

D. Munoz Biography

In the summer of 2016, while on the walkie talkie app with a group of friends in his small hometown of Bayonne, New Jersey, then 15-year-old singer-songwriter D. Muñoz decided to send a voice message of himself singing a few bars as a joke. To his surprise, his pals raved about his vocals, prompting him to take to Instagram and post a cover of Chris Brown's "Yo (Excuse Me Miss)." "I think I got seven positive comments," Muñoz remembers. "That was enough for me to say, 'OK, maybe I can do this.'" By December he'd gone viral after posting a rap he wrote about heartbreak. The fanfare sparked a desire in Muñoz to not only "dive in and take making music seriously," he says, but it made him want to show people that he wasn't just a capable lyricist—he could sing.

Influenced by Justin Bieber's superstardom, Bryson Tiller's dynamic R&B/soul, and Shawn Mendes's songwriting abilities, Muñoz hit the studio and recorded his first single, "Wait," a fusion of R&B, dancehall, and trap, which he released independently in 2017. He followed that up with "Love Me," a tender R&B song about missing an ex. When he played the track for the girl he'd written it for, she cried. "That was an eye-opener," Muñoz remembers, adding that her tears made him realize he could move people with his music. It was then that he said to himself, "I don't want to just put out one song," remembers the 19-year-old. "I wanted to show people that I could put together a body of work."

What followed was a deep dive into his relationship with his "Love Me" muse. The result was the lovesick, R&B/soul-heavy EP *Until Next Time*, an effort that peaked on the iTunes R&B and Soul chart at No. 7. When the video for "Love Me," which has garnered over 4.6 million views, dropped in February 2018, Muñoz cemented his place in the industry as the budding heartthrob of Colombian and Dominican descent with impeccable vocal range and a sweet, slick inclination.

Muñoz signed to Triangle Offense/Epic Records in April of 2018 and is now preparing for the release of his first major label EP, *Moments*, due out in early 2020. Focusing on "the moments that define us and make us grow," says Muñoz, the EP explores lust, longing, and loneliness, and sees production from Jorgen Odegard (Pink, Imagine Dragons).

"Drink," the first single off of *Moments* is a soulful groove about being intrigued by a girl on the prowl. The track, produced by Connor McDonough, is the perfect first outing for his new project, says Muñoz. It showcases his pop sensibility, something the singer admits he was reluctant to embrace after initially signing his record deal. But once he started singing over pop arrangements "my whole sound elevated," he says. He also attributes part of his growth as an artist to McDonough, who helped him achieve stronger vocal performance. "He made me expand my range and reach a higher pitch than I ever thought I could," says Muñoz. "We experimented to find uncharted territories of his already dynamic vocal range," details McDonough. "Daniel is always striving to push himself to the bet of his abilities. I could see the passion he had for his dreams and aspirations and knew he would stop at nothing to make them a reality."

His enriched lyric tenor shines through on the smooth "A Lil Nothin," which samples Maxwell's 1996 hit "Sumthin' Sumthin'" and "Comfort," a synth-soaked jam about coping with being alone. "I dove deep into my vulnerability for these songs," says Muñoz, adding that he's looking forward to performing them live and showing off moves he learned from choreographer JaQuel Knight, who has worked with Beyoncé and Britney Spears.

Raised by a single mother, Muñoz was brought up to value hard work. However, after signing his record deal, he felt he was playing a waiting game. "I wanted to release music fast," he says. "Social media plays a big role in my impatience because I have a fanbase who ask for new music all the time. I didn't want them to give up on me. But, spending a year working on this project has made me appreciate every moment and each record. It's shaped me into the artist I am now. I want to have a 10+ year career in music, break records, win awards, take care of my family, and be one of the most successful artists of my generation."