

Project “Loop:” A Full-Length Album

**Alice Clair
Class of 2019**

What Happened

Beginning in May of 2018, I recorded and produced a full-length album called “Loop.” There are 12 songs on the album, all of which I composed and some of which range in time even back to 2013. While it took me 10 months to complete the disc, this album has truly been a lifetime in the making.

I recorded the album at Virginia Arts Studio on the recommendation of my mentor, Professor Richard Will. Chris Doermann, both owner and operator of VA Arts, was the engineer for the entire album and my righthand man in mixing and production. Without his expertise, fun-loving heart, and ultimate kindness, this record would not be at all the same. Loop was mastered by Bobby Read at his studio, Small World Audio. Bobby, who engineered, mixed, and mastered my very first single in April of 2018, was similarly integral to the success of this project.

Loop features 23 musicians, as well as myself. I have named them all individually in the album notes below, and I have and will say to each personally how much their time, energy, and effort has contributed to not only Loop, but to me, Alice Clair. I am endlessly thankful to them all for the light they have so lovingly shone upon this project. I will speak to their talent and importance till the end of my days.

In the end, an album is what happened. I emerged on the other side of February this year to a new baby in this world, one bearing my name and the combined effort of many lives. I grew in every humanly possible way – to organize the recording sessions between so many people, to interact artistically with literally every aspect of my life, to continue writing, playing, and performing so that people know what I am about, and to keep rolling down this road of connecting with and loving others. I have kept fighting for the world and the people who live here. I have kept writing about my loves and my pains, and those that are one and the same. Thank you to the Miller Arts Scholars for funding this project, journey, and life-changing event. In the end, this is not my album – it is ours.

What is Happening

When I look back but a meager year, I am filled with an overwhelming wonder at my bravery, my determination, and my accomplishments with this project. However, this wonder pales in comparison to the bigger part of my amazement: the people who have surrounded me along the way. This project is a conglomeration of all the people I know and love in this world, and I do think it serves to include those I have not yet met and may never know into my narrative as a fellow human soul.

My mind has grown just in thinking of Loop – why Loop? I have awoken in the morning to feelings of dread and blind joy alike. I have been dangled endlessly above the precipice along with everyone else. Our potential energy drags us forward in time and farther into ourselves. To embrace the drag, to dive into the precipice, to gather the courage to look behind you – this is the fear. Full circle! What if, on the other end, we have only to live it all again, forever uncertain, forever falling. The pull toward the precipice only brings us to the next, an ever-growing set of stairs serving as an endless terrace between life and death.

Loop! I have worked every day to not fear the fall. I am ready to repeat.

Album Notes

On the search for purpose, closure, and comfort, Alice Clair embarked on a journey – to record and release her first self-titled album. This 12-song album will encompass the terror and triumph of growth, the means of overcoming pain and passion, and the inevitable loops entangling our lives.

Loop was recorded at Virginia Arts Recording and engineered by Chris Doermann. The album artwork was done by Hannah Russell-Hunter, and contributions were made by Max Johnson and Elizabeth Beamon.

Find out more [here](#) or clicking “Loop” above!

Out now on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon, Google Play, and more!

Loop features Alice Clair; guitar, vx, beer, Tommy Proutt; bass, vx, mandolin, Ben Smith; drums, Christina Kim; cello, Tom Proutt; guitar, Annabelle Gunden; vx, Adam Clair; vx, Richard Will; fiddle, Max Rifkin; banjo, Stuart Gunter; aux percussion, piano, Maria DeHart; drums, Chris Doermann; aux percussion, Nate Smith; guitar, Kate Bollinger; bass, Jamie Swanson; upright bass, vx, Gina Sobel; flute, vx and the Ensemble: Ila Albert, Maeve Buni, Hanna Clark, Remy Green, Max Johnson, Miles Johnson, Jack Luecke, Tommy Proutt, Alex Simpson, Ben Smith, and Nate Smith.

Thank you to the Gullysville Gang. Mom, Dad, Adam, Grace, Sunny, SP, and Floyd – this wouldn't have happened without you. Thank you to Joe Madison for changing the direction of my life by putting a guitar in my hands. Thank you to Tommy Proutt for your warmth and light that is woven throughout this album. Thank you to the lovely Ben, Nate, and Tommy, the beloved BLNDRS who are integral to who I am. Thank you to all my dear friends and family. Thank you to Rapunzel's, Blue Star Music, Nelson County, and the countless communities that have supported me throughout my life. Thank you to Chris Doermann and Virginia Arts Recording. Thank you to Bobby Read at Small World Audio. Thank you to Hannah Russell-Hunter for working tirelessly on the artwork, and Max Johnson and Elizabeth Beamon for your contributions. Thank you to Richard Will for your skillful instruction and support. Finally, thank you to Miller Arts Scholars at UVA and the Nelson County Education Foundation for funding this project.

Timeline of Events

May 25, 2018 – first day of tracking
August, 2018 – finished tracking and began mixing
December, 2018 – finished mixing, began mastering
January, 2019 – finished mastering, began production
February 25, 2019 – digital album was released

March 29, 2019 – Loop Album Release Party at the Southern Café & Music Hall

Total Time: 10 months

Budget

	Cost	Justification
Recording Studio (tracking and mixing)	\$3400	This was for 40+ hours of tracking and mixing the 12 songs, and includes the cost of the studio and engineer.
Studio Musicians and Artists	\$500	I paid every artist who recorded, albeit at reduced rates since they were all my friends. With photography and album artwork, this value also increased.
Mastering	\$500	Bobby Read from Small World Audio mastered the entire album for this flat fee.
Production and Distribution	\$1,000	Between digital distribution and the production of the physical discs.
Total	~\$6000	With unofficial costs and unexpected costs, this amount is a general estimate, and is likely ~\$500 more than shown.

Supplementary Items and Links

Website: www.aliceclairmusic.com/loop

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/loop/1451757012>

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/album/4rfvBZDo9Lt9221HjJdKcs?si=eWc7fCMAR7e_HmAZjTEE0g

Bandcamp: <https://aliceclair.bandcamp.com>

Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/835575336778360/>

Some photos of the album artwork, poster for the Southern, and a handful of the folks who joined me on the adventure! Love to them all!

ALICE CLAIR

ALBUM RELEASE

WITH ORME STORM AND IVK



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