

= Live at Benaroya Hall with the Seattle Symphony =

Live at Benaroya Hall with the Seattle Symphony is a live album and fourth album overall by the American singer @-@ songwriter Brandi Carlile , released on May 3 , 2011 through Columbia Records . Recorded during two sold @-@ out shows in November 2010 at Benaroya Hall in Seattle , Washington , the album features Washington @-@ native Carlile and her long @-@ time band (including brothers Phil and Tim Hanseroth) performing alongside the Seattle Symphony . Seattle @-@ based producer and audio engineer Martin Feveyear recorded the concerts , which contained orchestral arrangements by Paul Buckmaster and Sean O 'Loughlin . Carlile had previously performed with the Seattle Symphony in 2008 at the same venue .

The album contains three songs from Carlile 's second studio album The Story (2007) , five from Give Up the Ghost (2009) , and three covers , including Elton John 's " Sixty Years On " , Simon & Garfunkel 's " The Sound of Silence " , and Leonard Cohen 's " Hallelujah " (which also features Alphaville 's " Forever Young ") . Critical reception of Live at Benaroya Hall was positive overall . In the United States , the album reached peak positions of number sixty @-@ three on the Billboard 200 , number five on the Top Folk Albums chart and number fourteen on the Top Rock Albums chart .

= = Background = =

Live at Benaroya Hall with the Seattle Symphony was recorded at two sold @-@ out shows in November 2010 during Carlile 's tour in support of her previous studio album Give Up the Ghost (2009) . Carlile , who claimed that she and the band always wanted their fourth release to be a live album , had initially hoped to record at a famous venue but decided to return to Benaroya Hall since she had performed there alongside the symphony in 2008 . Prior to the single rehearsal Carlile had with the 30 @-@ member strong Seattle Symphony , string arrangers generated charts and sent computer @-@ generated demos to Carlile for approval . Carlile was reportedly " shock [ed] " to hear the orchestra " weaving in and out " of her music . While the recording process , according to Carlile , was not complicated , she later commented on rehearsing with the full symphony :

The rehearsal process is really understated . It 's funny because it 's not really needed . It 's not needed for us anyway . Because we know how to play the songs , and the [symphony] charts don 't change the songs structurally at all . But the symphony charts are something that you 're not used to hearing . And then the symphony doesn 't need the rehearsal because they sight @-@ read . They sight @-@ read better than we could even imagine . So when we get there , they already know how to play our songs better than we do ... The purpose of the rehearsal is really , honestly to prepare the band for exactly how powerful the concert is going to be . When the symphony jumps in during those moments where all of a sudden you 're singing a song you sing every night and then 30 more musicians start playing , it 's so powerful that it causes you to take pause , and you can 't take pause . And that 's what the rehearsal really is for .

= = Composition = =

Live at Benaroya Hall features arrangements by British arranger and composer Paul Buckmaster , who previously worked with Carlile on Give Up the Ghost , and Sean O 'Loughlin . Seattle @-@ based producer and audio engineer Martin Feveyear , who had previously mixed Carlile 's debut album in addition to other live EPs and demos , recorded , mixed and mastered the album . Carlile had not spoken to Feveyear prior to the first rehearsal , but was pleased with the result of his work . Carlile 's band included long @-@ time members (and siblings) Phil and Tim Hanseroth on guitar and bass , Josh Neumann on cello , and Allison Miller on drums . The Seattle Symphony was led by Assistant Conductor Eric Garcia .

The pop rock album opens with the curtain call , strengthening the impression of a live recording rather than a studio album . Three tracks , " Shadow on the Wall " , " Turpentine " , and " The Story " , appeared on Carlile 's second studio album The Story (2007) . " Looking Out " , " Before It Breaks

" , " I Will " , " Dreams " , and " Pride and Joy " all appeared on Give Up the Ghost . Believing in the cultivation of standards , Carlile included six cover versions in the set list , three of which would appear on the album . " Sixty Years On " , originally written by Elton John and Bernie Taupin , was arranged by Paul Buckmaster . Carlile , a fan of the " dark " string arrangements that appear on John 's album Tumbleweed Connection (1970) , contacted Buckmaster following advice from her manager . Carlile first heard the Hanseroth brothers singing Paul Simon 's " The Sound of Silence " in 2009 and requested that they perform it during the set . She does not contribute vocals to the version that appears on the album . Carlile 's cover of Leonard Cohen 's song " Hallelujah " , also arranged by Buckmaster is followed by a hidden track : a cover of Alphaville 's " Forever Young " . Carlile said the following of Cohen 's song : " ' Hallelujah ' is going to be a standard that our grandkids , our great @-@ great grandkids will learn to sing in church . It 's one of those really , really special songs . The thing that 's going to make it that , besides that it 's so great , is that everyone knows about it because hundreds of songwriters have been moved by that song and have covered it . And that 's just something really important that we do in every generation . "

The number of cover songs , which play a prominent role in Carlile 's live act , represent the amount she typically includes in a concert . By her own admission , " Before It Breaks " and " I Will " were the most difficult to perform emotionally . Carlile felt as though she were a member of The Beatles when the audience stood and loudly sang the words to " Dreams " . Carlile " jokes " with the audience between songs , which she felt was well @-@ received , and requests their participation in a three @-@ part harmony during " Turpentine " . During the concert , the band experienced technical difficulties and a bra thrown from the audience , intended for the drummer , hit Carlile on stage . Carlile said the " rock ' n ' roll symphony album " was " the meeting of two worlds , two different kinds of artists who got together for completely different reasons " . She insists the album is the one she and her band are most proud of , believing it truly represents their live act .

= = Critical reception = =

Overall , critical reception of the album was positive . Nick Vissey of The Seattle Times wrote that " standout " tracks included " Dreams " and " Pride and Joy " , which highlighted Carlile 's " unique folk @-@ rock style " and " enthralling , emotional and fun " voice . The Hanseroth brothers ' cover of Paul Simon 's " The Sound of Silence " was deemed " spot @-@ on " by Allmusic 's Andrew Leahey and " breathtaking " by Gene Stout of the Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer . The Source Weekly contributor Mike Bookey complimented the album for capturing Carlile 's live act and recommended this album for first @-@ time listeners of her music . Glide magazine 's reviewer complimented Carlile 's " authentic and raw " vocals and appreciated that recorded flaws were not covered up . Stephen Carradini of the Oklahoma Gazette also noted the errors , but summarized his review by saying that " Things aren 't perfect ; they 're still beautiful . " Carradini also complimented the successful transition of Carlile 's acoustic @-@ based songs to orchestral arrangements . The Salt Lake Tribune 's David Burger gave the album an A ? rating , asserting that Live at Benaroya Hall captures the " unbridled spirit " of Carlile 's live act more than any of her studio albums . Burger also wrote that Carlile 's " well @-@ crafted " songs were " gloriously illustrated " by Buckmaster 's and O 'Loughlin 's arrangements . Gregg Shapiro of the LGBT @-@ related Bay Area Reporter said listening to the album is a must even for people that do not often enjoy live albums . Paste magazine included the album on its list of " 12 May Albums Worth Checking Out " . The magazine 's contributor Jeff Leven wrote that the album was " anthemic " and " captivating " but " over @-@ stacked " with covers song , and that Carlile 's passion was contagious . Leahey 's review concluded : " This isn 't Brandi Carlile 's first concert album , but it 's certainly the best . " Similarly , Visser called the album Carlile 's " best work to date " .

= = Track listing = =

Track listing adapted from Allmusic and album liner notes .

= = Personnel = =

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= = Charts = =

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