

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Lo-fi high five music reviews: Grimes - “Miss Anthropocene (Rave Edition)” (2021)

Liam Strong

lstrong1@uwsuper.edu

Have you ever found yourself in a place where you asked for a remix album? Remixes, though potentially unnecessary to some degree—and often a way for artists to sustain relevance of old material—are special in terms of production. Sometimes a remix can fix previous production issues in tracks while adding something new to the original song. Moreover, remixes allow for artists to collaborate with other artists by allowing them to remix the song with their own pastiche of genre and style, many times creating a remix that sounds quite far from the original.

On paper, a remix album sounds like a glorified cover album that permits the original material to fluidly move between genres and textural sounds. In practice, remix albums often lead to

bizarre and ill-advised decisions. After the release of 2020’s “Miss Anthropocene,” electronic music and pop artist Grimes put out her newest remix album, “Miss Anthropocene (Rave Edition),” which exhibits a stripped back interpretation of many songs that were, in fact, perfectly good the way they were. It’s not unusual that EDM artists put out dance remix albums; in fact, a large portion of remix albums are produced with EDM accessibility in mind. “Miss Anthropocene” was an album packed to the brim with dance beats in its original version, but what did Grimes’ onslaught of new producers do to help?

Well, they added more beats. Beats might be the wrong word—every song gained a bass drum rhythm that both sounds like an annoying metronome throughout and

also detracts from the much more diverse beats Grimes originally had. For the most part, Grimes is completely absent from these songs, aside from the surprisingly fleeting instances where her singing is spliced in, sometimes as the only melody to the song. One of the main reasons these remixes drag on for so long is that every single track has been extended, some to the length of ten whole minutes. Of nothing but the same bass beat, over and over.

That said: this is a rave album. It’s not trying to be groundbreaking. Honestly, it’s not trying to be as texturally or technically interesting as the original “Miss Anthropocene” because the “Rave Edition” is just meant to be danced to. You might hear it in a club somewhere, but the songs have been so disemboweled of identity that they’re close to

sounding like royalty-free techno.

Despite the amount of producers each individually working on a track, they do very little to distinguish themselves from one another. The only remix that stood apart was the REZZ Remix of “Violence,” which benefits from sticking to the original track’s three-minute runtime and keeping Grimes at the center of the mix. If every remix on “Rave Edition” had the energy and pomp of “Violence,” then this could have been as lush a dance album as its predecessor.

Ultimately, remixes suffer from so much expectation of living up to their original material that it’s almost easy to predict that a remix is going to be poor once it’s announced. Do we want remixes to be bad? Of course not. A good remix ought to pay homage and add some-

thing new to its original—much like a good cover. Remixes are an opportunity for the original artists and producers to take a step back and for other artists to share in the creative energy of songs they love. This appreciation rarely renders itself in remixes, though, which just leads to most remix albums eliciting unanimous shrugs from their fanbases. Unfortunately for Grimes, this had to happen to “Miss Anthropocene,” one of her best albums, and arguably one of the best pop albums of 2020.



Grimes
“Miss Anthropocene
(Rave Edition)”
(2021)

Koski balances love of running, writing

Charlie Swanson

cswans20@uwsuper.edu

Nicole Koski, a junior on the women’s cross country and track and field teams at UWS, owes a lot of her character to her unique childhood upbringing.

A native of Park Falls, Wisconsin, Koski grew up without WiFi or cable television for her entire childhood; spending most of her time with her parents and two brothers, Jordan and Kevin. “I think a lot of my creativity and willingness to go out was due to that,” Koski said. “We spent a lot of time writing poems, going outside and having family movie night.”

Because of her outgoingness, Koski experimented in eleven different sports growing up until she found her biggest passion to this day: running.

Running competitively since fifth grade, the Park Falls native continued her career at UWS through the women’s cross country and track and field teams, following in her

brothers’ footsteps. Her eldest brother, Jordan, ran for UWS from 2015-18 and her second brother, Kevin, is currently running for the Illinois State University track and field and cross-country teams.

So far in her running career, Koski has been named UMAC Academic All-Conference two years in a row and placed fifth at the 2019-20 Indoor UMAC Championship, continually beating personal bests along the way.

Recently, due to meet setbacks due to COVID-19, Koski has been focusing on her writing when it comes to academic work, stemming from her love of writing as a child. As a writing minor, Koski has been submitting work and helping review papers for the Nemadji Review, the student-run literary journal at UWS. Koski hopes to continue her creative writing throughout her UWS journey and plans to use it in her future career.

When she’s not running



Koski running for UWS. The Park Falls native has been named UMAC Academic All-Conference each of the past two years.
Photo provided by Gary Koski

or writing, Koski can be found in her favorite building on campus, the Marcovich Wellness Center (MWC). “Most of the cross country team hangs out there in our free time. We like to play ping pong or do homework together before practice.”

When she’s not with her teammates, Koski can be found at one of her two jobs in the MWC. She works as both a building manager at the front desk and as a student assistant in the back.

To find out more about Koski or future UWS cross country or track and field meets, visit www.uwsyellowjackets.com. The 2021 Indoor UMAC Championship takes place on Friday, Feb. 26 at the Dr. Lydia C. Thering Fieldhouse. More info about UMAC athletics can be found at www.umacathletics.com.

Chi Alpha provides chance for students to find faith, friendship

Alexa Henderson

ahender7@uwsuper.edu

Moving away from home to attend college is sometimes a scary and unusual experience. However, some students find a sense of community on the UWS campus through a shared faith. Casey Damberg, a junior economics major, joined Chi Alpha to have a community on campus to interact and spend time with.

“The driving force of UWS Chi Alpha is being continually connected to Jesus, and it is Jesus who empowers us to bear fruit,” said Kayla Antos, a sophomore double majoring in legal studies and psychology and a member of Chi Alpha. “UWS Chi Alpha is a place to connect with Jesus and others. Chi Alpha is a movement of people who are markedly different. We are known for the way we love and serve Christ, one another, and our University.”

Damberg, who has been at UWS for three years, joined Chi Alpha last spring. “He is present for every event that we put on as a large group as well as the ones his individual small group puts on,” Antos said. “Casey is a strong example of someone who

serves Christ and is a strong community and relationship builder.” Antos described Damberg as one of the core members of the group.

“I love having the chance to do really fun activities with my friends,” said Damberg. “I also enjoy the people in the group because I get to have deep, interpersonal conversations about my faith, our personal lives and the world.”

Damberg spends his time with Chi Alpha playing sports, enjoying meals and going to church. While the group is technically non-denominational, they frequent the Central Assembly of God, a protestant church.

“We also have men’s and women’s small groups every week for discussions about scripture and how it plays into our day-to-day lives,” Damberg noted. “I really like having these talks because it is a good chance to relate to my fellow schoolmates and brothers of Christ.”

For more information about Chi Alpha, you can visit their page on ‘Jacket Hub’ or visit their website at www.uwschialpha.org.



Koski with her two brothers. Jordan (left) ran for UWS from 2015-18. Kevin (right) currently runs for Illinois State University.
Photo provided by Ann Koski

Contact us at promethean@uwsuper.edu or reach out to us on social media to get an invite to our weekly Zoom meetings!

You can also stop by our office in YU 159 for more information!