

Abstract

The perceptions and treatment of women have been, and continue to be, significantly impacted by patriarchal narratives of women and stories of women's roles throughout human history. The stereotypes and tropes portrayed in myths, I realized, have taken root in our society and continue to influence our norms and interactions. There are different ways people respond to subjugation, and the way that I chose to respond is by reclaiming these myths and reframing them to give agency to the women in these stories. This project is a series of original songs that draw upon the stories of women from Greek mythology as inspiration, reinterpreting and retelling them. Myths that were once used as a justification for treating women as second-class citizens can now be seen as a source of strength and inspiration, both for myself, and I hope, for others as well. The goal of these songs is to shed new light on the stories of women of myth. By doing so, I am giving voice and agency to women who were previously limited by patriarchal social structures. My retellings not only humanize the women of these stories, but lift them up from these restrictions.

Research Statement

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This thesis reinterprets myths through song in order to reclaim myths established as sexist stereotypes and reinterpret them into sources of power and inspiration for women. In this thesis, I will examine my experiences as a woman as related to these characters, considering how my experiences inform my interpretations and artistic retellings of their stories. I will discuss the myths and their female protagonists, my own artistic process, and record the songs with intent for future expansion on the project.