

On The Beat: 'An Evening with Silk Sonic' by Silk Sonic

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Hawk Staff

Back in March, Anderson .Paak and Bruno Mars announced the formation of their band, Silk Sonic. The duo released their first massively successful single, "Leave the Door Open," on March 5, and through the laggard release of two more songs, they teased their debut album throughout the entirety of 2021.

Finally, on November 12, "An Evening with Silk Sonic" was released. With all the buildup and hype around this album, my expectations were sky-high, and I think it's safe to say that those expectations were met.

Mars and .Paak are a match made in heaven. Most of the album is .Paak on the verses and Mars on the choruses and hooks, both excelling and adding something special to the music.

The throwback 70s soul feel of the album is right up .Paak's alley; it's very similar to the music he usually makes on his own.

While .Paak is great on the album, I think Mars really shines. His range is absolutely incredible, casually belting beautiful high notes on songs like "Put on a Smile." His silky (pun intended) vocals fit perfectly on the album.

This album strikes a brilliant balance between slower jams and high-energy bops. This balance is further strengthened by the two artists' different styles of singing. "Leave the Door Open," "After Last Night" and "Put on a Smile" are all romantic ballads that successfully display Mars' tenor voice.

On the other hand, "Fly as Me," "777" and "Skate" are super fun, high-energy songs that work well with .Paak's unique, raspy funk-inspired rapping.

Although I loved all the songs on the album, part of me is slightly underwhelmed. This doesn't come from the music itself, but rather the way the songs were released. Out of the nine songs on the album, four had been previously released: "Silk Sonic Intro," "Leave the Door Open," "Skate" and "Smoking Out the Window."

The album would have been more satisfying if almost half of the songs were not released previously.

I also wish the album was longer. With only nine songs at a total runtime of 31 minutes, it goes by pretty fast. Silk Sonic has a great feel and sound, and I don't think a half hour is enough time to live in that feeling and get a true appreciation for the music.

Mars and .Paak have developed something special with Silk Sonic. Their voices and their styles of music blend well together to bring listeners back to 70s soul music. While I wish the album was a bit longer, I'm still really happy with the album we got.

I hope to see Mars and .Paak work more together in the future; I'd love to spend another evening with Silk Sonic.

FAVORITES: PUT ON A SMILE, 777, BLAST OFF
LEAST FAVORITES: NONE

No Bones Day Playlist

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To have a bones day or a no bones day? That is the question. TikTok users have been leaving their daily motivation in the hands (or paws) of a 13-year old pug named Noodle. If you're lost, TikTok user Jonathan Graziano has been posting videos of him waking up his lazy pug, Noodle. If Noodle stays up, it will be a productive, or "bones" day. If he falls down, aka deciding not to have bones, it's a self-care, or "no bones," day.

If you think this idea is crazy, just remember how long we've been letting a groundhog determine the seasons. After working non-stop to finish all our assignments before leaving for the upcoming Thanksgiving Break, we all deserve a day to relax. Here are some songs to compliment your no stress, no bones day.

I Will Follow You into the Dark - Death Cab for Cutie

With soft acoustic guitar and lyrics that read like a great poem, this is the perfect song to start a no bones day. Through its hauntingly beautiful message mixed with the soft and supple voice of Ben Gibbard, this song will set the vibe for a nice, mellow day.

Dark Red - Steve Lacy

This 2017 R&B song hits hard, combining aspects of modern computer generated beats with old school soul feels. Lacy is a genius when it comes to mixing genres; the way he understands how to mesh music is truly inspiring. The smooth, flawless flow of this song is ideal when focusing on self-care. Soul is good for the soul, especially on a no bones day.

The Night We Met - Lord Huron

I imagine that listening to this song produces the same effect as living in a fairytale; there has to be some sort of magic in this song. The harmonizing that opens and closes the song, combined with the echoed effect on lead singer Ben Schneider's voice, actually melts my bones.

Alison - Elvis Costello

Released in 1977, this ballad is one of the few great songs from the UK's pub rock era, a period that was a rebellion against expensively produced glam rock: just raw rock 'n' roll. If you feel like Alison, in the sense that this world, or semester, is killing you, take a listen and let the rhythm relax you. Give yourself a break. It's a no bones day, you deserve it.

Nothing New (Taylor's Version) - Taylor Swift

Swift recently re-released her version of her 2012 album "Red," and this is arguably the most gut wrenching song from the vault tracks. The line "She looks like she's been through it" felt like a personal attack. We sure have been, Taylor. But we'll get through it. That's what no bones days are for.

