

= Yours Truly ( Ariana Grande album ) =

Yours Truly is the debut studio album by American singer Ariana Grande . It was released on August 30 , 2013 , by Republic Records . Incorporating R & B , Yours Truly was influenced by Whitney Houston , Amy Winehouse , Christina Aguilera and Mariah Carey , amongst other of Grande 's greatest idols . Grande describes the album 's first half as a " throwback " to the R & B music of the 1990s , and the second half being " very unique and very special that I 've sort of written " which is completely original . On the album , Grande co -@-@ wrote six out of the twelve tracks . Contribution by Harmony Samuels , Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds , Patrick " J. Que " Smith and Victorious co -@-@ star Leon Thomas III , as well as others , handling the production on the album . Grande recorded a number of songs on this album over a three @-@ year period . The collaborations with Big Sean , Mika and Mac Miller , in addition to Mary J. Blige , who is featured on the song " Lovin ' It " ( which sampled her song " Real Love " ) , and The Wanted 's Nathan Sykes , who features on the song " Almost is Never Enough " which was also included on the The Mortal Instruments : City of Bones soundtrack . Occasionally , the album dips into other genres such as adult contemporary music and dance music .

Yours Truly was promoted with live renditions of the album 's songs during The Listening Sessions Tour . The album was preceded by the release of the lead single , " The Way " , featuring American rapper Mac Miller . It became a top @-@ ten hit on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart , peaking at number nine . The second single , " Baby I " , was released a month before the album and peaked just outside the top @-@ twenty of the Billboard Hot 100 chart at number twenty @-@ one . The third and final single " Right There " featuring Big Sean was released on August 6 , 2013 and peaked at number 84 on the Billboard Hot 100 .

Yours Truly debuted at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 selling 138 @,@ 000 copies in its opening week . Grande became the first female artist in three and a half years to have her debut record in the peak position since Animal by Kesha in January 2010 , and the fifteenth female artist overall . Internationally , the album reached the top @-@ ten position in Australia , Canada , Denmark , Ireland , Japan , the Netherlands , and the United Kingdom .

= = Background and conception = =

Yours Truly is the result of three years of work . The project underwent significant conceptual and sonic changes throughout that time . Grande began working on the album in August 2010 while she was filming Victorious and formally started to work on it with a record label after she was signed to Republic Records on August 10 , 2011 . By September 10 of that year , Grande already had twenty songs prepared and was going through the process of narrowing it down to thirteen . The first single , a bubblegum pop song called " Put Your Hearts Up " , was released on December 12 , 2011 . The single was aimed at young audiences , perhaps intending to cater to Grande 's core audience , which at that time was almost entirely made up by kids who knew her from Victorious . During an interview in June 2012 , Grande described everything on the album as being " 50s , 60s doo @-@ wop @-@ inspired " and revealed that two new singles were going to be released before the album , one of which was called " Do You Love Me ? " and featured SkyBlu . Other songs that Grande had named ( and later leaked ) as being part of the album included " Honeymoon Avenue " , " Voodoo Love " , " Pink Champagne " , " Boyfriend Material " , " Tattooed Heart " , " Daydreamin ' " and " You 're My Only Shorty " . The latter one was eventually recorded by Demi Lovato who included it on her 2011 R & B @-@ infused album Unbroken .

In 2013 , Grande met up with her label and expressed dissatisfaction with the direction the album was taking . In several interviews during 2013 , she admitted to having completely disliked her debut single " Put Your Hearts Up " and not having an interest in pursuing music of that genre . She expressed a desire to make the type of music she grew up listening to , which was , " urban pop , 90s music . " Rapper Iggy Azalea turned down working on the album ; she however did collaborate with Grande on her second album My Everything . The album was originally titled Daydreamin and set to be released during August 2013 .

The album is inspired by a variety of different artists , ranging from Amy Winehouse and Christina Aguilera to Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston . Grande describes the album 's first half is a " throwback " to the R & B music of the 1990s , and the second half is she describes as " something that is very unique and very special that I 've sort of written " which is completely original . In summation of the record she stated : " So half of it is a throwback and like very familiar feeling , feel @-@ good , and then half of it is something that I 've created that 's sort of special and unique and refreshing and wonderful and I love it " .

= = Release and promotion = =

To promote her debut single " The Way " , Grande visited various radio stations , including : Y @-@ 100 Miami , 93 @.@ 3 FM , Z100 , KIIS @-@ FM , and 99 ? 7 Now . Grande performed " The Way " at several concerts produced for Top 40 radio stations , including KIIS @-@ FM 's Wango Tango concert on May 11 , 2013 in Los Angeles , 101 @.@ 3 KDWB 's Star Party concert on May 17 in Minneapolis , Kiss 108 's Kiss Concert 2013 event on May 18 in Boston , 103 @.@ 3 AMP Radio 's Birthday Bash concert on June 30 also in Boston , and Mix 93 @.@ 3 's Red White & Boom concert on July 5 in Kansas City . Her first televised performance of the song was aired on May 29 , 2013 on The Ellen DeGeneres Show .

