

# RISING R&B SOUL ARTIST **SKYLER REED** CHANNELS HER INNER CREATIVITY TO COMPOSE HER NEW EP 'ARE WE THERE YET'

By Reggie Pierre

Photos: Sebastian Francis



**A** woman of many talents, Skyler Reed was born and raised in Virginia. At a very young age Reed was introduced to music by her beloved mother, who unfortunately passed away. With immense pain in her life, she turned to songwriting and journaling as a form of therapy; this is where her inspiration to pursue a music career began. After knowing that she wanted to be a musician at the age of twelve years old, she began drafting a path to her big dreams.

Reed attended Virginia State University receiving a bachelor's degree in Music. She then went on to briefly live in Los Angeles in the early stages of her career but believes Atlanta is the mecca of up and rising artists. Shortly after, Reed established her own music lesson business, Skyler's Music Studio, LLC based in the heart of Atlanta, which is why she continues to reside there; not only to grow her fan base, but to uplift and coach other singers through her vocal lessons.

## What was the inspiration behind your Are We There Yet EP?

I wrote a song with my friend Jessica Lloyce and co-partner on the entire project. The song ended up being called Are We There Yet, and that kind of just became the stem for the title of the EP. I thought this was a great overall message and there's other songs we can pull from that can kind of go along with this theme. So, the overall inspiration for this EP, just like my other projects was just to inspire people while also throwing in some love songs.

## What is the biggest obstacle you've faced thus far as a musician? And how did you overcome that troubling moment in your career?

As we all know, the pandemic has been a hard time for everyone emotionally, mentally, and physically since all we could do is stay home. One of my biggest obstacles thus far is creating a project in the middle of a pandemic because in creating this EP I wanted to put it out fall 2020. Unfortunately, it didn't get released, so being able to maneuver the covid-19 pandemic and having to produce was really hard. This is my first project that needed input production, and Jessica is like the brains behind all the magic. It was a challenge being a musician but being a different kind because I am a singer, I needed Jessica, who's a composer and pianist. It was cool having that experience and learning from that challenge within itself. It's weird because I personally feel like when I am going through a hard time the best music comes out, so 'Pieces of Me' was written when I was probably at my lowest point during the pandemic. It was after the killing of George Floyd and there were protests across the street. There was just a lot going on emotionally and with being lonely.

## What has been the best performance of your career so far and why?

My best performance was during this event called Raw Artist. They have shows in different cities. They came to Atlanta, and I did an EP

Release show there for my last project 'Descended Crowns,' back in 2018. I was performing a lot during that time. The event took place at the Masquerade which is a huge venue down here in Atlanta. It was really cool and so much fun! I had my band with me, and it was just really a good vibe performing.

## Who has been the biggest influence in your personal life and career?

Having a supportive circle of people around me has been very fundamental to my success. I have been blessed to have an amazing boyfriend who is the engineer in most of my projects. Most importantly, having a close-knit group of family members and friends helps keep me grounded. They're the inspiration behind it all. They fuel me and my career and I am forever grateful for all their love and support throughout these years.

## What advice can you give to any struggling artists out there trying to find their voice and sound?

I would honestly say to never give up on yourself and your dream. I say this because you're going to get rejected many more times than having a door opened for you. You must be strong and believe in yourself because no one else will do that for you.

## What are your aspirations for the next level/phase of your career? What is next for Skyler Reed? Are there any new projects that you are currently working on now?

Honestly, my aspirations are to just perform more. I am waiting for Covid to settle down a little bit more. As far as my new projects, nothing is concrete so far but I am always writing songs and perfecting my voice and my craft.

To stay up to date with Skyler Reed you can follow her on Twitter @iamskylerreed and on Instagram @iamskylerreed.

