

## The Mystery of h hunt: A Recommendation Letter

The unidentifiable artist is delivering sonic gifts to loved ones, and to those lucky to find him.



The artist h hunt is relatively unknown. A look at his Spotify page reveals almost nothing, with the exception of an album released in 2016, titled *Playing Piano for Dad*. Otherwise: no artist-bio; no helpful links; no social accounts in association with anyone that gets us closer to who this enigmatic “h hunt” might be. It’s a single-source page reserved solely for his album—and identities aside, it is an enchanting musical piece.

Distinguished by the image of a pale-yellow sticky-note pad on a backdrop of beige, *Playing Piano for Dad* expresses an on-the-go simplicity—and echoing its cover, the album serves as its own reminder, though more durable and lasting. Comprised of eleven instrumental piano tracks, h hunt morphs classical and jazz music into his own contemporary style. The album begins with “C U Soon,” an anticipatory memo of pending arrival that is more than an abbreviated jotting on a sticky note, but a prelude to the excursion ahead. The soft fluttering of keys become the waving flags and open sails that lead the journey through ensuing tracks. The voyage comes to an end at the final track, “Go Home,” that marks a ready, although bittersweet, departure.

There are many singular marvels from this trove of songs, including “Having a Bath” and “Journeys.” “Having a Bath” establishes a sweet and cheery tone, cocooning all in its candle-lit warmth on a snowy day. “Journeys” is the intriguing descent down a spiral staircase or a wandering pace in the depths of the woods—representing an unraveling of secrecy while a steady downstream of notes enfold one’s footsteps. “Nice Arp” is a steady cascade of notes, briefly coinciding with h

hunt's spontaneous humming. The vocal hums running alongside minimal piano keys partially evokes the opening of James Blake's "Retrograde" with its comparable tonalities.

Overall, it's a musical assemblage fitting for any season or mood: made for both the curious cloak of night and the pink-tinged awakening of day, or the muted snowfall of winter and the shimmering leaves of summer. The Spotify playlists that h hunt's music is featured on similarly span a range of feelings, from 'meditation,' and 'morning chill,' to 'evening reading,' 'Christmas,' and 'rainy New York City.' There's a glimmer of universality captured within this album that effectively evince personal intimacies. Some may argue that instrumental music isn't as 'enticing' or 'compelling' to listen to compared to lyrical pieces, while others may deem the singular presence of piano to be boring. However, h hunt's music offers a true variety in sonic experiences that are unique and exploratory in his efforts of melding the bright spontaneity of jazz into his practice.

The only additional detail garnered from a look at the digital album is its attachment to the UK-based music label, 'tasty morsels.' Considered more as a collective of music-producing friends than an official label, tasty morsels make all of its music available for free download on their [website](#). Like many of their artists, their website, too, is simple in structure: presenting their database of music in a direct manner, without any extraneous information. There is an inherent rawness in the way tasty morsels and their artists present their work—with music being at the genuine core of all their pursuits.

Aside from the arresting imagery and warmth that *Playing Piano for Dad* imparts, there is also a touching sentiment underlying its creation. From its conception, it was not an album meant for public audiences. h hunt's work is never overshadowed by a need for absolute perfection or external validation, as all it was from the very beginning, was a gift to a loved one—a dedication to his dad.

In an [interview](#) with *In Sheep's Clothing*, co-founder of tasty morsels, Rory McCarthy, recalls the origins of *Playing Piano for Dad*:

"Harry (tasty morsels co-founder, AKA artist h hunt) and I were in Studio Ferber (Paris)...He told me his dad played piano and is a fan of jazz, and he didn't know Harry could play. So he wanted to record himself to give to his dad as a Christmas present ...He really at no point in the process realized we were making an album, so it really is very sincerely not trying."

It is further noted that the album was "recorded in one comfortably-seated take." And preserved in this single take are all the blunders and faltered pressings of keys, along with some occasional humming and sighs. The album encapsulates this single, free-form moment in time, with all of its subtle faults—and that's what makes it personal and real. If you were to play the album from a different room, you would find yourself believing that an actual pianist had turned up inside of your home. In this way, h hunt gives praise to the present, allowing the music to be the directive in exchange for tendencies to emulate musical flawlessness. It's an act of mindfulness to trust the candid moment and accept the full movement of a quest, without detour.



Although not verified, there is a strong chance that naran ratan is another pseudonym for the artist behind h hunt. Their Spotify page is also void of any links or information, besides a single album released in 2015, prior to h hunt, titled *Trees etc.* From this album, songs “Forevertime Journeys” and “Forevertime Journeys II” are ambient, nature-infused versions of h hunt’s own “Journeys.” It provides an extended atmosphere, equipped with bird sounds and lullaby-style bells. There is an overarching appreciation of nature in *Trees etc.* that continues on in *Playing Piano for Dad* with its committed rawness to one’s own nature and setting.

Discovering h hunt’s work is like walking into a forest and stumbling upon a fairy ring. It is having a peek at magic in its natural inhabitance. That sense of magic emerges from imperfection and sentimentality, converging into a special and unique set of sounds that ultimately form h hunt’s music. That day at Studio Ferber could never be replicated in the way that it is now enshrined. An accompanying note to the physical copy of *Playing Piano for Dad* reads, “If you love another person: find ways to tell them as best you can.” It is another gentle and comprehensive reminder that totalizes the album’s inception.

In a way, I feel like I am disclosing the four-leaf clover of tunes: something so lucky and rare that only a select few are privy to it. But it is this exact quality of rareness that deserves to be known and shared.