

Outcalls CV/ Resume

Biographies:

Outcalls

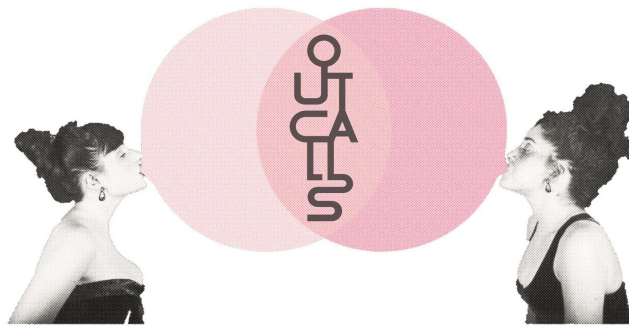
“... Peabody grads Britt Olsen-Ecker and Melissa Wimbish have catapulted themselves onto the local arts scene and created their very own genre along the way. On their latest EP, *No King*, each song reminds you that the human voice - in all its hypnotic glory - is the ultimate instrument.” –*Baltimore Magazine*

The vocal pop duo **Outcalls** has been dubbed the “electronic opera queens” of Baltimore. Led by Britt Olsen-Ecker and Melissa Wimbish, both classically trained musicians, Outcalls creates genre-defying pop music that counters the tired narratives pervading much of today’s popular songs. With compelling performances and songs that feature melodic and harmonic surprises, their voices can “tickle your ear hairs one second and shake your teeth the next” (*David William, The Bulletin*). Masterful sopranos fuse into lush harmonies that lilt about energetic beats and easily translate from the operatic stage to bandstands and radio waves. Their innovative music and lyrical content shares a fresh feminist perspective.

Unconventional pop arrangements layer acoustic and electronic elements to create refreshing, dance-inducing, woman-fronted hits. Their album, *No King* (2017), features “art pop songs” that unfold in chapters and have a cinematic quality. For WTMD Radio’s *Alternative Music Awards*, they were awarded Best Vocal Performance for “No King” in addition to nominations for Album of the Year and Best Album Art. “No King” was listed in *Baltimore Sun*’s “Songs That Defined Baltimore in 2017” and voted #6 in the *Top 89 Songs of 2017* by 89.7 WTMD Radio listeners in Baltimore. The following year, they were voted #1 for their single “Keep Falling Over” in the *Top 89 Songs of 2018*. Outcalls’ latest releases “Stay” (2019) and “Mother” (2020) were featured on celebrity astrologer Chani Nicholas’s *Cosmic Playlist Series*. They were recognized as Baker Artist Award Finalists in both 2019 and 2020.

Olsen-Ecker and Wimbish are dedicated to building a stronger, more sustainable future for women in the music industry. These bandleaders are creative risk-takers seeking greater independence as composers, tour managers, engineers, and sound designers.

Outcalls has self-booked several tours throughout the US and Canada including *The Skinny Tour*, *Expand the Fam Tour*, *Goin’ Down South Tour*, *The Breakfast Tour*, and *Nothing Will Go Wrong Tour*. Recent performances include *It’s Pandemonium* at the Creative Alliance Gala (November 2020) and *Virtual First Thursday with WTMD* (September 2020). Their third studio album, *Greatest Hits: Vol. 1* will be released in spring 2021.



Britt Olsen-Ecker (bandleader, vocals, keyboard)

Hailed as a "renaissance woman" by Urbanite Magazine, **Britt Olsen-Ecker** has taken Baltimore and beyond by storm as a multi-talented performer, composer, director, photographer, and videographer. She has photographed over 3,000 faces from portraits to weddings to food all over the world.

Her photography has been published by the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, Baltimore's City Paper, Baltimore Magazine, and Baltimore Style Magazine, to name a few.

As a performer, Britt has been hailed by her "impressive" and "captivating" roles on stage both as an actor and singer. She has worked with several companies in Baltimore, including the Acme Corporation and Single Carrot Theatre, where of the latter she was a company member from 2014-2015. She recently appeared in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's production of Hindemith's "Sancta Susanna" as the maid, under the baton of Maestra Marin Alsop.

