

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:

This new album explores the creative possibilities opened by two additions to my setup: the TipTopAudio Buchla MARF and the ROLI Seaboard Rise 2. Together, they have reshaped how I approach melody, rhythm, and expression within modular composition.

The ROLI brings a new level of expression and emotional depth to melodies, allowing subtle gestures and performance nuances to shape the music in real time. The MARF expands that language by creating complex rhythmic and melodic interactions between voices, turning patterns into evolving conversations. These instruments became central to the album's sound, helping each piece move between structured composition, improvisation, and organic discovery.

About My Gear:

My setup centers around two Eurorack cases, the TipTopAudio Buchla MARF, the ROLI Seaboard Rise 2, a MIDI keyboard, and MIDI sequencing through Ableton Live. Together, these tools give me a flexible environment for combining hands-on performance, generative movement, expressive melody, and modular sound design.

The Seaboard Rise 2 adds a more tactile and expressive way to shape melodies, while the MARF opens up complex rhythmic and melodic relationships across the system. Alongside the modular voices and external instruments, they help create a setup that feels both structured and fluid, supporting composition, improvisation, and real-time exploration.

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, melodic beauty she was able to produce with them. The 258t dual oscillator remains especially important to my sound, offering a balance of control and modulation possibilities that allows melodies and intonation to be shaped through both live performance and CV control. I often use two 258t modules, with three oscillators dedicated to voices and one used to modulate a melodic voice.

The 281t function generator is another essential part of the system. I typically use two of them, drawing on their manual frequency controls and self-triggering possibilities to create movement that is easy to see, shape, and manipulate during live performance.

There are many more modules in the setup, but the Desmodus Versio is one that often helps tie everything together. I use it as a delay and reverb, where its warm sound and modulation possibilities create a spacious environment for the music to inhabit.

I hope you enjoy my music! Thank you so much for listening!