**Record Report**

Nate Knox

“Awaken, My Love”

Childish Gambino transcends genre

With fans buzzing and questioning his cryptic online presence, Childish Gambino has released his first project since 2013. Gambino’s newest studio album titled “Awaken, My Love” has left some fans in awe and others scratching their heads in confusion.

The biggest factor of surprise on the project is there not being a single rap verse, which is far from typical coming from an artist whose career was established as a rapper. In short, this is not the Gambino we have become used to.

This album let me down initially due to there not being any trace of the Gambino I was accustomed to, but after further listening to the R&B and soul ridden tracks on “Awaken, My Love” I realized that this album shows just how capable Gambino is to transcend genre.

Tracks like Redbone and Boogieman leave the listener reminiscent of funkadelic basslines and drum grooves while having to remind oneself that the soul filled vocals are coming from the man who had a Comedy Central standup special less than a decade prior.

I’ve found that in order for Gambino veterans to enjoy this record it must be viewed as an entity of its own rather than a continuation of the projects we came to love previously. On this project Gambino shows off his vocal ability, instrumentation, and the fact that he is more than just an ironic millennial with flow.

I give “Awaken, My Love” a 4.9 stars out of 5 with a -.1 point reduction for the use of synthesized vocals on the track California, a trend that I’ve heard too much of in hip hop over the last two years (think Nikes by Frank Ocean).