

= Evanescence (Evanescence album) =

Evanescence is the self @-@ titled and third studio album by the American rock band Evanescence . It was released on October 7 , 2011 on Wind @-@ up Records . The band began writing the album in June 2009 . Its release was delayed several times ; on February 22 , 2010 , the band entered the studio with producer Steve Lillywhite but later stopped working with him because he " wasn 't the right fit " . At the time the album was scheduled for an August or September 2010 release , but Lee later announced that Evanescence had suspended recording to write more material . On April 11 , 2011 , the band returned to the studio with producer Nick Raskulinecz .

According to Lee , the band brought influences from Björk , Depeche Mode , Massive Attack , MGMT and Portishead to the album . Evanescence 's songs contain sounds and influences characteristic of nu metal , hard rock and electro . Although the album received generally @-@ positive reviews from music critics , who praised Lee 's vocals and its innovative sound , some noted a similarity to the band 's older material . Evanescence debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart with 127 @,@ 000 copies sold in its first week , and topped four other Billboard charts ; Rock Albums , Digital Albums , Alternative Albums and Hard Rock Albums . The album was successful worldwide , appearing on the charts of over twenty countries . The band promoted Evanescence by premiering songs online on a number of websites and appearing on several television shows .

The first single from the album , " What You Want " , was released on August 9 , 2011 ; " My Heart Is Broken " , the album 's second single , was released on November 11 . " Lost in Paradise " was released internationally as its third single on May 25 , 2012 , and " The Other Side " was distributed to U.S. modern rock radio stations as a promotional single on June 11 . In 2011 the band embarked on the Evanescence Tour , their third worldwide tour , to promote the album with The Pretty Reckless and Fair to Midland .

= = Background and writing = =

After finishing a tour to promote Evanescence 's previous album , The Open Door , Amy Lee said that she " just sort of took off and didn 't know what I was going to do next . " According to Lee , she was unsure at the time when (or if) Evanescence would continue . After taking a break from music for 18 months , she decided she wanted to work with the band members and it " became more of a group project " . Lee admitted to an identity crisis : " [The success with] Fallen happened really fast , and it was just go , go , go for a couple years , and we went right into writing and wrote the next record . By the time we finished touring with The Open Door , I just needed to go , ' Who am I as an adult ? ' " During her hiatus , Lee began painting , attended concerts and museums and listened to folk and indie music .

In a June 2009 post on the Evanescence website , Lee wrote that the band was in the process of writing material for an album planned for release the following year . According to Lee , the music would be an evolution of previous work and " better , stronger , and more interesting " . She described Evanescence 's music as epic , dark , big , beautiful and desperate . In a Spin interview , Lee called the record " fun " ? according to her , a " totally new thing " for the band : " When I listen to our old music I see that 's where I was in my life at that time . This has been a long trip and parts have been hard . But it 's about not taking everything so seriously this time . "

Writing for the album began in 2009 , when Lee wrote an electronic @-@ driven song different from her usual style . She said , " I remember listening to it over and over , just obsessing over it the way I used to obsess over Evanescence music . That was the spark for me ? and the spark to go in the electronic direction and bring some of that into what Evanescence is doing . " Unlike the band 's two previous albums (primarily written by Lee) , every band member contributed to the writing process .

= = Recording and development = =

Evanescence entered the studio on February 22 , 2010 to begin recording the album . Will Hunt

returned as drummer ; a second drummer and programmer , Will " Science " Hunt , was brought in to assist with writing but did not join the band . David Campbell , who previously worked with Evanescence on The Open Door , was brought back to handle string arrangements and the album was scheduled for release by producer Steve Lillywhite . Lee later said that Lillywhite " wasn 't the right fit " , adding that the band was experimenting and when they tried to record the songs Lee wrote without the band " it wasn 't working . " According to Lee , the slow , acoustic songs written with Lillywhite did not mesh with Evanescence 's sound .

