

= One by One ( Foo Fighters album ) =

One by One is the fourth studio album by alternative rock band Foo Fighters , released on October 22 , 2002 by RCA . The album is the first to feature guitarist Chris Shiflett . Production on the album was troubled , with initial recording sessions considered unsatisfying and raising tensions between the band members . They eventually decided to redo the album from scratch during a two @-@ week period at frontman Dave Grohl 's home studio in Alexandria , Virginia . The songs on the album , which include the successful singles " All My Life " and " Times Like These " , have been noted for their introspective lyrics and a heavier and more aggressive sound compared to the band 's earlier work , which Grohl said was intended to translate the energy of the Foo Fighters ' live performances into a recording .

The album was a commercial success , topping the charts in Australia , Ireland and the United Kingdom and sold over one million copies in the United States . One by One was positively received by critics , winning a Grammy Award for Best Rock Album in 2004 ? the second Grammy Award for Best Rock Album won by the band ? and praised for its sound and production . However , some considered the work inferior to the band 's previous albums , and the musicians themselves eventually grew distasteful of the record as a whole .

= = Production = =

Following the extended tour promoting There Is Nothing Left to Lose , which kept the Foo Fighters mostly on the road between 1999 and 2001 , the band started to compose songs for their next album in early 2001 . After demo work in drummer Taylor Hawkins ' home studio in Topanga , the band used the second quarter of 2001 to perform in European festivals . In August , after performing in Chelmsford 's V Festival , Hawkins suffered a heroin overdose that left him in a coma for two days . After taking time off to recover , during which frontman Dave Grohl accepted an offer to play drums for the Queens of the Stone Age on their album Songs for the Deaf , the band got together in October 2001 to continue composition . During November and December , they had been recording at Grohl 's Studio 606 in Alexandria , Virginia , working with both the producer for their previous album , Adam Kasper , and recording engineer Nick Raskulinecz , whom they met after he had engineered " A320 " for Godzilla : The Album . Raskulinecz had just left his job at Sound City Studios , and speculated that Grohl , having found difficulty in ' finding a guy who would commit to sitting in his basement for four months ' , picked him for his energetic and enthusiastic nature .

The progress of the Virginia sessions started to become stale , so with six tracks finished , in January 2002 the band moved to Los Angeles ' Conway Studios for a " change of scenery " . 29 songs were recorded , including " The One " ? featured in the film Orange County and released as a standalone single ? and ten finished tracks that were considered for the upcoming album . The sessions took four months and were at the cost of over US \$ 1 @ , @ 000 @ , @ 000 . It was the first Foo Fighters album to use Pro @-@ Tools and have each instrument recorded separately .

The recording sessions were considered unsatisfying ; Hawkins said that " nobody had their studio chops together " , and Grohl considered that the band was lacking enthusiasm and were too focused on production , adding that he felt the rough mixes " sucked a lot of the life out of the songs " and " sound [ e ] d like another band playing our songs . Tensions were escalating , as arguments broke out at the studio , and Hawkins said he " didn 't feel we were much of a band " as there was much animosity among the bandmembers . Bassist Nate Mendel said that he was in a bad attitude during the sessions due to disagreements with Grohl , and guitarist Chris Shiflett added that he felt he would at times spend whole days in the studio without playing anything .

The band also showed disappointment with the ten songs that emerged from the sessions , as Hawkins described the finished tracks as " million @-@ dollar demos " , and Grohl considered the recordings " far too clean , too tame and boring " . The band only liked five of the ten songs , and thought that listeners would enjoy the other five anyway . Grohl was afraid to promote the album because of his lack of confidence in it . After manager John Silva listened to the recordings , he agreed that it was not a work that represented the band well , and that " we can release it now , but I

don't know if anyone would want to buy it " .

In April 2002 , the band discarded the recordings and took a break . The members then each started individual projects : Grohl became the full @-@ time Queens of the Stone Age drummer for a tour , Shiflett started the Viva Death and Jackson projects with his brother Scott and rejoined his former band Me First and the Gimme Gimmes , Hawkins played with Jane 's Addiction bassist Eric Avery , and Mendel both played with Juno and reunited with his former bandmate William Goldsmith in The Fire Theft . Later on April , they reunited for the Foo Fighters ' scheduled concert at the 2002 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival , which Grohl felt could be the last the band would perform . During the rehearsals , the tensions broke out in huge fights , specially between Grohl and Hawkins . The musicians decided to at least perform in Coachella before deciding whether to continue playing together or end the band . After enjoying their performance , the bandmembers decided to remain united and returned to re @-@ recording the album .