On August 1 , 2013 , Grande revealed the official artwork for Yours Truly , which features her kneeling on a bed of roses in front of a pink background . Due to fan criticism , she quickly unveiled a new cover , which simply featured the singer standing beneath a spotlight in a black @-@ and @-@ white image . On August 7 , 2013 , Grande revealed the official track listing via iTunes , and Republic Records made pre @-@ orders for the album available . A music video for " Almost Is Never Enough " a duet with The Wanted 's Nathan Sykes premiered online on Vevo on August 19 to promote the film The Mortal Instruments : City of Bones . The track is featured on the film 's official soundtrack . The album version of the track is two minutes longer and has been slightly altered . It debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 84 . " Popular Song " featuring Grande was released on 21 December 2012 as a single from Mika 's third studio album , The Origin of Love . The album version of the song features vocals from the original songwriter , Priscilla Renea , and contains expletives . However , the single version removes Renea and replaces her with Grande , removing the expletives .

Grande performed " The Way " and " Baby I " at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards ' Preshow on August 25 , 2013 . During the album 's release week Grande also performed " The Way " with Mac Miller on the Today Show along with " Tattooed Heart " on September 3 , 2013 , she also performed the latter at the 2013 Style Awards on September 4 , 2013 . Grande also made several other appearances throughout the week appearing on Live ! with Kelly and Michael , The Today Show and Late Night With Jimmy Fallon , where she performing an acoustic version of " The Way " .

= = = The Listening Sessions = = =

Grande embarked on her first solo concert tour titled The Listening Sessions in support of Yours Truly . Pre @-@ sale tickets went on sale on July 18 , 2013 . Regular tickets went on sale on July 19 . Pre @-@ sale tickets had to be taken down early , as they were selling at such a fast rate that the tour was almost sold before regular tickets were available . Grande also was the opening act for the last three US dates of Justin Bieber 's Believe Tour . The performances took place in Jacksonville , Tampa , and Atlanta on August 7 , August 8 , and August 10 , in support of the album . It was at these Listening Sessions that Grande discovered the album reached number one on US iTunes .

= = Singles = =

" The Way " was released to digital retailers through Republic Records in the United States on March 26 , 2013 as the album 's official lead single . It was written by the song 's producer Harmony

Samuels , alongside Amber Streeter , Al Sherrod Lambert , Jordin Sparks , Brenda Russell and Mac Miller , who is also featured in the song . Seven hours after its release on the iTunes Store , " The Way " topped its " Top Singles " chart . It debuted at number ten on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 , becoming Grande and Miller 's first top ten song on the chart . This made Ariana the first top 10 arrival for a lead female artist making her first Hot 100 appearance since Yael Naim , who launched with " New Soul " back in 2008 . The song peaked at number 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 . " The Way " sold over 120 @, @ 000 units in the first 48 hours . Having sold over 219 @, @ 000 units in its opening week , " The Way " holds the third best @-@ selling first @-@ week sales figure of 2013 behind Justin Timberlake 's " Suit & Tie " and One Direction 's " Best Song Ever " . The song received a triple platinum certification by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) .

" Baby I " was released to digital retailers by Republic Records on July 22 , 2013 , as the second single from the album . It was written and produced by Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds , Antonio Dixon and Patrick " J. Que " Smith . The song sold 141 @, @ 000 copies in its first week and debuted at number 21 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , her second top 40 hit . It also debuted at number 6 on the Hot Digital Songs chart , making Grande the only woman to debut two songs in the top ten on the Digital Songs chart during the year 2013 . Filming for the song 's music video took place July 28 ? 29 , 2013 . Grande hinted that the video would " travel " back to the 1990s and that there would be " lots of color " and " lots of baggy clothes . "

" Right There " featuring Big Sean , was released to digital retailers by Republic Records on August 6 , 2013 , as the third and final single from the album . It was written by Grande , Carmen Reece , Lonny Bereal , James " J @-@ Doe " Smith , Trey Starxx , Al Sherrod Lambert , Sean Anderson , Jeff Lorber , and Harmony Samuels , who also handled the song 's production . " Right There " debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 at number 84 . It was then serviced to rhythmic contemporary radio on September 10 , 2013 .