When the band began recording with Lillywhite , the album was intended for an August or September 2010 release . However , on June 21 , 2010 Lee announced on EvThreads.com that Evanescence had suspended recording to continue work on the album and " get our heads into the right creative space " . According to Lee , Wind @-@ up Records was experiencing " uncertain times " which would further delay the album 's release . Label president Ed Vetri supported Lee 's decision : " One thing we do at Wind @-@ up is , we 're patient . I [f] it 's not right , it 's not coming out . If it takes a year or four years , [we 're] going to take the time it needs to write the right record . " After visiting the studio several times to see the album 's progress , Vetri said that " her core fans will be really happy . "

Evanescence re @-@ entered Blackbird Studio in Nashville in early April 2011 with nineteen songs and new producer Nick Raskulinecz , who previously produced for Alice in Chains and Foo Fighters . The album was mixed by Randy Staub . After an initial denial by band management , on June 12 Lee confirmed that guitarist Troy McLawhorn had rejoined Evanescence . She also announced that the album would be released on October 4 , 2011 ; the date was later pushed back a week by Wind @-@ up Records . According to Lee , when the band returned to the studio , she wanted the album released as soon as possible because of the long time since Evanescence 's last album . The instruments other than pianos were recorded first , followed by the pianos and then by Lee 's vocals ; she said the demanding songs made her " push " herself vocally . Raskulinecz 's production , she said , made Evanescence a rock album . Lee appreciated his work , including the producer 's willingness to answer her questions and determine when the album would be finished :

Nick is an awesome producer . He really helped me get the plan and have confidence in the decisions that we made . For me , I have a lot of ideas and sometimes it just comes down to " OK , everything that I 'm doing I have two options ! " He 's awesome , because as I 'm doing these things I 'm asking him from the vocal booth or the piano room or whatever , " Which one of these should I do ? " He 's good at helping me make a quick decision . I really trust his opinion because he makes great records .

In December 2015 , Lee posted a cover of " Baby Did a Bad Bad Thing " by Chris Isaak , which she stated was originally intended to appear on the album produced by Lillywhite in 2010 . She also further explained that the original album did not share any of the same tracks that the version produced by Raskulinecz had , as the record company rejected these recordings . Lee said she used her frustration with being forced to start over to write what she called " (Evanescence 's) heaviest album . "

= = Title and concept = =

In a June 2011 Kerrang ! interview , Lee said that the album would be self @-@ titled and was " about the band ; it 's more of a band record . " Lee explained that the concept " to me is about falling back in love with this thing , with Evanescence , with what I 've obsessed over for a decade , longer than that . " There were originally many album @-@ title ideas , but Lee said that as the project became more collaborative " it just felt like this is who we are , it 's a band . And to have that feeling in the music where the band is so pumped up , it was just the only title that felt right . It 's about falling back in love with this thing in a major way . " In an MTV News interview , she said that sixteen songs had been recorded but not all would be included on the album . It was later decided to release two versions of the album : a deluxe edition with all sixteen songs and a standard edition with twelve .

Eveanescence 's cover artwork was introduced on the band 's website on August 30 , 2011 . It is

their first album cover which does not feature Lee . In an interview , she discussed the cover : " Well , both of our other records are me on the cover , and I think it 's cool to have that photo , you know , that people can look at and go , ' OK , that 's who that is . ' But I feel like , by now , they know who we are , and I wanted something really different . I didn 't feel like we had to put a photo on the cover , I wanted it to be more mysterious and more about Evanescence itself , not just me . " The cover , black with vapor behind the band 's name , is a play on the meaning of " evanescence " (" to dissipate like vapor ") .

= = Composition = =

= = = Musical style and inspiration = = =

During the Steve Lillywhite sessions , Lee described the album as a " rainbow of sounds " with heavy , stripped @-@ out songs . According to Lee , it had electro influences and a lot of drum programming . During the later sessions with Nick Raskulinecz , she discussed two of the album 's themes : brokenness (" Brokenness has become a little bit of theme , without necessarily offering a solution ") and oceans . In a later MTV interview , Lee mentioned other themes : " the quest for freedom , and then there 's songs that are just about falling in love " . She said that Evanescence used new and vintage instruments (such as a harp , synthesizers and the Moog Taurus Pedal) and recorded the ballads " Secret Door " and " My Heart Is Broken " . In a Kerrang ! interview , Lee said she was inspired by her life and personal relationships .

