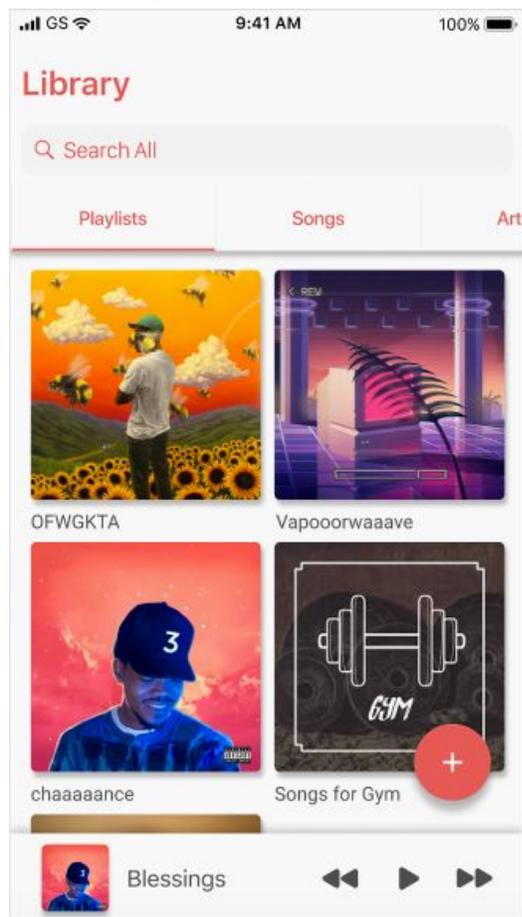


Tiffany Huang  
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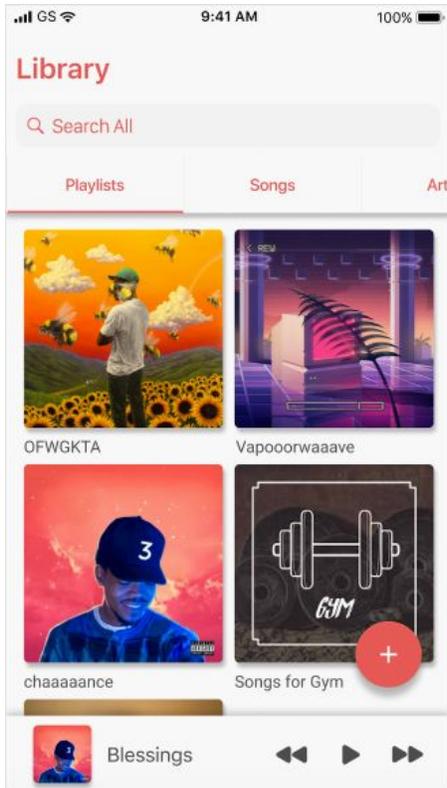
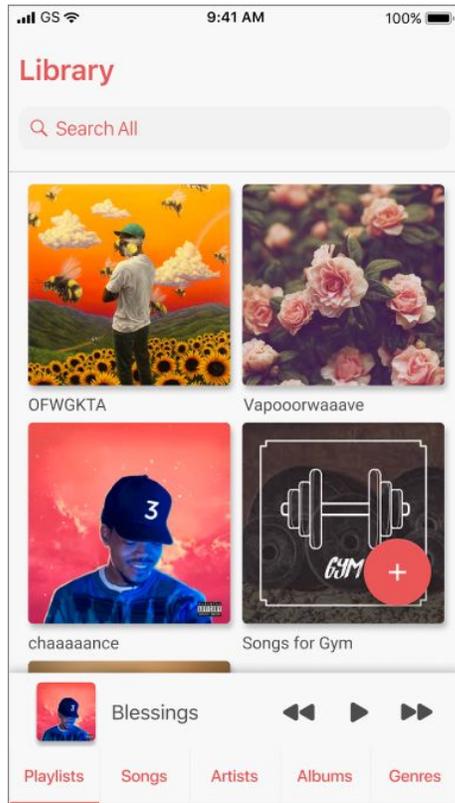
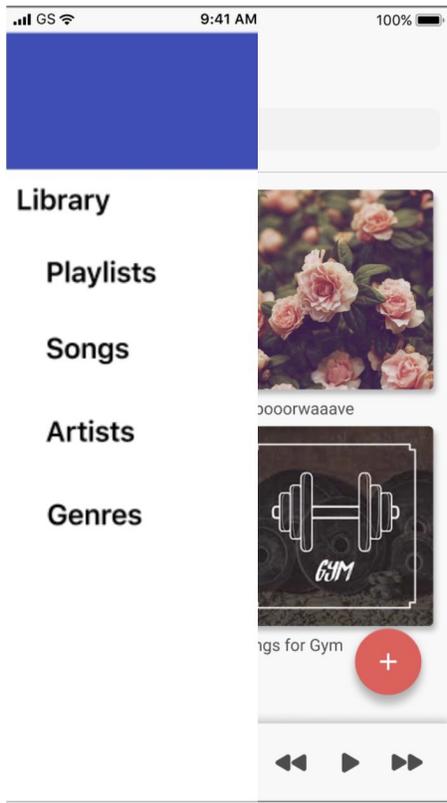
## Design Decisions

