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**Subject:** The New York Times Magazine: 25 Songs That Tell Us Where Music Is Going

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When we talk about music these days, the conversation always seems to draw itself back to one common theme: identity. Look through the sharp, deeply felt essays in the magazine's second annual music issue — from critics, novelists and musicians including [Angela Flournoy](#), [John Darnielle](#), [Margo Jefferson](#), [Wesley Morris](#) and [Alexander Chee](#) — and you'll find them reckoning with that theme in countless ways. Look even closer, and you'll notice that they're doing it, in part, because the musicians are, too.

The result is a collection of music and stories that tells us a lot about where music stands today and where it might be going next — a whole catalog of rich insights on musicians like [Future](#), [Solange](#), [Leonard Cohen](#), [James McMurtry](#), [Kanye West](#), [Metallica](#), [Mitski](#), [Frank Ocean](#), [Mica Levi](#) and [Oliver Coates](#) and plenty more.

And it's not just words: You can listen too. We spoke with some of these writers about the songs they covered, and the stories behind their writing, for an audio experience called "The EP" — music, conversation and insight into 13 songs that capture something about our moment. You can find it right [here](#).

Happy reading,

**Jake Silverstein**

Editor in Chief



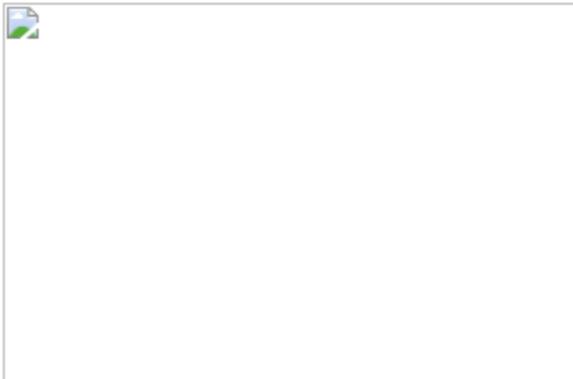
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THE MUSIC ISSUE

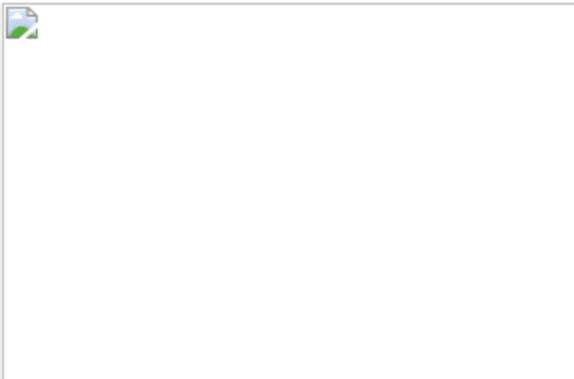
# 25 Songs That Tell Us Where Music Is Going

By THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

A curated playlist featuring Future, Kelela, Adele and more, with essays by Margo Jefferson, Wesley Morris, Angela Flournoy and others.



Erik Madigan Heck for The New York Times



Erik Madigan Heck for The New York Times

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## Future: 'Mask Off'

By AMOS BARSHAD

Party music for the age of opiates

THE MUSIC ISSUE

## Kelela: 'Rewind'

By JENNA WORTHAM

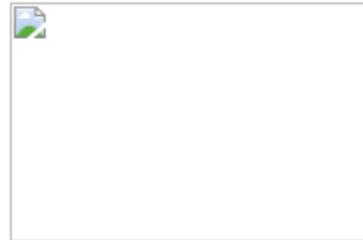
She has found her own corner of R.&B.

THE MUSIC ISSUE

## Adele: 'Send My Love (to Your New Lover)'

By WESLEY MORRIS

All I want to do is dance — but it's complicated.

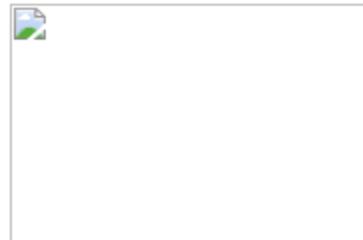


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## A Tribe Called Quest

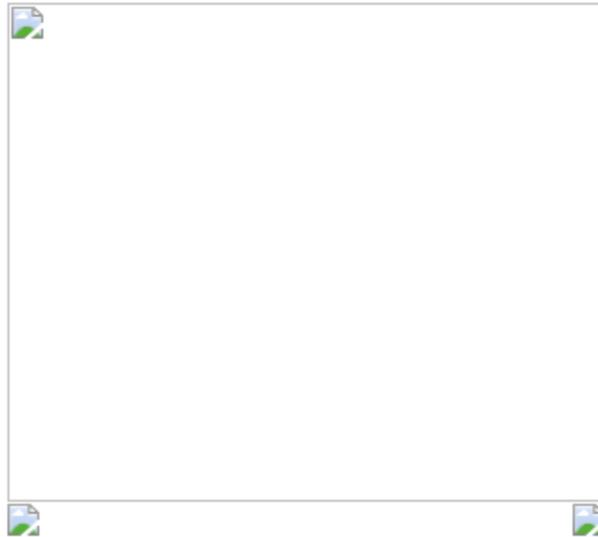
By GREG TATE

Who makes the protest music?



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Erik Madigan Heck for The New York Times

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# Mitski: ‘Your Best American Girl’

By JENNY ZHANG

Growing up wondering if the American dream is for you.

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Erik Madigan Heck for The New York Times

**THE MUSIC ISSUE**

## Cécile McLorin Savant: ‘The Trolley Song’

By MARGO JEFFERSON

The counter-diva who brings a comedian’s timing and sensibility to jazz.



Erik Madigan Heck for The New York Times

**THE MUSIC ISSUE**

## James McMurtry: ‘Copper Canteen’

By RUTH GRAHAM

The danger of being a singer-songwriter.

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## Young M.A.: ‘OOOUUU’

By HANNAH GIORGIS

A woman’s unabashed appreciation of women.

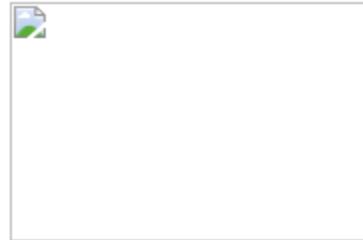


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## ‘The EP’: 13 Songs That Capture Our Moment

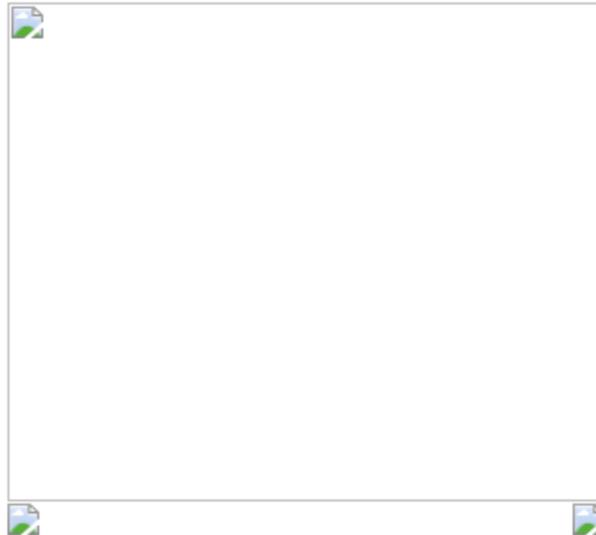
By THE NEW YORK TIMES

What songs tell us where music is going? “The EP,” coming on Thursday, March 9, has some answers.



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