

ANYA TURNER & ROBERT GRUSECKI



Raggedy Time

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Words & Music by Anya Turner & Robert Grusecki (ASCAP)
Lyric booklet inside

Anya Turner, Vocals | Robert Grusecki, Piano/Vocals/Melodica
John Putnam, Guitar | Tod Hedrick, Bass | John Redsecker, Drums/Percussion

Total Running Time: 47:31

Recorded by Marc Urselli (Rocky Russo, Assistant) at EastSide Sound, NYC;

Mixed and Mastered by Steve Vavagiakis, Bang Zoom Productions;

Album cover design by Alexandra Rogerson; Back cover photo: Bistro Awards

anyarobertmusic.com

rag·ged·y /ˈrɑː.ə.dē/ adjective INFORMAL • NORTH AMERICAN – scruffy; tattered; showing signs of wear and tear – *Music gives us comfort in raggedy times. ~ Anya & Robert*

This album is a collage of songs. It includes songs we wrote right before the pandemic started, the many #SongsOfComfort that we wrote and posted on our YouTube channel during the pandemic, and songs we've written recently, in this raggedy time, as we continue to find our way out of the pandemic.

We knew these would be challenging times to rehearse and record fifteen new songs. So, we called on some longtime musical friends to play with us on this project. We began with a patchwork of one-on-one rehearsals and then, when it was safe enough, got together in the rehearsal studio with everyone wearing masks. We found a recording studio in Manhattan that could provide a safe environment and that meant isolation booths for all. Once all the songs were recorded we adapted to the reality of mixing the project remotely with music files being sent back and forth and plenty of Zoom calls to keep the communication flowing.

It took a lot of kind people to make this all happen and we would like to thank our special Angels: Greg Anderson & William Tuthill, Jim & Brenda Grusecki, Jill Hinds & Charles Allen, Susan & Jack Park, Deborah Eckols, Ellis Santone, Joe Klinsky, Marc & Betsy Crawford-Leavitt, Judy Phillips, Anita Michaels, Helen Gallagher, Alyce Finell, Judy Feldman, Britt & David Cryer, Jerry Levine, Mary Ellen & Jeff Duchin, Miriam Fond, Don & Joan Bernardi, Mary & Joe Harnett, Bill & VonAnn Stutler, Mark Williams (sponsor *Elizabeth 1918*), Eileen Lacy, Victoria Larson, and Julie Turner.

This recording project and our book, *Words Matter – the lyrics of Anya Turner & Robert Grusecki*, were truly born of a pandemic that forced us to find new ways to be true to ourselves and to express our artistic vision.

Anya & Robert
New York City, Spring 2022



From left to right: John Redsecker, John Putnam, Anya, Tod Hedrick, Robert

This project was recorded at EastSide Sound, NYC on November 2, 3, 9, 10, 2021

1. IN THIS RAGGEDY TIME

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Sometimes in life
You get to do what you want
All that you want
Just as you please
It's always summertime
And peaches are sweet
Not a cloud on the horizon

Then there are other times
When livin' is rough
Choices are tough
And options are few
What is a person to do
In this raggedy time

*Not a nickel to my name
Not a player in the game
Ev'ry day looks just the same
I'm feelin' blue
I don't have the heart to face
That awful climb
Spare me a dime
In this raggedy time*

*Give me sunshine bring
Back my old mojo
No more sad "no-go"
It's not for me
Write a new hist'ry
And make it rhyme
Do what it takes
In this raggedy time*

And so the lesson is
To learn how to cope
Don't be a dope
Figure it out
Because it's all about
The ebb and the flow
Nothing ever lasts forever

Sometimes you muddle through
And sometimes you dance
Give it a chance
Try something new

And give your all once again
Stop thinking small once again
Start standing tall once again
In this raggedy, raggedy time
Be brave and open the door
No hangin' back anymore
Get up and give 'em "what for"
In this rag tag
Raggedy, taggedy time

2. NEVER LET IT GO

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It was fast approaching noon
I was searching for a tune
When this one
Formed inside my brain cells

It was just a little blip
Then it took me on a trip
This is it
This is what I've been pursuing

Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go
It's calling
Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go

Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go
I'm falling
Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go

I got caught out in the rain
With a plan that was insane
I tried but
No one came to meet me

I did everything I could
Did my best and thought it
would
Be enough, see me through

But now I'm hurting

Never gonna win
Never gonna win
Never gonna win
Forget it
Never gonna win
Never gonna win
Never gonna win
What a mess I'm in
What a mess I'm in
What a mess I'm in
Don't sweat it
Where do I begin
Where do I begin
Where do I begin

Ah, Ah, Ah
Formed inside my brain cells
Ah, Ah, Ah
Remember

After all is said and done
If it isn't any fun
It's time to
Try a new idea

Let the music be your guide
And you're sure to turn the tide
This is it
It's the sound of your salvation

Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go
Keep dealing
Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go

Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go
Keep feeling
Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go

Ah, Ah, Ah
Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go
Never let it go

3. WHAT I MISS

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When I think of yesterday
The way things used to be
Call me sentimental
This is what I miss

I miss crowded
Cabarets with
Music everywhere
When I sing there's no one
there

*No more trav'ling on the
subway every day
No shopping on the street along
the way*

No more
Smiling faces
Hugs and kisses
Shaking someone's hand
This is part of what I miss

(Instrumental)
A perfectly tuned piano
This is what I miss

I miss meeting friends
And wearing lipstick
Tickets to a show
Where's the world I used to
know

*Lives are disappearing as we
speak
Hearts are broken several times
a week
Can't sleep*

And it makes me wonder
What's the use
Of following my bliss

If I put aside the rage
And decide to turn the page
Maybe then I won't remember
What I miss
Maybe then I'll stop
rememb'ring
What I miss

4. SO MUCH MORE

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Got a steady hand
And a facile mind
I do my best
Not to be unkind
My teeth and hair
Are in good repair
And there's oh so much more to
do

Before it's time to stop
I wanna go go go
I may be high
Or I may be low
But either way
It's a brand new day
And there's oh so much more to
do

*Let's keep the party going
And let's keep the music bright
Let's keep the champagne
flowing tonight*

And my heart, knock wood
It goes tick-tock
Business is good
I'm nearly out of hock
My resolve is strong
My game is long
And I'm seeing skies of blue
Bring it on
There's oh so much more to do

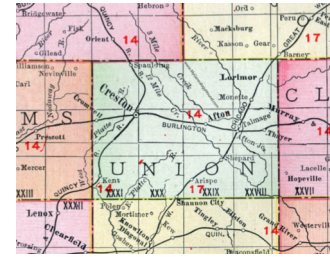
*Now is the time for dancing
With millions of stars above
Let's keep our hearts advancing
Toward love*

I can't deny we've been
Around the block
Lived through both past
And future shock
But the present is swell
So what the hell
Our wishes may still come true

Let's not wait a minute more
Love is what we're fated for
Take my hand
There's oh so much more to do

5. THE ALIBI

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Betty and Ray got married way
too young
Mom was barely seventeen
Classic small-town beauty
queen
And Raymond was a star at
basketball

Early that spring
When mom began to show
Raymond did the decent thing
Took a job and bought a ring
Four months later, that's when I
arrived

They never had the time to just
relax
Both working in that bar down
by the tracks

*The Alibi
The Alibi
Daddy poured the drinks
And mom took cash
Neon lights, tavern nights
Gettin' by but going nowhere
fast
The Alibi*

When I was ten my daddy ran
away
Disappeared without a trace
Left us on our own to face
Life, and how it feels to be
alone

Mama reached out for comfort
Where she could
Ev'ry night back in the bar
A trav'lin' man who played
guitar

Sang the songs
That brought her back to life

Mama chose to let him call the
tune
Told me she'd come back to get
me soon

The Alibi
The Alibi
*That's how I wound up in foster
care*
Schoolyard fights, lonely nights
*Lovin' can be hard when no
one's there*
The Alibi

Got a high school education
Kicked around and joined the
Navy
Saw the world and saw my
future too
Went to college, found a
passion
Made some friends who shared
my vision
Dreamed a dream
And made it all come true
Working out of my garage in
Californ-I-A
Made the fortune that could
finance
Who I am today

