

Danielle Nia Bio

Danielle Nia is a Philadelphia-based composer and performer captivated by the endless possibilities of electronic music and experimental sounds. With influences spanning electronic music, jazz, classical, world music, and chip tunes, Danielle's music embodies a dynamic fusion of styles. Her ventures into modular synthesizers seamlessly integrate her experience with keyboard synthesizers, composition, mallet percussion, improvisation, computer programming, and circuit bending. Dedicated to exploring sonic possibilities, Danielle crafts a unique harmony of technology and artistry, seeking out beauty through sound. Explore more at daniellenia.com.

About the Album:

"A New Light" was conceived from a desire to embrace new ideas and new directions. While I have studied and performed music my entire life, it wasn't until I almost lost the joy in music that I discovered my passion for modular synthesizers. Initially, I viewed them as complex and out of reach, but the moment I began working with them, I felt an undeniable connection to this innovative blend of electronics and musical expression.

This new instrument brought with it a wave of new ideas, challenges, and opportunities. Although playing polyphonic chords with monophonic synthesizers is not straightforward, focusing on sound modulation allowed for incredibly organic and emotionally rich movement. A single voice can traverse harmony and melody with arpeggios, all the while using sound modulation to add movement, atmosphere, and emotional depth to the music.

About My Gear:

The tracks of this album were all recorded live using two Eurorack cases along with a MIDI keyboard, Yamaha Reface CS, and MIDI sequencing via a laptop with Ableton Live. Some of my favorite modules are the TipTop Buchla modules, which I first discovered through a demo by Panic Girl online. I was captivated by the delicate and melodic beauty she was able to produce with them.

The 258t dual oscillator offers a perfect blend of control and modulation possibilities, allowing melodies and intonation to be shaped and transformed both live and through CV control of the FM and processing inputs. I often use two of these modules, with three oscillators dedicated to voices and one for the modulation of a melody voice. For the melody voice modulation, I manually adjust the frequency and other parameters to create an emotional and organic feel.

Another essential module in my setup is the 281t function generator, of which I typically use two. The manual tuning of frequencies and the ability to self-trigger between generators provide a wide range of possibilities that are easy to see and manipulate during live performances.

There are many more modules in my setup, but the one that ties everything together for this album is the Desmodus Versio, which I use as a delay/reverb. It produces a rich, warm sound with many modulation possibilities allowing it to create a beautiful environment for the tracks to inhabit.

This album is just the beginning of my modular journey, I hope you enjoy! Thank you so much for listening!