

MusicPicks

Anjali Raguraman recommends

**DANCE-POP
DEDICATED
SIDE B**
Carly Rae Jepsen

★★★★★



It is hard to believe that Canadian singer-songwriter Carly Rae Jepsen's (right) latest surprise album drop – filled with joyous, sparkling pop songs – is essentially a collection of songs that did not make it into her previous album, *Dedicated* (2019).

Granted, she had 200 songs written for *Dedicated* to choose from, but there are some real gems on this B-side that stay in the same "modern take on 1980s synth-pop" vein.

Within that sphere, she still manages to show off her range.

This is *What They Say*, co-written with English singer Dev Hynes (also known as Blood Orange), is an instant R&B earworm straight out of the late 1980s, while the floaty, atmospheric *Heartbeat* is an affecting, slow burner of a ballad, complete with tinkling piano keys.

Back-to-back songs, *Felt This Way* ("How come I can't stay away?") transitions into *Stay Away* with the same lyrical refrain of "How can I stay away?", almost like showing off how good she can make two different songs sound, with similar themes and lyrics.

Amid the doom and gloom of a global pandemic, her brand of positive pop music is a much-needed salve.



BLACKOUT BROADCAST X FOODBANK FUND-RAISER

Singapore-based house and techno DJ party organiser Blackout Agency is bringing together DJs from Singapore and around the globe for a fund-raiser for The Food Bank Singapore, which currently provides 10,000 meals daily.

Unlike virtual parties where you can see the DJ spinning, this will be audio only.

Expect eight hours of uninterrupted DJ mixes from local DJs like Brendon P and Zushan (above) as well as Gilles Wasserman (United States) and Nuno Dos Santos (the Netherlands).

Donations can be made via bit.ly/2yyylhei.

WHERE: twitch.tv/blackoutagencyasia

WHEN: Today, noon to 8pm

INFO: bit.ly/3d9MTGM



MARQUEE ONE LIVE WITH MARLO

Singapore's largest nightclub Marquee is keeping the virtual party going with its weekly Marquee ONE Live series after its first anniversary party last week.

Dutch trance DJ Marlo (above) kicks

it off today with a set streamed live from Sydney.

Future international guest DJs lined up include Dannic, Dash Berlin, Blasterjaxx and Paul Van Dyk.

WHERE: twitch.tv/marqueessingapore

WHEN: Today, 8 to 10pm

INFO: marqueessingapore.com

PHOTOS: BLACKOUT AGENCY/FACEBOOK, JEPSSEN/FACEBOOK, MARQUEE SINGAPORE, ZOUK

ZOUK PHUTURESCAPES

A series of three virtual parties spanning three time zones by Zouk and the Singapore Tourism Board kicks off this weekend, from today to Sunday.

The full line-up has some of the biggest names in dance music, such as renowned American DJ Diplo and Dutch DJ San Holo (right), alongside local rapper Yung Raja, electronic artist Jasmine Sokko and singer Benjamin Kheng.

Join the cyber partying from home via Zoom or Facebook and YouTube livestreams.

WHERE: facebook.com/zouksingapore and

youtube.com/user/ZoukClubSingapore;

STB: facebook.com/VisitSingaporeOfficial and

youtube.com/YourSingapore

INFO: Register at bit.ly/zoukphuturescapes



GIGS

The Show Goes On... Line: Imran Ajmain

This concert, filmed in July 2018, features Singapore-born crooner Imran Ajmain performing songs from the first decade of his career, including *Dikalang Kasihan*, *Hanya Menari dan Rintihan Hati*. He gained prominence with his work for artists such as Taufik Batisah, Hady Mirza and Sleg. Presented by Pesta Raya – Malay Festival of Arts.

WHERE: Watch it at www.esplanade.com/offstage/arts/imran-ajmain

Hear65 SingAlong SG

To be streamed live on YouTube, this concert-cum-singalong hosted by local actress Munah Bagharib features performances by singer-songwriter Ohmye/Meiting, indie pop band M1dlife and HubbaBubba, a three-piece post-acoustic indie pop band.