According to Lee , the album was fun but not in a " poppy way " and the band enjoyed its recording . She was inspired by her relationship with Evanescence 's fans : " I can really hear myself singing about my relationship with Evanescence and with the fans . There 's always one big relationship on a record that I sing about the most . I feel like my big relationship on this album [is] with Evanescence itself , and with the fans . I think lyrically you 're hearing a lot about a relationship , a struggle with a relationship or love in a relationship , and mostly I 'm singing about that . "

For the album , the band was influenced by artists such as Björk , Depeche Mode , Massive Attack , MGMT and Portishead . Lewis Corner of the Digital Spy website noted that rumbling guitars and dainty strings were present on most of the album 's songs : " Amy Lee declares over roaring guitars and classical strings , reinforcing their medieval influences as opposed to the electronic sound they 've been purporting . "

= = = Music and lyrics = = =

Lee shares writing credits with other members of the band on 11 of the standard @-@ edition album 's 12 songs . Evanescence 's first track and lead single , " What You Want " , was described as one of the band 's most unusual songs with heavy guitar melodies , loud drums and a freedom theme . Opening with drums and a synchronized synthesizer , Lee sings " Do what you , what you want / If you have a dream for better / Do what you , what you want / ' Til you don 't want it anymore " before the song 's rhythmic , guitar @-@ driven beat . Lyrically , the song explores a relationship which is not working out , despite present love . " Made of Stone " , one of the album 's oldest songs , has heavy @-@ metal influences . " The Change " (originally entitled " Purple ") , which begins gently and grows more insistent , has been compared to " Digital Bath " by the American alternative metal band Deftones . The fourth track (and second single) , " My Heart Is Broken " , is a ballad written for harp and recorded with a piano . It begins with the piano and Lee 's vocals , evolving into rhythmic guitars and strings . In the chorus Lee sings , " I will never find a way to heal my soul / And I will wander ' til the end of time / Torn away from you / My heart is broken " .

The fifth track , " The Other Side " , has churning , chunky guitars , a double @-@ bass drum and Lee 's " ethereal , widescreen " vocals with elements of R & B. Lyrically , the song 's theme is death . " Lost in Paradise " is a symphonic rock ballad which begins with piano , strings and Lee 's unlayered vocals before adding the band for the song 's climax ; its lyrics reflect Lee 's past

struggles , apologizing to her fans for the band 's five @-@ year absence . The song 's musical structure was compared to " Jóga " , by the Icelandic recording artist Björk . " Sick " has a loose , lazy melody and a chanted chorus ; one of the first songs written for the album , it " set [s] a heavy direction for the rest of the record . " " End of the Dream " begins " full bore with chunky guitar , then falls into a brooding groove with piano underpinning Lee 's unmistakable vocals . " In the chorus , Lee sings " Follow your heart ' til it bleeds , " evincing the track 's " seize the day " message . Lee said about the song , " It 's about understanding that this life isn 't forever , and how you have to live it , embrace even the pain , before it 's all over . As much as it hurts , it just means you 're alive . So don 't be so afraid to get hurt that you miss out on living . " " Oceans " begins with a big , low synth and a vocal before the band joins in . According to Lee , " It 's big and lush . We 've been having a lot of fun playing that one especially . " " Never Go Back " (originally called " Orange ") examines " loss from the perspective of someone losing someone in a tragedy " . Lee said that the song , with the lyrics " It 's all gone , the only world I 've ever known " , was inspired by the 2011 T?hoku earthquake and tsunami . " Swimming Home " is an electro @-@ pop song with grinding guitars and a " weeping " piano .

= = Release and promotion = =

Evanescence was first released in snippets , with portions of " What You Want " , " The Other Side " and " Lost in Paradise " previewed on MTV News on July 11 , 13 and 15 respectively . Several songs were made available online , including " The Other Side " , which premiered on September 21 at Hot Topic ; " My Heart Is Broken " on September 27 , and " End of the Dream " on Spin on October 4 . All songs became available on Spin on October 7 . A Renholdër remix of " Made of Stone " appears on the soundtrack and in the closing credits of the film Underworld : Awakening , and a Photek remix of " A New Way to Bleed " is on The Avengers soundtrack Avengers Assemble : Music from and Inspired by the Motion Picture .

