Music

A yearning serenade from the Heated Rivalry soundtrack, and 6 more songs you need to hear this week

Listen to fresh new music from Baby Nova, Charlotte Day Wilson, Dominique Fils-Aimé and more

Kelsey Adams, Holly Gordon, Natalie Harrison, Mandy Lee, Shawn Murphy · CBC Music
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The Heated Rivalry soundtrack is out now, and Eli Hou-Yu Montreal artist Peter Peter is a song you need to hear. (Harold Fingerhuts Images, Cassandra Johnson graphic by CBC Music)

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Songs you need to hear from Peter Peter, Charlotte Day Wilson, Baby Nova, Swavy and more
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It's You, Peter Peter

WATCH | *The audio for It's You from the Heated Rivalry soundtrack:*

Cross streaming sensation Heated Rivalry, an adaptation of Rosie Scotia author Rachel Reid's new bestselling series, has conquered between Cancun songs back into the spotlight — and now we get a full soundtrack to celebrate. Montreal singer-songwriter and producer Peter Peter is the artist behind all 34 tracks, which are a mix of original songs and scores that lend our hands as we watch Shane Hollander (Hockey Canada's Matthew Rhys) and Ilya Rozanov (Scott Hunter) fall in love. A song that plays as Shane and Ilya have sex at Shane's apartment for the first time, Peter Peter taps into their two-year-long pairing from the very first notes, as his harp vocals float atop a gentle synth melody, singing, "Where were you?/Where were you?/ Please don't go!/ now please don't go." It's an intimate scene and pivotal moment for the players, and Peter Peter hits all the right notes. It's You is fresh, tender and unrushed, but still has a hint of early aspirin nostalgia, which dissemblee Jacob Tierney seeks to look. Any fans of the Postal Service's The Distant Sleeps Alone Tonight will be hooked immediately. — Holly Gordon

- **All the Canadian needle drops in Heated Rivalry**

Dodge, Baby Nova

WATCH | *The audio for Dodge by Baby Nova:*

Baby Nova's debut album Dihugar was one of CBC Music's most anticipated of 2026. It's Dusty Springfield meets Lana Del Rey meets Johnny Cash with a touch of pop-soul that is all Baby Nova. Dodge, the first single off the album, is a sultry, slow-burn ballad. Nova sings, with a shrug, "trying to get out of a bad situation in life and I hope that it can help (even if in the smallest way) to do the same for other people." Previous singles Death Wish, Virgin Heartbreak, Great White Sharks and Too Pretty for Buffalo hinted at the mafia-born singer-songwriter's range and now every Dodge reveals another facet of the Baby Nova persona.

Baby Nova wrote Dodge seven years ago at a songwriting camp, and reworked it with Lowell (the Beaches, Beyoncé) and Eco van Go (Feist, Bahamas), whose fingerprints are all over the record. She calls them, along with producer Wyatt Bernard and Austin Corona, the "true superstars" behind the album. The understated Dodge is a wilful plea, an aspiration towards a future she wasn't sure she could imagine. "I'm trying to get out of a bad situation in life and I hope that it can be a beep to get out of Dodge", more than my high school band to get you out of that garage." It seems seven years later, its premonitions are beginning to come true. — Kelsey Adams

YellowGreenBlue, Swavy

WATCH | *The audio for YellowGreenBlue by Swavy:*

Tying colours to emotional symbolism is nothing new in song from Feelin' Blue to Red to Yellow and many many more tracks, using vivid hues to convey inner feelings is a tried and true musical device. But Toronto's Swavy, he cycles through the spectrum and paints of a turbulent romance on YellowGreenBlue, a melancholy R&B/hip-hop lament. "Heart turn blue when your text turns red," he sings, before adding, "Heart turn blue when you text me/ Heart turn red when I see you/ Heart I can't see I'm on a different time difference." The sound is very reminiscent of Mississauga, GTA, superstar PartyMonstaz's Break From Toronto, evoking the moody ambiance of late-house-fuelled nights. Although it clocks in at less than two minutes, it's more than enough time to generate the right amount of sympathy. — Natalie Harrison

The River, Dominique Fils-Aimé

WATCH | *The audio for The River by Dominique Fils-Aimé:*

On Dominique Fils-Aimé's latest single, she repeatedly sends out an invitation to "meet me by the river/ come let's heal together." The River finds someone who is asking nature for guidance, for strength and for a place to heal. Fils-Aimé's lyrics are rooted in her Haitian-Canadian perspective, through layered harmonizing to create that sense of communion. She reminds us that, "All love on this earth/ Was meant for you." All we have to do is seize it and let it fuel us and our passions. — Melody Lau

Drive By, Simar

WATCH | *The official video for Drive By by Simar:*

Rising Punjabi Canadian singer Simar is starting the new year off with the high energy Drive By. The song is bold and empowering, blending hard-hitting drums with powerful vocals and refreshing melodies. Simar sings confidently about knowing her worth and not being impressed by anyone who doesn't see her value. The track's lyrics are in Punjabi, but the message is clear (and some caress weights): "Tired of seeing the women in Punjab music become sidelined, Simar asserts in a press release that "we've got something to say too," making it clear that she's ready to take control of the narrative. — Shyaan Moorthy

Amber, the Kount and Noam

WATCH | *The rotoshoot for Amber by the Kount and Noam:*

A wash of sparkling synths, pulsing bass and driving electric guitar hit you within seconds of Amber, the new collab between Toronto artists the Kount and Noam. Noam's fluoted vocal rolls are brooding and moody contrasting with the Kount's percussive production, as the song spirals into a dance floor-ready chorus. Amber is the latest single from 10 of the 20 Canadian albums we can't wait to hear artists Jai and K.Flay and Ben Khan. The lyrics are nostalgic and relentlessly pining (see Adele endlessly listenable. Not even the song's creators can resist its irresistible pull, as Noam sings, "Oh hit and now I'm helpless." — Ali

Lean, Charlotte Day Wilson feat. Saya Gray

WATCH | *The audio for Lean by Charlotte Day Wilson:*

Charlotte Day Wilson is set to drop her new EP, Patchwork, on Feb. 6 and she's already treated listeners to several songs from the project. High Road, Selfish and now, Lean. The latter track is more eclectic than Day Wilson's previous offerings, combining her signature deep vocals with a bouncy, almost-Caribbean beat. Lean is a song about being "in the middle of a mess" with one, "she sings before describing the intoxicating, suffocating effect it has on her psyche. "I'm too undone by your love and I can't get enough," she moans as Gray's glitchy backing vocals drift in and out. "Press. It's Gray's turn to nudge the temperature dial upwards. "I'm in heat, let me please. I can't breathe from your lace/ Trust me, I'll be weak in your POV," she sings on her verse.

The new Toronto musician's new collaborator, Saya Gray, being credited as Grafton and Gray's producer, is a perfect fit for the track. Gray's production, which includes a bouncy bassline, feels like it's coming into full bloom, as the two women pull out different experimental aspects of each other. In the open, their sounds collide to create an otherworldly and unconventional bedroom pop. — Ali

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