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“Carrie Newcomer combines a rich voice with equally rich lyrics to weave a tapestry of life and hope.”— Associated Press

**New Album from Acclaimed Singer/Songwriter Carrie Newcomer,
The Point of Arrival Illuminates the Experience of Being Human**

Singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer, an American treasure dubbed a “prairie mystic” by the *Boston Globe*, returns with a new collection of songs that explore beginnings and endings, grief and healing, and always, hope. *The Point of Arrival* (March 22, 2019), is about “living in the kind of times that ask us to be better people than we ever thought we would need to be,” Newcomer says. It’s a human and vulnerable set of songs, infused with Newcomer’s deeply spiritual view of the world and informed by her contemplative Quaker faith.

For Newcomer, writing songs is not about telling her individual story; rather, it’s about the experience of being human. Her songs are “always pointing toward what we both recognize, to write about the place where my story meets yours.” Newcomer explains the thread running through this album as follows: “Even in the darkest places, we are met by unexpected light, grace and help, honorable companions, and occasionally a miracle.”



Much of this album is inspired by Newcomer’s ongoing conversations and collaboration with Parker J. Palmer, a bestselling author and spiritual teacher. The two have developed *The Growing Edge*, an interactive website, a retreat, and a podcast that launched in 2018. “We’re always on the growing edge of something in our lives—personally, professionally or politically,” Newcomer says.

The title song, *The Point of Arrival*, is about the point of surrender, those moments when the heart and spirit are laid bare. The song evolved from a line in one of Newcomer’s poems that appeared on OnBeing.com: “This is when I see my hands, which at first felt so empty, are filled with Hallelujah.” Other songs, such as *Impossible, Until It’s Not* conjure miracles, possibility and an active kind of hope. “People will tell us that things are impossible, but I maintain that impossible is an overrated concept” Newcomer says. “In the natural world, in our own lives, in the inspiring stories of others, things are only impossible until they are not.”

Learning to Sit Without Knowing is about learning to be kind to oneself when you are in the process of growth and opens the album with a strong introduction to the lush Americana roots sound that runs throughout this collection. *Writing a Better Story* quickly follows up with rhythms reminiscent of later Paul Simon, affirming the moment we claim a new story and let go of the ones that have outgrown any truth or usefulness.

Newcomer responds to the turbulent political climate in songs about how we ground ourselves when the world seems to have gone crazy. *The Plumb Line*, written right after the 2016 election, looks at

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what we hold onto in troubled times. *The Only Way Through Is In* is a raw song about how the courage and willingness to go deeper required in difficult situations. “I thought of the last verse of this song when I was watching Christina Blasey Ford testify before the senate,” Newcomer says. “Sometimes we are called to do what is terrifying and difficult. And yet we do it, we survive it, and find our way back to the light.”

Everything We Need is based on a line from Wendell Berry’s poem *Wild Geese*: “To be in heart open and eye clear, what we need is here.” The song counters rampant consumer culture and the lie that buying things will make us feel better, smarter, hipper, prettier, or more acceptable. “What we really need is within us and between us,” Newcomer says.

Other songs include the expansive *The Shelter of the Sky*, the poignantly spare *It’s Always Love* and the beautiful *That’s The Way These Things Go*. The gorgeous closer, *The Brink of Everything*, is a companion piece to Parker J. Palmer’s bestselling book *On The Brink Of Everything*. “At 80, Parker is looking at a horizon line that keeps getting closer. It is powerful and poignant and heartbreakingly beautiful to stand in ‘the beautiful not yet,’ the loveliness of now, here on the brink of everything.”

Newcomer kicks off a national tour in February for *The Point of Arrival*, which will include a special double bill series of dates with fellow contemporary folk/spiritually progressive musicians, Over the Rhine.

About Carrie Newcomer

Carrie Newcomer is an Emmy-award-winning songwriter, recording artist, performer, and educator, and author. Her songwriting has been praised by Billboard, USA Today, and Rolling Stone, which wrote that she “asks all the right questions.” Newcomer’s song “I Should’ve Known Better” appeared on Nickel Creek’s Grammy award-winning gold album “This Side.” Her 19th album, *The Point of Arrival*, releases March 22, 2019.

Newcomer speaks and teaches about creativity, vocation, activism, and spirituality at colleges, conventions and retreats. She has shared the stage with performers like Alison Krauss and writers such as Parker J. Palmer, Jill Bolte Taylor, Philip Gulley, Scott Russell Sanders, and Barbara Kingsolver. Newcomer has written two collections of essays and poetry as companion pieces to recent albums: *A Permeable Life: Poems and Essays*, and *The Beautiful Not Yet: Poems and Essays*. In 2018, Newcomer and Parker Palmer launched *The Growing Edge*, an interactive website, podcast, and annual retreat. <https://www.newcomerpalmer.com/>. Newcomer has co-written a song with noted children’s book author Rabbi Sandy Sasso to accompany Sasso’s forthcoming book “The Story of And” (Flyaway Books, March 2019) as a free download.

Newcomer’s 2017 PBS special, *An Evening with Carrie Newcomer*, for which she won an Emmy, aired in 200 markets across the U.S. In 2016, Goshen College awarded Newcomer with an honorary degree of Bachelor’s of Music in Social Change during a ceremony in which she delivered the college’s commencement speech. Newcomer has been featured on public radio programs *On Being with Krista Tippett* and *Interfaith Voices*, PBS-TV’s *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, and by many other media outlets.

Carrie Newcomer lives in the woods outside of Bloomington, Indiana with her husband and two shaggy rescue dogs. Visit her website www.carrienewcomer.com for more information about her work and tour dates.

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The Point of Arrival
Available Light Records
March 22, 2019

Available from MRI/The Orchard,
Amazon, iTunes, and www.carrienewcomer.com