

ALBUM REVIEW: NXWORRIES

If you haven't listened to hip-hop/R&B duo NxWorries (pronounced "no worries") before, you may find yourself comparing them to bigger names like Frank Ocean and Kendrick Lamar. Like these powerhouses, NxWorries brings something new to the hip-hop/R&B scene, and the first time listening to their album *Yes Lawd!* you may only take note of the tracks that could be someone else's. However, *Yes Lawd!* becomes a genuinely valuable and novel album when you take the time to listen to it again and appreciate the substance and interweaving of genres that NxWorries moves through not just with ease, but with enjoyment.

Totaling 19 tracks, NxWorries covers a lot of ground with *Yes Lawd!*. While some tracks, such as "Livvin" and "Get Bigger/Do U Luv" explore familiar hip-hop territory like success and ambition, the bulk of the album is an homage to modern romance. From the pleasant surprises of new love expounded on in tracks like "Starlite" and "Best One" to examining the harsh realities of staying faithful in tracks like "What More Can I Say", *Yes Lawd!* doesn't spare detail or offer any particular opinion in support of one side or the other- they simply present the narrative using soulful vocals, honest lyrics, and diverse

instrumentals. *Yes Lawd!* also addresses, through tracks such as "H.A.N.", some of the negative behavioral aspects that have become definitive of the modern dating world, particularly how aversion to commitment has become an excuse for many people to treat each other poorly.

NxWorries notably incorporates elements from different eras of music into their modern sound, resulting in songs that carry the power of both nostalgia and novelty. From 60s ballad "Jodi" to the 70s soul of the previously mentioned "H.A.N" to the 80s synth of "Scared Money", NxWorries retains the best of each era without failing to take advantage of modern advances in musical technology. The influence from past decades is never overpowering, nor is it ever the best part of any song. It's there to enrich the track without taking away from the novelty of NxWorries' song writing, successfully creating a richer, more multi-dimensional piece of work than would have been possible without it.

At the very least, *Yes Lawd!* is an entertaining album. Even if you don't feel the need to engage beyond a surface level, NxWorries has produced a fun listening experience that's enjoyable at any level of engagement. However, *Yes Lawd!* is, in

my opinion, a well-executed album that's worth taking the time and effort to understand.