

sara bareilles the blessed unrest

Sara Bareilles The Blessed Unrest: A Deep Dive into the Album That Changed Everything

sara bareilles the blessed unrest stands as a pivotal moment in the acclaimed singer-songwriter's career. This album, released in 2013, marked a shift in Sara Bareilles's musical journey, showcasing her growth as an artist both lyrically and sonically. Known for her powerhouse vocals and heartfelt songwriting, Bareilles crafted an album that resonated with fans and critics alike, earning her a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Vocal Album.

In this article, we'll explore the nuances of Sara Bareilles's The Blessed Unrest, the themes she explores, the musical arrangements, and why this album remains significant in her discography. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to her music, there's much to appreciate about this compelling collection of songs.

The Creative Evolution Behind The Blessed Unrest

Sara Bareilles had already made a name for herself with her breakout hit "Love Song" and her previous albums, but The Blessed Unrest revealed a more mature and introspective side to her artistry. This record was created during a period when Bareilles was exploring new sounds and broadening her emotional palette.

From Heartfelt Ballads to Dynamic Arrangements

Unlike her earlier, more piano-driven work, The Blessed Unrest features a wider array of instruments and richer production. There's a noticeable incorporation of strings, percussion, and layered harmonies that bring depth to her storytelling. Tracks like "Brave" showcase a confident, anthemic quality, while songs such as "I Choose You" offer tender, intimate moments.

This diversification in sound reflects her desire to push boundaries while retaining the sincerity that defines her music. For listeners, this means experiencing a balance between vulnerability and empowerment throughout the album.

Insight into the Songwriting Process

Sara Bareilles has always been praised for her lyricism and ability to connect with listeners on a personal level. In The Blessed Unrest, she dives deeper into themes of self-discovery, love, and resilience. Many of the songs were inspired by her own experiences, including heartbreak and the quest for self-acceptance.

One interesting aspect of the album is how Bareilles blends storytelling with poetic imagery, making each track feel like a mini-narrative. For aspiring songwriters, studying her approach in this album can be a masterclass in

balancing emotional honesty with universal appeal.

Exploring Key Tracks from The Blessed Unrest

While the entire album offers a rich listening experience, some tracks stand out for their impact and popularity. Let's take a closer look at a few of these songs and what makes them resonate.

"Brave" – An Anthem for Courage

Perhaps the most well-known track on the album, "Brave" quickly became an anthem for empowerment. Its upbeat tempo and catchy chorus encourage listeners to speak their truth and embrace vulnerability. The song's success also helped Sara Bareilles reach a broader audience, solidifying her place in pop music.

What's compelling about "Brave" is how it combines an infectious melody with a message that feels both personal and universal. It's a perfect example of how music can inspire change and confidence.

"I Choose You" – Celebrating Commitment

"I Choose You" stands out as a beautiful love song that captures the joy and significance of committing to someone. The gentle piano and Bareilles's warm vocal delivery make it a favorite for weddings and romantic occasions.

This track highlights her ability to write songs that are both heartfelt and accessible, making it easy for listeners to connect with their own experiences of love and devotion.

Other Notable Songs

- "Manhattan" – A reflective song about longing and the complexities of relationships.
- "Once Upon Another Time" – Showcases Bareilles's storytelling skills with a nostalgic tone.
- "Uncharted" – Explores themes of uncertainty and hope in the face of change.

Each of these tracks contributes to the album's overall narrative arc, weaving together moments of introspection and optimism.

The Impact of The Blessed Unrest on Sara Bareilles's Career

The release of *The Blessed Unrest* was not just a commercial success but also a critical milestone. It earned Bareilles her first Grammy nomination for

Best Pop Vocal Album, signaling her arrival as a serious artist in the music industry.

Broadening Musical Horizons

This album allowed Sara Bareilles to experiment with different genres and collaborate with producers who helped shape its polished sound. The experience gained during this period influenced her subsequent projects, including her work in musical theater and other creative endeavors.

