

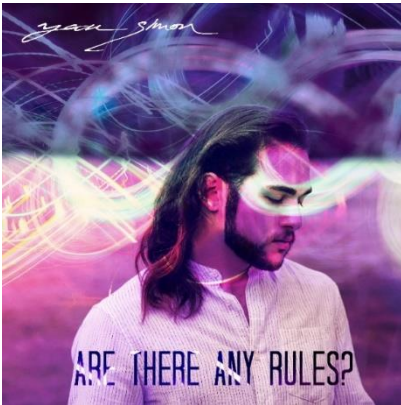
Yan Simon

Yan Simon was born and grew up in the desert city of Be'er Sheva to a family of engineers. His mom taught him the basics of piano when he was five, passing along a skill that her own mother taught her. A year later Yan started his formal musical education at the city's conservatory. He spent seven years learning music theory, music history, classical piano, and chamber choir. At the age of 14 he immigrated to Canada.

Yan Simon started writing pop ballads in his early high school years. Having recently discovered artists like Lady Gaga and Elton John, Yan became inspired to use his skills to translate his feelings into the language of music. Although those songs were mostly confined to the walls of Yan's bedroom, they became his secret tool of dealing with his feelings of loneliness, anxiety, alienation, and his queer identity.

In his late high school years Yan discovered a new passion: musical theatre. After being cast as lead in the school's production of "Guys and Dolls", he was invited to enroll in the Claude Watson Drama program where he learned set design, acting, and directing.

While studying science in University, Yan was tasked with writing an original score for a community-theatre musical production. His 12-song track list received an overwhelmingly positive response from the audience, which inspired Yan to pursue a professional career as a songwriter and performer.



Shortly after graduating University in 2018 Yan decided to pursue his passion for songwriting and performance. Having a handful of songs ready for recording, he began working with Toronto producer and multi-instrumentalist Dima Graziani on what would become his first studio album titled "Are There Any Rules?".

Comprised of nine original, semi-autobiographical songs, this album spans the genres of electro pop, indie pop, pop-rock and adult contemporary. It chronicles a coming-of-age journey and deals with themes of queerness, mental health, loss, and heartbreak.

Yan released "Are There Any Rules?" independently in August 2020 on all streaming platforms. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Yan Simon grew his audience and promoted the album by livestreaming his performances on Facebook.

Yan also independently produced and directed two music videos to support his album release for the songs "Marathon" and "Guilty".



Fueled by the rush of releasing his own music, and having gained live performance experience in the Toronto downtown scene, Yan was eager to return to the studio to create a follow-up EP project.

He partnered with his producer and drummer Dima Graziani, keyboard player Sergey Krutik, and the late, terrific guitar player Alexei Severinets, to re-work and re-record the titles “He is Watching” and “Guilty” from his first album.

The “live”, single-vocal-take versions of these songs showcase Yan’s raw vocal ability, and demonstrate the cathartic, emotional state in which they were conceived.



In addition to the two re-worked tracks, Yan included an original instrumental piece on the EP - an eclectic, restless piano piece titled “La Rêverie”.

This EP, titled “DAYDREAM”, captures Yan’s emotional state during extremely tumultuous events in his life - the sudden passing of his dad, and the ensuing deterioration of multiple familial relationships.

Yan released the “DAYDREAM” EP independently in May 2021 on all streaming platforms.

Yan Simon’s next musical release marked a sharp sonic departure from his previous work.

Inspired to spin a bitter heartbreak into a positive, empowering anthem, and to create a record that both showcased a different side of his artistry and defined his passion for pop music, Yan teamed up with his producer Dima Graziani once again to create “Hero”.

Driving, cinematic, and “with Freddy Mercury-worthy vocal arrangements” (The Static Dive) Hero was accompanied by a choreo-filled music video produced and directed by Yan Simon and filmed by Toronto-based videographer Taylor Holm.

The single was release independently by Yan Simon in August of 2021, and the music video was nominated for “Best Pop” at the 4th Annual Canadian Independent Music Video Awards.





Engulfed by a rush of creativity following the release of “Hero”, Yan Simon released his next single “Clear Lines” just three months later.

An internal monologue set to prismatic, haunting production, “Clear Lines” is about mental turmoil, and the struggle to be understood by those you care about the most.

While staying true to the sonic flavours established with “Hero”, “Clear Lines” offers something a little more subdued. “Yan Simon does it all with a restraint that is admirable when it could so easily have gone proper Broadway and big stage musical. Arty stuff and a fine study by an artist who knows how to push our buttons.”

Yan Simon collaborated with music producer Dima Graziani in the making of this record. It was independently released by Yan to all streaming platforms in November 2021.

Yan also collaborated with Toronto-based videographer Taylor Holm in the creation of an art music film for “Clear Lines”.

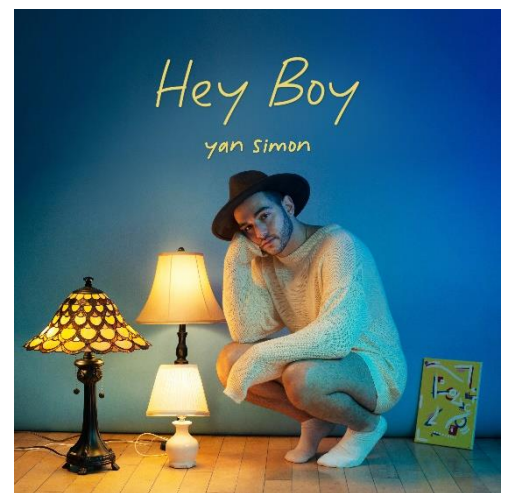
Written, co-directed and produced by Yan Simon, and filmed in various locations in Toronto, the film is a metaphorical representation of the song’s lyrics.



