### TRACK-BY-TRACK

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### A Track-by-Track Journey Through Their Self-Titled Debut Album



Second Fiddle Husband

The album's lively country p

The album's lively, country-pop-flavored, vocal-harmony-filled opener finds Hannah challenging the conventional notion that women's place is primarily in the home, doing housework and raising children, while men serve as the breadwinners. "I find it admirable that many accomplished men have chosen the supporting role. It's a choice that has been disparaged in the past, and I believe that needs to change," says Hannah. While the title "Second Fiddle Husband" may initially sound derogatory, for Hannah the song is about celebrating men who embrace that role and the women they support (and who support them). The song and its title were inspired by a chapter in Mark Penn and Meredith Fineman's book, *Microtrends Squared: The New Small Forces Driving Today's Big Disruptions*.

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For more information about Hannah Jaye and the Hideaways' debut album, please visit:

- www.hannahjaye.com
- hannahjaye.hideaways
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### Mr. Monetizer

Driven musically by a classic blues progression, this Patsy Cline-esque, country-blues hybrid song was written by Hannah about the frustration she felt during her first job in commercial real estate after graduating from Yale. "Our generation was told that we can do what we love and be successful," Hannah explains, "but the reality is often quite different. After college, many of us find ourselves saddled with student debt, taking on uninspiring jobs that don't allow us to develop as human beings or allow us much room for creative expression. We want to do work we love and set our own agenda for our lives."



### **Only You**

Featuring rich and delicate three-part vocal harmonies, this traditional-styled folk song speaks to the universal experience of growing apart in the digital age. Inspired by the loss of a long-term friendship that changed unexpectedly during a single encounter in which values collided, the track is a snapshot of how easily we connect—and disconnect—in the age of social media. "We can't really count on being close to old friends as we grow older in the same way we used to," Hannah says. "Everything can change quickly and erase years of intimate connection. My song is about just how fragile friendships and relationships can be in such a divisive time."

### Queen Anne's Lace

This highly personal, image-and-metaphor-rich song is Hannah's love letter to her grandmother Anne, an artist who sang with Peggy Seeger at the height of the 1950s folk music revival in Boston. It was inspired by hearing stories of her grandmother's beautiful voice and tales of the turbulent and difficult life she lived while struggling with the pain of being a shadow artist in a family that valued academic over artistic achievement.

Hannah captures the dual nature of the grandmother and artist she never knew with a clever double entendre. She refers to her as "Queen Anne" inspired by the delicate flowering plant, Queen Anne's Lace, that grows wild around Hannah's family's rustic summer house in Westport, MA. Hannah's lyrics tell the tale of the grandmother she would never know or hear sing: "Queen Anne, you had a voice that could fill a field of flowers.... Quick to love, quick to kill, unto all.... your name echoes on through the years." Hannah sings, "I won't let you be forgotten now" like a vow she carries with her as a singer/songwriter.

"This song is about me remembering a woman whose voice is part of my mine in some distant way, a voice I will never hear," she says. "So many artists live and die and are never known by the world. When I sing 'Queen Anne's Lace,' it is a gentle wave to her, my way of reaching back through time to honor her, so that her story will not be forgotten, and others can know her through my song. I want to thank her for bringing music into our family long before I was born and passing it on to all of us including my dad, who in turn helped nurtured my love for music."



### Exit to the Right

The first of two songs on the album penned by multi-instrumentalist Giacomo Fornasini, the high-energy, folk-and-bluegrass-influenced "Exit to the Right" puts an adventurous millennial spin on the act of escaping traditional and limiting societal roles to embrace a more exciting and creative destiny—even if the ultimate destination is not yet clear. Though the lyrics are cinematic, capturing the magic of depicted destinations like the Blue Ridge Mountains, the song is not simply about a journey for its own sake, but speaks to the liberating effects that traveling freestyle can have.

Giacomo's lyrics reflect the Italian-American musician's life experience traveling throughout the Western U.S. after he moved to San Francisco. It also expresses his rejection of the Silicon Valley dream job in favor of a return to nature. On a musical note, the song showcases Giacomo's dynamic harmonica skills.