She resides in Baltimore, Maryland with her family where she runs her studio and is one of the frontwomen of the award winning band Outcalls.

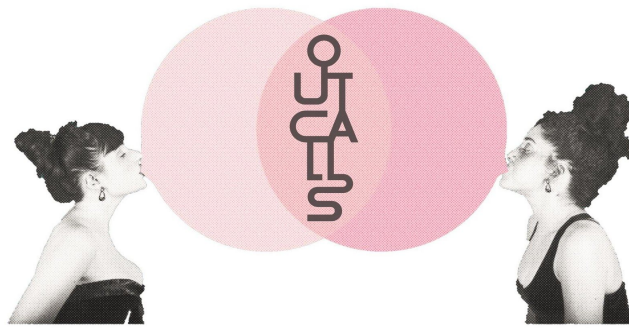
Melissa Wimbish (bandleader, vocals, clarinet)

In the world-premiere of *Josephine* with UrbanArias, *The Washington Post* gushed, "... the afternoon belonged to **Melissa Wimbish**, who was creating the role of Josephine Baker in this world-premiere of *Josephine*. Beautifully prepared, vocally stunning, and theatrically riveting, Wimbish effortlessly held the audience in her hand throughout this one-woman show." Praised by *The New York Times* for "stylish singing" and by *The Boulder Daily Camera* as "simply incredible ... the highlight of the entire evening," she is consistently recognized for her artistry, technical prowess, and captivating stage presence.

Melissa recently made her Carnegie Hall solo recital debut with a program of works by American composers including the world-premiere of *Space in Chains* by Jessica Meyer set to poetry by Laura Kasischke. She made her Baltimore Symphony debut as a featured soloist performing György Ligeti's technical feat, *Mysteries of the Macabre*. Career highlights include *Carmina Burana* at the Kennedy Center with Washington Ballet, *Candide* with Baltimore Symphony, and Mozart's *Requiem* with Richmond Symphony. She will make her BSO subscription series debut as Anna in Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* in 2021.

At the National Association of Teachers of Singing bi-annual national competition, Melissa was awarded the top honor *Grand Prize Artist Award* as well as the *Franco-American Award* for "Best Interpretation of French Repertoire." Her performance in four rounds of the competition at the district, regional, and national levels included classical and modern song compositions.

Melissa enjoys an active career performing traditional and contemporary opera, song recitals, and as one of the frontwomen in the award-winning band, Outcalls.



Music:

The Clay Mechanical (EP) released September 29, 2015

“**Skip to Sunrise**” (single) released October 7, 2016

“**No King**” (single) released June 20, 2017

No King (EP) released September 15, 2017

“**Pillcauzbee**” **Drew Scott Remix** (single) released November 24, 2017

“**Keep Falling Over**” (single) released May 28, 2018

“**Stay**” (single) released February 14, 2019

“**Mother**” (single) released February 6, 2020

Videos:

“**En Sourdine**” (Live performance) released 12/14/15; Shot by Faith L. Bocian

“**Skip to Sunrise**” (Official Music Video) released 10/22/17; Directed by Lola B. Pierson

“**Pillcauzbee**” (Official Music Video) released 4/6/2019; Animation by Oona Taper

“**Stay**” (Official Music Video) released 1/22/2020; Directed by Kenny Johns

“**Just Add Reyka**” (Commercial) released 7/9/2020; Written, Shot, Directed by Outcalls

“**Battle of Watermelon**” (Commercial) released 9/3/2020; Written, Shot, Directed by Outcalls

“**No King (Acoustic)**” released 11/3/2020; Shot and Directed by Outcalls

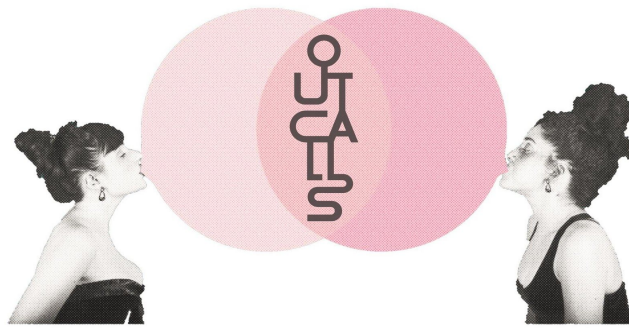
Press:

[September 2020 - Here's what six of Baltimore's most unique musical artists have prepared for fall 2020 \(Baltimore Sun\)](#)

One of [their songs], “*Love to Fight*,” showcases their talent for winding harmonies over infectious electro-pop and UK garage-type beats. “*The song is essentially about living in a democracy and how **it's necessary to fight about things in order to build a better place to live.***”

[March 2020 - The Big Baltimore Playlist \(Baltimore Magazine\)](#) “**MOTHER**”

“*This new track by Britt Olsen-Ecker and Melissa Wimbish contemplates a dynamic topic: motherhood, with distant, dream-like vocals asking a big, ambiguous question—“Better now, but better when?”—ultimately leaving the answer, too, up to listeners. Made in collaboration with singer-songwriter/producer Jennifer Pague of L.A.'s Vita and the Woolf, it's a spacious, surreal melody that builds with a staccato beat, lush synth, **and the ladies' always-impressive operatic pipes.***”



[December 2019 - Into the Unknown - Baltimore's Outcalls Duo is Back \(coolprogeny\)](#)

"Last year, WTMD asked the Baltimore indie pop band Outcalls to learn the songs from "Frozen," dress up as Princesses Anna and Elsa and put on a live concert. **It sold out three times in a row.**"

[September 2017 - Baltimore duo Outcalls take control with new EP, No King \(Baltimore Sun\)](#)

"That conviction can be heard throughout the new EP. Opening with a staccato synthesizer line, the dramatic **"No King" blooms into a tale of betrayal and revenge sung through lush, layered vocals.** "Coldblood" feels moody and ominous, unfurling at its own unhurried pace. "Pillcauzbee" has more of a natural swing, and taps into the duo's love of R&B and brass instruments."

Awards & Special Recognition:

Outcalls selected as finalists for the **2020 Baker Artist Awards**

Outcalls selected as finalists for the **2019 Baker Artist Awards**

WTMD Alternative Music Awards: **Best WTMD Performance** for "FROZEN" (2019)

"Keep Falling Over" (single) voted #1 in **WTMD 89.7's Top 89 Songs of 2018**

WTMD Alternative Music Awards: **Best Vocal Performance** for "No King" (2018)

"No King" (single) voted #6 in **WTMD 89.7's Top 89 Songs of 2017**

"Skip to Sunrise" (single) featured in **Best Music of 2017 (Baltimore Magazine)**

"No King" (single) featured in **Top 30 Songs that Defined Baltimore in 2017 (Baltimore Sun)**

"No King" (single) featured on **Big Baltimore Playlist (Baltimore Magazine)**

Merit Award from **Baker Artist Foundation** for **Best Overall Set** (WTMD Block Party, 2016)

Featured Performances:

Creative Alliance "It's Pandemonium!" Virtual Gala (November '20)

WTMD Virtual First Thursdays (Sept '20)

WTMD Saturday Morning Tunes // The Miracle Theater DC (Feb '20)

Debut at Ram's Head Live with The Great Heights Band + The Dude Ranch (Feb '20)

WTMD Saturday Morning Tunes Holiday Spectacular // Towson University (Dec '19)

Stop Making Sense // Ottobar (Nov '19)

Brilliant Baltimore Headliners // Inner Harbor (Nov '19)

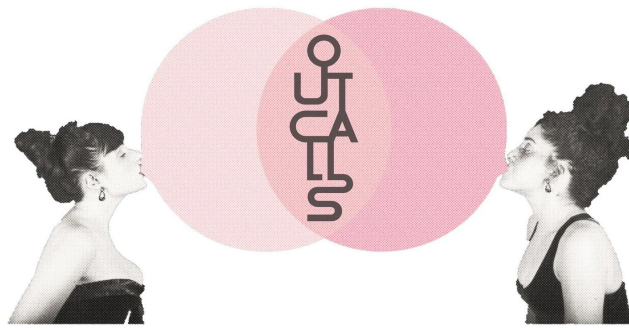
Headlining Show at Ottobar with Kotic Couture + Del Florida (Sept '19)

