

Amy Grant Biography

"It takes a little time sometimes/To get your feet back on the ground" - Amy Grant, "Takes A Little Time"

Amy Grant had reached a crossroads. It was 1995, and although her career had spanned more than 18 years and included five Grammys and over 18 million copies in album sales, she felt she had just scratched the surface - not of success, but of her own expression.

For her new album, **BEHIND THE EYES**, Amy Grant issued herself a personal challenge. She would take a bold step forward and, through her music, reveal more of herself than she had ever been comfortable doing before. From feelings of fear and vulnerability to hope and acceptance, the album is the product of the personal examination that ensued.

"A few close friends, whose opinions I trust, asked me why my songs failed to represent the person that they know me to be," she says. "It was time to go below the surface, to make a record that might inadvertently shake up people's perceptions of me. What I found was that it shook *me* up most of all."

For the next two years, she mined the depth of her feelings, sometimes painfully, and emerged with a better understanding of herself. "It takes a while to grow up, to figure out what you have to bring to the table," says Grant. "I felt this need to confront the structure of my life, who I am, what I believe and how that compels me to live - a complete self-examination from head to toe." With that examination came a new awareness of the human condition; an awareness that is reflected in the songs on **BEHIND THE EYES**. From the social observations of "*Nobody Home*," a bittersweet tale of an economically devastated ghost town, to the pleading anthem "*Turn This World Around*," inspired by an encounter with a homeless man in a Santa Monica park, Grant's inner voice shines through. "The sense of connection in the human experience is the crux," says Amy about the new album. "The hunger and longing every one of us knows inside/Can be the bridge between us if we tried" may well sum up the album's humanitarian themes.

The album also marks Amy's return to her musical roots. **BEHIND THE EYES** (whose tracks were produced by either Wayne Kirkpatrick or Keith Thomas) relies on uncluttered, basic arrangements and acoustic instruments to underscore the raw reality of the emotions. From the lilting, uplifting "*I Will Be Your Friend*" to the simple yet sophisticated ballads of loss and longing, "*Cry A River*" and "*Missing You*," Amy Grant lays her thoughts bare.

Grant admits she composed many of the songs with the thought of playing them alone on an acoustic guitar, which she picked up again in the process of making the album. "I rediscovered my love for playing guitar...playing all the time--for my kids, in the living room... just like when I first began to perform. This is the first album on which I actually played guitar." Before anything else was added to the arrangements, the individual tracks had to be strong enough on their own -- lyrically and melodically.

Whether it's the twangy, skiffle beat of the tongue-in-cheek "Curious Thing," the bluesy, rocking "*Takes A Little Time*," the daytripper dream "*Leave It All Behind*" or the yearning strings and

flute that turns "*Feeling I Had*" into a meditation on lost innocence, the constant is that voice -- at once instantly recognizable, alluring, and seductive, revealing truths both large and small. "These songs are not about life being perfect," says Amy. "They are not about convincing anybody of anything, but I'm willing to stand behind every one of these songs and say, 'Either you like them or not but they are all meaningful for me.'"

Much as in the bittersweet revelation "*Like I Love You*," Amy suddenly realized she was singing to herself on many of the songs on the new album. "It's strange, if you ask me what that song is about, I would say, 'This is how I believe we all want to be loved.' But if you're going to love anybody else, you have to be able to love yourself - and that's not the blatant selfishness of 'I want things to go my way.' It has to do with issues of respect and not abandoning yourself." Amy's glimpse **BEHIND THE EYES** shows a vulnerable, feeling individual who isn't accepting easy answers, but continues to count on her faith to see her through. As she sings in "*Somewhere Down the Road*" reiterating her belief: "Somewhere down the road/There'll be answers to the questions... Though we cannot see it now... You will find mighty arms reaching for you/And they will hold the answers at the end of the road."

"I wrote that after spending the night at my cabin two years ago under a full moon," she says. "I really do believe that it's not a mystery forever. I truly believe that there's life after this. Every pattern in nature says that. I have faith that there is a bigger picture here that involves a Creator who I trust. I don't get it now, but that's because from this vantage point, I can't see the big picture, but I trust someday I will."

On **BEHIND THE EYES**, Amy provides the musical and lyrical companion to her continuing journey down life's ever-changing path.

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