On August 8 , Evanescence appeared on " MTV First : Evanescence " to introduce the album 's first single , " What You Want " , with a live performance and an extended interview . Lee went to Toronto 's Liberty Studios on August 22 to preview five mastered songs from the new album (" What You Want " , " The Change " , " The Other Side " , " My Heart Is Broken " and " Lost in Paradise ") to a selected audience of thirty . Evanescence appeared at the Rock in Rio festival on October 2 , 2011 , performing " What You Want " , " Made of Stone " , " The Change " , " The Other Side " , " My Heart Is Broken " , " Sick " and several songs from their previous two albums . Before Evanescence 's U.S. release , Lee appeared on billboard.com on October 11 to promote the album . The band appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! on October 15 , performing " What You Want " and " Going Under " . On December 12 , Evanescence appeared at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert , where they performed " Lost in Paradise " and 2003 's " Bring Me to Life " . On February 1 , 2012 , the band performed " My Heart Is Broken " on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , and two days later they played " Made of Stone " and " The Other Side " on Conan .

= = = Tour = = =

Evanescence began their tour to promote the album with a concert at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville , Tennessee on August 17 , 2011 . This was followed by performances at Rock on the Range in Winnipeg on August 20 , Rock in Rio on October 2 and at the José Miguel Agrelot Coliseum in Puerto Rico on October 6 . The band began the first U.S. leg of their tour on October 10 in Oakland , California , and finished it in New York City . Evanescence then played several concerts in the United Kingdom , beginning at London 's Hammersmith Apollo on November 4 and finishing the leg on November 13 at the O2 Academy Birmingham . Supported by The Pretty Reckless , Fair to Midland and Rival Sons , the tour 's set list included songs from Evanescence 's three albums . Lee said , " We 're definitely focusing mainly on the new material . We 're really excited about that music the most ? obviously it 's the newest ? but of course we 'll be playing some from both of our other albums too . I guess I 'd say in general , our show 's on the heavy @-@ energy side , so we 'll

be running around singing a lot of fast songs . "

The Evanescence Tour continued in 2012 with concerts in the United States , Asia and Europe , including Lisboa V in Portugal and Rock am Ring in Germany . Their South American tour began on October 4 in Porto Alegre , Brazil , and the band returned to the UK for four shows in November . Evanescence also played on the Carnival of Madness tour with Halestorm , Cavo , New Medicine and Chevelle . That tour began on July 31 , 2012 , at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield , Illinois and ended on September 2 at the Outer Harbor in Buffalo , New York .

= = = Singles = = =

" What You Want " , the album 's first single , was released digitally on August 9 , 2011 . The song 's lyrics are about freedom , one of Evanescence 's themes . It debuted at number one on the UK Rock Chart , making Evanescence the artist with the most number @-@ one singles on the chart in 2011 . " What You Want " peaked at numbers 68 and 72 on the Billboard Hot 100 and UK Singles Chart , respectively . Its video , filmed in a Brooklyn , New York warehouse on July 30 , 2011 with the band performing the song live , was directed by Meiert Avis and released on September 13 .

" My Heart Is Broken " was distributed to hot , modern and adult @-@ contemporary radio stations on October 31 , 2011 and to pop stations the following day as the album 's first mainstream single . Its video was released in January 2012 , and the song was distributed to alternative and modern @-@ rock stations on February 13 . The next mainstream single , " Lost in Paradise " , was released internationally on May 25 . Its video , released on February 14 , 2013 , focuses on Evanescence 's tour with footage of the band performing the song filmed by fans around the world . " The Other Side " was a promotional single which was distributed to modern @-@ rock stations on June 11 and alternative stations the following day . Although a lyric video was uploaded to the band 's YouTube channel on August 30 , 2012 , Lee said that no other video would be made for the song .