Save Your Tears - The Weeknd and Ariana Grande

The Weeknd and Grande's voices sound mesmerizing together, and the lyrics do them justice. This song is quintessential when you need to cheer yourself up, so if it's been a rough one, add this to the queue. You don't have to save your tears today. It's a no bones day, after all.

ILLUSTRATION: RACHEL KWOK '22/THE HAWK

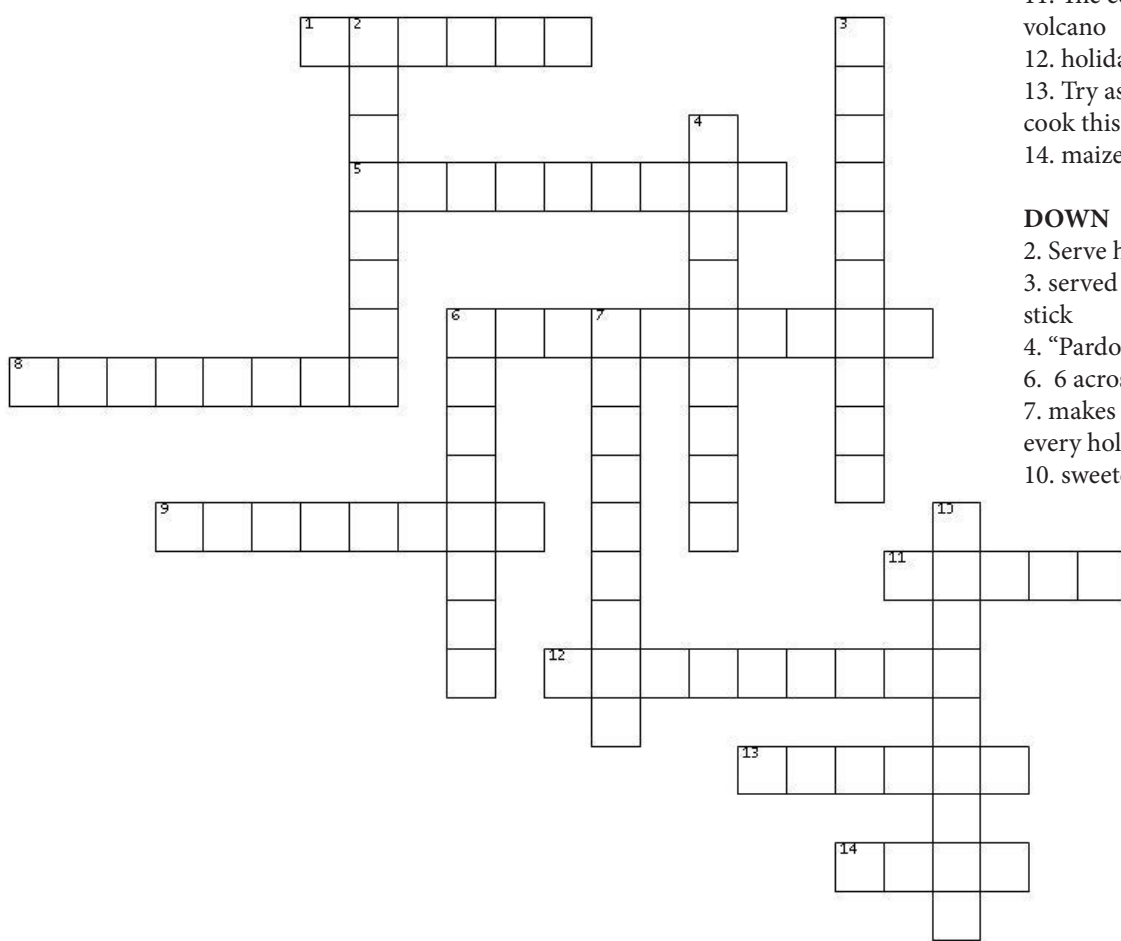


ILLUSTRATION: RACHEL KWOK '22/THE HAWK

CROSSWORD: Holiday Feast



ELISE WELSH '22
Assistant Features Editor



ACROSS

- _____ potatoes
- Some consider these better than the meal itself
- The PSL of pies
- You're lucky if you get the bigger half
- Cooked inside the bird
- The center of a mashed potato volcano
- holiday casserole
- Try asking your mom if you can cook this in the microwave...
- maize

DOWN

- Serve hot with vanilla ice cream
- served chilled or with a cinnamon stick
- "Pardons" a turkey every year
- 6 across and 2 down's nutty cousin
- makes ready-to-bake cookies for every holiday
- sweetest part of the main course



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