

# L I G H T   O F   D A Y

The sun emerges timidly, but forcefully. It breaks through the dark and brings forth the dawn. As an ancient poet once wrote, “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.” In our newest work, *Light of Day*, six artists of faith take a risk to step into new work and new ideas.



# M A T T H E W

## A B O U T T H E P R O J E C T

“This project was a continuation of themes I’ve been exploring in my work the past few years. I’m very interested in the way that the medium—images and sound played out over time—can explore time, space, and silence. I love allowing moments to play out, to gather weight by letting us feel the passage of time. This is in stark contrast to the general approach in modern film editing which only lingers on a shot for a few seconds at a time. I love showing people within their environment. The spaces we inhabit have a huge influence on the moments of our life.

The same conversation at home, a coffee shop, a library, are all a wholly different experience. Lastly, I love allowing for silence. It’s groundbreaking to say that the modern world isn’t constructed for silence. The world we live in is a noisy world. I try to provide an opportunity for that silence we might not naturally have space for in our everyday lives. And I hope, by doing that in my work, that it’d help people notice the places they can find that silence in their own lives.

The film is called “FABLE” and that really was what I was trying to capture. It’s part mediation and part fantasy. Something exploring the metaphorical, the allegorical. Jesus chose to tell parables that caused people to think and ask questions, and I hope that my work would reflect that, too.”







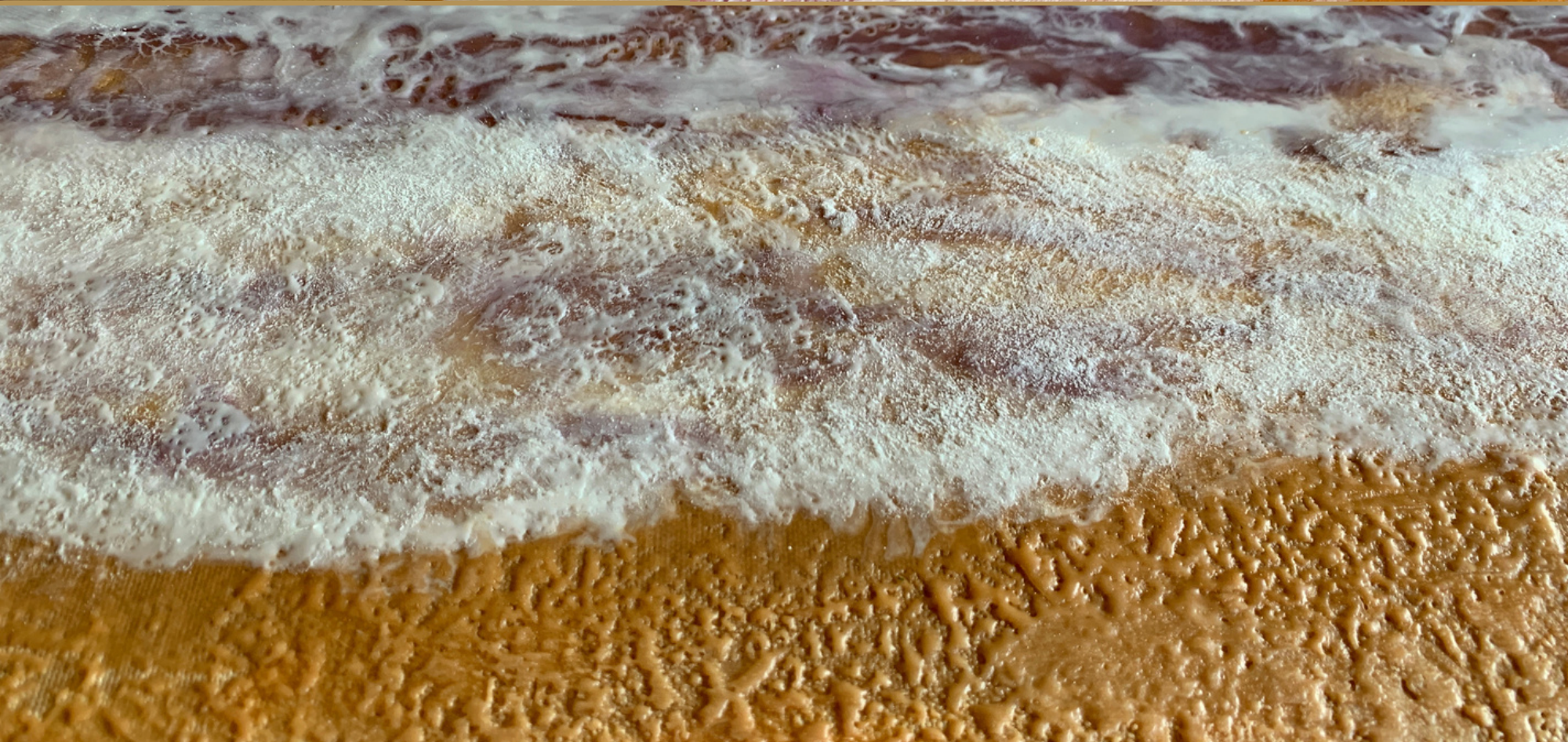
# A L Y S S A

## A B O U T T H E P R O J E C T

“This series began as a means of creating art that was healthy to interact with both in making and in its appreciation. As I began to create I realized I was not in need of healthy art but in healing art. This project for the grant began with a large scale encaustic painting on raw canvas and has given me a greater direction for putting together a solo show around the concept of healing and nurturing through my creative experience as a mother. The grant provided me with all new materials to create with since I -

was starting with the encaustic medium from scratch. This project is a launching pad for me to create in the margins of motherhood and allows me to dare to try new things in the medium of encaustic. I am thankful for the boldness in which I was equipped through the grant and the expansion and idea of possibilities to continue building off of the original concept that I think will further expand on the idea of creating, meeting, and journeying with others in the brokenness of this world by providing a taste of beauty here while we wait for restoration.”







# D O N N A

## A B O U T T H E P R O J E C T

“I have been fascinated for many years by the life stages of a butterfly. The mysterious and complete transformation (even at the level of reconfiguring DNA) that happens in the chrysalis is unique in all creation. I have worked with clay and wood attempting to reproduce forms and explore themes around this phenomenon. With my grant I was able to purchase an iPhone tripod and an attachable iPhone macro lens.

This allowed me to get close enough to the subject to take macroscopic images of butterfly wings at high resolution, which I then could magnify on the computer. There are 170 species of butterflies native to Florida and over 17,500 species worldwide. I was only able to observe up-close about 25. In this first, tip of the iceberg, glance I was blown away. My desire is to give others a taste of the amazing, mysterious world that I have witnessed. Through my images I hope to surface wonder, curiosity and worship of the Designer of hidden beauty!”







# K R I S T I N

## A B O U T T H E P R O J E C T

“For this project, my research concentrated on historically embedded racial misperceptions harmful to our society, some of which originated in false stereotypes of enslaved Blacks in 17th-19th century America.

Contemporary research indicates that these ideas continue to have an undermining effect in modern society. My study in perceptions included the role of white artists in the formation of social narratives of minorities. In particular, the dynamics of white photographers who create images of Black subjects reveal a complicated relationship regarding perception.

Both the photographer and the subject contribute to the co-creation of the image, each bringing their own view of race, power, gender, social status to bear influence on the final product. These narratives are powerful influences that shape cultural perceptions.

The final product is a community engaged photography exhibit aimed at challenging harmful racial misperceptions. The project included an invitation to Black and biracial male youth to share with others their own identities, stories, and histories in the way they chose. It is a version of the Photovoice methodology designed to foster social and political change by empowering minorities to share their stories through photography."





**Nathan Lee, Age 15**  
"The Moment"  
2023  
Digital Photograph  
Nathan, a 15-year-old student, captured this moment. He was out at sunset in his school's field, surrounded by the vibrant yellow flowers. He wanted a portrait that was not just a photo but a story. He chose to wear his school's blazer, a nod to his identity, and the field's flowers, a symbol of his school's spirit. He wanted to share his love for his school and the beauty of the outdoors. He wanted to share his love for his school and the beauty of the outdoors. He wanted to share his love for his school and the beauty of the outdoors.



**Group Photo**  
A group of five friends posing for a photo outdoors. They are all wearing matching green t-shirts with a graphic. The background shows trees and a clear sky.



**Group Photo**  
A group of five friends posing for a photo outdoors. They are all wearing matching green t-shirts with a graphic. The background shows trees and a clear sky.



**Eligh Warren, Age 17**  
"The Moment"  
2023  
Digital Photograph  
My girlfriend and I are sitting in front of the school building, and even though it is hard as always, it will be worth the wait. We're trying to be the best and the temporary things of this world. Our parents and I are trying to be different. God is the foundation for our relationship, and we will be the light in each other's lives.



# K E L L Y

## A B O U T   T H E   P R O J E C T

“A few years ago I prayed that God would advocate for my music. As a new Mom, creating often felt selfish and indulgent, but I still had this deep desire to create so I prayed that the Lord would fight for my creativity in a season when I didn’t feel like I could. Little did I know how specifically and generously the Lord would answer that prayer. Through this journey I felt God strongly advocating for my music and I also discovered the power of small steps, the value of reciprocity, and the beauty of purpose. Some of the most immediate answers to this prayer were conversations with some of the

leaders on the Cru Arts & Culture staff, who heartily encouraged me to pursue my own music as well as pursuing musicians for Christ. They gave me permission to do something I was yearning to do. Now my hours of songwriting had a purpose! I had an amazing time recording this song and it was a dream come true to record a song that reflected such a personal message to me. The title of the song is “Staying Awake,” and it is all about being present in our own lives and staying awake amidst the temptation to numb out, check out, or just “get through” life. Though I initially learned this phrase from my husband, who had made “staying awake” his goal in 2023, I have continued to find ways that Scripture expressly states this same message.”

