

Hurt: Artistic Statement

Wellness has always been a priority for both of us. Before COVID-19, one of the many ways we would maintain our own wellness was by frequently meeting to play ukuleles together, which was a simple way for us to express ourselves through an outlet that we both valued for much of our lives, music. Unfortunately, the pandemic changed our world in many ways, including our ability to get together, which had been limited to our time at work.

An unexpected substitute for a way to creatively express ourselves came when we had the opportunity to make short videos together for the roast for the graduating class of 2020. When presented with another opportunity to create something together, we decided to revisit and combine our shared interests of music and short film. In doing so, we developed this project by spending time together discussing what would be important for us to highlight about the year as well as experimenting with different songs and trialing variations to get the feeling just right.

Our choice to cover the song “Hurt” was the outcome of that process. This is a song that has a history of being interpreted in many different ways, from Nine Inch Nails’ original that is thought to be about a young person on a downward spiral of self-destruction to Johnny Cash’s cover, which seems to be about a man at the end of his life.

To us, this song and accompanying video were a look back through the year which has been filled with so much chaos that we felt we had hardly gotten a chance to experience and process a lot of the emotion that should have been tied to working through such a trying time. During the course of creating this project, we built a deeper understanding of the loss, loneliness, and despair we felt through the past year as well as a heightened sense of pride for the work we have all completed and hope for things still to come.

There’s no way around grief and loss: you can dodge all you want, but sooner or later you just have to go into it, through it, and, hopefully, come out the other side.

-Johnny Cash