

IN WINTER
KATIE MELUA



FEATURING
GORI WOMEN'S CHOIR



*When I first heard the Gori Women's Choir in 2014, I was blown away by the sound of their voices.
I'd never heard such ability to hold this type of intense focus on a single note before.*

*This 24-piece all-female choir are from Georgia, the country of my birth,
and the recordings took place in late 2015 and Spring 2016 within the town of Gori.
In the absence of an appropriate recording studio, my co-producer Cecil and I built a recording lab
at the The Culture Centre in Gori out of 12 boxes of equipment we had shipped over from England.
The recordings came out beautifully, full of life and colour (don't be surprised to hear kids playing in the
background as there was a playground just outside the windows of the room we recorded in!)*

*In Bob Chilcott, our choral arranger, I couldn't have wished for a better musical and cultural translator.
He really understood the power of this vocal orchestra and helped to design their role with great consideration,
applying haunting levels of restraint and giving them equal positioning in the storytelling.*

*I still believe in the magic of physical albums and I felt a masterful
visual artist was needed to create the world of winter that is in these songs.
I found Niroot Puttapipat's illustrations on the cover of 'The Nutcracker' in my local bookshop,
and am truly grateful to him for bringing his craft to the album's front cover,
as well as to sit perfectly alongside some of the songs in this album.*

I hope you enjoy listening to In Winter as much as we enjoyed making it.

Katie Melua

The Little Swallow is a traditional Ukrainian New Year's carol, which was first introduced to the wider world in its English version 'Carol of the Bells' with lyrics that have strong links to Christmas. The original Ukrainian lyric is actually set during springtime, where a little swallow flies into the home of a farmer and sings that the family will have a bountiful year.

It felt right to sing this in its original language, firstly because Ukrainian belongs to the eastern Slavic languages and is close to Russian, which is widely spoken throughout Georgia. Secondly, because the lovely movement of the vocal harmonies can be heard with the vowel sounds the music was originally composed to.

The Little Swallow *Shchedryk*

Shchedryk shchedryk, shchedrivochka,
pryletila lastivochka,
stala sobi shchebetaty,
hospodarya vyklykaty:
"Vyydy, vyydy, hospodaryu,
podyvysya na kosharu,
tam ovechky pokotylys',
a yahnychky narodyls'.
V tebe tovar ves' khoroshyy,
budesh' maty mirku hroshey,
V tebe tovar ves' khoroshyy,
budesh' maty mirku hroshey,
khoch ne hroshey, to polova:
v tebe zhinka chornobrova."
Shchedryk shchedryk, shchedrivochka,
pryletila lastivochka.

Music & Lyrics: Traditional Ukrainian



River

It's coming on Christmas
They're cutting down trees
They're putting up reindeer
And singing songs of joy and peace
Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on

But it don't snow here
It stays pretty green
I'm gonna make a lot of money
Then I'm going to quit this crazy scene
I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I wish I had a river so long
I would teach my feet to fly
Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on
I made my baby cry

He tried hard to help me
You know, he put me at ease
And he loved me so naughty
Made me weak in the knees
Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I'm so hard to handle
I'm selfish and I'm sad
Now I've gone and lost the best baby
That I ever had
I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I wish I had a river so long
I would teach my feet to fly
Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on
I made my baby say goodbye

It's coming on Christmas
They're cutting down trees
They're putting up reindeer
And singing songs of joy and peace

*Music & Lyrics: Joni Mitchell
Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua*

Perfect World

You're precious
I can't stand seeing you cry
It hurts watching you get what you don't deserve
I tell myself you don't belong in this rough life

You should have a perfect world
You should have a perfect world

You're too gentle
And much too quick to forgive
Every slight and blow you've ever been dealt
Well who knows if the world will ever deserve you

You should have a perfect world
You should have a perfect world

Music & Lyrics: Katie Melua & Joel Harries
Acoustic Guitars: Katie Melua & Joel Harries
Percussion: Joel Harries
Piano: Neil Cowley

Cradle Song *Leganelul Lui Iisus*

Colo-n sus pe-un deal frumos,
Unde-i cerul luminos,
Intr-un leagan sta culcat;
Fiul Maicii infasat.

Leagan verde, leganel
Tot din lemn de paltinel
Leagan verde, leganel
Tot din lemn de paltinel.

Raza blanda a soarelui,
Scalda fata Domnului,
Vantul dulce il tragana,
Pruncul de ni-l leagana.

Leagan verde, leganel
Tot din lemn de paltinel
Leagan verde, leganel
Tot din lemn de paltinel.

Canta ingerii in cor,
Sa vesteasca tuturor,
Astazi cerul s-a deschis,
Pe Hristos ni l-a trimis.

Leagan verde, leganel
Tot din lemn de paltinel
Leagan verde, leganel
Tot din lemn de paltinel.

Cradle Song is a Romanian carol sung in the winter months by local singers in certain parts of Romania.

The lyrics, from what I've come to understand of them, are about the cradle that Jesus was born in.

Central Eastern Europe has a very strong carol tradition, and a lot of the carol melodies we know in the west came from that part of the world.

I love this piece for its simple and graceful melody - so much so that the music inspired the writing of Plane Song, another song on this album.

Music & Lyrics: Traditional Romanian

A Time To Buy

It's a time to buy
A time for shopping
Go into the store and make a choice
But everything she sees it's like they're talking
Talking at her with a different voice

Laura's head is buzzing
can't remember what she came here for
Couldn't keep her promise
not to gaze at things she can't afford
Cause there's shoes, bags, silk scarfs
and dreams of summer days
And now she's wording a letter to her bosses for a raise
But then she passes the baby section
with the tiniest shoes on shiny trays

It's a time to buy
A time for shopping
Go into the store and make a choice
But everything she sees it's like they're talking
Talking at her with a different voice
There's the singer's voice
And her mother's pleas
And the voice of countless charities
But the one she hears with certainty says
Have it all

Margaret's by the mannequins
gazing at their suits and shoulders
Still no man and it's another year of winter holidays
But soon she'll have him and buy him a suit like this
And they'll go skiing every year
He's around the corner,
The man who'll love her
and understand her and her career

It's a time to buy
A time for shopping
Go into the store and make a choice
But everything she sees it's like they're talking
Talking at her with a different voice
There's the singer's voice
And her mother's pleas
And the voice of countless charities
But the one she hears with certainty says
Have it all

Music & Lyrics: Katie Melua
Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua
Drums: Joel Harries
Double Bass: Tim Harries
Piano Harmonics: Katie Melua







Plane Song

The seats were all dusty
The side doors were open
Those airplanes were left there years ago
Granddad had spoken of forests in Russia
I pictured him walking in ten inches of snow

We liked pretending those planes could fly
That nothing was out of reach in the whole of the sky
It was just pretending, simple to do
We'd make some plans and travel someplace new

Paris and London
those cities in movies
Perfect lives were lived if they could be believed
Back in the real world they seemed so distant
But none of it mattered in the airplane field

We liked pretending those planes could fl
That rusty old wings knew the entire sky
It was just pretending there was nothing more
Hey, why the sad face? Can't you feel this cabin soar

It was great pretending those planes could fly
That nothing was out of reach in the whole of the sky
Come on hurry we'll soon be gone
It's time for us to put our seat belts on

Lyrics: Katie Melua & Don Black

Music: Katie Melua, Inspired by Leganelul Lui Lisus

Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua

Bowed Double Bass: Tim Harries

Piano Harmonics: Tim Harries and Katie Melua

Whistling: James Toseland

If You Are So Beautiful

Tu Ase Turpa Ikavi

This is the one Georgian language song on this record. Like many songs, the lyrics are set between the singer and the listener. In the first verse, the singer is discovering the beauty of the person they are singing to, despite the fact that they have known them for many years. In the second verse, the singer tells us that she is now involved with someone else and it's too late for anything to happen between her and the listener.

Tu Ase Turpa Ikavi
Rad ver gamchnevd iao
Imad rom sikvarulistvis guli ar gamigiao
Imad rom sikvarulistvis guli ar gamigiao

Ahla shva mebage shemhvd a
Alersit gamabniao
Tkbiladats mamigurgura kaltazed damartsiao
Tkbiladats mamigurgura kaltazed damartsiao

Lyrics: Natela Gelashvili
Music: Anzor Erkomaishvili
Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua

Dreams On Fire

Busy man where am I on your list
You're so full of big ideas
Do you think that we can co-exist
Will we be a pair in twenty years

If all your dreams were on fire
Which one would you save
When it comes down to the wire
Should I be afraid

I don't need the world to be content
All I'll ever need is you
Time alone with you is time well spent
For me that simple dream will more than do

If all your dreams were on fire
Which one would you save
When it comes down to the wire
Should I be afraid

Lyrics: Don Black
Music: Katie Melua
Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua
Bowed Double Bass: Tim Harries
Percussion: Joel Harries
Sax: David Coulter



All-Night Vigil - Nunc Dimittis

The All-Night Vigil is a choral work that is considered one of the finest musical achievements of the Russian Orthodox Church. Sergei Rachmaninoff was commissioned to write the piece by the church, although he wasn't a strict follower of the church at that time. He completed this piece between January and February of 1915, two years before the Russian Revolution which marked the end of Russia as Rachmaninoff had known it. In December 1917, Rachmaninoff was invited for a concert tour in peaceful Scandinavia, allowing him to obtain permits for his family to leave Russia.

The family left on an open sled, travelling through Finland and Sweden, and in early 1918 settled in Copenhagen, before eventually moving to America.

Nunc Dimittis is the 5th movement from the All-Night Vigil. Its lyric is set to a passage in the bible where baby Jesus is introduced to a man named Simeon as the savior of the world. Simeon says to God that he is so fulfilled knowing this, that he is ready to die.

Personally, I don't have very strong religious views, but I do marvel at the musical brilliance of this work by Rachmaninoff. I am grateful that an organisation filled with stories, real or mythical, helped to bring such a work of brilliance into the world.

*Nyne otpushchayeshi raba Tvoego, Vladyko,
po glagolu Tvoyemu s mirom
yako videsta ochi moi spaseniye Tvoeye,
ezhe esi ugotoval pred litsem vsekh lyudei,
svet vo otkrovenie yazzykov,
i slavu lyudei Tvoikh Izrailya.*

Lyrics: Russian Orthodox All-Night Vigil Ceremony

Music: Sergei Rachmanino

Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua

O Holy Night

O holy night!
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear saviour's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the world felt its worth

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
oh hear the angel voices
oh night divine
oh night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand
So led by a light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the men from the orient land

The king of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend

Fall on your knees
oh hear the angel voices
oh night divine
oh night when Christ was born
oh night divine
oh night divine

*Lyrics: taken from the original French poem by Placide Cappeau.
English lyrics written by John Sullivan Dwight.
Music: Adolphe Charles Adam
Acoustic Guitar: Katie Melua*

Produced and Mixed by Katie Melua and Adam 'Cecil' Bartlett

*Perfect World Produced & Mixed by Dom Monks at State of the Ark Studios, London
Gori Women's Choir mixed by Katie Melua & Adam 'Cecil' Bartlett*

Choral Arrangements by Bob Chilcott

Choral Arrangement for 'If You Are So Beautiful' by Teona Tsiramua

Vocal Professor: Anzori Shomakhia

Choir Coordinator: Giorgi Tsiramua

Album recorded at The Culture Centre in Gori, Georgia during October 2015 and May 2016.

Katie's vocals and guitars recorded at Kew Music Studio

Musical saw recorded at Kew Music Studio

Bass and Drums overdubs at HOXA HQ.

Engineered by Adam 'Cecil' Bartlett

Assistant Engineer at The Culture Centre, Gori: Zurab Melua

Assistant Engineer at HOXA HQ for overdubs: Dani Spragg

Mixed at HOXA HQ

Mastered by Glenn Kerrigan at The Lunar Studio

Illustrations by Niroot Puttapipat

Photography by Pip

Layout by Rob Crane Design

Executive Producer: Sumit Bothra

Katie Melua is managed by Sumit Bothra & Brian Message for ATC Management

Tracks 1, 4, 9 & 10 published by Oxford University Press / Copyright Control

Track 2 published by Joni Mitchell Publishing Corp, administered by Sony / ATV Music

Track 3 published by Sony / ATV Music / Copyright Control

Track 5: Copyright Control

Tracks 6 & 8 published by Sony / ATV Music / Copyright Control

Track 7: Traditional, arrangement by Teona Tsiramua

Gori Women's Choir

Conducted by Teona Tsiramua

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Ani Shioshvili
Eter Chikhladze
Irma Bekadze
Iza Naskidashvili
Lela Tsereteli
Lika Abalaki
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Margarita Koshadze
Mariam Merebashvili
Meri Gelashvili
Mtvvarisa Berdznishvili
Nana Kurdadze
Nazi Lomidze
Nino Tsiklauri
Rusudan Vardzelashvili
Sopo Miruashvili
Sophio Cherkezishvili
Sopio Gogshelidze
Tamar Iluridze
Tamar Khanishvili
Tamar Khutsishvili
Tamar Okropiridze
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Teona Pavliashvili
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Thanks to everyone that helped in Gori, from Aleko Kakalashvili, the building supervisor at the Cultural Centre, to Zaza Gviniashvili & Sopo Miruashvili helping with the food and wine.
All my extended family, helping with cars, trains and coffee machines

Colin Walker for lending us your Pro Tools and laptop in October.

Thank you to Tim Harries for your guidance in my guitar playing and your help in crafting the guitar arrangements for these songs.

To all those who have worked so tirelessly on the making and release of this album and its live incarnation:

Bob Chilcott, Nirroot Puttapipat, Don Black, Adam 'Cecil' Bartlett, Dom Monks,
Neil Cowley, Joel Harries, Gori Women's Choir, Teona Tsiramua, Giorgi Tsiramua,
Mark Ashelford, Lauren Sass, Alistair Norbury, Frank Stroebele, Neil Warnock, Sue Harris
and all at ATC Management and BMG.

And finally to Sumit Bothra, for teaching me to be uncompromising where it matters
and to believe in a music industry filled with the greatest works, and the greatest people.

For James, Zurab, Alex & Tamara