



### **Michelle Zauner**

Michelle is a musician and best-selling author who was born in South Korea but moved to Eugene, Oregon at nine months of age. Growing up in a predominantly white community, she recalls hating being part Korean, barely speaking Korean, and struggling with having no Asian friends. Michelle said that no part of her felt Korean unless it came to food. That was why she looked forward to the mother-daughter summer trips to South Korea where they would visit family. At fifteen, Michelle asked her mother for a guitar and took weekly lessons. She would write songs as a form of self-expression and as an outlet for her emotions. She continued her music career in college by forming small bands, but her mother did not want her to become a musician. Michelle formed her Indie pop band “Japanese Breakfast Club” in 2013. With little success she quit in 2015 to work in advertising. Her mother’s death led Michelle to take her grief to create two albums, *Psychopomp* (2016) and *Soft Sounds from Another Planet* (2017). Both gained attention and critical acclaim. This jumpstarted her music career again. Michelle is also a bestselling author. Her memoir *Crying in H-Mart* was released in April 2021 and became an instant hit, staying on the *New York Times* nonfiction bestseller list for sixty weeks. In 2022, she became one of *Time’s* 100 Most Influential People in the World-Innovators. While encouraging more Asian American participation in music, Michelle also advocates speaking up on Asian American issues and calling out anti-Asian racism in the United States.

*Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.*