

HISTORIC NEW ALBUM PAIRS CARPENTERS' ORIGINAL POP MASTERPIECES WITH RICHARD CARPENTER CONDUCTING HIS OWN NEW ARRANGEMENTS RECORDED BY THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AT ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS

LOS ANGELES / LONDON, Nov. 1, 2018 12noon PST -- The Carpenters are getting the royal treatment.

[Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#) is set for release worldwide December 7 by A&M/UMe.

Featuring timeless hits and favorites, the album pairs Carpenters' original vocal and instrumental tracks with new orchestral arrangements from Carpenter, conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) at Abbey Road Studios. It is available now for [preorder](#) in digital, CD and 180-gram 2LP vinyl LP formats. The vinyl set will be released February 8.

With their 1970 chart breakthroughs of "(They Long To Be) Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun," Richard and Karen Carpenter set a new standard for melodic pop that has never been surpassed. With over 100 million in sales, Carpenters are among the all-time most successful artists in recording history. The long hit list also includes "Rainy Days And Mondays," "Top of the World," "Yesterday Once More" and "Superstar."

On the heels of RPO successes with Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, Roy Orbison and The Beach Boys, [Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#) marks the first time the series has the actual artist playing key roles in the recording process. Richard Carpenter served as the album's producer, arranger and conductor.

"I think that's what makes it very special: the fact that it's his music and he knows it and that he was there from the start," says Royal Philharmonic orchestral manager Ian Maclay. "It's not somebody else interpreting, which is what normally happens."

The fusion of Richard's production genius, the duo's harmonies and Karen's immortal vocals make Carpenters both endearing and enduring.

In 2016, Carpenters returned to the UK album charts, climbing to No. 2 with the compilation [The Nation's Favourite Carpenters Songs](#). 2017 saw the release of the best-selling 12LP [Carpenters Vinyl Collection](#). And, stateside alone, nearly six million watched last month's season opener of "American Horror Story: Apocalypse," which prominently featured The Carpenters' 1977 global hit, "Calling Occupants of Interplanetary Craft (The Recognized Anthem Of World Contact Day)."

Starting today, the first two tracks from [Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#), "Yesterday Once More" and "Merry Christmas, Darling," are available for streaming and immediate download with digital-album preorder. On November 16, "Ticket To Ride" will become available. Preorder [Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#) [here](#).

Watch / embed a brief trailer video for [Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#): [here](#).

August 13-16, 2018, Richard Carpenter and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra convened in Studio 2 at Universal Music Group's Abbey Road Studios in London, the storied room where The Beatles, Pink Floyd and other legendary artists have recorded some of the world's most cherished music.

Richard and the RPO recorded the new arrangements to complement the original recordings of Carpenters' core band, including vocals and drums by Karen, keyboards and vocals by Richard, woodwinds by Bob Messenger and guitar by Tony Peluso.

The Carpenters' original recordings also feature a who's who of guest musicians, including Joe Osborn on bass, Hal Blaine on drums, Chuck Findlay on trumpet, Earle Dumler on oboe, Tommy Morgan on harmonica, Buddy Emmons on pedal steel and Tom Scott and Doug Strawn on sax.

Hear them again, for the first time, on [Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#), which many Carpenters fans consider the duo's 15th studio album, and a must-have addition to their collections. It's the first time since 2001's [As Time Goes By](#) that a full album of newly released material has been made available.

The project gave Carpenter the opportunity to set his classics on a larger stage. While he calls the original "(They Long To Be) Close to You" a "perfect record, everything about it," he had to resist the temptation an arranger faces when given the arsenal of a 70-plus piece orchestra.

"'Close to You' called for a sparse string arrangement," Carpenter explains, adding that he would have liked to have had more players, for a richer sound, had he been given the resources. "In the second and third verses, it sounded a bit thin, because there are only 10 violins playing it. Now, we've quadrupled that. So, anyone with the ear for it will hear it immediately. It's the same line, but it's richer, because there are so many more players."

Other early Carpenters classics, such as "We've Only Just Begun" and "Merry Christmas, Darling," were treated similarly: orchestrations expanded, but with restraint.

"There have been more than a few times when I have thought, 'I wish I could have a second crack at that,'" Carpenter says. "And there were places where things could be augmented without overdoing it. That's the trick."

The essential Carpenters singles can be heard on [Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#), which also delivers beloved album cuts including "I Just Fall in Love Again" and "This Masquerade" -- chart hits for, respectively, Anne Murray and George Benson, but songs recorded years earlier by The Carpenters. "These refreshed tracks more than ever showcase Karen's remarkable voice," Richard says. "And that to me was reason number one for undertaking the project.

The Carpenter Sound, like you've never heard before, on [Carpenters with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra](#).

Carpenters, by the numbers:

--Since signing with A&M Records in 1969, Carpenters have sold well over 100 million units worldwide.

--Carpenters rank as the top-selling American recording act of the '70s.

--The Singles: 1969-1973 topped the Billboard Pop Albums chart. It has been certified seven-times platinum in the US alone. In the UK, the album reached No. 1 for 17 (non-consecutive) weeks.

--Carpenters earned 12 Grammy nominations and three wins. Two Carpenters recordings have been inducted in the Grammy Hall of Fame: "(They Long To Be) Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun."

--Carpenters rank No. 3 on the list of best-selling international music acts in Japan, behind only Mariah Carey and The Beatles. The Carpenter's 1995 greatest hits album, Twenty-Two Hits Of The Carpenters, has sold more than 3 million units in Japan, making it the highest-ever selling international music album in Japan.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

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In 1946, Sir Thomas Beecham set out to create a world-class ensemble from the finest musicians in the UK. Beecham envisioned an orchestra that would bring the greatest music to audiences across the world and, to this day, Beecham's legacy lives on: the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Over the years, the RPO has become a byword for exceptional quality and versatility, undertaking a diverse range of activities from traditional programs in concert halls to classical spectaculars and crossover concerts in arenas. The Orchestra is London-based and performs regularly at the Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall and Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, as well as undertaking a busy schedule of UK concerts, international tours, recordings for CDs, films and television, as well as community and education work. For more information, visit www.rpo.co.uk.

Carpenters With The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Track List: [CD, 180g LP]

OVERTURE
YESTERDAY ONCE MORE
HURTING EACH OTHER
I NEED TO BE IN LOVE
FOR ALL WE KNOW
TOUCH ME WHEN WE'RE DANCING
I BELIEVE YOU
I JUST FALL IN LOVE AGAIN
MERRY CHRISTMAS, DARLING

BABY IT'S YOU
THEY LONG TO BE) CLOSE TO YOU
SUPERSTAR
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THIS MASQUERADE
TICKET TO RIDE
GOODBYE TO LOVE
TOP OF THE WORLD
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