

INDIGO GIRLS

Never ones to rest on their laurels, Indigo Girls embarked on a bold new chapter in 2012, collaborating with a pair of orchestrators to prepare larger-than-life arrangements of their songs to perform with symphonies around the country. It was a challenging endeavor, to say the least, but the GRAMMY-winning duo managed to find that elusive sonic sweet spot with the project, creating a seamless blend of folk, rock, pop, and classical that elevated their songs to new emotional heights without sacrificing any of the emotional intimacy and honesty that have defined their music for decades. Now, after more than 50 performances with symphonies across America, the experience has finally been captured in all its grandeur on the band's stunning new album, 'Indigo Girls Live With The University of Colorado Symphony Orchestra.'

Recorded in front of a sold-out audience in Boulder, CO, and deftly mixed by GRAMMY-winner Trina Shoemaker (Sheryl Crow, Emmylou Harris), the record showcases Indigo Girls at their finest: raw, real, and revelatory. Spanning material from throughout the band's career, the 22-song set features a mix of reimagined classics, unexpected deep cuts, and tracks from their latest studio album, 'One Lost Day.' Backed by the symphony, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers' voices are both powerful and delicate, their intertwined harmonies riding high on the crest of an emotional tidal wave created by Sean O'Loughlin and Stephen Barber's dazzling arrangements. The orchestrations are as richly cinematic as a film score (think John Williams rather than J.S. Bach), and the 64-piece symphony wrings every ounce of passion from them, helping to bring the band's evocative storytelling to more vivid life than ever before.

There's an unmistakable sense of community and inclusion on the album, in part because that's a hallmark of every Indigo Girls show, but also in part because Ray and Saliers considered themselves pieces of the orchestra for the performance, no more and no less important than any other artist on the stage. That pursuit of unity, both in music and in life, has been an Indigo Girls calling card ever since they burst into the spotlight with their 1989 self-titled breakout album. Since then, the band has racked up a slew of Gold and Platinum records, taken home a coveted GRAMMY Award, and earned the respect of high profile peers-turned-collaborators from Michael Stipe to Joan Baez. *NPR's Mountain Stage* called the group "one of the finest folk duos of all time," while *Rolling Stone* said they "personify what happens when two distinct sensibilities, voices, and worldviews come together to create something transcendently its own," and *The New York Times* raved that "gleeful profanities, righteous protest anthems and impeccable folk songwriting have carried this duo for thirty years."