

## A RATIONAL FRIEND announces debut EP, 'Letters to Maria'



Photo Credit: Gino Generelli

Chicago, IL - Chicago's alternative folk songwriter, **A Rational Friend** announced his atmospheric debut EP, **Letters to Maria** on **Friday, January 9, 2026**. **Letters to Maria** was independently released worldwide and is available on streaming platforms and for purchase via [Bandcamp](#). **Letters to Maria** features moody soundscapes punctuated by introspective storytelling.

The collection of songs was recorded at Gentle Bear Studio in Chicago with JG Shadid as co-producer, multi-instrumentalist, and recording engineer. The EP was mixed by Butch Parnell at Alley Byrd Studio, NYC and mastered by Tommy Harron of Armazi Productions. A limited run of vinyl was pressed locally at Smashed Plastic and is available for purchase via [Bandcamp](#) and directly from the artist.

"These songs are letters to my mother, Maria, who died in 2016. They emerged during a period of writing in the spring and summer of 2025," says Donny Mazza of **A Rational Friend**. "The lyrics are unsaid words that capture and convey perspectives of the relationship that felt important to me, including the complexities, loss, and love that remains. My mother taught me about letting music into my heart, and it's my hope that anyone who listens feels that connection."

**A Rational Friend** is songwriter and musician Donny Mazza. His influences span across genres and he finds inspiration in the human condition.



### Tracklist

- 1 Datura
- 2 Let It Eat
- 3 Not Surprised
- 4 Don't Go Alone
- 5 The Dance

### Contact

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