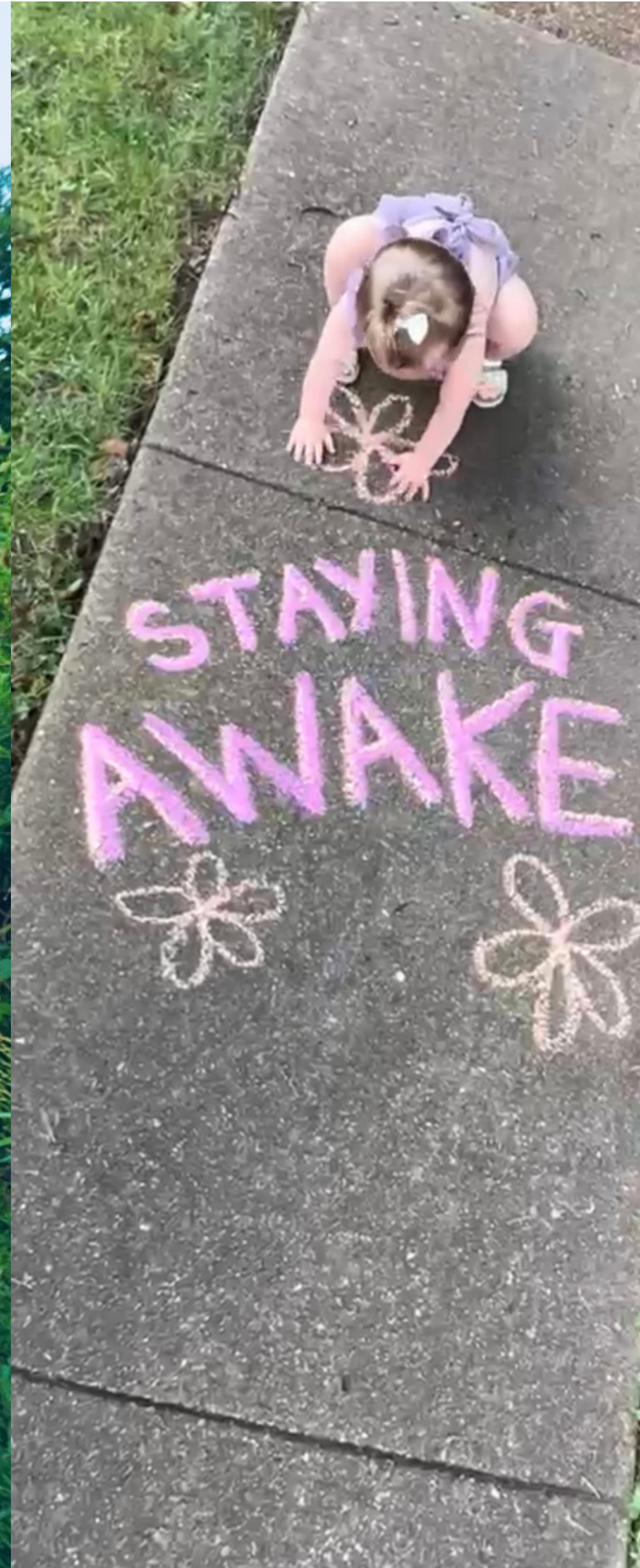




**KELLY**  
BRADWAY



STAYING  
AWAKE



STAYING  
AWAKE



# DANIELLE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

“I love writing about themes of love, loss and the Lord. “Let Me” actually started out as a conversation with God and me. Writing music and performing it live is an act of courage and healing for me. I felt like God was inviting me to let him be the one I can love fully with no reserve and be the one I can trust. Eventually I turned it into a love song. And the music video is about self love.

Seeing yourself the way God sees you and honoring that by taking the time to do things his way. Receiving the grant gave me an opportunity to bring all of these themes to life in one moment. I also had the opportunity to learn how to apply for music grants. That was such a blessing as well.”

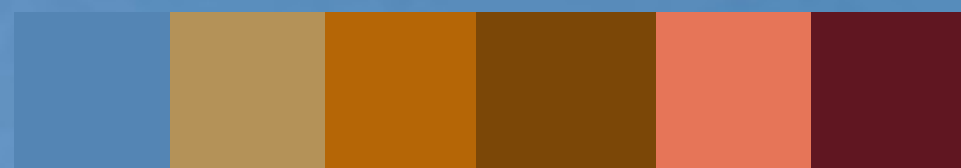






# L I G H T O F D A Y

A B O U T T H E A R T I S T S





# MATTHEW



Matthew Cutchen is a prolific filmmaker, director, writer, composer/musician from Dallas, TX. He grew up playing drums and performing with his Dad at various churches and camps across the U.S. which exposed him to a broad range of people and experiences at a very young age. He was formally trained in classical composition at Dallas Baptist University, and is the production force behind the band Basic Math, as well as creating solo electronic music as Supramundane and liturgical electro-pop as CreatureThoughts. After releasing music for more than a decade, the pandemic hit and Matthew rediscovered a love for film—a medium which combines all his favorite artistic disciplines. Exploring the “digital new-wave” of filmmaking, Matthew has released 8 films in two years, including a DIY feature-length film that was a semifinalist at the Do It Zero: A Zero Budget Film Festival. His short film Fable was also selected for the Kino and Red Dirt film festivals.

An omnivorous film-lover, on any given day you might find him enjoying the contemplative minimalism of Chantal Akerman, the bombastic maximalism of Nobuhiko Obayashi, or—let’s be real—probably just *The Big Lebowski* for the millionth time. He is currently in development and post production on multiple film projects.



# ALYSSA



Alyssa believes everyone has the right to flourish and thrive and uses art to advocate and bring beauty to the lives of the marginalized and the oppressed. Her interdisciplinary conceptual artworks are used to tell a larger narrative on the broken and redemptive areas of our human experience. The work is tactical and welcoming to touch and experience it beyond sight. The work is meant to be appreciated by all whether sight through its multi sensory experience is limited or art appreciation is minimal. In her current exploration in art, Alyssa is exploring the power of mending art—mending the created pieces and bringing it new life.

She has a masters in Art Leadership and Cultural Management from Colorado State University and her undergraduate degree in Ecclesiastical Art & Studio Art from Concordia University Nebraska. She hopes to continue pursuing God's ministry over her life in excellence and in the way of Christ. Over the last nine years, Alyssa's gifting in art has impacted social change in human trafficking relief and revealing the beauty of the Gospel through hope. Alyssa developed programming and continues to research using art to prevent sexual abuse in children and adolescence, as well as to bring restoration for those already abused. Her work has been done not only in the United States, but also in India and Mexico.



# D O N N A



Donna is passionate about creation, faith, culture and healing. Born to a painter and scientific engineer, Donna blended science and art in her undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley, obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Biology. Her understanding of science and nature, God's creativity, inspires her processes and art creation.