### The Floating Action button



Based on our interviews, playlist creation was the most common issue among new users to any music app. Most interviewees struggled to locate the playlist page, let alone an option that would allow them to create a playlist. As stated in our Part #2, we believe Apple's iTunes app provided the most easily accessible and obvious affordance for creating playlists, a button that appears at the top of a list of playlists. However, we felt we could take this a step further by incorporating a floating action button as the create playlist option into our designs. Because of the button's fixed position within the app page, it is always visible to users and easily accessible. Its distinctive coloring and iconography make its functionality obvious to new users. While not the most difficult design decision for our team, it was the one we were most excited about as we discovered that it was not a common solution in most music apps.

# The Sideways Swipe Navigation Tab

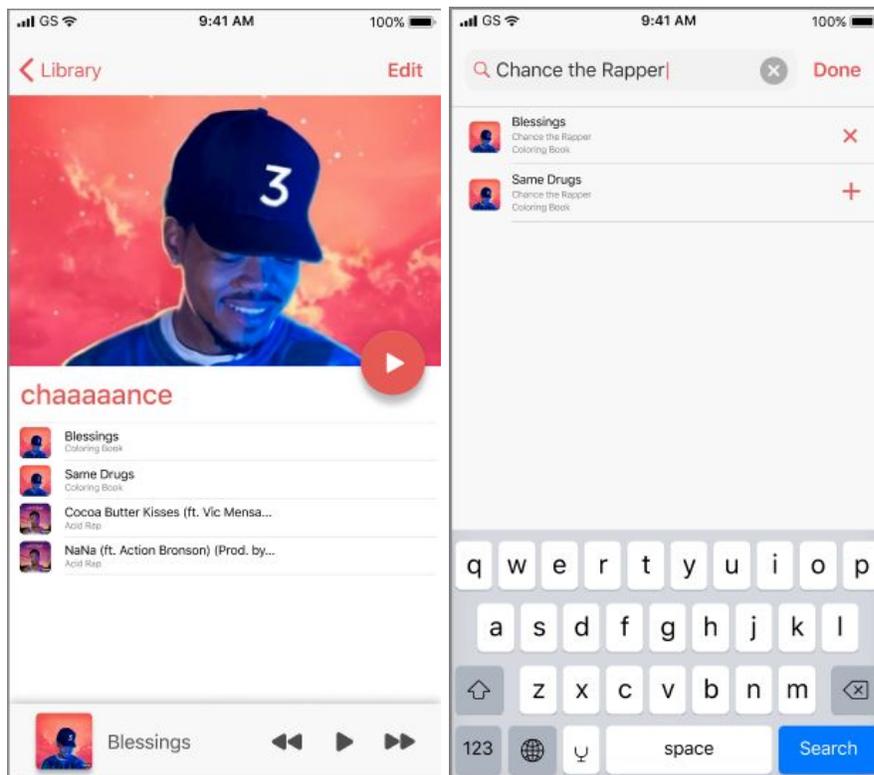


Tab presentation was a major decision for our group. When ideating our app, we decided to limit it to being a simple media player. In doing so, we could prevent ourselves from creating overly-complex navigation schemes that seemed to be the bane of most of our interviewees.

The most obvious first choice of exploration was conforming to Apple Human Interface Guidelines. This would require the use of a single tab bar at the bottom of the screen. This tab bar is typically limited to 5 elements. While that may have sufficed for our purposes, because our tabs all revolved around various types of music groupings (i.e. playlists vs. albums vs. songs...), iconography would have been an issue. We did not know, for example, how to design icons that could obviously represent playlists while not being confused for an icon that could represent albums.

