water, a portable phone charger and any medications on you is a good idea as well.

If you have an animal,

make plans for their safety as well. If you have a small pet, crate them and be ready to take with you. If you have a larger animal, leash them and muzzle if necessary. Take some of their food, water and medication with you if possible.

Final Thoughts:

Contrary to all southern instincts, resist the urge to go outside and watch severe

weather. Do not risk your safety or anyone else’s trying to get a photo or video of the weather.

If worried about damage to your car, move it to a covered area well before the storm hits. Charge any electronics beforehand.

Severe weather season is just ramping up, so carry these tips with you and share them with friends to keep safe. Stay safe and stay prepared!