Mixtapes and Mixology
New weekly podcast from KCPT's Flatland and 90.9 The Bridge

August 25, 2016: 90.9 The Bridge and Flatland in partnership with Recommended Daily present Mixtapes & Mixology, a new podcast hosted by Jonathan Bender that mashes up the Kansas City music and cocktail scene. We take one track from a local artist, give it to a local bartender, and ask them to make us a drink based on how the song makes them feel. Along the way, we dive into the world of that band, that bartender, and that cocktail.

If you want to dive further in, you can also watch each band’s acoustic performance at The Bridge (bridge909.org/podcasts) or see each mixologist make their cocktail at the bar where they work or get the recipe at flatlandkc.org. After you have a chance to listen to all four episodes, we’re going to get the bartenders and bands together for you to enjoy the drinks that were born as part of this collaboration. At the event at Californos on September 15, you can try the cocktails, meet the bartenders, and listen to two live acts. #MakeMeaMix  More event information at kcpt.org/event.

**Episode I:** Ivory Black & Zac Snyder. Ivory Black ran away from home at the age of 15 years old. Thus began the journey of a musician, who continues to think about the nuances of identity and place through lyrics. The anthem “Ready Get Set,” is about that moment when the radio is about to get turned up and your feet can’t help but dance. We presented that song to mixologist Zac Snyder at The Westside Local and asked him to make us a cocktail. The former cruise ship musician then dialed up a bit of spirits alchemy with a touch of Greek mythology.

**Episode II:** Jessica Paige & Casey Bond. Jessica Paige is a singer-songwriter who has had plenty of time to work on her soul. A three-time veteran of American Idol, she spent the years when most of her peers were in college, caring for her grandmother. Her musical career has been a series of emotional moments, in part because of what happened on a fateful day of Lake Lotawana wakeboarding. Her song, “Beautiful Life,” delves into the idea that you can be surrounded by joy even when you’re at a crossroads. And that’s why we asked Casey Bond of BLVD Tavern, which is literally in KC’s Crossroads, to make us a drink based on Paige’s summer vibes. And just like Field of Dreams, she found some unlikely inspiration in the cornfields.
**Episode III:** BLK FLANL & Ryan Maybee. Some times someone gets you. You have the same worldview or style or you’re both driven for reasons you can’t explain. That’s BLK FLANL, the hip-hop duo of Morgan Cooper and producer Conductor Williams. The two just keep bringing their metaphorical lunch pail to the studio, willing our society to address issues of violence and acceptance, speaking directly about the issue of police shootings. In “Keep Me Safe,” they lay out the message of moving forward in a positive direction even in the wake of racial and social pressure to crumble. Behind the bar of The Rieger, Ryan Maybee found strength and brightness in the song and decided to combine both in his cocktail shaker.

**Episode IV:** Yes You Are & Kenny Cohrs. Yes You Are is whirlwind of intentional destiny. They’re a second stand for front woman Kianna Alarid (formerly of Tilly and The Wall), who has paired with local Jared White to create a unique pop buzz. Alarid and White form the heartbeat of the five-piece band, which always seem secure with a little bit of musical chaos. “HGX,” not only anchors the soundtrack of “Bad Moms,” it has people singing along and bopping during Yes You Are’s riveting live shows. We took the toe tapper to Jax Fish House and mixologist Kenny Cohrs, He traditionally keeps it buttoned up under his vest, but on this cocktail he decided to let loose a little.