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Senior Projects Spring 2023

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

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## The Short Song Project

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# THE SHORT SONG PROJECT



Senior Project submitted to The Division of Arts of Bard College

by Jayla Kai Smith

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York May 2022

## **INTRO TO THE SHORT SONG PROJECT**

*The Short Song Project* is an album that I created during my time at Bard between March of 2022 and February of 2023, when I began releasing the project in parts. Conceived through an assignment to write a short song which I found myself enjoying unexpectedly, the project gave me a place to develop ideas with texture, play, and concision, as opposed to song length and form which I had previously worked primarily within.

## **ARTIST'S STATEMENT / ADAPTED PRESS RELEASE:**

The Short Song Project is about play, navigating and reveling in the freedom afforded by curiosity, innocence, empowerment and excitement.

Primarily self-produced and developed with a couple of close collaborators, the project is preserved as it was conceived: jagged, unique and personal. The Short Song Project is about play, exploring my inner world with unconstrained openness and inviting everybody in. Largely focused on navigating how I see myself, the project cycles through playful, realistic, somber, theatrical, and joyful self-images. It gives a space and a voice to each of these characters, putting intense self-awareness up against outrageous confidence.

I've incorporated the sounds I recorded of the orchestra tuning, violin and vocal stacks both processed and quite raw, bitcrushed or fed through guitar amps, percussion made by miking my jeans or combing sound libraries and manipulating their output, and other frequent left turns. This was the first project I've done where I got to shape an entire album, crafting intentional track order, creating transitions between the songs and thinking of the project not only in its component parts but as a whole.

## **NOTES:**

As part of this release process, I work with my management team, publicists, a distributor and others to hone the language, release order and framing, and more. I write my own press releases, then work to revise them with my team. I work with a photographer who took what became the press photos associated with this release, which I selected and edited. I manage my social media and post "coming soon" and "out now" assets that I've made around each release, and interface with people who contact me there. I also drew short looping rotoscoped animations for each song in the project which appear when people listen to the project on Spotify or YouTube. I

made the series of covers (above) which are prints that I then scanned in and manipulated into different combinations in Adobe Illustrator. I am proud to be driving almost every element of this process and the result is a project that represents not only my creative work but what I really value and *how* I like to work.

*The Short Song Project by Jayla Kai can be streamed anywhere online.*

To listen to *The Short Song Project* by Jayla Kai, visit:  
[Ink.to/jaylakai](https://ink.to/jaylakai)