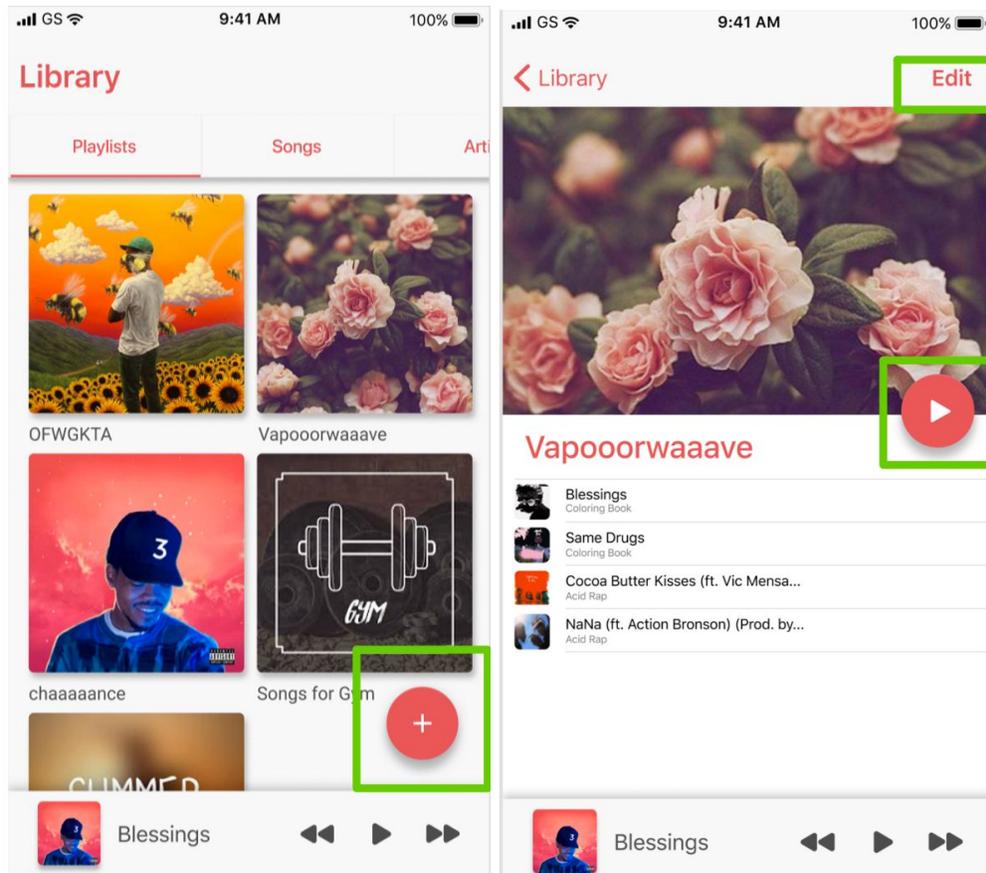
Google's material design offered varying solutions to our problem: the side menu, the side-swipe-able top tab bar, and the fixed top tab bar. Because Google's fixed top tab bar does not typically include icons, and instead opts to use full words as tab specifier, we did not believe we could use it to fit five tabs. The side menu was the next option we explored in our prototypes. Ultimately, however, we came to the conclusion that the side menu was a better fit for apps with a far more complex navigation scheme. While it would have freed up screen real estate, the side menu would have doubled the number of taps required to change from a Playlists tab to an Albums tab (i.e. one tap to two taps lol). This left us with the side-swipe-able top tab bar. It would allow us to fit five tabs, while offering one tap navigation to all main pages. It did take up extra screen real-estate but did what we needed it to.