Grohl decided to take a two @-@ week period before the QOTSA went on tour to work on the Foo Fighters record , and after consulting Raskulinecz decided to promote him to producer . First , Grohl visited Hawkins in Topanga to rework the songs that had already been done and show new compositions , such as " Times Like These " , " Low " , and " Disenchanted Lullaby " . Then Grohl and Hawkins went to Virginia to redo the drum , vocal and guitar tracks across a twelve @-@ day period , and Mendel and Shiflett were later called to record their parts in Los Angeles ' The Hook Studios , which were mostly done with the supervision of Raskulinecz , as Grohl had to go back to QOTSA . The only remaining track from the original sessions was " Tired of You " , which features a guest appearance by Queen guitarist Brian May . Two of the demos would leak online in 2012 , with the other five unreleased demos being leaked on Reddit in 2015 .

The title One by One ? taken from a lyric on " All My Life " , and for which the spelling 1 X 1 was also considered ? was chosen according to Grohl because " it somehow made sense " , and even worked as a reference to relationships ? " one person by another person , or one after another " . The singer added that the word one is frequently used in the album 's lyrics , meaning either loneliness or continuation .

= = Composition = =

Upon its release , One by One was considered the band 's heaviest album , as Grohl described the sound as a darker and more aggressive approach as opposed to the band 's usual work . Grohl said that the album mainly focused on the energy of live performances , which he attributed to both the extensive touring preceding the compositions , and the short period during which the re @-@ recordings were done . The frontman added that although the previous albums had songs which were never played live , the track listing on One by One was compared to a set list where he would play all songs every night . As the results of the early recording sessions had manager John Silva complimenting the songs that did not sound like the band 's previous work , and suggesting Grohl to " stop trying to write hit singles and go back to being weird " , the band decided to be more experimental in addition to writing music meant to be played in full arenas . The variety included moody songs such as " Have It All " and " Tired of You " , the seven @-@ minute " epic opus " album closer " Come Back " , and the alternating dynamics of " Halo " , which drew inspiration from Tom Petty , Cheap Trick and Guided by Voices . Grohl added that the sonority tried to blend dissonance and melody : " We figured we 're gonna get mean , we 're gonna get ugly . And then I end up putting this four @-@ part harmony on it , and all of sudden it 's beautiful . Like ' wait a second , it was supposed to be gross , and now it 's gorgeous ' . "

While in previous records Grohl tried to not get introspective in his lyrics , for One by One he found himself writing lyrics that matched the " emotional level we were hinting with the music " , such as " Come Back " , with words " revealing all these dark , shitty sides of myself " . The lyrics to a song were usually done after finishing the vocal track for another . Grohl described the track listing as " 11 tortured love songs " , with a major theme of " surrendering to yourself " , and a sequencing that described the difficult beginnings of falling in love , and then the relief of feeling comfortable in love . A major inspiration was Grohl 's new girlfriend Jordyn Blum , as well as the troubled times with the

band , demonstrated in " Times Like These " , which laments the absence of the Foo Fighters and ponders about their future .

= = Packaging and versions = =

The album artwork was done by Raymond Pettibon , who has worked with punk bands such as Black Flag and The Minutemen . Grohl was introduced to Pettibon by ex @-@ Minutemen bassist Mike Watt and , after visiting his house , decided to hire him for the artwork because " we had to somehow pay tribute to Pettibon as a hero , because his stuff , those images just stuck with me my whole life . " Grohl came up with the heart theme used in the booklet and related singles . The album was issued with two different covers , black and white . The first 575 @,@ 000 units comprised a limited edition with a bonus DVD .

A limited international edition features seven bonus tracks : the outtake " Walking a Line " , three live songs , and three covers , The Psychedelic Furs ' " Sister Europe " , the Ramones ' " Danny Says " - with Shiflett on the vocals ? and Joe Walsh 's " Life of Illusion " - sung by Hawkins . A Norwegian version had an extra album with tracks recorded at the Oslo Spektrum on December 4 , 2002 . One by One was also issued as a double vinyl LP record , and a DVD @-@ Audio with 5 @.@ 1 surround sound mixes .

An Enhanced CD edition was released with weblinks to their official website and where to download free music .

= = Release and reception = =

One by One was released on October 22 , 2002 . That same day the band started the One by One Tour with a concert at the Los Angeles Wilmet Theatre . The lead single " All My Life " had been released on September 7 , and the band issued three more songs as singles in 2003 : " Times Like These " , " Low " , and " Have It All " . BMG became partners with telecom firm O2 and music provider Musiwave to promote the album in Europe with a special campaign focused on cellphones .

