Clairo redefines indie pop scene

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Clairo has become one of the most intriguing voices in indie pop, pushing boundaries and breaking norms.

While many artists chase fame and similar trending sounds, Clairo has stayed true to her roots, embracing her identity and crafting music that resonates with a generation's struggles and triumphs.

What sets Clairo apart is her commitment to authenticity.

Clairo's grounded presence is refreshing. Her 2019 album "Immunity" blended lo-fi bedroom pop with introspective lyrics, exploring mental health, love, self-identity and growing up.

What made "Immunity" stand out was how Clairo used personal experiences to connect deeply with her audience.

Clairo's openness about her struggles with anxiety, depression and her journey of self-discovery has made her relatable to many.

Coming out as bisexual in 2018 was a moment of both personal and professional liberation, demonstrating her commitment to living authentically in both her life and music.

Clairo's willingness to be vulnerable has earned her a loyal fan base who see her as a real, relatable figure.

Another reason why Clairo is a good artist is because she is a genre-bending artist, defying easy categorization. While most often labeled indie pop, her sound blends lo-fi, R&B, and alternative rock.

This versatility makes her an exciting artist to watch.

Her production features dreamy, atmospheric instrumentation, delicate guitar riffs and electronic beats, creating a sound that feels intimate yet expansive. At the core of her music is her unique voice, which is soft and vulnerable yet confident.

Her 2018 Extended Play titled "Diary 001" showcased a more experimental side, incorporating electronic pop while retaining her signature lo-fi sound.

"Immunity" embraced a more polished production but never lost the raw, confessional quality shown in "Diary 001."

Tracks like "Bags" and "Sofia" blend emotional lyrics with catchy melodies, creating songs that are both emotionally charged and easy to listen to.

Clairo's influence lies in her ability to speak to a generation grappling with identity in a rapidly changing world. Her fans don't just listen, they feel her music.

Clairo's songs explore universal experiences: complex relationships, isolation and the longing for connection.

What sets her apart is how she balances these heavier themes with hope and resilience.

Her openness about mental health resonates with fans who find solace in her honesty.

Clairo's music provides an outlet for listeners to process their emotions.

As an openly queer artist, she also offers representation for LGBTQ+ individuals, giving them a voice in a space where they have often been marginalized.

Clairo's recent surge in popularity can be attributed to her evolving sound, openness about her identity and deep connection with her audience.

Moreover, Clairo's success has been amplified by social media and streaming platforms, where her intimate, emotionally driven music thrives.

Collaborations with artists like Father John Misty and a growing presence in mainstream pop culture have expanded her reach.

Today, Clairo is not just an indie darling; she's an artist who continues to break barriers, making her one of the most influential voices in modern pop and indie music.

Clairo is and will maintain being a rare breed: an artist who values authenticity over commercial success, emotional honesty over polished personas and genre exploration over convention.

With each album, she continues to evolve, proving that she is much more than just another indie pop artist. She is a trailblazer.



PHOTO | JUSTIN HIGUCHI

Clairo performing live at the El Rey theatre in Los Angeles, California in 2019.

Jennifer Lopez is hugely overrated



PHOTO | ANA CAROLINA

Jennifer Lopez live at the Pop Music Festival in São Paulo, Brazil in 2012.

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

Jenny on the block cannot sing and until we all acknowledge that then the world's ears will continue to suffer.

Jennifer Lopez is a great actress no doubt about that, but when it comes to singing, she should have never picked up a microphone.

First off, the songs that were hits were not because of her vocals, but rather singers Ashanti and Christina Milian.

"Ain't Your Mama" was sung by Meghan Trainor in which you can hear clear as day. "I'm Real" was sung by no other than Ashanti and "Play" was sung and co-written by Christina Milian but was not credited.

The fact that she has sold over 80 million records since starting her career in 1999 is shameful.

She is probably the most successful schemer followed by the singing group Milli Vanilli.

Lopez is now better known to the public for her many relationships with stars such as dancer and actor Chris Judd, music mogul P. Diddy, singer Marc Anthony and of course actor Ben Affleck.

I hate to say it, but Lopez and Affleck's spinning the block was a pr stunt. This time it felt as though it was all for show and was extremely flashy.

This Is Me... Now: A Love Story was loosely based on her relationship with now ex-husband Affleck.

What was the most cringeworthy about this film was the documentary that followed suit.

Lopez forced herself to be likable but, in all honesty, made her seem out of touch and just another celebrity looking for attention.

In one scene she and her team are contacting celebrities she wanted to appear as cameos.

Derek Hough, famously known for "So You Think You Can Dance," declined because he was getting married.

"It's a wedding babe, he's in a wedding he's not going to give up his wedding," her assistant said.

Lopez, for whatever reason, did not care and continued to badger her assistant to get Hough.

"I want you to call," Lopez said.

After the premiere of "This Is Me... Now: A Love Story," she announced a tour to promote the movie/documentary.

That was a total flop as the tour was canceled due to poor ticket sales and frankly because people in this economy do not want to spend their hard-earned money on a singer who will lip sync or just sound a mess.

Live Nation released a statement to ticket buyers on May 31, 2024.

"Jennifer is taking time off to be with her children, family and close friends," Live Nation said.

What Lopez lacks other than singing is a true core fan base. This is evident as she struggles to sell her skincare products, fragrances, shoes and her alcohol line called Delola Cocktails.

Interestingly enough, Lopez did not drink for a long time, which she confirmed was true to People magazine.

Now I have to give credit where credit due to her only talent, which is acting. She played the role of Mexican singer Selena Quintanilla-Pérez so well that she morphs into the real-life star.

Only God knows how she managed to survive in the music industry, but what I believe is that her time in the spotlight is quickly ticking, and she should have retired from singing yesterday.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editoral Staff

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
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Corrections:
Page 1 Feb. 19: Victoria Cruz, Contributor

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