

UP NEXT

Meet your new favorite music makers: Saweetie, Nina Nesbitt, and the Regrettes. By Brianna Kovan

MUSIC SPECIAL



THE SCRAPPY SINGER-SONGWRITER

Nina Nesbitt makes things happen. At 15, the Scottish teen heard Taylor Swift's *Fearless* album and thought, I should try that. Within a couple of years, she'd learned guitar and approached Ed Sheeran for industry advice. Soon after, she was invited to tour with him (they also briefly dated—Nesbitt is the muse behind Sheeran's 2014 single "Nina"). Island Records released her 2014 debut album, *Peroxide*, in the UK, which made it to the Top 15 there,

and then dropped her. "No one took me seriously when I was 17 and making pop music," says Nesbitt, now 24. "For a man with a guitar, it's so much easier." In February, she released her U.S. debut, *The Sun Will Come Up, the Seasons Will Change* (Cooking Vinyl), whose single "The Best You Had" was quickly favored by Swift. While female empowerment anthems are all the rage, Nesbitt says, her songs are about being "vulnerable, hurt, fragile, and strong at the same time."



THE VIRAL RAP SENSATION

When Saweetie first recorded "Icy Grl," a 2016 freestyle she spitballed in her car, she was at her "tipping point," as she puts it, hopping between rented rooms she'd found on Craigslist. Then she hit Share on Instagram. Three years later, the now fully produced song—an addictive blend of clever rhymes and bougie boasts over the beat from Khia's "My Neck, My Back"—has earned the Los Angeles rapper more than 150 million streams, 68 million YouTube views, and a Warner Bros. record deal. This spring, she released her debut EP, *Icy*. "The new songs have the 'Icy' [vibe], but you'll see growth in my tone and delivery," says Saweetie, née Diamonté Harper (her stage name is a riff on Sweetie, her grandmother's nickname for her). In the video for "Pissed," a gloves-off response to online hate that dropped last year, Saweetie dons the braided bleached-blond hair of *Game of Thrones* queen Daenerys Targaryen. "Khaleesi embodies what 'Pissed' is," says the 25-year-old USC alumna. "It's like, 'Why y'all coming for me when I'm just trying to get what's rightfully mine?'"

THE FEMINIST PUNK QUARTET

After Justice Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court hearing last September, Lydia Night—the lead vocalist of L.A. punk-rock quartet the Regrettes—needed to say something. "I walked into my garage, where Genessa [Gariano, 22, the band's guitarist] was playing this riff, and I started singing the first thing that came into my head," says Night, 18. The resulting ballad, "Poor Boy," is a feminist call to arms (and an update to "Seashore," a defiant clapback to patronization from their 2017 debut studio album, *Feel Your Feelings Fool!*). This summer, the band—which also includes drummer Drew Thomsen, 22, and bassist Brooke Dickson, 24—will put out its second studio release, *How Do You Love* (Warner Bros.), a concept album that draws inspiration from early-aughts postpunk bands like the Exploding Hearts, the Strokes, and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. "It's a love story," says Night, who's reportedly dating *13 Reasons Why* star Dylan Minnette. "It explores the different sides of falling in and out of love."



Nesbitt: Andrew Bengtson/Getty Images; Saweetie: Thom Kerr; Night: Claire Marie Vogel