

Clarence James Owns Up To His Introversion On New Single Flake



Clarence James gets ready for his next album with the release of the single “Flake.” The Texas singer-songwriter gets vulnerable about his social anxiety and apologizes to loved ones about his inconsistent communication. James’ country and rock influences can sound almost psychedelic at times. Vocally, he sings some parts of “Flake” with gloom, then shouts, and the music becomes manic. As a guitar player, his fingers pluck the strings into twangy and jazzy head-nodding moments. He summarized “Flake” in a press release:

“I feel like the sentiment of the song is a popular one among my fellow neurotics. I’ve been struggling to navigate the mental systems that are keeping me from staying in touch with my loved ones. Personally and societally, strong community

units are somewhat of a commodity. I personally tend to dwell on it and form bad habits centered around anxiety. These habits far too often lead to self destruction, and it's important to understand the positive significance of relying on people."

James gained his internet following six years ago when he released the indie rock single "Ronson Princess" which acquired more than five million streams. His debut album, *Fucked Me Up* came along in 2020. "Flake" will be on his forthcoming sophomore album, *WHY WOULD I MAKE PEACE WITH THIS DEMON?*

Speedrun Releases Indie Rock EP



Speedrun aka Nina Lüders drops her *Love's Latest News* EP. The singer-songwriter's debut release explores romantic love, self-love, and outsiderism within a universe of alternative rock. Murky guitars and Speedrun's vocals of pure emotion grabs ears with her meaningful honesty. The New York native revealed the road to releasing her EP in a press statement.

"I wrote this EP as a love letter to 2000s indie rock, with the cover art of me in a suit of armor to both highlight the medieval theme and introduce imagery of a young black woman empowered in her own hero's journey. The Strokes producer Gordon Raphael found me on TikTok and offered to join the project as the lead mixer and really drove home the nostalgic

garage rock sound while keeping it contemporary for all kinds of listeners.”

Love's Latest News' unforgettable chords cast Speedrun as a new creative luminary and an indelible reminder that Black women rock.

Throwback: INXS-Bitter Tears



"Bitter Tears" was a single from INXS's seventh studio album X. The title represented the 10 years since their 1980 debut album. The Australian band became international rock stars with the release of their 1987 album Kick. They had achieved their only number-one single, "Need You Tonight" and three more Top Ten singles in the United States. The work for X did not happen immediately because the band members took a break and worked on side projects in 1989. Frontman Michael Hutchence told a radio interviewer they had to follow up on the success of Kick or "they would disappear." All six group members wrote "Bitter Tears," released as the fourth single in the UK to coincide with their headlining show at Wembley Stadium in July 1991. The song about a failed relationship did not have the commercial fanfare of "Suicide Blonde" and

“Disappear” which was also on *X*, but the fans did not care as the band was still in its prime. *X* was not as big as *Kick* but it was certified Gold two months after its release. In 2002, a remastered version of *X* was released with five bonus tracks. INXS announced they would stop touring in 2012 after working with Jon Stevens, J.D. Fortune, and Ciaran Gribbin as replacements for Hutchence who died in 1997. In January 2024, the band announced their partnership with jeweler [Michael Hill](#) for a limited edition collection of recycled silver pieces including guitar pick pendants, rings, dog tags, and bangles.

Hero The Band & Deante Hitchcock Strut

Hero The Band released the video for “Strut” featuring rapper Deante Hitchcock, who also appears in the clip. The brothers drive around Atlanta, have an outdoor church service, and hang out in front of a bank while throwing money most of the time. “Strut” is them standing in their truth as rock stars enjoying a seemingly thankless ride and not pining for cash. “Strut” was their last single of 2023, following “Lullaby,” “Running In Place,” and “Humble.” These songs have increased hope that the Atlanta natives are cooking up their next album. Just a few years ago, they released their *Unicorn* EP and *Sonic Leap: Songs From A Musical*, posted on their Soundcloud in 2022.