

Chris Youmans

Pop Artist
Los Angeles, CA



christopheryoumans.com

About Chris Youmans

Since first learning guitar at age five, Chris Youmans has considered music an inextricable part of his life. Growing up in Santa Cruz, found himself enthralled by legends like James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Donny Hathaway, and Whitney Houston. But one album in particular set him down his own path of creative musical expression: Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours*.

By the time he was studying music at UC Berkeley, Youmans had formed a band that played jazz standards and pop covers at local clubs all over the Bay Area. Taking cues from iconic producers like Nile Rodgers, Mark Ronson, and Max Martin, Youmans pushed his own creative boundaries, and in 2015 earned the Eisner Prize for exceptional achievement in music.

After college, Youmans moved to LA to begin work his eponymous artist project. He was profoundly inspired by his experiences in the city's queer scene, and eventually created a new EP called *Electric Love Connection*. With its single, "DANSE," Chris has merged his unique voyage through music with his personal sagas in the realms of queer nightlife, sex, and love.



Welcome to a new era, a transdimensional journey, an elevated vision of pop that will create new dimensions and realities. In Youmans' upcoming live performances, you will bathe in luscious three-part harmonies and revel in crisp choreography. And with professionally styled looks with unexpected reveals, you're never going to know what to expect.

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About DANSE

Before writing the songs that would eventually come together to make his EP, *Electric Love Connection*, Chris Youmans would have identified his artistic self in a completely different way. His first EP was a self-produced project called *Make Things Right*. It was retro-inspired, pulling heavily from funk influences and emulating the likes of Amy Winehouse and Stevie Wonder.

2016 became an unexpected and transformative year. Shortly after releasing the EP, Youmans moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music. Having just come out of the closet, he was overwhelmed by the queer universe that dwelled in the heart of the city. As Youmans struggled to find his footing in a brand-new environment, one of his closest friends passed away.

Griffin Madden, whom Youmans met during his college years at UC Berkeley, was a disco-house DJ in San Francisco. Madden attended all the shows Youmans put on with his band, and Youmans in turn show up at all of Madden's spinning gigs in the city. Madden also took Youmans to his first-ever yoga class in 2011, forever shifting his relationship to fitness and his own body.

In December 2016, Madden died in the Oakland Ghostship warehouse fire. In the wake of his passing, Youmans sought to connect to his surviving partner, Saya, in LA by taking the CorePower Yoga classes she taught in West LA. She always played deep house music, and Youmans began to fall in love with the dark, gritty beats. As he began to process his friend's passing, he felt my inner music tastes beginning to shift.

In the years that followed, Youmans began teaching yoga and feeding his newfound love for house music. His classes, and the music he played therein, felt like a way to honor the friend he had lost. He spent some time gigging throughout Southern California with various iterations of his band, but ultimately decided to take a break and focus on songwriting. He had unresolved emotions that were asking to be processed. On top of that, his life in LA was blooming, and he had a brand-new collection of stories that wanted to be told.

The music Youmans began writing in his hiatus was a complex, swirling galaxy of all of these different parts of his life. He continued to explore his queer identity, attending queer warehouse parties in Downtown LA. Often, he'd dance the night away to the same kind of disco-inspired house music that he had heard in Griffin's DJ sets and Saya's yoga classes.

In late 2019, a transformative experience at one of these parties became the first version of the song that would eventually become "DANSE." After performing a nearly sold-out show at The Peppermint Club in West Hollywood with artist and producer Daniel Bayot, Youmans formed a new close friendship and collaborative partnership.

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Together, Youmans and Bayot have created Youmans's new EP, *Electric Love Connection*. Bayot serves the executive producer on several of the upcoming singles. For Youmans, the new project is a way of reconciling the grief of the past with the exciting queer decadence of the present. "Grit and glam" is how he and Bayot have begun to describe it. "Glam, but also the devil's music." After all, everyone needs to dance with the devil now and then.



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Links

SoundCloud Private single link: https://soundcloud.com/chrisyoumansmusic/danse/s-i0obQyvBw6j?si=250a5bc6a44941b1a004dc872211a440&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

“DANSE” lyrics video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLS0p2Ym8po>

Website: <http://christopheryoumans.com/>

Instagram: <http://www.christopheryoumans.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/chrisyoumansmusic>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristopherYoumans>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@chrisyoumans>

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