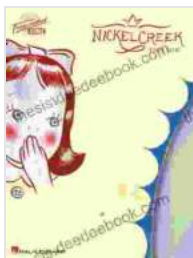


Nickel Creek's This Side: A Musical Journey through the Songbook

: A Timeless Collection of Folk and Bluegrass Gems

Nickel Creek's *This Side*, released in 2002, stands as a testament to the band's extraordinary musical talent and deep-rooted passion for traditional American folk and bluegrass music. Featuring a captivating blend of original compositions and heartfelt covers, this album has garnered critical acclaim and a dedicated following worldwide. This songbook delves into the musical tapestry of *This Side*, unraveling the stories behind each song, exploring the band's inspirations, and inviting readers to embark on an immersive journey through the album's beloved melodies and poignant lyrics.



Nickel Creek - This Side Songbook by Linda Bolton

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 47367 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 152 pages
Screen Reader : Supported

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The Songwriters: A Trio of Musical Virtuosos

At the heart of Nickel Creek lies the exceptional songwriting talent of the Watkins siblings, Sara and Sean, alongside their gifted mandolinist, Chris Thile. Each member brings their unique musical background and influences to the songwriting process, resulting in a harmonious blend of traditional sensibilities and contemporary artistry. Sara's ethereal vocals and poignant lyrics resonate with heartfelt emotions, while Sean's guitar work adds a

rhythmic foundation and a touch of bluegrass flair. Chris Thile's virtuoso mandolin playing soars through the songs, providing intricate melodies and enchanting solos that showcase his technical prowess and musical imagination.

Track-by-Track Analysis: Unraveling the Stories and Inspirations

1. This Side This haunting opener sets the tone for the album, with its introspective lyrics exploring themes of longing and introspection. Chris Thile's mournful mandolin melody weaves through Sara's plaintive vocals, creating a poignant atmosphere that draws listeners into the album's emotional landscape.

2. Smoothie Song A playful and upbeat track, "Smoothie Song" showcases the band's eclectic side. The lyrics paint a humorous picture of a love-struck individual yearning for a refreshing smoothie, providing a lighthearted contrast to the more somber themes found elsewhere on the album.

3. The Lighthouse's Tale Inspired by a true story of a lighthouse keeper, this song captures the solitude and longing experienced by those who guard the seas. Sara's vocals soar over a haunting melody, conveying the emotional depth of the character's isolation and resilience.

4. When You Come Back Down A poignant ballad, "When You Come Back Down" explores the complexities of relationships and the challenges faced when love takes a downward turn. Sean Watkins' guitar playing provides a steady rhythm, while Sara's vocals convey the raw emotions of heartbreak and longing.

5. Reasons Why This intricate instrumental showcases the band's virtuosic skills. Chris Thile's mandolin takes center stage, weaving through a complex arrangement that incorporates elements of bluegrass, jazz, and classical music, demonstrating the band's versatility and musical prowess.

6. The Fox Inspired by a traditional folk tale, "The Fox" tells the story of a cunning fox who outsmarts his captors. The song's lively tempo and playful lyrics evoke the spirit of the classic fable, with Sara's vocals bringing a sense of mischief and humor to the performance.

7. Helena A beautiful and haunting ballad, "Helena" explores the themes of loss and longing. The lyrics paint a vivid picture of a young woman who has lost her love, while the mournful melody and Sara's ethereal vocals create an atmosphere of deep emotional resonance.

8. Green Pastures This upbeat track celebrates the simple joys of life and the beauty of nature. Sara's vocals are filled with optimism and warmth, while the band's instrumentation provides a lively and infectious groove, capturing the spirit of carefree abandon.

9. Out of the Woods With its driving rhythm and hopeful lyrics, "Out of the Woods" conveys a sense of triumph over adversity. The song's message of resilience and the power of perseverance resonate deeply, encouraging listeners to face challenges with courage and determination.

10. The Parting Glass This traditional Irish folk song serves as a poignant and fitting closer to the album. The lyrics explore themes of farewell and loss, while the band's arrangement adds a touch of modern flair to the classic tune. Sara's vocals convey a sense of longing and nostalgia, bringing the album to a hauntingly beautiful end.

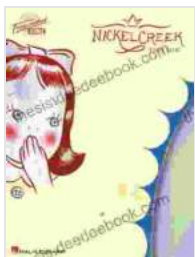
Critical Acclaim and Legacy: A Timeless Masterpiece

Upon its release, *This Side* received widespread critical acclaim, with many praising the band's musical maturity and the album's exceptional songwriting. The album earned Nickel Creek a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Folk Album, solidifying their status as one of the leading forces in the contemporary folk and bluegrass scene.

Over the years, *This Side* has continued to resonate with audiences around the world. Its timeless melodies, heartfelt lyrics, and virtuosic performances have made it a beloved album enjoyed by both long-time fans and newcomers alike. The songbook provides an insightful companion to this musical masterpiece, offering a deeper understanding of the creative process, the stories behind the songs, and the enduring legacy of Nickel Creek.

: A Musical Journey for the Soul

Nickel Creek's *This Side* Songbook is an invitation to embark on a profound musical journey. Through its in-depth analysis of the album's songs, this book provides a unique glimpse into the minds and hearts of the band members, revealing the inspirations and emotions that shaped this timeless work of art. For fans of folk, bluegrass, and exceptional songwriting, this songbook is an essential companion, offering a deeper appreciation for the intricate tapestry of *This Side* and the enduring talent of Nickel Creek.

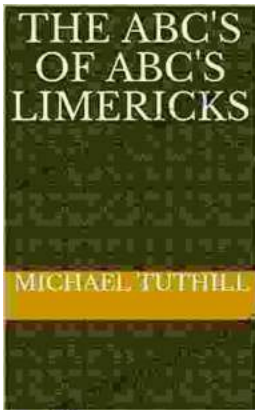


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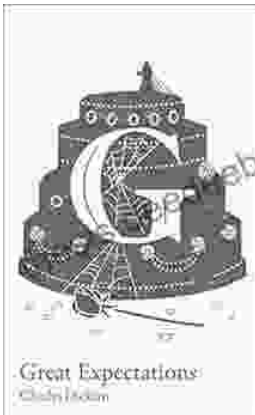
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