WHERE: bit.ly/3c1xTJO

WHEN: Tomorrow, 7.30pm

ADMISSION: Free

SG Livehouse Virtual Busking Sessions

This initiative is a collaboration between the National Arts Council and streaming app Bigo Live to help buskers earn some income during this difficult time. Over three days, the busking sessions will feature eight buskers with a 30-minute segment each. You can watch the performances on the Bigo Live app. The initiative will also provide training to buskers on how to go digital and livestream their talent to a global audience.

WHEN: Today & tomorrow, 8 – 9.30pm; Sun, 8 – 9pm ADMISSION: Free

INFO: bit.ly/3gskkld

Dick Lee Life Story

This free online concert, named after Dick Lee's first album of the same

name, will feature fan favourites like *Fried Rice Paradise*, *Bunga Sayang* and *Home*. It will be streamed live on the AsiaOne Facebook page. Lee championed the acceptance of Asian elements in pop music through the 1970s and 1980s, and received the Cultural Medallion for his achievements in artistic excellence in music in 2005.

WHERE: Watch it at www.facebook.com/asiaonecom WHEN: Sun, 9pm

ADMISSION: Free

TALKS

Introduction To Machine Learning

Organised by CloudxLab, this free webinar introduces participants to machine learning, featuring examples, applications and a hands-on demonstration. CloudxLab is an online cloud platform for learning and practising artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, data science, big data and related technologies.

WHEN: Sun, 10.30pm – Mon, 1.30am

ADMISSION: Free with registration

INFO: bit.ly/2yAPWJ6

FESTIVALS

Virtual Beerfest Asia

The festival moves online with performances by 16 local acts over four days, including rock acts like Timbre Group bands TMA Collective and Collective, as well as a line-up of house and EDM (electronic dance music) DJs. There will also be interviews with brewers and brand representatives, who will share their knowledge on everything about beer, alongside live auctions of beers, giveaways and games during each session.

WHEN: Today & tomorrow, June 5 & 6, 7.30 – 11.30pm ADMISSION: Free

INFO: www.facebook.com/beerfestasia

LIT Discovery 2020

Organised by Young NTUC, this virtual symposium will feature career programmes and talks by C-suite leaders from Nets, Google, deals platform Fave and the Singapore Institute of Management, who will share insights on staying relevant. Human resources coaches will also provide tips on improving resumes and networking skills.

Young NTUC is the youth wing of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), which aims to give voice to the needs and aspirations of young workers.

WHEN: June 10, noon – 9.30pm

ADMISSION: Free. Info: litsdcio.sg

CLASSES

Nikon School Online

Camera brand Nikon is offering free online courses covering a wide range of photography and videography topics, including *Photographing Children and Pets*, *Fundamentals of Photography and Environmental Portraiture*. The courses are available in video format on the Nikon website.

ADMISSION: Free with registration

INFO: bit.ly/2TG6ruY

SPORTS

Virtual Bikram Yoga @home

This 90-minute session will be conducted via Zoom by certified instructors from the Bikram Yoga College of India. Organised by One Wellness Fitness Club in Singapore.

WHEN: Tomorrow, 8.30 – 10am

& Sun, 3 – 4.30pm

ADMISSION: Free, with registration

INFO: bit.ly/36ADVVB

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The post-pandemic job market – crisis or opportunity for the class of 2020?

The graduating class of 2020 is entering a job market suddenly turned upside-down by the pandemic. Should job-seekers settle for internships and traineeships just to chalk up experience and get a foothold in an industry? Is this the best time to further one's studies or take up a course in coding or data analytics?

The Straits Times' senior education correspondent Sandra Davie, together with National University of Singapore's senior deputy president and provost, Professor Ho Teck Hua, will address these issues and how the class of 2020 can manage the challenges ahead. Tune in to the podcast from June 5.

Sandra Davie
Senior Education
Correspondent,
The Straits Times



Professor Ho Teck Hua
Senior Deputy
President and
Provost,
National University
of Singapore



Do you have questions for Ms Davie and Prof Ho?
Go to str.sg/JQuS to submit your questions
by 6pm, Sunday, May 31