The album debuted at third place on the Billboard 200 , with 122 @,@ 000 copies sold in one week , and spent 50 overall weeks on the chart . By 2011 , One by One had sold 1 @.@ 333 million units in North America , being certified Platinum by the RIAA . The international release was also successful , with RCA announcing One by One had surpassed 2 million copies worldwide in January 2003 . The album debuted at number one in the United Kingdom , Ireland , and Australia , and outsold predecessor There Is Nothing Left to Lose in Australia , Japan and various Asian markets .

= = = Critical response = = =

One by One received generally positive reviews from contemporary music critics . At Metacritic , a website that assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 75 , based on 19 reviews . Reviewer Jon Pareles of Rolling Stone praised the " potent guitar riffs " and the introspective themes , which he called " stronger and broader than autobiography " . NME 's April Long felt that " even the quieter moments bristle " and considered the album an affirmation of the band 's quality . Michael Paoletta of Billboard considered the album " among the band 's best work " and that the themes gave the record " an emotional intimacy that makes it all more satisfying " . Entertainment Weekly 's Ken Tucker rated the album A- , calling it full of " unexpected exhilaration " and liking the " exploration of various relationships " on the lyrics . The Austin Chronicle reviewer praised the heavy sound of the album , saying it drifted from the light @-@ hearted tone of songs such as " Big Me " while " retaining their melodic instincts " .

However , many reviewers felt that the album was not up to the standards of the Foo Fighters ' previous work . Allmusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine said that although One by One was well @-@ produced and played , it was too polished to " hit at a gut @-@ level " and that the songs were " not

as immediate or memorable " as the band 's earlier compositions . Writing for PopMatters , Margaret Schwartz considered the album " ultimately unsatisfying " despite its quality writing and production , particularly for not drifting much from the band 's typical style . Stephen Thompson of The A.V. Club described One by One as " mostly middling , sticking to slick , pounding , functional rock that doesn 't dig much deeper than the usual spleen @-@ venting and loud @-@ quiet brooding @-@ to @-@ bluster formula " . BBC 's Nick Reynolds found the record inconsistent , praising the first four tracks but saying the following songs did not maintain the same quality , and concluding that although One By One is a good record , it may frustrate a listener . Eric Carr of Pitchfork Media was very critical of the album , saying it was overproduced and the songs are " weightless , antiseptic cuts " with " skillful composition " but " lacking strength and character " .

In 2004 , One by One won the Grammy Award for Best Rock Album , while one year earlier at the 45th Grammy Awards " All My Life " was chosen as Best Hard Rock Performance . While the band had a positive opinion about the record following release , as Grohl said the songs were " the best we 've ever written " , he and the rest of the Foo Fighters eventually grew distasteful about the results . Grohl stated that he was frustrated at himself for rushing on the album : " four of the songs were good , and the other seven I never played again in my life . " Hawkins said that " if you think about things too much , they kinda get sterile , as we found out there " , and Shiflett declared that " there are great songs [ in One by One ] , and then there are ... parts of great songs " .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Dave Grohl , Taylor Hawkins , Nate Mendel and Chris Shiflett , except where noted .

= = = Special edition DVD = = =

The album was also originally released with a limited edition bonus DVD which contains :

" All My Life " video / 5 @.@ 1 audio / stereo audio versions

" Walking a Line " video / 5 @.@ 1 audio / stereo audio versions

" The One " 5 @.@ 1 audio / stereo audio versions

Extras ? making of video + other clips

DVD @-@ ROM ? screensavers , buddy icons & weblinks

Photo gallery

= = Personnel = =

Foo Fighters

Dave Grohl ? lead vocals , backing vocals , rhythm guitar , lead guitar , piano on " Come Back "

Nate Mendel ? bass

Taylor Hawkins ? drums , percussion , lead vocals on " Life of Illusion "

Chris Shiflett ? lead guitar , rhythm guitar , lead vocals on " Danny Says "

Additional musicians

Brian May ? guitar on " Tired of You "

Krist Novoselic - backing vocals on " Walking a Line "

Gregg Bissonette - drums on " Danny Says "

Production

Producers : Foo Fighters , Nick Raskulinecz ; Adam Kasper on " Tired of You "

Engineer : Nick Raskulinecz

Mixing : Bob Ludwig , Jim Scott

Mastering : A.J. Lara , Bob Ludwig , Bob Michaels

Production coordination : Melinda Pepler

Digital editing : A.J. Lara

Authoring : Eddie Escalante

Quality control : Kehni Davis  
Graphic design : Rupesh Pattni  
Photography : Anton Corbijn , Joshua White  
Artwork : Raymond Pettibon  
Illustrations : Raymond Pettibon , Joshua White  
Liner notes : Hiro Arishima

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Album charts = = =

= = = Singles charts = = =

= = Awards = =

Grammy Awards