Yan’s following record “Hey Boy” was a breath of fresh air into his ever-evolving catalogue of pop music. Brighter, catchier, and poppier than his previous releases, but with a clear theatrical foundation, “Hey Boy” is a sweet love-song inspired by Yan Simon’s own long-distance relationship.

“Hey Boy” was selected for airplay on Toronto’s 96.9 FM radio station, as well as on numerous internet radio stations for Valentine’s Day.

The single was also accompanied by a choreography-filled music video produced and directed by Yan and filmed by Taylor Holm in Toronto’s Danforth neighbourhood.





Six months after releasing “Hey Boy”, Yan Simon returned with the electro-pop banger “Living in the Night”. The high-energy, synth-driven, up-tempo production of this record is juxtaposed with vulnerable, confessional lyrics about fear, anxiety, and depression.

Written in a moment of loneliness on a late Friday night, Yan aspired to create a statement on what it feels like to be an artist. “I sat by my piano and reflected on how I often feel like an actor on stage who’s trying to hide what’s really going on behind the curtain. Writing this song was like pulling that curtain away.”

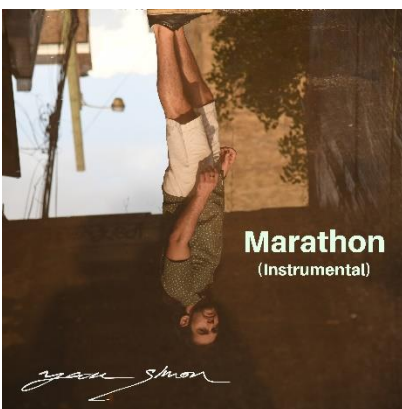
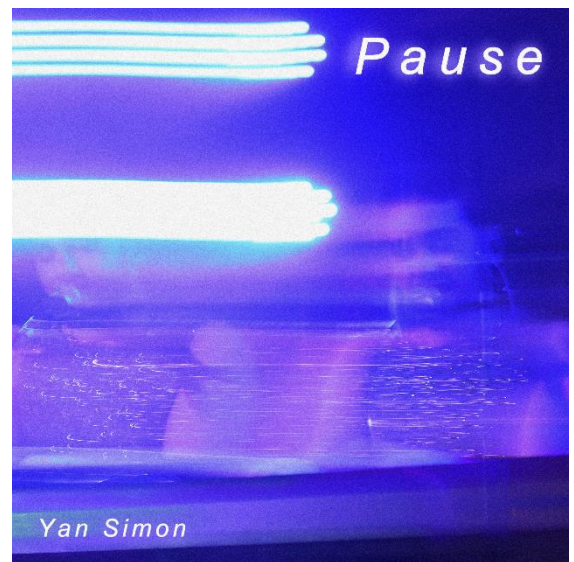
The cover art pays homage to *The Fame Monster* by Lady Gaga, one of Yan’s biggest musical and artistic inspirations.

Yan’s most recent pop release to date is the haunting, cinematic ballad “Pause”.

Written and composed by Yan Simon and co-produced with Dima Graziani, “Pause” is about suppressing your own ego in order to preserve a relationship.

Inspired by Yan’s own experience, “Pause” offers a spiritual awakening without resorting to any form of religious context. Lead by a stirring lead vocal, and supported by a sea of harmonies, this record is meant to carry the listener away on a psychedelic trip while grounding them with soulful, honest lyrics.

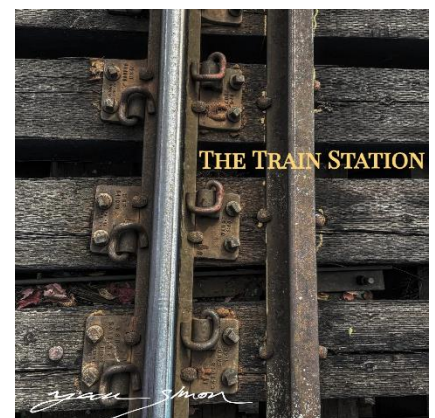
Yan Simon released “Pause” to all streaming platforms in March 2023.



In addition to writing and recording pop music, Yan Simon also releases original piano compositions.

“The Train Station”, for example, was composed by Yan for piano and violin for an original theatre production by JDY Theatre.

Together with “Marathon (Instrumental)” and “La Rêverie” (from *DAYDREAM*) these pieces showcase Yan Simon’s neo-classical composing skills.



From 2021 to the present, Yan Simon has performed his original music all over the GTA and beyond. His skillfully-crafted original songs, theatrical stage presence, and rich baritone vocals create a memorable impact, and are continuously compared to artists such as George Michael, Freddie Mercury, and Elton John by audience members.



The most common question Yan Simon gets asked after a performance is – “do you have a theatre background?”. The passion and vulnerability of theatre permeate every aspect of Yan’s artistry.



Yan’s notable performances include headlining at Toronto’s OBJX Studio, performing at Bar Cathedral, Monarch Tavern, the Milton TuneIn Festival, the Rec Room, and headlining Pride Celebrations at the North York General Hospital in 2023.

