

Chappell Roan? Sabrina Carpenter? Who will be featured on new Taylor Swift album?

BY LISA GUTIERREZ
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Taylor Swift fans are busy today hunting for Easter eggs and any other clues about the Eras Tour singer’s 12th album announced Monday.

Who, for instance, will collaborate on “The Life of a Showgirl”? Missouri native Chappell Roan’s name has popped up in online discussions, with some fans noting that “Showgirls” is Roan’s favorite movie.

“I love drag and burlesque,” she told the student newspaper Daily Californian in 2023. “I loved the movie ‘Showgirls.’ I’m very inspired by that movie, the costumes and makeup.”

Some Swifties point out, too, how the two women had a cozy interaction at the Grammy Awards earlier this year, with Swift whispering in Roan’s ear as they chatted in the audience, and giving her a standing ovation when she won Best New Artist.

One unconfirmed (and highly suspect) Internet rumor floating around suggests Swift and Roan will sing a song with country flair and pop undertones. Fans recall how Roan covered Swift’s “Love Story” last year at College Street Music Hall in Connecticut, reading the lyrics from her cell phone.

No official track list or release date has been revealed. But Swift is expected to share details when she appears Wednesday on the “New Heights” podcast with boyfriend Travis Kelce and his brother and podcast co-host, Jason Kelce. It begins at 6 p.m. Central.

A note on Swift’s website, which briefly crashed Monday after it began taking pre-orders, notes that the albums will ship Oct. 13, 2025, but that is not the release date.

A more likely collaboration would be Sabrina Carpenter, who opened for Swift at several Eras Tour stops beginning in August 2023.

Fans believe Swift dropped a hint in Taylor Nation’s Instagram tease of the album, which included 12 photos — 11 of Swift by herself and one with Carpenter.

Did Carpenter tease it, too?

Carpenter made a surprise tour appearance in New Orleans last October when she and Swift sang a mash-up of “Espresso,” “Please Please Please” and “Is It Over Now?”

At that show, Swift pretended to call Carpenter on a cell phone and asked her to join her, telling her to “get off the roller coaster you’re on and put on some clothes.”

Last week, Carpenter posted a photo of herself on Instagram with a clothesline full of undies with the caption: “Go put on some clothes!” Looking back, some fans take that as a sign of things to come.

Stevie Nicks has been mentioned, too, especially given a cryptic post on social media Monday.

Nicks and former lover

and fellow Fleetwood Mac member Lindsey Buckingham have teased fans on Instagram in recent weeks ahead of the release of a remastered version of their 1973 album, “Buckingham Nicks.”

On Monday, Buckingham posted a teaser to their newly remastered version of “Don’t Let Me Down Again,” tagging Nicks who quickly shared the post with the caption, “Wednesday.”

She punctuated the post with orange stars, which some fans took as a reference to the orange motif of Swift’s upcoming album.

But does it mean Nicks might sing on Swift’s album, or the other way around? Fans who commented on Nicks’ post are puzzled.

“TS12 collab?!”

“WHAT IS HAPPENING?!?! IS TAYLOR IN HERE TOO?!?! I CAN’T.”

“I reckon some of those backing vocals sound familiar.”

“Wednesday is going to crash me between this and



EMILY CURIEL ecuriel@kcstar.com

Taylor Swift fans are busy trying to find out as much as they can about her new album, “The Life of a Showgirl,” before she shares more details Wednesday on the “New Heights” podcast with her boyfriend, Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, and his brother, Jason Kelce.

TS oh my GOD.”

Swift and Nicks have been friends since 2010 when they performed together at the Grammys. Swift has referred to Nicks as a major influence and name-dropped her in the song “Clara Bow.”

The feeling is mutual. Nicks told Rolling Stone last fall that Swift is “really smart” and “has a good

man” in Kelce.

“I hope they fall deeper and deeper in love and ride off into the sunset. He does his thing and she does her thing, and then they come back together and get married and have babies if she wants that. I just want all of that for her,” she said.

Trump issues warning to Putin after summit prep with Europe

BY SAMY ADGHIRNI, ARNE DELFS AND ALBERTO NARDELLI
Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump warned he would impose “very severe consequences” if Vladimir Putin didn’t agree to a ceasefire agreement later this week, following a call with European leaders ahead of his meeting with the Russian president.

Trump also said he hoped to use the Friday meeting to set up a “quick second meeting” with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy after allies pressed him to push for such a summit.