Irreverent Opera Improv with UrbanArias // Kennedy Center REACH (Sept '19)

Opening for Y La Bamba // Songbyrd (Apr '19)

WTMD Saturday Morning Tunes Holiday Spectacular // Towson University (Dec '18)

Midday Maryland Live Studio Performance // WBAL TV (Nov '18)



WTMD Saturday Morning Tunes // Baltimore School for the Arts (Sept '18)
Baltimore Magazine's Inaugural Music Festival // Union Collective (Sept '18)
Opening for Wolf Parade // Ottobar (Aug '18)
Light City Headliners // Baltimore Inner Harbor Amphitheater (Apr '18)
Opening for Tal National (Niger) // The Creative Alliance (Mar '18)
BSO PULSE w/ Esperanza Spalding Preshow // Meyerhoff Symphony Hall (Oct '17)
No King Release Party w/ Super City + J. Pope & the HearNow // WTMD Studios (Sept '17)
WTMD First Thursdays w/ Chicano Batman // Canton Waterfront Park (Aug '17)

Tour History:

NOTHING WILL GO WRONG (2019)

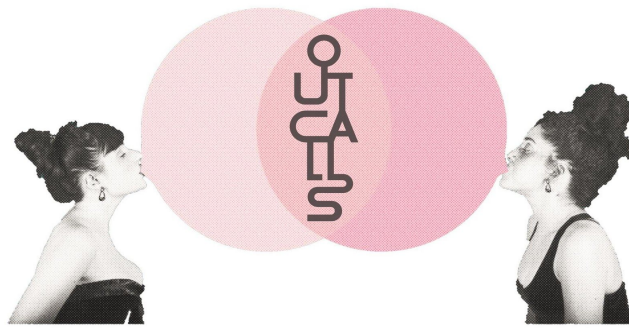
10/5: T-Bar Social Club (June Lake, CA)
10/7: Harvard & Stone (Los Angeles, CA)
10/8: Puffers of Pismo (Pismo Beach, CA)
10/9: Santa Clara University (Santa Clara, CA)
10/10: MilkBar (San Francisco, CA)
10/11: Shine Cafe (Sacramento, CA)

THE BREAKFAST TOUR (2019)

8/10: The Alchemist (Stowe, VT)
8/11: Funk N' Waffles (Syracuse, NY)
8/13: The Skinny Pancake (Burlington, VT)
8/14: Bella Luna & The Milky Way Lounge (Boston, MA)
8/16: Young and Grumpy Studios (Brooklyn, NY)
8/17: C'mon Everybody (Brooklyn, NY)

GOIN' DOWN SOUTH (2019)

3/22: The Lazy Bee (Berea, Ohio)
3/23: Spot Tavern (Lafayette, Indiana)
3/24: Urban Artifact (Cincinnati, Ohio)
3/25: Bellarmine University (Louisville, Kentucky)
3/27: Siberia Lounge (New Orleans, Louisiana)
3/28: The Attic at the Blind Mule (Mobile, Alabama)
3/29: Jade Fox & Co. (Atlanta, Georgia)



EXPAND THE FAM (2018)

- 8/9: One Longfellow Square (Portland, Maine)
- 8/10: The Columbus Theatre (Providence, Rhode Island)
- 8/11: Midway Cafe (Boston, Massachusetts)
- 8/12: The Skinny Pancake (Burlington, Vermont)
- 8/15: The Cavern (Toronto, Ontario)
- 8/16: Revolution Gallery (Buffalo, New York)
- 8/17: Bar L'entre Nous (Montreal, Quebec)
- 8/18: C'mon Everybody (Brooklyn, New York)
- 8/20: ShopRite (Wilmington, Delaware)
- 8/21: The Smiling Moose (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
- 8/22: Jilly's Music Bar (Akron, Ohio)
- 8/23: Milkboy (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- 8/24: The 8x10 (Baltimore, Maryland)

THE SKINNY TOUR (2017)

- 3/16: Bellarmine Radio (Bellarmine University)
- 3/16: Dreamland (Louisville, Kentucky)
- 3/17: The Spot Tavern (Lafayette, IN)