Her personal faith was born out of significant tragedy, losing both of her parents at 17, and her journey through loss and healing equally inspires much of her artwork.

She obtained a Master's degree in Intercultural Studies and Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary and has worked in a variety of international cultures (including Africa, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe). Her passion is to help people of any culture grow deeper in their relationships and flourish in their faith.

She spent 13 years living in France and the last 7 of those and working in Paris- co creating spaces and exhibits at the intersection of art and faith. Donna uses wood, clay, pigment and pen on paper to create and express works of personal and spiritual connection. She and Didier are blessed by, and thankful for, three creative compassionate culturally savvy children.



# K R I S T I N



Kristin is a creative catalyst living in Columbia Missouri. She's passionate about cultivating the arts, culture, and community. Kristin's motivated by art's unique ability to communicate both material and spiritual truths, opening people to ideas they might not otherwise consider. She seeks to strengthen the innovative platforms artists have to influence the world by resourcing their personal, spiritual, and professional growth.

Kristin works with a variety of organizations in order to foster artistry in Columbia's civic, business, and nonprofit sectors. As a commissioner on the city's Commission on Cultural Affairs and chair of the Public Art Standing Committee, she assists the development of a thriving arts community for Columbia's citizens and visitors. As the Director of Visual Arts and Culture at her church, she curates an art gallery designed to serve and celebrate local artists. This space also invites the church to experience the arts as a creative component of spiritual formation. Kristin has an MA in Visual Studies from the University of Missouri. Her thesis work focuses on the power of photography in shaping personal visual narratives and cultural perceptions of minorities. She and her husband Chris have served over 30 years in various roles and countries with campus and city ministries. Her faith in Christ has been a transformational force in her own life and serves as her inspiration in promoting the arts.



# KELLY



Kelly Bradway moved to Nashville at age 18 to attend Belmont University and chase her dreams of becoming the next Martina McBride. By graduation, she had gained a wealth of experience singing and songwriting, but she had also learned that making her musical dreams a reality might prove to be harder than she imagined. However, Kelly had become a Christian while in college and her newfound faith gave her a fresh perspective on her career despite the challenges that many young artists face. She felt encouraged that God's plans for her would be better than her own. Kelly's then boyfriend and now husband, Parker Bradway, was also a musician and he connected her with his friend Daniel Wilson for a three-way songwriting session that turned into a nine year career as a band known as MAMADEAR. While in MAMADEAR, Kelly, Parker and Dan were able to travel the world and open for a wide range of incredible artists including Sting, Seal, Enrique Iglesias, Charlie Daniels, Josh Turner and even Martina McBride! In recent years, singing with MAMADEAR has taken a back seat to mothering (Kelly has an 21-month old daughter) and supporting other young musicians, but Kelly is excited to have recently released a new single under her own name! Titled "Staying Awake," (which feels appropriate for a new Mom who has lost many hours of sleep this past year!) this song is a heartfelt perspective on staying present in our lives amidst all the miraculous and mundane moments that can so easily pass us by. Kelly is excited to continue writing and releasing new music, and thanks the Lord for the opportunity to be on this creativity journey with Him. Her prayer is "show me the way Lord."



# DANIELLE



Danni Peace is an iridescent Pop artist who fearlessly defies genre boundaries, blending R&B and Rock into a unique musical tapestry. With her captivating vocals and inviting personality, she has enthralled audiences across the nation. In 2017, Danni unveiled "The Odyssey," an enchanting collection of five tracks that delve deep into the complexities of life, loss, and love. The project received local acclaim, propelling her towards a coveted Homey Award nomination by WSTW 93.7FM. Danni's exceptional talent also captured the attention of ABC27 and Citizen's Bank Park, where she made notable appearances. Leaving an indelible mark on the national stage, she made her debut on Good Morning America while promoting American Idol. She continues to leave her mark on stages across the nation through sharing the stage with the likes of Ashanti, Ja Rule, Tyrese, Bobby Valentino, SWV, Keke Wyatt and more! Experience the beauty of Danni's artistry through her latest singles, "Boy Bye" and "Parallel," available for streaming on popular platforms including Spotify, iTunes, and Apple Music.