

Gus Dapperton has always been obsessed with building new worlds. It's been part of his passion since he started making songs in GarageBand, a creator's mindset that eventually shaped two independent albums of defiantly original alt-pop. "Supalonely," his collaboration with New Zealand singer-songwriter BENEE, went viral during lockdown in 2020 and amassed more than one billion streams on its way to becoming a double-Platinum hit. "It gave me and other indie artists credibility," he says. "It showed that alt-pop songs can be massive." Now signed to Warner Records, he goes even further on his new project, *Henge*, steeping himself in bold details and immersive songwriting to conjure a twilight world that permanently hovers between sunset and sunrise over the course of 11 mercurial songs. Instead of starting with the music, Dapperton plotted out moods and titles and worked backward, taking inspiration from film scores, '80s-inspired new wave, and '70s funk. While the album's scope is vast and ambitious, Dapperton's music maintains the intimacy that made his previous offerings so resonant. At its core, the album is a way of processing a post-lockdown world. "I think most people can relate to wanting change and chaos, but also monotony and protection," he says of the album's tug-of-war between night and day, socializing and solitude. "I'm always internally battling those two sides."