

= Glee : The Music , Volume 1 =

Glee : The Music , Volume 1 is the debut soundtrack album by the cast of the musical television series Glee , which aired on Fox in the United States . It features cover versions from the first nine episodes of the first season and was released on November 2 , 2009 by Columbia Records and 20th Century Fox Television Records . The album received mixed reviews from critics , with many praising large ensemble numbers , but comparing it to karaoke tracks . It went to number one on album charts in Ireland and the United Kingdom , and peaked at number three in Australia and number four in both Canada and the United States . Volume 1 has been certified platinum in these five countries .

All non @-@ bonus tracks from the album have been released as digital singles . The cast 's debut single , a cover of Journey 's " Don 't Stop Believin ' " , charted within the top five in many countries and has sold over one million copies in the US . Other high @-@ charting and best @-@ selling singles include the covers of Queen 's " Somebody to Love " , Neil Diamond 's " Sweet Caroline " , and " Defying Gravity " from the musical Wicked . Glee Live ! In Concert ! saw the cast tour the US in promotion of the series ' first season and its musical releases . The album earned a nomination for Grammy Award for Best Compilation Soundtrack Album for a Motion Picture , Television or Other Visual Media for the 2011 ceremony .

= = Development = =

Glee debuted in America on the Fox network on May 19 , 2009 . Series creator Ryan Murphy planned to include five to eight musical numbers per episode , and to release accompanying soundtrack albums every few months . In the week prior to the broadcast of the pilot episode , Murphy stated that seven different companies had bid on the rights to the series ' first soundtrack . The contenders were narrowed down to four labels , with Fox ultimately signing a deal with Columbia Records as a result of chairman Rob Stringer 's belief that Glee would be a success . Stringer appreciated the series ' use of both classic and contemporary pop music . He suggested that other record labels underestimated the potential of Glee 's musical releases as they are all cover versions .

Murphy was responsible for selecting all of the songs covered on the album , and strove to maintain a balance between show tunes and chart hits . He was surprised at the ease with which use of songs was approved by the record labels approached , and explained , " I think the key to it is they loved the tone of it . They loved that this show was about optimism and young kids , for the most part , reinterpreting their classics for a new audience . " Music supervisor P.J. Bloom cleared the song rights with their respective publishers , and music producer Adam Anders rearranged the tracks for the Glee cast . " Take a Bow " was offered for use at a reduced licensing rate , which surprised Murphy , who had believed he would not be able to afford the rights given that it had been a number one hit for Rihanna . Neil Diamond had some reluctance over licensing " Sweet Caroline " to the show , and retracted clearance after it had already been recorded . Bloom was able to convince him to reverse his decision , and Diamond went on to also license his song " Hello Again " for use on the show at a later date .

Stringer did not expect the success of Glee Cast single releases , and estimated that four million copies would be sold by Christmas 2009 . He was unsure whether the high sales figures would help or hinder the release of Glee : The Music , Volume 1 , and as such , was eager for its release in order to gauge the physical and digital market response . The 17 tracks selected for the album were considered amongst the series ' most popular , with Columbia and Fox aiming to attract casual buyers as well as Glee fans . Geoff Bywater , head of Fox 's music department , anticipated considerable sales from impulse buyers in retail stores . Instrumental versions of some songs were included as bonus tracks , based on a trend of fans recreating the musical numbers in tribute to the show .

In May 2010 , the Glee Cast undertook a US tour entitled Glee Live ! In Concert ! , performing tracks from the first season 's musical releases . From Glee : The Music , Volume 1 , " Don 't Stop

Believin ' " , " Push It " , " Sweet Caroline " , " Defying Gravity " , " Bust Your Windows " and " Dancing with Myself " were included on the setlist , with " Somebody to Love " as an encore performance .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Metacritic gave the album a Metascore ? a weighted average based on the impression of eight critical reviews ? of 60 percent , signifying mixed or average reviews . Both Emma Wall of The Daily Telegraph and Christopher John Farley of The Wall Street Journal expressed approval of the choral arrangements , though Wall review observed that some of the ballads lack potency without their episodic context . Farley appreciated the " emotional backstory " given to the album by the television series , writing that it would " evoke fond memories of favorite episodes " for Glee fans . He found the better songs to be the ones which do not seem " too polished " , giving them a karaoke appeal . Entertainment Weekly 's Leah Greenblatt wrote that the soundtrack is essentially a karaoke album , describing the songs as " unapologetically sincere " ? lacking the series ' subversive wit , but with " a giddy sort of ' let 's put on a show ' charm " . Billboard 's Mikael Wood deemed the most successful tracks those which seem least suited to the series , such as the rock ballads " Don 't Stop Believin ' " and " Can 't Fight This Feeling " . Wood commented that " Take a Bow " and " Bust Your Windows " are also enjoyable , but " lack a certain revenge @-@ of @-@ the @-@ nerds triumph . "

The Independent 's Andy Gill was apathetic towards the album , which he too deemed " karaoke @-@ pop " . He praised Riley 's rendition of " Bust Your Windows " , calling it the album 's " most compelling moment " , but criticized Morrison 's rapping as " the least convincing [ ... ] in recording history . " Gill found Agron 's cover of " You Keep Me Hanging On " to be " irritatingly anonymous " , but otherwise felt the album contained little of note , either positive or negative . Jon Dolan of Rolling Stone shared Gill 's sentiments with regards to Morrison 's rapping and Riley 's " Bust Your Windows " , also deeming " Don 't Stop Believin ' " " a triumphal moment against which resistance is futile . " Dan Cairns of The Times described the album as " music of catch @-@ in @-@ the @-@ throat , quick @-@ fix , talent @-@ show emotion " variety , calling it " undeniably effective " but " utterly nauseating . "

Andrew Leahey of allmusic opined that some of the cast members are better actors than vocalists , but gave particular praise to Michele 's songs , suggesting that the soundtrack is largely a showcase for her talent , and that she outperforms most of the original artists . IGN 's Brian Linder described the album as having " an appealing irreverent spirit that tamps down the earnestness just as it begins to overwhelm . " Linder agreed that Morrison does not excel as an emcee , but still found his attempts at rapping enjoyable . He generally approved of the track list , but found the older songs such as " Sweet Caroline " and " Say a Little Prayer " lacking in resonance , and named " You Keep Me Hangin ' On " as the weakest performance . Linder commended Riley and Michele 's vocals , and most enjoyed the covers of " Somebody to Love " and " Keep Holding On " , suggesting that the latter surpasses the original version . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian commented that the album requires a suspension of disbelief , attributing some negative reviews from US critics to their inability to accept the fantasy of the series . Petridis reviewed " Dancing With Myself " , " Sweet Caroline " , " Gold Digger " , " Somebody to Love " and " Alone " favorably , but as with Gill and Linder disliked " You Keep Me Hangin ' On " , which she deemed bland and boring . Petridis wrote that the album does not entirely work in its own right , separate from the television series , but concluded that for listeners prepared to accept the conceit , " Glee : the Soundtrack almost lives up to its title . "

Glee : The Music , Volume 1 received a nomination in the category of Best Compilation Soundtrack Album for a Motion Picture , Television or Other Visual Media at the 53rd Grammy Awards .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

Glee : The Music , Volume 1 debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 , selling 113 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of release . The same week , the album also debuted at number two on the Billboard Soundtracks chart , going on to reach the top position on May 1 , 2010 . On September 9 , 2010 , the album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for sales or shipments of 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 or more . As of May 2011 , 1 @.@ 169 million copies have been sold in the US , and it has remained on the Billboard 200 for seventy @-@ three weeks . In the United Kingdom , the album entered the top 75 three weeks before its official release , on import sales alone . Following its official release , it debuted at number one with sales of 62 @,@ 000 according to The Official Charts Company . It was certified platinum for 300 @,@ 000 copies sold by the British Phonographic Industry on May 21 , 2010 . In Australia , the album peaked at number three , and was certified platinum for 70 @,@ 000 copies sold by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) in 2009 , and received a 2x platinum certification from ARIA in 2011 . It peaked at number four in Canada , and has been certified platinum with 80 @,@ 000 units sold by the Canadian Recording Industry Association . The album also peaked at number one in Ireland , eight in New Zealand , nine in the Netherlands , thirty @-@ four in both Austria and Wallonia , thirty @-@ seven in Mexico , forty @-@ eight in Switzerland , sixty @-@ nine in Spain , seventy @-@ four in Flanders , and eighty in Japan .

= = Singles = =

Each of the songs included on Glee : The Music , Volume 1 , except for the bonus tracks , were released as singles , available for download . The releases made the Glee Cast the tenth cast to have entries chart on the Billboard Hot 100 in its 51 @-@ year history . Their debut single " Don 't Stop Believin ' " charted at number five in Australia , number four in the US and Ireland , and number two in the United Kingdom . In the US , 177 @,@ 000 copies of the song were sold in its first week of release . Its number four debut surpassed the Journey original , which peaked at number nine in 1981 . The original rendition sold 42 @,@ 000 copies in the week of the Glee Cast release , up 48 % on the previous week . " Don 't Stop Believin ' " was also the cast 's best @-@ selling single , and has sold 1 @,@ 005 @,@ 000 copies in the US , a combination of sales from the original release ( 921 @,@ 000 ) and the rerecording for the season finale ( 84 @,@ 000 ) . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America on October 13 , 2009 , and platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association the following year .

On October 22 , 2010 , Yahoo ! Music published a list of the twenty most popular Glee songs , based on download data from Nielsen SoundScan . Of the twenty best @-@ selling singles , eight are included on Glee : The Music , Volume 1 : " Don 't Stop Believin ' " , " Defying Gravity " ( 335 @,@ 000 copies ) , " Somebody to Love " ( 315 @,@ 000 ) , " Sweet Caroline " ( 187 @,@ 000 ) , " Take a Bow " ( 181 @,@ 000 ) , " Keep Holding On " ( 166 @,@ 000 ) , " Taking Chances " ( 163 @,@ 000 ) , and " Alone " ( 159 @,@ 000 ) . " Take a Bow " charted at number 46 in the US , with 53 @,@ 000 copies sold in its first week of release . Sales of the original Rihanna version increased by 189 percent after the song was covered in the Glee episode " Showmance " . Sales of the Queen version of " Somebody to Love " rose from 2 @,@ 000 to 6 @,@ 000 downloads following the release of the Glee Cast cover version .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Certifications = = =

== Chart precession and succession ==

== Release history ==