

= Over the Rainbow (Connie Talbot album) =

Over the Rainbow is the debut album of child singer Connie Talbot , and was released 26 November 2007 by Rainbow Recording Company . Most of the album 's recording was done in a spare room in the house of Talbot 's aunt , in an attempt to preserve her childhood by not interrupting her regular activities . Although initially public appearances were kept to a minimum , Talbot did make appearances to promote the album , and performed in public several times after the British release . It received poor reviews from critics and peaked at number 35 on the UK Albums Chart . Despite this , additional copies of the album had to be pressed after sales were higher than expected . She later toured Asia in support of the album . Over the Rainbow achieved more success on the Asian charts , reaching number one in Taiwan , South Korea and Hong Kong .

Over the Rainbow was rereleased on 18 June 2008 with an updated track list , replacing some of the Christmas themed tracks of the original with more general covers . The first single from the album , " Three Little Birds , " was released in June 2008 , and a music video for the song was shot in Jamaica . On 14 October , the album was released in the US , appearing on several Billboard charts . Talbot visited the US to promote the album , appearing on national television .

= = Recording and release = =

Connie Talbot raised to prominence after reaching the final of the first series of Britain 's Got Talent . After briefly recording with Sony BMG , Talbot was signed to Rainbow Recording Company , an offshoot of Rhythm Riders made specifically for her . To produce Over the Rainbow , Talbot worked with John Arnison , then @-@ manager to Gabrielle and Billy Ocean , and Marc Marot , former managing director of Island Records . It was produced and mixed by Simon Hill and Rob May . A recording schedule was worked out so Talbot could continue with her normal school activities while recording the album in her aunt Vicky 's spare bedroom , which her mother described as " a better solution " than the one offered by Sony BMG , " which has not robbed her of her childhood " . Talbot said that " it was just amazing that we could do it in my auntie 's house " . Arnison and Marot asked the Talbot family to " write down a list of the songs that Connie would sing at her birthday party " to help choose the track listing , and then " thought long and hard " about including more adult songs on the album . Talbot herself insisted that they should . The final version of Over the Rainbow was recorded at Olympic Studios , on 12 October 2007 . Arnison described the recording process by saying that Talbot " hadn 't sung nursery rhymes ; she 'd always sung classic tracks . So it was actually quite an easy task to make the record . " The album was released on 26 November 2007 , with an initial pressing of 50 @,@ 000 copies . However , an additional 120 @,@ 000 had to be pressed after the album sold out in a matter of days . The album was released in the US on 14 October 2008 .

Over the Rainbow was rereleased on 18 June 2008 , and was available for preorder in May , with three new tracks to replace the Christmas @-@ themed songs on the original album . The new tracks were made available from Talbot 's official website so that those who bought the original need not buy the rerelease . Talbot 's song " Three Little Birds " , a cover of the Bob Marley song of the same name , was released as a single on 10 June 2008 , and a music video was shot in Jamaica to for the release . The album was released in the US on 14 October , and Talbot travelled to America with her family to publicise it . Talbot 's cover of " I Will Always Love You " was released as a single in the US on 7 April , along with a newly recorded " You Raise Me Up " .

= = Publicity = =

Although Arnison claimed he did not " want to put [Talbot] through the promotional grind which most artists go through because she is too young " , Talbot made several public appearances after the album 's release . These included headlining the Great Bridge Christmas and Winter Festival , which local police threatened to cancel unless crowds clamouring to reach the tent in which Talbot was performing could be brought under control . At the event , on 7 December 2007 , Talbot was

quoted as saying " I love it here , it 's brilliant , really fun " , but she had to be ushered off @-@ stage by the police . Talbot performed publicly in Walsall 's HMV store , and in Birmingham 's Centenary Square . TV appearances included GMTV and Channel 5 news , both on the day of the album 's release .

In April and May 2008 , Talbot toured Asia to promote *Over the Rainbow* . Asian press attributed her success to her videos on YouTube , with writers for the Sun.Star noting that her most viewed video had been watched over 14 million times , and Bernard Koh , of The Straits Times , saying that videos of Talbot 's performances have been watched over 30 million times . The tour made stops in South Korea , Taiwan , Hong Kong and Singapore , and Talbot and her family returned to England in late May . News that Talbot was to release the album in the US resulted in attention from American press sources including Fox Business Network and MarketWatch . Kerri Mason , writing for Reuters , described Talbot 's videos as " viral " , and added that she had been watched on YouTube over 46 million times . Talbot travelled to the US for a promotional tour to coincide with the release , where she performed on The Ellen DeGeneres Show , appeared as a guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show , and appeared in Los Angeles , Philadelphia , New York City and Washington D.C. Following the television appearances , sales of the album were boosted in the US . Talbot again travelled to the US to promote her single " I Will Always Love You " on 30 April 2009 , and returned again in May . Appearances have included a performance on Good Day New York on Fox Broadcasting Company 's WNYW .

= = Critical reception = =

The album was received mostly negatively by critics . Sharon Mawer , of Allmusic , praised *Over the Rainbow* by saying " [Talbot] can sing , for a seven @-@ year @-@ old , and most of the notes (if not all of them) are in the right order and sung to the right pitch ; the timing is fine too " . However , she criticised the album , saying " there 's no feeling , no emotion , no realization of what each song is about ; they 're just pretty little songs " , giving the album 2 / 5 . Nick Levine , of Digital Spy , said in a review of the album that Talbot had a " sweet , pure voice " , but that there is " no nuance or depth to her performance " . However , he said that " There 's something inherently wrong about awarding a star rating to a seven @-@ year @-@ old " , and that " the decidedly adult concept of musical merit should have nothing to do with [her music] " , rating the album 2 / 5 . Reviewers in the Harlow Star also commented on her age , saying " There 's no doubt she 's a sweet little girl with a nice voice , but surely there 's something inherently wrong with thrusting a child into the limelight at such a young age ? " Rashvin Bedi , writing for Malaysian newspaper The Star , praised the album , saying that " Connie sings with ease and manages the high notes admirably " , but asked whether " people would buy an album of the same songs sung by a 20 @-@ year @-@ old girl " .

= = Chart performance and sales = =

The album entered in the British album charts at 35 on 8 December 2007 , but was at the bottom of the charts by Christmas , despite having been tipped as a potential Christmas number one . It remained in the charts for five weeks , peaking at 35 . However , the album was certified gold in Britain in early December , with Talbot being presented a gold disc by Phillip Schofield on daytime television programme *This Morning* . Following Talbot 's tour of Asia , it was reported that the album had reached number one on the charts in Taiwan , South Korea and Hong Kong , as well as reaching number three in Singapore . The album has gone platinum in Taiwan and Hong Kong , and double platinum in Korea , selling 30 @,@ 000 copies . In the US , the album appeared on three charts . It featured on the Top Heatseekers for nine weeks , peaking at number 7 , on the Kid Albums for four weeks , peaking at number 8 , and on Top Independent Albums for one week , at number 43 .

= = Personnel = =

=== Orchestra ===

=== Choir ===

=== Production and publicity ===

== Track listings ==

=== Original track listing ===

=== Rerelease track listing ===