

Nellie McKay has announced *Gee Whiz: The Get Away From Me Demos*, an 18-track collection of rare recordings that led to McKay's groundbreaking debut album, *Get Away From Me* (2004). *Gee Whiz* will be available May 9, 2025 on streaming, CD, and as a 2-LP set on Omnivore Recordings.

"I was attracted to the lyrics immediately," says legendary Beatles engineer and producer Geoff Emerick, who was drawn to the demos and produced *Get Away From Me*. "Her level of maturity at such a young age is astounding. You come across an artist of this caliber once every 10 or 15 years. And I don't do a lot of projects these days unless something really stands out, like this did."

Composed, performed and produced by Nellie, these revelatory demos were recorded in 2002 and sold by McKay as a series of handmade CD-R's. The new demo collection has been sequenced identically to *Get Away From Me*, with three unreleased bonus songs, and mastered by multiple Grammy-winner Michael Graves.

When *Get Away From Me* was released on February 10, 2004, *Rolling Stone* gave the album ★★★★★. McKay made her national TV debut on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, and the record landed in the *Billboard* Top 200. She was compared to both "Doris Day and Eminem," said *NPR Morning Edition*. "And throw in a bit of Billie Holiday for good measure." "It was a different time," says Nellie.

"But if older reviewers—mostly men—scoffed at her juvenile assessment of George Bush and world politics, with twenty years of hindsight, we can now say that she was a lot more astute than many of the scholars writing at the time," writes *Audiophix*. "Nellie McKay—and her debut album—were not perfect. They were better than that. They were real. And in a year that saw seminal punk from Green Day (*American Idiot*) and seminal hip hop from Kanye (*College Dropout*), which came out the same day as *Get Away From Me*, that was enough to make it the best album of the year."

Revisiting the album, *Salon* named it "one of the great pop albums of the early 21st century." *Popmatters* writes, "Two decades later, the circumstances and names differ, but the anguish remains the same, as politicians, dictators, and other killers make life hell for ordinary citizens."