

WHO'S NEXT

HAILEY TUCK

HOMETOWN: Austin
INFLUENCES: Édith Piaf, Ella Fitzgerald, Lauryn Hill
ALBUM: *Delancey Street*, EP out now
WEBSITE: haileytuckmusic.com

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IMPULSIVE," SAYS 24-YEAR-OLD JAZZ singer Hailey Tuck. It's a trait that has driven the Texas native far in life—including all the way to Paris at the age of 18 when she used college-fund money to buy a one-way plane ticket. "I had no plan," she says. "I didn't know anybody. I didn't know French. I just wanted to see what would happen." What happened was a life-changing experience for the talented raspy-voiced performer.

Tuck was raised on a diet of "1920s jazz, vintage dresses and black-and-white movies" and an affinity for Édith Piaf. It was that love of old-world charm that led her to the French capital, where she built an underground following singing in bars, putting her own twist on such classics as "My Funny Valentine" and "La Vie en Rose," and contemporary fare like Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice" and Maroon 5's "Sunday Morning." After six months,

she returned to Austin with a newfound confidence that led to recording her first EP. And when she later finally returned to Paris, it was to perform four sold-out shows at the iconic jazz club Le Duc des Lombards.

On her recently released four-song *Delancey Street* EP, which includes one original track, she puts a jazzy spin on the Jackson 5's "All I Do Is Think of You," the Beach Boys' "Caroline, No" and Cole Porter's "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." But beyond her Jazz Age influences, Tuck readily admits, "I love hip-hop! I listen to both political hip-hop by artists like Mos Def and 'backpacker' hip-hop by People Under the Stairs, and others who just want to rap about hanging out with their friends at a barbecue. My version of 'All I Do' was inspired by J Dilla's cover of the Jacksons' song."