## Displaying Song details



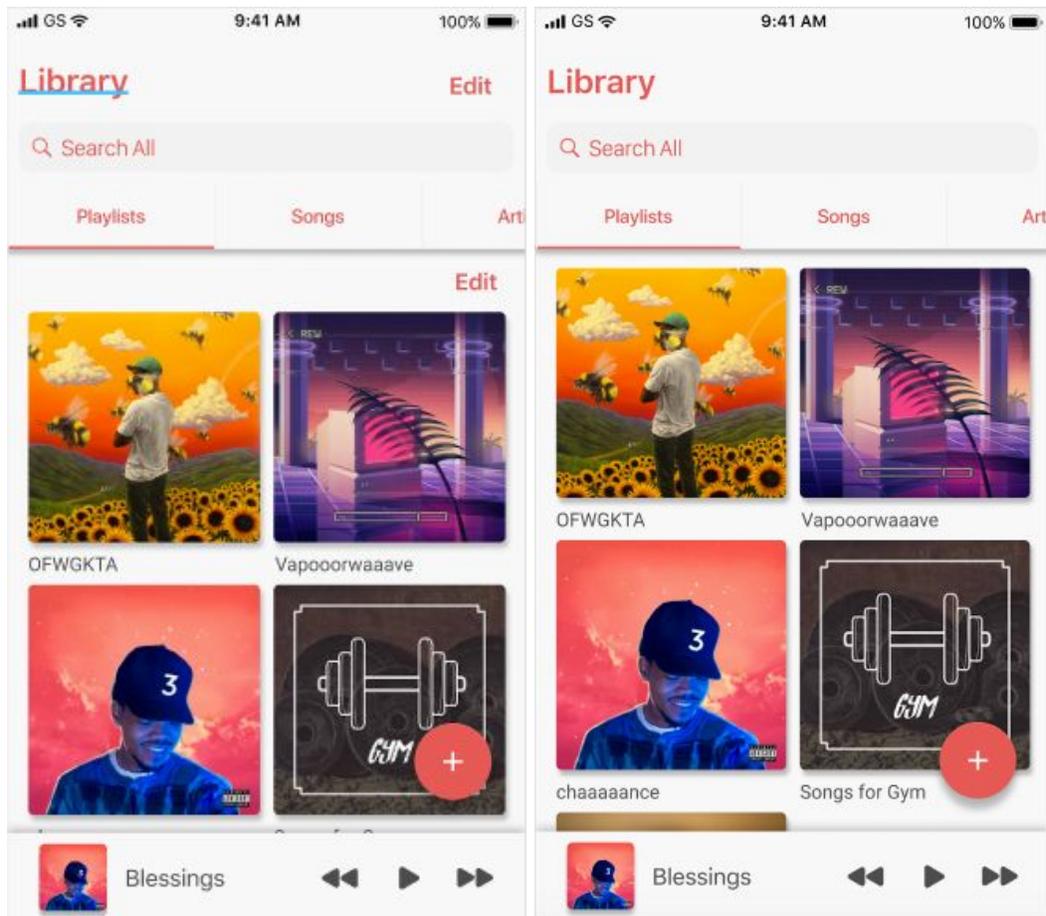
One decision that our group had trouble figuring out was the amount of detail to display when showing the songs in the search and within the playlist. We thought in order to decrease the amount of clutter and white space within the playlist and library, we would not include the artist name, because having the details of the album and the specific song name should allow the user to identify who the artist is. They also have the cover art on the sides. We went with having the artist appear in the search because as a search all, this would allow to differentiate if a user was searching a song with the same title but made by different artists.

## Originality (iTunes vs. Google Play Music)



One glaring conflict we had with our final prototype was originality or, a fear for lack thereof. For example, our app does share an aesthetic resemblance with iTunes. While that can be attributed mostly to our use Apple's preferred font, SF Pro, and choice of colors, we did feel that it might make our app seem like it lacked identity. That being said, we made design decisions based on feedback from interviewees, most of whom struggled with complex interfaces, and decided on visual elements which followed well known convention and thus, would make sense even to new users. We ultimately felt that rather than reinventing the wheel from the ground up, we would just fix what we thought was broken. For us, that meant keeping visual elements and navigation schemes that users were already comfortable with (i.e. a grid layout for playlists and albums, and using well-known solutions and visual language to enhance the aesthetic, experience, and functionality of our redesign). The most notable example of this is our use of the Floating Action Button to create new playlists. Overall, we believe our design takes the best, and most straightforward elements of existing music apps and brings them together. If we had more time, we would adjust the aesthetic of our app to give it more identity.