Connecting with a Wider Audience

Thanks to songs like "Brave," Sara Bareilles expanded her fanbase beyond the singer-songwriter niche. The album's themes of empowerment and self-acceptance resonated with diverse audiences, making her music relevant across various demographics.

For fans and newcomers alike, *The Blessed Unrest* remains a defining chapter in understanding Sara Bareilles's artistic identity.

Why The Blessed Unrest Still Matters Today

Nearly a decade after its release, *The Blessed Unrest* continues to captivate listeners. Its timeless themes and polished production make it a valuable addition to any music collection. But beyond the music itself, the album serves as a reminder of the power of artistic growth and authenticity.

For those exploring Sara Bareilles's discography, *The Blessed Unrest* offers a perfect blend of catchy pop tunes and thoughtful songwriting. It's an album that encourages listeners to embrace their own stories, face challenges with bravery, and find beauty in vulnerability.

Whether you're revisiting the album or discovering it for the first time, Sara Bareilles's *The Blessed Unrest* promises an enriching and uplifting musical experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Blessed Unrest' by Sara Bareilles?

'The Blessed Unrest' is the fourth studio album by American singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles, released in 2013.

When was 'The Blessed Unrest' released?

Sara Bareilles released 'The Blessed Unrest' on July 16, 2013.

What are some popular songs from 'The Blessed Unrest'?

Popular songs from 'The Blessed Unrest' include 'Brave', 'I Choose You', and 'Manhattan'.

Did 'The Blessed Unrest' receive any awards or nominations?

Yes, 'The Blessed Unrest' was nominated for Best Pop Vocal Album at the 2014 Grammy Awards, and the song 'Brave' was nominated for Best Pop Solo Performance.

What themes are explored in 'The Blessed Unrest'?

'The Blessed Unrest' explores themes of courage, love, self-discovery, and resilience through heartfelt lyrics and emotive melodies.

Who produced 'The Blessed Unrest'?

The album was produced by Sara Bareilles along with Neal Avron, known for his work with other prominent artists.

How did critics respond to 'The Blessed Unrest'?

Critics generally gave positive reviews, praising Sara Bareilles' vocal performance and the album's mature songwriting.

Is there a deluxe edition of 'The Blessed Unrest'?

Yes, a deluxe edition of 'The Blessed Unrest' was released, featuring additional tracks and acoustic versions of some songs.

Additional Resources

Sara Bareilles The Blessed Unrest: A Deep Dive into the Artist's Transformative Album

sara bareilles the blessed unrest marks a pivotal moment in the singer-songwriter's career, showcasing a maturity and depth that transcends her earlier work. Released in 2013, this album reflects a nuanced evolution from her breakout hit "Love Song," revealing a more introspective and sophisticated artist. As one of Bareilles' most critically acclaimed projects, The Blessed Unrest offers a rich tapestry of lyrical storytelling, dynamic instrumentation, and emotional resonance that warrants close examination.

Exploring The Blessed Unrest: Context and Creation

The Blessed Unrest arrived four years after Bareilles' breakthrough album,

Little Voice (2007), and followed the more upbeat Kaleidoscope Heart (2010). This third studio effort illustrates a deliberate shift towards a more contemplative sound, where Bareilles embraces vulnerability without sacrificing her signature melodic sensibility. Produced by Neal Avron, the album seamlessly blends elements of pop, soul, and folk, underscoring Bareilles' versatility as a songwriter and performer.

The title itself, *The Blessed Unrest*, draws inspiration from poet Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's concept that human striving and unrest are essential to progress and spiritual growth. This philosophical underpinning permeates the album's themes, which explore inner turmoil, resilience, and the search for meaning. Bareilles channels these motifs into compositions that are at once personal and universally relatable.

Musical Style and Lyrical Themes

One of the standout features of *The Blessed Unrest* is its intricate balance between lush arrangements and Bareilles' crystalline vocals. The production layers piano-driven ballads with textured instrumentation, including subtle strings and rhythmic percussion, creating a soundscape that is both intimate and expansive.

