

PG LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Calvin Sudar

With experience in music from a young age, Calvin Sudar has been making waves in the local music scene and has been releasing new music on a regular basis.

This month, we get to know Calvin, his unique music style, and his experience building a career in music within Utah. With lush, synth and guitar driven music, he's bringing a retro 80's feel back to popular music, with intricate and thought-provoking lyrics that are easy to connect to and feel.

Where are you from, Calvin?

I was born and raised in Utah and I've lived in and around Pleasant Grove for most of my life. I'm currently a sophomore at Utah Valley University.

What are some of your earliest memories of music?

I've played several instruments since I was a kid, and I can remember learning songs by ear when I was younger. I used to love sitting at the piano attempting to play movie scores and little melodies. Listening to music has always been one of my favorite hobbies- it's really fun to look back at my music taste over the years and see how it has grown and changed with me.

Who are your biggest music influences?

I really love a lot of music, and I listen to pretty much every genre. My favorite type of music is probably rock and pop (which are my favorite styles to write as well).

My biggest music influences are definitely the Beatles and Dayglo. I've always been a big Beatles fan, and I think that the Lennon/McCartney songcraft has had a huge impact on my writing. It really blows my mind how incredible their music is. And Dayglo is just fun - I think his album Fuzzybrain really captures the essence of High School.



Where did your music performance begin?



I've performed a number of times over the years in various recitals and school concerts, but I would say my first *real* performance was playing Pig Pen at Pleasant Grove High School last February. It was a super cool experience because I had just released my first album ([1AMWITHOUTU](#)) and I got to rehearse and play those songs with a really great band.

What instruments do you play?

I play guitar, piano, cello, and percussion. I'm definitely the best at cello, however, it's not my main instrument for writing or recording. I mostly write with piano or guitar. I also really love singing and producing.

Are you in a band today?

I'm currently working on a solo project called Watterson. I have a couple of collaborators I work with from time to time, but for the most part it's just me. I write, record and produce most of the music myself. I have music on all major streaming platforms, and I actually just released three new songs last month.

What does your creative process look like for your original songs?

Very often my songs begin with a lyrical or melodic idea. Then I start to build the song from there. Typically, after I've come up with the initial idea, I'll write the chord progression and come up with the remaining lyrics and melody.

This process varies from song to song, but most of my best songs tend to come together pretty cohesively - meaning, I like to write my music and lyrics at the same time. Once I've written most of the song I like to record a rough demo and start producing the track. When writing, I'm focusing purely on the music and lyrics, but when I start recording I really dive deep into the song structure and arrangement. This is one of my favorite parts of making music - I love layering synths, guitars, and vocals to try and get the sound I'm hearing in my head.

Once I've finished recording, I'll mix and master the track so it's ready to be released!

Which of your songs is your absolute favorite?

Last month I released a project titled "Like a photograph, a rose, and a mirror" that I'm really excited about. The third song in that release, "July 14th", is probably my favorite song I've ever recorded. I think the music and lyrics really capture the feelings of regret and heartbreak that I wanted to convey.

What other interests do you have outside of music?

I love reading, writing, and spending time with family and friends. I've always been interested in behavioral science and I'd love to learn more about why we think and act the way we do - I'm thinking about majoring in psychology as a part of my education.

I think music will always be a big part of my life, even if it isn't necessarily my career.

What advice would you give to anyone in our community that is interested in songwriting or making music?

Don't do it for anyone else. If you want to make music, **do it** - and do it for yourself. Writing songs is my passion. It allows me to create something I'm proud of and express myself. At the end of the day, I feel that the songwriting process should be deeply emotional and personal. The best songs are the ones that people can feel and understand, but people only truly connect with your music if it comes from a sincere place. I think that when you write a song for yourself first, when you genuinely find a way to express an emotion, people will hear it and love it because they can see that you put yourself into it.

Along those lines, trust your instincts. Don't listen to other people's advice (unless you want to). Remember, your song is yours and if you have a vision: **follow it!** Make music that you are proud of.



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