## Scenario 1: Managing Playlists (Edit)

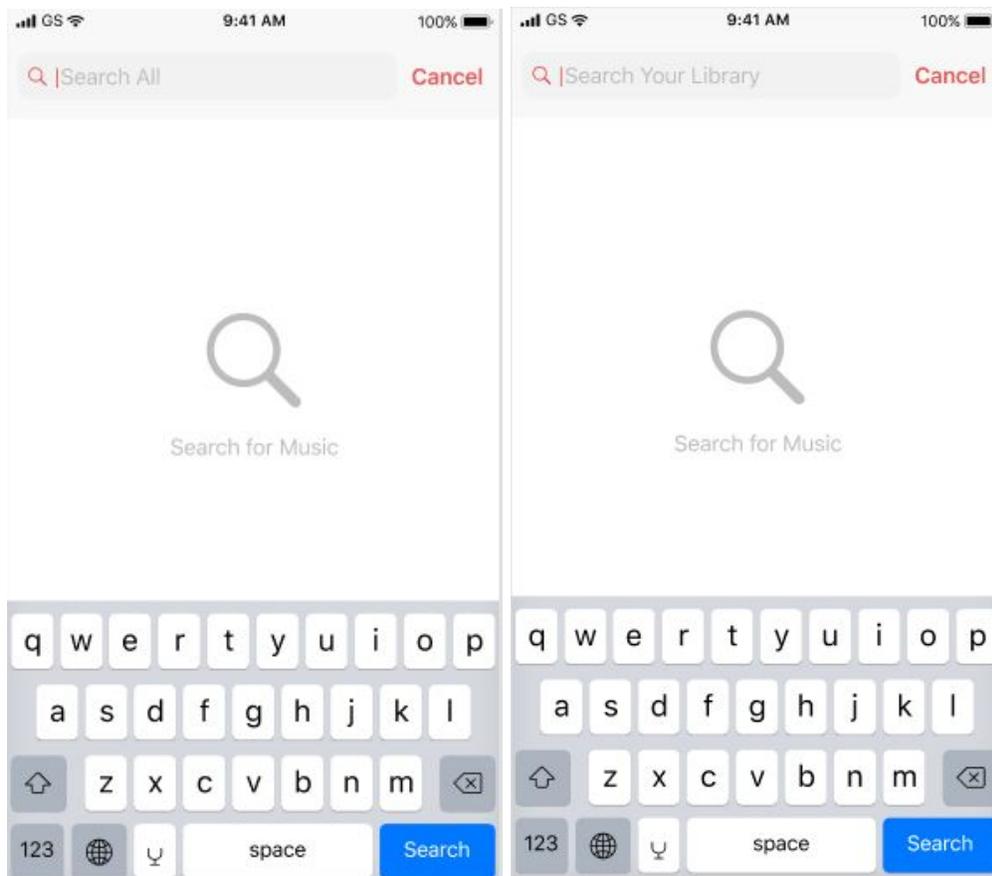


*(Left image): Our two options for placing the “Edit” button to edit within the “Playlists” tab. Both placements didn’t seem right as the one in the top right could imply to edit the whole library and the one underneath the navigation tab gave an awkward gap that took up unnecessary screen space. (Right image): Our decision to not include “Edit” in the homepage seemed best as it gives a cleaner look and users can edit their playlists individually instead.*

One of our hardest design decisions involved where to place an “Edit” button for just playlists in the layout of the main home page. Our design idea was to have an “Edit” option so users can edit items within a certain tab. For example, if users were within the “Playlist” tab, they would be able to edit playlists items in that tab. We thought this would allow flexibility, such as being able to delete multiple playlists and/or rearrange the order of the items all at once. However, the challenge came to where to place the “Edit” button. We first decided to place the “Edit” button underneath the navigation tab and to the right, but it seemed to leave an awkward white space between the album photos and the navigation tab and we didn’t like that as it took up unnecessary screen space. We then tried to add the “Edit” button in the top right corner next to the title. However, we decided against this as we believed its placement would mislead users. Specifically, by implying the ability to edit the entirety of the library as opposed to content in the Playlists page. This left us to a decision of uncertainty and this decision became our tradeoff. Ultimately, we decided not to have the “Edit” option on the homepage. This was to allow more

screen space to see the cover art and also reduce the awkward white space. We figured that the user could just go into the playlist itself to do any sort of editing and/or deleting. This way, although we are trading off the functionality to delete multiple playlists at a time, our app would look cleaner and it would take more thought for the user to decide if they wanted to delete the playlist rather than making it too accessible early on. This is a design decision we would need to improve upon and consider later on, but for now, we believe the homepage layout is the best, providing a clean look and easy and unambiguous usability.

## Scenario 2: Browsing via the Search Bar



*The images above depict our design of the Search bar, specifically addressing the function of the search bar at any given moment. We decided to include text phrases like “Search All” or “Search Your Library” to let users know where they will be searching for music.*

We wanted our app to offer an overarching search functionality that was easily and obviously accessible to our users. As such, the search bar appears at the top of the page at all times if the user swipes down. From here, the user can search the entire library irrespective of the page they are currently on. We did fear that this might cause some confusion amongst users. Specifically, we thought some users might have difficulty understanding that it was an overarching search rather than one that was relegated to the page they were on. To resolve this issue, we decided to make the suggestion text within the search bar more obvious with use of phrasing like “Search All” or “Search Your Library.”