Lyrically, the album delves into complex emotional states, ranging from heartbreak and doubt to hope and empowerment. Tracks like "Gravity" exemplify Bareilles' skill in expressing vulnerability with poetic clarity, while "I Choose You" offers an uplifting narrative about commitment and love's intentional nature. The songs demonstrate a keen attention to narrative detail, with Bareilles weaving stories that resonate deeply with her audience.

Critical Reception and Commercial Performance

Upon release, *sara bareilles the blessed unrest* garnered widespread critical praise for its artistry and emotional depth. Critics lauded the album's cohesive production and Bareilles' growth as a songwriter. Notably, the album earned a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Vocal Album, underscoring its industry recognition.

Commercially, the album performed well, debuting at number 2 on the Billboard 200 chart and achieving platinum certification in the United States. Singles such as "Brave" became emblematic beyond the album, with the empowering anthem being adopted in various social and political contexts, thereby amplifying Bareilles' cultural impact.

Distinctive Tracks and Their Impact

While the entire album holds merit, certain tracks stand out for their influence and artistic significance.

"Brave" – An Anthem for Courage

"Brave" quickly became the album's flagship single, celebrated for its catchy melody and motivational lyrics. Inspired by a friend's struggle to come out, the song encourages listeners to embrace authenticity and speak their truth. Its radio-friendly pop sensibility combined with meaningful messaging contributed to its commercial success and widespread usage in campaigns promoting self-expression.

"I Choose You" – Commitment in Modern Love

This mid-tempo track highlights Bareilles' capacity to craft songs that articulate nuanced emotional decisions. "I Choose You" transcends typical love song clichés by emphasizing conscious choice and dedication, resonating with audiences seeking depth in relationship narratives.

"Gravity" – Raw Vulnerability

A haunting ballad, "Gravity" strips back production to spotlight Bareilles' emotive vocals and reflective lyricism. The song's exploration of emotional dependency and struggle struck a chord with listeners, often cited as a highlight in live performances for its sincerity.

Comparative Analysis: The Blessed Unrest Versus Earlier Works

Compared to *Little Voice* and *Kaleidoscope Heart*, *The Blessed Unrest* reflects a significant artistic progression. While Bareilles' earlier albums showcased catchy hooks and pop sensibilities, this third album embraces textured storytelling and complex emotional landscapes.

- **Little Voice (2007):** Characterized by upbeat, piano-driven pop with memorable singles like "Love Song." The album's tone is generally lighthearted and accessible.
- **Kaleidoscope Heart (2010):** Continued the pop trajectory with more experimental production and introspective lyrics, but retained a youthful optimism.
- **The Blessed Unrest (2013):** A mature, nuanced record blending pop with soul and folk elements, focusing on themes of personal growth, vulnerability, and resilience.

This evolution underscores Bareilles' commitment to artistic integrity over commercial formula, allowing her to connect with audiences on deeper emotional levels.

Production and Collaboration Highlights

Neal Avron's production played a crucial role in shaping the album's sound. Known for his work with artists like Sara Bareilles and Fall Out Boy, Avron brought a polished yet organic feel to *The Blessed Unrest*. The collaboration allowed Bareilles' songwriting to shine without overwhelming studio effects, preserving the authenticity of her performances.

Additionally, the album featured contributions from notable musicians and engineers, enhancing the overall quality. The careful mixing and mastering emphasize clarity and warmth, contributing to the timeless appeal of the record.

The Blessed Unrest's Legacy and Influence

Years after its release, *sara bareilles the blessed unrest* remains a touchstone in contemporary pop music. The album's themes of self-discovery and courage continue to inspire listeners, while its singles, particularly "Brave," maintain relevance across various cultural platforms.

