

Chicago Artist Taylor Mallory Announces *The Challenge Sessions, Vol. 1*

Available April 23, 2021 on all Major Streaming Platforms

The alternative R&B / pop-soul songwriter and producer releases an EP built around live-in-the-studio performances that feature an innovative audio device by TC-Helicon.

Taylor Mallory stays busy. The Chicago-based artist wears a tall stack of hats as a vocalist, songwriter, producer, educator, actor, and music tech wizard, and always has a new project in the works to expand his craft into new realms of creation and collaboration. Though you might see Mallory featured in the Wall Street Journal, appearing in TV commercials on a national scale, or even acting in NBC's series *Chicago P.D.*, his musical efforts stand as the cornerstone of his practice and give him the chance to most directly express himself through his art. Mallory's music embodies a complex strain of alternative R&B and pop-soul that melds passion and technology into a unique and creative whole teeming with future-facing ideas.

The use of cutting edge musical equipment in live performances continues to inform how **Mallory** approaches his work as a singer and a producer. Put on any video of one of his performances and his mastery of vocal control, technical live-looping procedures, and the raw, radiant quality of his voice itself can't help but immediately make an impact. His new EP called *The Challenge Sessions, Vol. 1* drew inspiration not only from wanting to dispel the stagnant creative atmosphere that hangs over the pandemic era, but also from the infinite potential contained within new vocal processing and looping instruments created by **TC-Helicon** — a company that has since sponsored him as a showcase creator and performer. The idea of a "challenge" sits at the center of this project, which captures the achievement of his first fully self-produced collection of songs, and a new level of experimentation and creation with the TC-Helicon gear.

Seeds for the EP took root in Mallory's self-imposed **#52WeekSongChallenge**, which found him diving into a daily process focused on constant productivity and routine realization of his ideas into song form. **Mallory** drew inspiration from the boundless capabilities of the **TC-Helicon VoiceLive Touch 2**, a stand-alone effect and loop unit that essentially transforms his voice into full arrangements with layers of melody, texture, and percussion. Mallory's practice with the VoiceLive Touch 2 has deepened to the point that he can create detailed tracks on the spot that follow any idea or vocal technique he wants to explore. Using this music as a foundation, his partnership with TC-Helicon will focus on his work with their new product, the **Perform VE**, which can only lead to further wonders of composition and live performance.

THE CHALLENGE SESSIONS, VOL. 1