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### **Guardians of Song**

It is natural that a tune about being the millennial generation's guardians of sacred folk traditions would have an organic folk spirit and spirited singalong element. With shout-outs to Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell, the song aims to convey the humble sense of connection that Hannah feels to this great songwriting tradition, which seeks to improve people's lives: "Our gospel fights injustice and we speak to those unseen."

The track is also a fond reflection on Hannah's immersion in folk and roots music during college, where she was a member of Yale's renowned folk ensemble, Tangled Up in Blue. She says about the experience, "We had so much fun and got to use our creativity, which is when I started writing my own songs seriously. It was a very special community of musicians. This band has that same feel—like a small community of four independent musicians dedicated to guarding the folk tradition for this generation and those to come."



### **New Frames**

Hannah injects a playful upbeat pop sensibility into her Americana/ folk aesthetic in this clever tune, which uses the image of purchasing a new pair of specs as a metaphor for gaining a new perspective on life, evolving and reinventing oneself. She describes the deep inner shift any person can experience—moving from "lacking inner vision" to a "vision that's handmade of the life I wanna live." The song says that by making small but significant life changes, a person over time can be transformed and embrace her truest self. Hannah says, "When I wrote the song I had just broken up with a boyfriend and was really hurting, and the simple act of finding new stylish glasses was oddly the start of creating a new life for myself. I found a more interesting job-and, yes, started the band. To me, the glasses not only changed my outer look, but were part of a transformation in my identity, confidence and outlook on life. I can see why fashion is so important to my generation. As a millennial, I feel both powerful and powerless over so many things. Style is something you can change quickly when you are trying to shift, which can oddly give you a little sense of regaining your own power."

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### The Show

This heartfelt Americana/folk ballad with a slight rock undercurrent portrays the end of an intense, year-long relationship. Towards the end, Hannah describes feeling trapped in the drama and emotional baggage of a partner's personal problems, with life paths pulling them toward different continents. "My song is about coming to the realization that often, when a relationship is ending, you start putting on a show, not revealing certain things until the day comes when you have no choice but to simply draw back the curtain and own your truth—that things are truly over. The song speaks to how, with love, even the most civil conversations can escalate quickly into increasing emotional distance until that one decisive moment when you know it's time to leave."



### **Sing Your Song**

Filled with lush vocal harmonies and sweet pop-folk sensibilities, this autobiographical tune takes us back to the start of Hannah's journey as an artist and performer: a sixth-grade talent show at Takoma Park Middle School. Wearing a sparkly blue wig and blue Jasmine costume, she belted out Aretha Franklin's classic hit "Respect" and got her wings. It was truly the moment in which a shy, insecure girl finally found her spotlight. Written as a "mission song" for an assignment in a songwriting class at Yale, the song still serves as Hannah's mission statement ("Sing your song/Sing it loud/Sing it proud/Sing it out/Sing your song now").

"It's the song I wrote to tell the world who I am and my origin story," she says. "I wanted to capture the moment of that first big performance and how great it felt to hear people say, 'Damn, that girl can sing!" She adds: "I hope that, when people hear this song, it takes them to a moment in their past when they did something they loved and got a glimpse of who they truly were at their core."

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### That Bottle

Giacomo's second song on the album is a lively, fiddle-and-guitar-driven folk-bluegrass gem that chronicles the longing for emotional and spiritual freedom and the carefree joy we feel in our younger days. Among his moving lyrics: "I went looking for life's master key/But only found insanity/Now that devil's got a hold on me/I just want to be set free." Hannah says, "We all experience times when we find ourselves in a dark place and have to climb out of the ditches life drags us into. Whatever the result, you have got to be proud of your journey."

"The irony is that it's a drinking song, but in the first line, he's not talking about alcohol but coffee," she adds. "It's the ultimate millennial vice. We drink coffee now because the caffeine makes us uber productive and drives us to work harder. The song also speaks about failing, getting back up, and persevering. This comes at the cost of our day-to-day peace of mind, until we begin to crave a simpler time before the world sped up around us. Our generation was told we can do anything we want and make money from our passions, yet that's really not how it is turning out for us millennials. It can be a real grind, and we all need a good drinking song to take the edge off."