= = Critical reception = =

At Metacritic , which assigns a weighted average score out of 100 based on ratings and reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average of 81 , based on 9 reviews , indicating " universal acclaim " . At AllMusic , Matt Collar rated the album four stars out of five , saying that Yours Truly was " surprisingly sophisticated and unique " which showcases Grande 's soulful R & B vocals . He stated that the album often " brings to mind the intonations of Mariah Carey which are most likely intentional . " Collar closed the statement saying that Yours Truly " makes the most of her talent . " Nick Catucci of Entertainment Weekly graded the album an A- , calling the album " pure pop bliss " and " one of the most purely enjoyable albums of the year " that is powered by her " lithe , Broadway @-@ honed voice " . At The New York Times , Jon Caramanica gave a positive review of the album , writing that television shows such as American Idol and Glee " have been responsible for an intense surge of interest in music on television , but they haven 't left much of a mark on the shape of pop . That 's because both shows are fundamentally conservative institutions , privileging the familiar and the unchallenging . They 're about emulating , not innovating . " Caramanica commended Grande for becoming the first " identifiable pop star " who takes the " rules of those enterprises , uses them as a foundation , and innovates atop them ... She uses the " Glee " / " Idol " template as a jumping @-@ off point to make modern pop @-@ R & B with a sturdy vintage backbone . "

Writing in his track @-@ by @-@ track review Jason Lipshutz from Billboard rated the album an eighty @-@ six out of 100 , saying that " Yours Truly carries the expectations of a young singer who has already proven herself on the pop charts , and even if the songs on her debut could not equal the quality of " The Way , " Grande had the fan base and powerful pipes to survive a misfire . " At PopMatters , Scott Interrante rated the album eight discs out of ten , writing that " Minor missteps aside , Yours Truly is ultimately an impressive debut for Grande . " Ryan Dennehy of AbsolutePunk rated the album a 70 @-@ percent , stating that " Yours Truly is more tempered and less likely to put you in a beaming state of catatonia " that is " a missive containing some of her most personal thoughts and her oft @-@ regrettable youthful impulses . " At Pitchfork , Andrew Ryce rated the

album a 6 @. @ 5 out of ten , calling it " a very safe record . " Lewis Conner of Digital Spy rated the album four stars out of five , writing how " The production feels fresh , the lyrics are relatable and the melodies are as cool and sweet as a dollop of raspberry ripple " , and where he also states that " The tone and pace of the album rarely changes , but the songs feel accomplished , polished and vibrant " . Corner concluded by calling " Yours Truly " a " little less than a triumph . " At The Michigan Daily , Gregory Hicks graded the album a B , saying " most tracks are of quality composition , lyrically and melodically , but beat usage becomes excessive at times . " Jim Farber of The New York Daily News rated the album three stars out of five , stating that because the " armies of song doctors " that the release is " far more tuneful than Mariah 's interchangeable hits . "

= = Commercial performance = =

On September 4 , 2013 , Billboard reported that Yours Truly would most likely sell between 110 @, @ 000 and 120 @, @ 000 copies in its first week in the United States by the end of September 11 , 2013 . After Yours Truly was released , the album went to number one on the iTunes Store charts in over 30 countries , including the United States , where it reached number 1 in 19 minutes . Yours Truly officially debuted atop the US Billboard 200 chart , with 138 @, @ 000 copies sold in its first week , becoming Grande 's first number @-@ one album as a solo artist . This made Grande the fifteenth female artist ever and the first female artist to have their first album debut atop of the charts since January 2010 , when Kesha 's Animal opened at number one . Grande 's sales were especially strong digitally , as 108 @, @ 000 of her first @-@ week sales were from digital downloads , while the album sold 30 @, @ 000 copies through physical sales . In its second week , the album dropped eight places to number 9 selling 31 @, @ 000 more copies , bringing its total sales in the United States to 169 @, @ 000 . As of March 2016 , the album has sold 572 @, @ 000 copies in the United States .

Yours Truly also debuted in the top ten in several other countries , including Australia , where it debuted at number 6 , the United Kingdom , where it debuted at number 7 , Ireland , where it debuted at number 6 , and the Netherlands , where it debuted at number 5 . It also debuted just outside the top ten on New Zealand 's top 40 chart at number 11 .

= = Track listing = =

#### Notes

^ [ a ] denotes a co @-@ producer

^ [ b ] denotes a vocal producer

^ [ c ] denotes an additional producer

^ [ d ] denotes a remixer

" Right There " features a prominent sample of the 1979 jazz instrumental song " Rain Dance " by The Jeff Lorber Fusion

" Lovin ' It " embodies portions of " Real Love " performed by Mary J. Blige , written by Mark Morales , Mark C. Rooney , Kirk Robinson , Nat Robinson Jr . , and Roy Hammond .

" The Way " interpolates the piano melody from Russell 's " A Little Bit of Love " and lyrics from Big Pun 's " Still Not a Player " .

" Popular Song " is a cover , based on the song " Popular " from the Broadway musical Wicked .

= = Credits = =

Adapted from AllMusic and album liner notes .

= = = Recording locations = = =

= = = Personnel = = =

Technical credits

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =