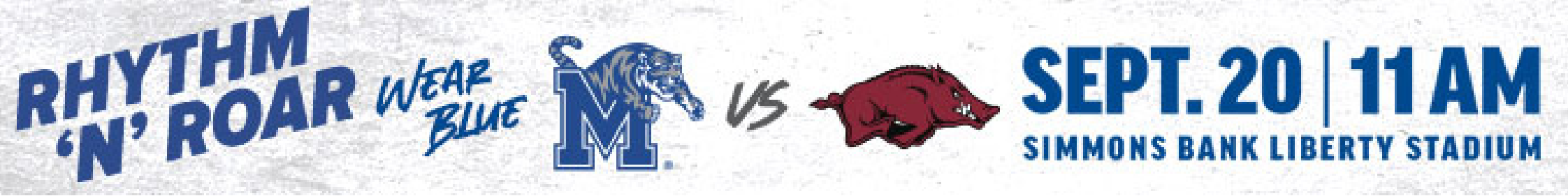


Sports & Entertainment



Fulbright Scholar Amanda Pascali reinterprets Sicilian folk music for the modern day in “Roses and Basil”; Out now!

Robert Ellis-Produced Album
Featured On NPR Weekend Edition

Houston Album Release Show
On October 10

"The academic and artistic collide in fascinating fashion on singer-songwriter Amanda Pascali's latest album, *Roses and Basil*..." – KXT

"Her silky voice and globe-trotting sound might strike a chord with fans of Laufey..." – Dallas Morning News

September 15, 2025 – Rising Texas artist Amanda Pascali has released her new album *Roses and Basil*, which was produced by acclaimed singer-songwriter and fellow Texan Robert Ellis. Exploring the stories and themes in older music that still resonate today, Pascali blends folk/Americana influences with Mediterranean, Balkan, and Latin rhythms, as she delivers powerful tales of the American experience through the eyes of immigrants. She recently spoke about the project on NPR's Weekend Edition. Pascali will celebrate the album release with a special hometown show in Houston, TX at the historic Anderson Fair on October 10. Find more info here.

"This album is a conversation between past and present, a way of singing about everything from reckless abandon and unrequited love to the quiet moments of nostalgia that connect me to my parents' journey to the United States; the Sicilian folklore from 200 years ago, the spaghetti westerns that soundtracked my childhood,

and the reality of being a Gen Z woman in America in 2025," Pascali says. "I've always been caught between worlds. This record is about finding your footing in that space, embracing the enduring power of love, and realizing that home is a feeling you can carry with you, no matter where you are. It's a record for anyone who feels like they live in the in-between, searching for a feeling of home that can't be found on a map."

On *Roses and Basil*, Pascali merges the worlds of Sicily and the American South with songs anchored in tradition yet made for the modern day. This is exemplified in her recent singles – "Wake Up, Baby!", a song of unrequited love that reimagines a traditional Sicilian serenata from the woman's perspective, and "Amuri," which opens with an ancient Sicilian prose about all-consuming love before erupting into a groovy cumbia rhythm inspired by the Latin sounds of Pascali's Texas upbringing. As the first-born daughter of immigrants, Pascali feels a responsibility to honor the stories of the women in her family – "Cleopatra," inspired by her mother, is as a powerful ode to the strength of women who break barriers across borders, and "Sweet 16," written for her younger sister, begins as an intimate reflection on the unfairness of our world before transforming into a 70s-style rock ballad begging her to "just rewind."

Amanda Pascali is a Fulbright fellow endorsed by the Biden Administration's State Department and the Italian Ministry of



Amanda Pascali shows off skills and creativity in “On Roses and Basil”. (Photographer Credit: Davide Casciolo)

A first-generation American, Pascali's mother was born in Cairo, Egypt, and grew up between Paris and New York City. She and Pascali's father, a refugee from Communist Romania with Italian roots, met and fell in love in Brooklyn. But when their family moved from New York to Texas, Pascali struggled to fit in with her peers.

Foreign Affairs, and a current Harrington fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, who pioneered the first comprehensive project to translate and revitalize Sicilian folk songs. Her modern interpretations have captured attention online, with viral videos of her performing "La Mafia E Li Parrini" (The Mafia and the Priests), "Cu Ti Lu Dissi" (Sicilian break-up song) and "Quannu Moru" (The Day That I Die).

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Brooks and Mackay earn AA Conf. Weekly Honors

BIRVING, Texas, September 15, 2025 – Memphis women's soccer collected two more American Conference weekly awards on Monday afternoon, as Evelyn Mackay was named Defensive Player of the Week while Taliah Brooks garnered Freshman of the Week. The 10th-ranked Tigers (7-0-1) opened conference play with a 1-0 victory over Charlotte on Thursday evening. They have won eight weekly honors now, the most in the conference through five weeks. Ellis Kelly has collected three Freshman of the Week honors, Finley Lavin has won Defensive Player of the Week twice and Ai Kitagawa took home Offensive Player of the Week last month. Brooks played just 27 minutes against Charlotte but made the biggest contribution to the match,

a game-winning goal in the 85th minute to secure a 1-0 start to conference play. The Jacksonville, Florida, native has appeared in every game and has tallied three goals and an assist. Mackay put in another impressive shift for a Tiger defense that has gone 318 minutes without conceding a goal. After playing just 130 minutes during her freshman season, the Canadian has played a team-high 707 minutes out of a maximum 720. Brooks, Mackay and the No. 10 Tigers will be back home this Thursday, September 18, to take on UAB at 7:00 p.m. For complete information on Memphis Tigers Soccer, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