The success of *The Blessed Unrest* also paved the way for Bareilles' subsequent ventures, including her acclaimed role as a composer and lead actress in the Broadway adaptation of "Waitress." This diversification of her career further highlights the depth of talent introduced through this album.

In the broader context of female singer-songwriters, *The Blessed Unrest* stands as an exemplar of growth and authenticity. It demonstrates how an artist can evolve stylistically and thematically without alienating an established fan base, instead inviting listeners into a more profound dialogue.

Through meticulous songwriting, emotive performances, and thoughtful production, *sara bareilles the blessed unrest* solidified Sara Bareilles' place as a significant voice in modern music, blending commercial appeal with artistic substance in a way that few albums achieve.

Sara Bareilles The Blessed Unrest

sara bareilles the blessed unrest: *Sara Bareilles - The Blessed Unrest Songbook* Sara Bareilles, 2013-08-01 (Piano/Vocal/Guitar Artist Songbook). Brave and 14 more songs comprise this matching piano/vocal/guitar folio to the 2013 album by California native singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles. Other songs on this, her fourth studio album, include: Cassiopeia * Chasing the Sun * December * Eden * Hercules * I Choose You * Islands * Little Black Dress * Manhattan * 1000 Times * Parking Lot * Root Down * Satellite Call * Wanna Be like Me.

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compelling methods for putting a new perspective into action in their personal lives, social circles, and churches. This thoughtful and respectful look at the lives of adolescent girls seeks to equip faithful Christians in the church to use their prophetic voices to call out the sins of racism, sexism, homophobia, and sizeism in the experiences of these strong and resilient girls.

sara bareilles the blessed unrest: The Art of Singing on Stage and in the Studio Jennifer Hamady, 2016-04-01 (Book). To be a great singer, talent and technique are obviously important, as are having excellent songs and being able to move an audience. But there's more to it than that, including two critical skills that are rarely, if ever, addressed in vocal training: managing the technology on stage and in the studio, and interacting with the people who run it. No matter how fantastic your voice is or how much money is behind you, if you don't know how to work with performing and recording technology, you're in for a tough ride. Countless phenomenal singers stagnate professionally and even leave the business because they can't figure out how to deliver when using studio headphones and stage monitors, or how to communicate their needs to producers and engineers. And many less-capable singers get ahead because they can. The Art of Singing on Stage and in the Studio is the only book that comprehensively addresses these critical issues in an easy-to-read, accessible style. Starting with a discussion of the evolution of technology and the voice in our culture, it also explores the root causes of anxiety-related performance issues and, more importantly, how to overcome them. Singers, performers, producers, and engineers will all come away from this book more knowledgeable about the origins of their fields, empowered in the tools of their trade, and clearer on how to best communicate with one another.

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pressure-release valve against reforms threatening that status. Stearns takes readers on a world tour—England, France, Germany, Israel, Taiwan, Brazil, and Venezuela—showing what works in government, what doesn't, and how to make the best features our own. Genuine party competition and governing coalitions, commonplace across the globe, may seem like a fantasy in the United States. But we can make them a reality. This rare book offers an optimistic vision, explaining in accessible terms how to transform our troubled democracy into a thriving parliamentary America.

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true to her artistic vision? And how has she managed to master the constant disruption in the music business that has made it so hard for others to adapt and endure? In *There's Nothing Like This*, Kevin Evers, a senior editor at Harvard Business Review, answers these questions in riveting detail. With the same thoughtful analysis usually devoted to iconic founders, game-changing innovators, and pioneering brands, Evers chronicles the business and creative decisions that have defined each phase of Swift's career. Mixing business and art, analysis and narrative, and pulling from research in innovation, creativity, psychology, and strategy, *There's Nothing Like This* presents Swift as the modern and multidimensional superstar that she is—a songwriting savant and a strategic genius. Swift's fans will see their icon from a fresh perspective. Others will gain more than a measure of admiration for her ability to stay at the top of her game. And everyone will come away understanding why, even after two decades, Swift keeps winning.

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