= = Critical reception = =

Evanescence has received mostly @-@ positive reviews from music critics . Metacritic assigned an average score of 63 to the album based on nine reviews , indicating a generally favorable reception . Before its release the album appeared on several lists , including Spin 's " 26 Fall Albums That Matter Most " , Entertainment Weekly 's " Fall Albums We Can 't Wait to Hear " and Rolling Stone 's " Fall Music Preview : The Season 's Hottest Albums " . Steve Beebee of Kerrang ! gave the album five stars out of five , calling it " easily their most cohesive and confident work " and their " best album to date " . According to Rick Florino of Artistdirect , Evanescence was " their best album to date and a new classic " and " [they] manage to experiment while staying unshakably infectious . That 's not an easy feat , and few acts manage to do that . "

Allmusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine praised Raskulinecz 's production , Lee 's vocals and the " fair share of crossover hooks " , adding that the band sounded " less tortured tonally even if it remains quite dramatic . " Entertainment Weekly 's Kyle Anderson said , " When [Lee] uses baroque orchestral accoutrements to wage an air assault on her demons ... she 's more than just the token girl in the pit . " Lewis Corner of Digital Spy gave the album four stars out of five , saying that the band 's trademark sound was present on the album " and truth be told , we wouldn 't want it any other way . " Mark Lepage of the Montreal Gazette praised the album , calling it " one rolling , chugging , plangent epic . " According to Chad Grischow of IGN , Evanescence is a " great album that delivers the familiar while keeping an eye on the future . " Rob Williams of the Winnipeg Free Press described the album as gothic nu @-@ metal and hard rock , with dramatic orchestration which makes everything sound " big and alive " : " With so many extra bells and whistles , despair has never sounded so epic . " Marc Hirsh of The Boston Globe wrote that the album captures " each party elevating the other far above where their proclivities would get them on their own . "

According to Nick Catucci of Rolling Stone , Evanescence is primarily a " syrupy mix of piano , guitar and strings " which is not as " saucy " as the band 's older material . Chris Willman of Reuters

wrote , " Every interchangeable tune on the new album also sounds designed to play over the end credits of an action blockbuster that takes itself too seriously " . Theon Weber of Spin gave the album a mixed review ; rather than holding back too much , Weber wrote , Lee did not do enough to restrain her performance : " Evanescence gets lost in the cavernous spaces carved out by their unsecret weapon . " Edna Gundersen of USA Today criticized Raskulinecz 's production and the album 's electronics : " Tempered , her [Lee 's] emotional wail enhances the hypnotic medieval magic of signature Evanescence tunes . Some electronics slip into the mix , but the band 's rock essence and penchant for weepy strings remain prominent , as does its flair for conveying wretched despair . " Although PopMatters ' Dane Prokofiev criticized the album 's eponymous title as a new @-@ band strategy , he praised the " noticeable increase in the prominence of choir singing , tinkling piano motifs , and the silky sound of string instruments " with the caveat that the additional deluxe @-@ edition songs were superior to those on the standard edition . Steven Hyden of The A.V. Club called the album " narcissistic " , " corny " and " irredeemably stupid " .

= = Chart performance = =

Evanescence was released on October 11 , 2011 in the United States . The album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 (the band 's second album to debut at number one on the chart) , selling more than 127 @,@ 000 copies during its first week . The first week 's sales were lower than those for Evanescence 's previous album , The Open Door , which sold more than 447 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . The album fell to fourth place the following week , selling over 40 @,@ 000 copies . Evanescence also topped the Digital Albums , Top Rock Albums , Alternative Albums and Hard Rock Albums charts in the U.S. , and was 2011 's 141st @-@ bestselling album in that country . As of August 2012 , Evanescence had sold 421 @,@ 000 copies in the U.S.

The album sold more than 2 @,@ 000 copies on its first day of sales in the United Kingdom and debuted at number four on the UK Albums Chart , selling 26 @,@ 221 copies in its first week . It was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry on August 22 , 2014 , for shipments of over 100 @,@ 000 copies . Evanescence was certified gold in Australia in 2012 , for shipments of over 35 @,@ 000 copies . By January 12 , 2012 , the album sold over 40 @,@ 000 copies in Canada and was certified gold by Music Canada .

= = Track listing = =

All songs produced by Nick Raskulinecz .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are taken from Allmusic and the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =