



Ellie Lee's first album, "Escape," will be released on May 24. Lee, at left, grew up in South Korea, prior to moving to Livingston.

Livingston Jazz Musician Issues First Album

Livingston resident Ellie Lee's first full-length album, "Escape," will be released on May 24.

The recording features seven originals that Lee composed, as well as her arrangement of a jazz classic, "Whisper Not." It encompasses music from when Lee started composing, a decade ago, to the present day.

"This album feels like a reflection on my journey," Lee said. She wrote some of the songs when she was on hiatus from being a musician, devoting her time to being a mother and navigating the challenges of the pandemic.

Making the album, she said, "felt like turning a page in my life. It's been a long time in the making, so it contains various facets of my experiences and embraces diverse musical styles."

Some of the singles, such as "Escape," "Beyond the Blue," and "A Fine Day," have been pre-released and can be listened to on streaming services, including Apple, Spotify, and YouTube, as well as on her website, ellieleemusic.com.

"My primary goal is to introduce myself as an artist and showcase my musical style to the public," Lee

explained.

She added that she is using her original compositions "to remind myself of the journey of my life."

"I feel that these intentions were well expressed through the excellent performances of the musicians I collaborated with," Lee said. "I hope that listeners can feel these stories as they listen to this album."

While Lee's original compositions serve as a musical record of emotions she has felt throughout her life, she decided to include a jazz standard to express her capabilities as a jazz pianist by arranging "Whisper Not," a song by Benny Golson, one of her favorite composers, in her style.

Lee grew up in Seoul, South Korea, where she earned a bachelor of music degree in classical piano. She transitioned to jazz and earned degrees from Berklee College of Music and William Paterson University.

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