At a first glance, the album cover says a lot about this trio of rappers based out of Federal Way, Washington, as *Lose Sight of the Shore* is “shore”-ly a sound that captivates what seemingly is fleeting in this day and age with rap and hip-hop. For one, I saw this album in our hip-hop collection and, needless to say, I have been bumping this 9-track album for about the last two weeks I’ve had it on my person (sorry Mr. Trujillo). New Track City is comprised of the brother-rapper duo of Bem and Chi. Stone, with their producer Dru on the Beats mixing sounds inspired by the greatness of jazz, soul and R&B. Brothers Bem and Chi approach the mic with elegance and class, which is suitable for the smooth jazz based beats that permeate throughout the 30 minutes of listening. The duo battle for the limelight in a lighthearted matter, and in doing so, create a different sound that sets them apart from most projects that seem to be dished out on the monthly basis.

Seriously, they really do attack the mic; in the opening track “Right Now”, they literally mean that, “right now, I’mma rip the mic up, and pass it off to my brother, let’s do it...go!” and this vibe of “right here, right now” shows their grind, appreciation of hip-hop, and understanding of what it means to be an underground rapper working in the shadows of the mainstream rap. The first track raps their chorus over a bed of beautiful vocals from Falon Sierra, who also reigns from Washington. This album itself is similar to a rollercoaster; when you think you’re expecting where it might be going, the next track follows and flips the switch entirely. About halfway through the album, an excitable medium is presented to us by way of the very vice-city-esque vibes found in “More and More” (which is now out for your viewing pleasure in a music video, check it out!). This track is most definitely my favorite, but that’s not saying much as the entirety of the album is choice hip-hop. Roll a track like number three’s “Judgement”, or even number seven’s “Close” and you’ll sincerely appreciate the production quality from each hi-hat hit, snare drum cracked, and bass line slapped. Even more so, the last three tracks offer a mixture of what it means to be loved, and the reciprocation of it. Ending with the tracks “Loreley’s Song, Pt. III” and “Time” elicit feelings of longing, questioning, and wondering of the facets of life that humans experience on the daily.

Shouts out to Sylvan Lacue, Logic, and now the very loved and appreciated album that is *Lose Sight of the Shore* for bringing real hip-hop back to the scene. I guess the more I think about it, *Lose Sight of the Shore* seems to pay homage to those rappers that have lost sight of what makes rap beautiful, from the poetic lyrics that bring life to the beats in the background, as well as the message being portrayed. Rarely does music give me goosebumps, but most definitely when it does, I can’t deny what my body is trying to tell me. This is by far one of my favorite releases of last year, as it was released August of 2017, and I only hope that you can take half an hour out of your day to check it out. You’re gonna like the sounds you hear, I guarantee it.

**Sounds Like:**
- Wale (rapper Chi. Stone sounds like Wale and he works it)
- Curren$y (like Weekend at Burnie’s Curren$y met up with Kanye’s College Dropout and bada bing bada boom --> New Track City)

**Recommended Tracks:**
1. “Right Now” - If this doesn’t get you bouncing or bopping or swaying, I don’t know what will (3:17)
5. “More and More” - This song WILL leave you YEARNING FOR MORE AND MORE (2:58)
9. “Loreley’s Song, Pt. III” - There are two other parts to find... check out their first two mixtapes "The Damn Gina Tape" and “Spring Exceeds Winter" (3:52)

**Name:**
Maximilian Serventi

**Date Reviewed:**
02/19/2018