

# ALESSIA

THIS 19-YEAR-OLD SINGER WENT FROM YOUTUBE SENSATION TO DEF JAM SIGNEE, AND HER HIT SONG "HERE" IS JUST THE BEGINNING. BY LISA BUTTERWORTH. PHOTOGRAPHED BY SHELBY DUNCAN

# CARA



hair and makeup: justin st. clair at exclusive artists management using chanel rouge allure and number 4 hair care.

## OBJECTIVE

To connect with as many people as possible through music

## DATE STARTED

Born in 1996 in Brampton, Ontario, Canada

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EXPERIENCE

Dropped first single, introvert anthem "Here." "When we wrote it, I wasn't sure if anybody was gonna hear it, and when we released it, it was crazy the amount of people who related to it. I thought I was the only one who was awkward in social situations, and just seeing everybody saying, 'No, I relate'—everyone from 40-year-old men to 14-year-old girls—that was the biggest surprise."

Appeared on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. "I was backstage, and I was so nervous. He came up to me and was telling me how he found me on Tidal and was like, 'We have to have this girl on, and it doesn't matter if she's new,' which was so nice of him."

Released debut EP, *Four Pink Walls*. "I've never had a body of work out before, so even though it's just five songs, I'm really, really proud of it."

## SPECIAL SKILLS

Songwriting. "Lately I've been writing a lot on planes with no instruments. I'm just coming up with melodies in my head and then putting them into my voice note recorder. On plane rides you have so much time to think, and it's your only time to yourself where there's no distractions, so it's easier to write."

Celebrity impressions including Ariana Grande, Lorde, and Nicki Minaj. "Hosting *Saturday Night Live* is one of my dreams."

Hot wing connoisseur. "Me and my best friend, we go to Kelsey's. I don't know if you guys have Kelsey's [in the U.S.], but it's like a Chili's, and they have half-egg wings on Thursdays and this amazing spinach dip, so we'll have spinach dip and wings. That's our thing that we do."

## REFERENCES

"Drake and I were performing at the same festival and he introduced himself and it was the best thing in the whole world. He gave me encouraging words and said he's proud because we're from the same city. It was one of those things where I was out of my body, like, 'This isn't happening to me.'"

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Received Twitter shout-out from Taylor Swift after performing an acoustic cover of "Bad Blood" for BBC Radio 1. "That was insane. I saw that happen in real time. Like, I was on my phone and I saw the notification pop up. My heart just stopped."