

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Lo-fi high-five music reviews: Maya Hawke — "Blush"(2020)

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We live in a unique time where celebrities (mainly actors) branch out to try their hand in other various artistic mediums. A personal favorite is H. Jon Benjamin's "Well I Should Have... (Learned How to Play Piano)," which may as well be considered anti-jazz, because, well... no, you get the idea already. Benjamin's jazz album, however, is a strong example of celebrity music in that it doesn't sound like trash (in fact, "Well I Should Have..." is one of the funniest records I've ever heard, and it's a delight).

Art, and to a larger extent,

music, should be accessible to everyone, regardless of what art medium they gravitate to normally. It's rare that a celebrity music album garners much critical acclaim, and probably for good reason. Robert Downey Jr.'s "The Futurist," and Corey Feldman's "Angelic 2 the Core" stand out simply as laughably abysmal, and it often makes me wonder what many actors are intending to envision with their musical endeavors at all.

I wouldn't recommend anyone to sort through the tedious backlog of celebrity albums out there, but this week's record,

"Blush," by Maya Hawke of the "Little Women" TV series and "Stranger Things" Season 3 fame, rights many of the wrongs done by actors attempting to break ground in the music industry. Combining sweet indie folk melodies with even prettier indie pop lyricism, Hawke writes songs as if they were secret Valentine letters that may or may not have endearing contents within. I might call the record wholesome, but that almost seems belittling considering how well-written and memorable many of the songs are ("A River Like You" and "Cricket" as obvious

stand-outs).

Although Hawke's debut isn't exactly groundbreaking, it doesn't need to be. The little experiments she tinkers with make for such a chill headspace that it's like she's invited us on a brief tour inside her mind. And it's a wonderful experience, notwithstanding how very much like a debut record this feels like. Despite how under-the-radar "Blush" may end up being, Hawke succeeds where many other celebrity musicians haven't in that she's woven in true-to-self honesty in every track. Where Hawke's acting career

demonstrates her gravitas as an artist on-screen, Hawke sketches a self-portrait in "Blush" that is so authentic it's almost unreal. I might be a big "Stranger Things" fan, but it's Maya Hawke's musical ventures that I will be keeping my eye out for in the future.



Maya Hawke  
"Blush"  
(2020)



A collection of fall photography by Promethean Office Manager Jean Germano. From left, two political campaign signs, a hallmark of the season, dot the fields of Northwest Wisconsin, the Davidson Windmill of Highway 13, and the Highway 2 bridge through Allouez.

## Student athletes battle with impacts of COVID-19 pandemic

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This past spring, everyone around the world was impacted by COVID-19. The pandemic impacted many factors of life, one of the biggest being sports. UWS athletics were cancelled and are returning to a closer norm with fall in our midst. The games aren't normal whatsoever, but they do give athletes an opportunity to be able to compete with their teammates once again.

Spring sports were put on hold during spring break when COVID took over and shut down the entire country. For the University of Wisconsin-Superior, spring sports had just begun their seasons, including track and field, who won the UMAC Indoor Tournament just weeks before the shutdown. CJ Pillath was in North Carolina for the NCAA Division 3 Indoor Championships with a shot to compete to become a national champion.

When the news broke, the two coaches and lone teammate that rode down

to North Carolina had no idea what was next and at one point were left trying to find a way back for 12 hours, comparing the feeling to the grieving of a lost loved one. The team was looking to five-peat as the UMAC men's regular season champions.

On March 12, the NCAA announced all competition was canceled indefinitely. Both the University's baseball and softball teams were scheduled to leave for Auburndale, and Naples, Florida the following day. "Losing our spring break trip was difficult, but undoubtedly losing the rest of our season and the chance at winning a conference championship was the biggest blow," said Nick Bursik, Director of Athletics and 2020 interim head softball coach.

The softball team was 14-2 and second overall in conference play the year before and were ready to make another run at a conference championship with a "team full of

strong depth and bats just beginning to come alive" and a group of "special and talented players," Bursik said. In their 10 games before lockdown, the team went 5-5 including an 8-0 one-hitter by pitcher Amanda Kinish, who recorded a career-high 8 strikeouts in her final game as a UWS Yellowjacket.

Since then, the 'Jackets have graduated a senior class, welcomed the freshman class and hired Melissa Fracker as head coach. They also have done the same as many of the fall teams, playing intrasquad games to give an in-game feeling to the players. So far, they have been able to play two games, splitting the two between Teams Black and White. Baseball also plans to play an intrasquad series, with their fall exhibitions beginning Saturday, October 17.

Both the men's and women's tennis teams were only a few games into the season. The teams

struggled in the games they were able to play, with the men finishing 0-4 and then women 1-3. "The team became more adverse and handled the situation very well, especially having five seniors on the team that never fully knew when they would have their last practice," said second-year Head Coach CeeJay Schaffner. "With every push back, we never really knew what the next step was because no one had ever been in a situation as problematic as COVID." The team was back up and running throughout the fall season; no games were played, but they did manage to get some practice in while the weather was still on their side.

As far as fall and winter sports go, both the WIAC and UMAC suspended play until at least January 1, 2021. However, the coaches and athletic director have worked to create great substitutions for the players and their supporters.



Freshman Tayler Kraemer (22) delivers a pitch for Team White on Oct. 8. Team White defeated Team Black 14-4. Photo by Holden Law

Talking to the coaches, they each relayed the same basic principle — finding a fun way to practice without having a set time for when they will compete.

Glen Drexler, Head Coach of the Track and Field team, had a campfire day and an egg toss to help the team have fun during the constricted season. Not having a final destination like a championship has changed the whole landscape of the UWS athletic experience this year, especially in practice.

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