

After four years, Lorde releases new songs

Album touches on relationships and her growth as an artist

by Mack Guthrie

In a long anticipated move, The singer Lorde made a spectacular return this month, releasing two songs from her upcoming album, *Melodrama*.

After years of silence, Lorde surprised the world first with a new upbeat song “Green Light” and later a ballad “Liability.”

Quiet since 2013’s *Pure Heroine*, Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O’Connor, the Kiwi artist better known by her stage name, Lorde, became famous when her song “Royals” shot to number one on the charts.

This month she revealed the reason for her departure for the first time in an interview with Apple Music’s Zane Lowe.

Having released her first album at the age of 16, she reflected on the impact the industry had on her as a child and said “It’s crazy when you are so young to be spending all your time in L.A. or New York.”

She explained that the experience really messed with her childhood. She explained that living on her own and experiencing her maturity influenced the creative choices she took with this album.

Despite, or likely as a result of, the four year hiatus, I could not be more excited about Lorde’s new work and the new direction she is taking. “Green Light”, released online March 2, seemed to symbolize

a new leaf for the artist. With a new upbeat feel, Lorde appears to have shed her dreary feel from 2013.

Lorde tweeted after the release of *Greenlight* that “It’s very different, and kinda unexpected. It’s complex and funny and sad and joyous and it’ll make you dance.” It’s a sentiment with which I wholeheartedly agree.

While many were disappointed with the artist’s original, 2013 sound, which felt slow, melancholy or simply sad, *Green Light* reminds us that four years changes a person a lot. Lorde is no longer 16, and her new maturity is evident in the sound and lyrics.

However, a week later Lorde seemed to return to the familiar, with a powerfully emotional ballad titled “Liability.” While this song is much slower than *Greenlight*, I still enjoyed it as the artist reflects on recovering from heartbreak and rediscovering self-worth.

“Liability” presents so many of the fears about dating and relationships that listeners can relate to. No relationship lasts for ever, and in this impassioned piece, the listener experiences those second-hand feelings.

Lorde performed both of her new pieces on Saturday Night Live On March 11. She gave a stunning performance of “Liability.” Accompanied only by a pianist, bathed in a spotlight, she performed an emotionally driven performance.

She wore what appeared to be a wedding dress, though she later explained what she was going for was “like an attic moth, no sparkle, swaddled and floating.”

After hearing this on SNL, I



Fans have long-awaited the release of Lorde’s new album “Melodrama”, which will be released on June 14 | Lorde

immediately bought it on itunes (the true mark of an amazing song), and it’s been playing more or less on repeat since.

Lorde explained that the song was inspired by Rihanna’s “Higher”

‘It’s very different, and kinda unexpected. It’s complex and funny and sad and joyous and it’ll make you dance.’

but that it reflects her own life. “I think everyone knows what that’s

like, to just feel like a liability.”

Because so many years have passed since her hit album *Pure Heroine*, many have wondered what she’s been up to.

She returned to New Zealand for a year, hung out with other celebrities, and has spent time exploring her new maturity, though she has stayed out of the public eye.

Last year, on her 20th birthday, she published a farewell letter to her teens.

She explained “Writing *Pure Heroine* was my way of enshrining our teenage glory... this one is about what comes next.” I am going to be

waiting impatiently, counting down to June 14 to hear the rest.

The mature and sophisticated sound of *Melodrama* has me waiting eagerly to hear more. “Green Light” and “Liability” capture emotions that everybody can relate to on some level, and as a young adult, Lorde brings a new flavorful depth that was absent in her breathy slow work of her teen years.

This is one of only a few times I’ve ever bought an entire album, and certainly the first time I’ve preordered an album, and I think that serves as the most powerful testament to my high opinion of it.

Spring break: first glimpse of independence

Many upper classmen to travel without parents on spring break

by Danny Kogan

This March the annual Spring break pilgrimage will send many juniors and seniors traveling across the continent without parental supervision.

Students are filled with anticipation as they await spring break to begin later this month.

“I am going to California to visit my three siblings that live out there. I can’t wait to be outside in shorts and not be freezing,” said senior John Hauldren.

Florida, Utah, Colorado, Tennessee, California and Mexico are a few of the destinations students will be traveling to. Many seniors are making their break more adventurous by traveling with friends.

“The spring break my family goes on every year is usually the same. We always went to Mexico for the week as a family—and this is really the first year we are doing something different. I am going to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico with my friends and a couple of their parents,” said senior Ben Basson.

Spring break has a reputation of being a raucous event. Culturally, the trip is seen as a right of passage for many students before the beginning of college.

For the past couple of years crimes involving murder, assault, and drugs have led to Spring break



Cabo, Mexico is a popular vacation destination for many New Trier students on their spring breaks | Pueblo Bonito

becoming publicized as a dangerous week.

“The thought of my kids going somewhere by themselves for spring break scares me,” said New Trier mother, Liz Cherro.

Some students do not mind exposing themselves to the potential threat. “I’m not worried about danger. Life is too short to worry about danger during the short break away from school,” said senior John Hauldren.

“As long as you stay in the resort area and don’t go into the known danger zones you will be fine,” said

Basson.

Other students are opting to keep it safe and travel with family. “I am going to Rosemary Beach with my family. I like using spring break as a time to see my family and relax. I cannot wait to hang out by the pool and beach,” said senior Maggie Davis.

Going on vacation with family also allows familial bonds to grow before the start of college. “I’m going to San Diego with my mom. It’s a last minute thing since all the regular places are so pricy,” said senior Jake Collyer.

New Trier Jazz One is participating in three concerts in New York City during the break. “I can’t wait for the trip, it’s going to be incredible,” said Jazz One member Brendan Gloyd.

However, vacationing with family members and adults does not eliminate danger.

“I’m skiing, and will for sure get another concussion, which will undoubtedly put me farther down the path towards Alzheimer’s,” joked sophomore Macy Nanda.

Spring break has the ability to bring friends together, but it can also

drive long-term friends apart. Part of spring break is spending a week with best friends in a cramped hotel room, which can become uncomfortable.

“I’ve spent weeks on vacation with friends before and the ones I had good friendships with were super fun, but the ones where it was a less stable friendship did kind of drive us apart, but it was bound to happen anyway,” said junior Liv Rocklin.

‘The thought of my kids going somewhere by themselves for spring break scares me.’

Spring Break can also be a refreshing vacation from the chaotic life of New Trier.

“Personally, I think it is a good time to take a break from the people you see every day, and to get away from all the daily stress,” said Collyer.

Parents need not worry, the vast majority of students going on trips without adult supervision have learned how to be mature. Being independent for one week is an important stepping stone for college, when students will be without their parents for months.

Cherro posits that parents let their children go on Spring break because they realize that they will soon leave the North Shore bubble and be exposed to the real world.

“I guess at some point you just have to know that you did a good enough job raising them, and trust them to make good decisions,” said Cherro.