“There’s a very good chance that we’re going to have a second meeting which will be more productive than the first,” Trump told reporters Wednesday at the Kennedy Center, adding that he was “setting the table for the second meeting.”

The president’s remarks signaled both that he was

looking to downplay expectations for the delivery of a full peace deal from his Anchorage, Alaska summit with Putin, and responding to concerns from his European partners who urged him to prioritize direct Putin-Zelenskyy talks.

Skeptics of Trump’s effort have expressed concern that the U.S. president – who has said an eventual deal would include territorial exchanges – could agree to peace terms proposed by Putin that would disadvantage Ukraine.

French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking to reporters Wednesday after the call, said that any decision on possible concessions on territory will need to be made by Ukraine and there were no “serious territorial exchange plans on the table today.”

“Trump was very clear on the fact that the U.S. wants to obtain a ceasefire at this meeting in Alaska,” Macron told reporters in Bregancon, France. “We



JOHN MACDOUGALL TNS

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, right, welcomes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky upon his arrival Wednesday in the garden of the chancellery in Berlin to join a video conference of European leaders with President Donald Trump.

have reiterated that until there is a ceasefire and a lasting peace, we must continue to support Ukraine, and when I say we I mean Europeans and Americans.”

Trump and U.S. Vice President JD Vance joined European leaders including from Germany, France, Poland and Italy as well as Zelenskyy and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in a roughly hour-long discussion. European Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen, who also took part, said in a post on social media that the leaders had a “very good call” and that it “strengthened the common ground for Ukraine.”

Trump similarly described the call, saying he would “rate it a 10” and said he had promised to brief Zelenskyy and European leaders immediately after concluding his conversation. Trump also said he would be willing to walk away if he judged Putin as

insincere.

“Now there may be no second meeting, because if I feel that it’s not appropriate to have it, because I didn’t get the answers that we have to have, then we’re not going to have a second meeting,” Trump said.

The talks came after days of intense diplomacy between U.S., European and Ukrainian officials ahead of Trump’s planned meeting with Putin in Alaska on Friday.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who hosted the call with the U.S. leader, reiterated that Ukraine would need to be involved in any decisions.

“We have made it clear that Ukraine will be at the table as soon as there is a follow-up meeting,” Merz told reporters in Berlin alongside Zelenskyy.

“President Trump wants to make a ceasefire a priority.”

Moscow is demanding that Ukraine cede its entire eastern Donbas region as well as Crimea, which Putin’s forces illegally annexed in 2014, as a condition to unlock a ceasefire and enter negotiations over a lasting settlement, Bloomberg previously reported.

Such an outcome would require the government in Kyiv to give up parts of the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces still under its control and hand Russia a victory that its army couldn’t achieve militarily for more than a decade.

Zelenskyy told reporters earlier this week that he won’t cede Donbas, adding that the Kremlin could use it as a launchpad for a future offensive. European nations have made clear to the U.S. that they will not formally recognize territory illegally occupied by Russia.

Trump administration wants review of Smithsonian exhibits

BY JAKE THOMAS
UPI.com

The White House has ordered a sweeping review of the Smithsonian’s exhibitions and materials as part of President Donald Trump’s efforts to promote a rosier presentation of the nation’s past.

The order came in a letter signed by three White House aides to

Smithsonian Institution Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III that was posted online Tuesday. The letter indicates that the Trump administration is again turning its attention on the Smithsonian, a premiere group of museums and research centers located in the nation’s capital, as it seeks to reshape cultural institutions.

The letter requested a sizable list of the Smith-

sonian’s internal documents that will be used in a review to ensure the museum aligns with an earlier Trump administration directive “to celebrate American exceptionalism, remove divisive or partisan narratives, and restore confidence in our shared cultural institutions.”

The review will focus on eight of the Smithsonian’s museums with an eye on next year’s 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the museum’s plans for the event, according to the letter. Materials that will be

included in the review included exhibition texts, educational materials and social media “to assess tone, historical framing, and alignment with American ideals.”

“As we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, it is more important than ever that our national museums reflect the unity, progress, and enduring values that define the American story,” states the letter signed by aides Lindsey Halligan, Vince Haley and Russell Vought.

BIRTHDAYS: AUGUST 14

Britannica

Biographical information from August 14 is from Encyclopaedia Britannica. Explore more at [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com).

Halle Berry, American actress (b. 1966).

Magic Johnson, American basketball player (b. 1959).

Danielle Steel, American writer (b. 1947).

Steve Martin, American actor and writer (b. 1945).

Wim Wenders, German director (b. 1945).

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