

## PG LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

### *Kenya Clark*

This month, we catch up with Kenya Clark, local songwriter and musician.

Kenya has been performing music for much of her life, and she's become very active in the local music community. From performing with the One Voice Children's Choir and playing music with bands, to kicking off her solo artist career, releasing new music on streaming, and participating in local songwriter competitions - Kenya is beginning to make waves in the local music scene, and we are thrilled to have her as this month's spotlight.

### Where are you from, Kenya?

I have lived in Utah most of my life. I did spend time when I was a child in Mexico and California. I've lived most of my life in Utah, and I currently live in Pleasant Grove.

### What are some of your earliest memories of music?

Music has always been prevalent in my life. My mom put me in voice lessons at a young age. She claims that I sang before I could speak. I would make noises that would sound musical, and she felt that I had an opportunity to perform.

I remember when I was young, we had one of those toy microphones that have an echo. I would sing into that microphone with my sisters. We'd put on our own family performances, and it was a lot of fun.

At age 9, I joined the One Voice Children's Choir. Through those experiences, I was able to perform all over. Christmas time was the busiest, with performances almost every day. We did a lot of concerts locally, and I also had the opportunity to tour France and Japan, which was amazing.

### Who are your biggest music influences?

I recently came across an artist named Lindsey Lomis. She's fairly new and I absolutely love her style. She's a very talented musician with her vocals and guitar, and I love her music.

I recently got to see her perform in concert, and it was awesome. You could tell that she really loved performing. I even got to meet her after the concert,



and she was the most genuine and sweetest person ever. She's someone that I aspire to be like every day.

I also love Alessia Cara. She's a fantastic songwriter. She has really different ideas with songs, but the messages really stand out. She's made an impact on me as well.

## What instruments do you play?

I play the guitar and piano mainly, and I love to sing, of course. I've always wanted to learn to play the violin, but I haven't started down that path quite yet. But I certainly plan to!

## Are you in a band today?

I used to have a band called Bloomsday. We were a bunch of friends from school, and we had a great time playing together. One of my most memorable experiences with them was when we performed in the end-of-year summer party called "Cavestock." It was awesome!

Today, I perform alone as a solo songwriter performer.

Last year I released my first song "Someone Who Loves Me" on all streaming channels. It was a wonderful journey to get to that point, and I am excited about releasing more music in the future.

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

I feel like my process keeps changing. I really write music when I'm in my "feels". I tend to write more emotional or sad music, as I feel the strongest emotions during those times. I like to write songs that are reminiscent of the past or of memories. I do write some love songs as well, one of which is very different from other songs I've written - very jazzy. I'm excited to release that one soon.

But I love jotting down ideas as they come to mind in my notebook. I also have a huge list of voice memos on my phone that I sit down and piece together.

Sometimes the words come first, although much of the time I come up with the guitar or piano melody lines while playing those instruments. Most of the time, ideas just come throughout the day and I try to capture them as quickly as I can.

## Which of your songs is your absolute favorite?

That's a hard question. They all have a very special place in my heart; there are reasons why I wrote them and I have a connection with each of them.

If I had to pick one, I'd have to say it's my song "Someone Who Loves Me". I wrote it at a very difficult time in my life. It's a very vulnerable song.



After I released the song, I had so many reactions from friends and family. My sister confessed that she listens to it when she's feeling sad - she has her own connection to the song. It means so much to find that people can feel the emotions of the song or relate to the song in their own way.

I have a newer song that is really growing on me as well called "Ice Cream". As a new song, I have a strong connection with it in my current state of life. I am really excited for that one as well.

### **How would you describe your music?**

It's very emotional and vulnerable. It's in the pop genre for sure. My music tends to cross different boundaries, but it definitely falls into pop generally.

### **What other interests do you have outside of music?**

Aside from music, I enjoy writing in general. When I was younger I would create lots of stories. I would write out my own stories, and I'd even draw my own pictures to go along with them. I loved creating comic strips as well - I still do. I tend to be drawn to creative hobbies.

I love skating at Classic Fun Center... except I roller blade. I forgot how to skate!

I love spending time with family and friends.

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

People think that performing is scary and intimidating. It definitely can be! There's something about singing in front of people that makes you vulnerable, especially when performing your own music. But you only live once; if you don't try something, you may live the rest of your life regretting it.

My advice would be - if you have any interest in singing, performing, writing songs... just do it! If you are serious about it, get started. You can find mentors or teachers to help along the journey. I'm a firm believer that if you believe you can do something, opportunities will come. You just have to take the first step.

## MUSIC | INFO LINKS



**Spotify**  
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**Instagram**  
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