

Michelle and Donald  
[artist statement]  
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**O**n October 13th, 2016, when the idea of a Trump presidency still seemed unimaginable, Michelle Obama gave a powerful speech to commemorate the International Day of the Girl.

Her speech resonated deeply with me because it provided such a stark contrast to the language that, then candidate Donald Trump, used to speak about women.

As a musician, I am most comfortable expressing myself in music and sound. Therefore, I created this video and sound mashup as a “last ditch” effort to change a few minds before Election Day.

The musical background I composed was simple, as to not distract from the power of both Obama and Trump’s words.

Choosing which Obama quotes to use from her 25 minute speech was difficult, while finding contrasting Trump quotes almost seemed too easy.

Almost two years later, it occurs to me that the things I most feared about a Trump presidency have now come to fruition.

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**Ariel Alexander** has gained recognition as a Los Angeles musician, producer, educator and entrepreneur. Originally from St Louis, Ariel earned her B.A. at Indiana University and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California. Ariel has presented concerts throughout the US, South America, Europe and Asia. She has performed with such artists as Stevie Wonder, Steve Miller (Steve Miller Band), Take 6, Nancy Wilson, Natalie Cole, Patti Austin, Ruben Studdard, and Monica Mancini. As a studio musician, Ariel regularly records for television and film soundtracks. Her latest album, *Street Cries*, is a collaboration with guitarist Jon Bremen and features Louis Cole on drums, Tim LeFebvre on bass, Vardan Ovsepian on keyboard and Sara Leib on voice. As a producer, she composes tracks for film, tv, and internet content. As an educator, Ariel directs the Commercial Music Program at Saddleback College in Orange County, CA. Her teaching specialties include Music Production, Music Business, and Commercial Music Performance.

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