

ALBUM DROP

Norah Murphy (12) explains the meaning behind each song in her debut album "Princess"



source: spotify

PRINCESS

"I wrote this so long ago. It's about a guy making you feel special, like a princess, and breaking up with you. Then, it turns out he's not this figure you put on a pedestal and is awful."

DON'T HAVE A CLUE

"This is about having a crush on someone and them not even being aware of it in the slightest bit, and you're just like, heads over heels for them, but they don't know."

LUCKY ME

"Lucky Me is the one and only love song in the album. It's just like 'wow, no way this is real.' Like, 'I'm so lucky.'"

THE URGE

"The Urge is about beauty standards and societal standards for women, and having the urge to go against them in every way possible like dyeing your hair in a way that everyone would think you're weird for. Like, 'I just have the urge to do that.'"

HAS TO BE ME

"It's about being in a relationship and it's not really working for reasons that both of you are causing but you're basically getting blamed for the whole relationship."

BODY LANGUAGE

"This is about a breakup I had and being able to tell that the relationship is going to be over before it even was because of the way that he was using his body language."

DO-OVER

"Do over is about if I could have gone back and done that again, I would have done it very differently and saved myself from getting hurt."

CAR FACES

"This is about growing up. When you're little you have an imagination that's able to see things like faces in cars. But as I've gotten older, I start to not see those things as naturally and have to fight to keep my imagination alive. It's a song about getting older."

I BRING THE RAIN

"It's about trying your best and just overall not being able to please people and not being able to be who they want you to be."

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN

"This is about a breakup and it's more of a humorous take on it. Being regretful or embarrassed of a past relationship and being like 'I should have known, I trusted you in the first place.'"

MIDNIGHT WALK

"This is about a fight I had with my family. It's basically about the emotional roller coaster that that fight was. Feeling like you're with your family, but they still are not understanding."

OR SOMETHING

"Or Something is about finding yourself. It's a fictional song about traveling all across the world to try and find yourself and then in the different places that you go, you find another part of yourself that you didn't know before."

FOR *norah*, IT'S ABOUT THE MUSIC

harmonious music erupts throughout Powell Hall as the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra performs. **Norah Murphy (12)** has been a percussionist in the symphony since freshman year.

"We played this piece called 'Tchaikovsky Five.' I got this timpani part and it was really cool. I remember I had to practice so hard for it and when I nailed it on stage, it was super fun," Murphy said. "I remember thinking I want to chase that feeling for the rest of my life."

Murphy started her musical career in third grade when she received her guitar. From that point, she began writing music. After completing multiple songs, **Steve Staicoff**, her guitar teacher for 10 years, encouraged her to take her music to the next level. Murphy released her album "Princess" Oct. 18, 2025.

"I was too scared to release the songs because they have all my deepest, darkest secrets and thoughts, and to share that with the whole world is scary," Murphy said. "Mr. Staicoff encouraged me, so I started recording my songs. It took me over half a year to record the whole album."

Since her album release, she has performed her songs throughout St. Louis. Murphy performed her album with a band for the first time at her senior recital at her vocal studio in December. Since then, Murphy has performed at Highway 61 Roadhouse, where she plays a halftime show for Staicoff's band.

"I invited all my friends and it was super cool to hear it live," Murphy said. "All my friends knew the lyrics, so they were chanting out the lyrics. It was a surreal experience for me."

Murphy hasn't just performed in St. Louis. In November 2025, Murphy traveled to Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts to audition. She performed an original song titled "I Should've Known." She has since been admitted to Berklee and received a four-year full-tuition scholarship to study songwriting.

"I didn't expect to get that much money from them. It's astonishing being able to see how much they believe in me and my abilities," Murphy said. "I'm excited to be able to meet all the faculty and

start solidifying my career starting in freshman year of college."

Murphy's musical career has been able to grow within Ladue's various music programs. Murphy herself has taken advantage of programs like the percussion program, Viva Voce and choir.

"I want to be a singer songwriter, be famous and tour the world. I don't want to settle for anything less."
Norah Murphy (12)

"Ladue is undercover, really good at music. We send more people to All State than any other school," Murphy said. "It's really cool to be a part of a classroom where I'm not the best in my classroom. I'm constantly pushed to be better."

Graduating high school isn't the end for Murphy's musical career. She plans on releasing dozens of more albums and wants to tour the world with her music. For Murphy, music is her world.

"Music means everything to me. Most of my friends I have are because of music," Murphy said. "My whole entire life has kind of been consumed by it. I'm so excited to go to college for music and be even more consumed."

SING YOUR HEART OUT: Playing her guitar, **Norah Murphy (12)** sings at sixth grade camp during night time activities Sept. 18 with Viva Voce at Camp Mihasaka. Murphy plays guitar and piano as well as singing and percussion. "My guitar is my favorite," Murphy said. "I write all of my songs on my guitar, so it's very important."
(photo by i. todorova)