Livin' here by the bay in
Monterey
Life is good and cares are few
Looking at my ocean view
With a loving partner and a
child who's

Talking most ev'ry night with
Grandpa Ray
Wants to know when she can go
Visit him, but I don't know
I'm not ready yet; I can't forget

Is it kind or is it fair of me
Not to let her be with family

The Alibi
The Alibi
She's way too young

To understand a grudge
Give me time
Know that I'm
Tryin' hard to love and not to
judge
The Alibi

Betty and Ray got married way
too young
Way too young

6. I AM SUCH A DREAMER

(Duet)
© 2019 Turner & Grusecki

Robert:
I've been thinking about
People with money
So cushioned, so safe and secure
They go off on a cruise
While their int'rest accrues
And their capital gains mature

I've been thinking about
People who buy things
Like villas and sports cars and
such
The wardrobes, the facials
The porcelain veneers
Am I one of them?
Not so much

Oh, I am such a dreamer
I'm always short
I'm scrambling for the rent

Oh, I am such a dreamer
I must report
I'm not the "one percent"

I have no time for stocks
And bonds and checks
I only live for music, music,
music, sex

Oh, I am such a dreamer
It's a dreamer's life for me

Anya:
I've been thinking about
People who follow
The leader who makes all the
rules

If they sweetly endure
They can always be sure
Never to look like fools

I've been thinking about
People who plan things
So careful, so righteous, so drab
Though their life may lack luster
They will earn their reward
And never wind up in rehab

Oh, I am such a dreamer
I want it all
Are you the same as I am?

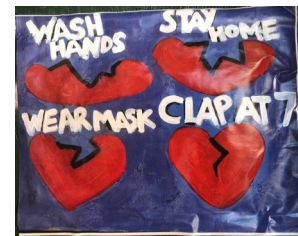
I am such a dreamer
I trip, I fall
And here's the reason why

'Cause ev'ry cent I pour into my
art
I'm so obsessed
I never second-guess my heart

Both:
Oh, I am such dreamer
Though a dreamer I may be
It's the only life for me

7. STAY HOME

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Stay home
And rest your hands and face
Stay home
'Cause it's the perfect place
To do what you're supposed to
do
And get ahead of "You Know
Who"
The Virus

Stay put
And try to cool your jets
Stay close

And you'll have no regrets
Be calm because you know it's true
We have to stamp out "You Know Who"

*It's time to flatten the curve
It's time to raise the line
If you can summon the nerve
In no time we'll be feelin' fine*

Hold tight
Don't ask me for how long
Do right
No matter what, stay strong
Stay home, stay put, hold tight, do right
And we'll get rid of "You Know Who"

*And while you shelter in place
Be tough, be safe, be smart
We have to finish the race
So take the pledge and do your part*

Stay home!
And be responsible
Stay home!
It's not impossible
To isolate yourself for now
C'mon, commit and take a vow
Stay put, be kind, be wise, save lives
And put an end to "You Know Who"
Stay home!

8. SECOND WAVE

© 2020 Turner & Grusecki

There will be no second wave, here
No not here
No second wave here
We've been strong and patient and smart
Very smart
And I know in my heart

Loving you
Being part of the give and take
Will be worth

Ev'ry hard sacrifice we make
Together

If we stay unselfish
And help each other
I know it can be so
No second wave here



Don't despair
Though the moment may seem extreme
We can fly
On a newly imagined dream
We'll get there

There will be no turning back
We'll make sure of that
I can promise you
If we take it all in stride
If we cross that great divide
There will be no second wave, here

Living
Together with
Love

9. DUDE GOTTA GO

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Dude gotta go
Heave-ho
Dude gotta go
Dude gotta fly
Bye-bye
Dude gotta fly

Get out
Get out
No more lying
Shut up
And hang up
The phone

Ev'rybody knows
That's the way it goes
Now you're gonna reap
What you've sown
Ev'rybody knows that

Dude gotta go
Uh-oh
Dude gotta go
Dude gotta quit
That's it
Dude gotta quit

Your work is done you can go now
Give up the ghost
And confess
All the wrongs you've done
Thanks for all the fun
Now we have to clean up
The mess

*Then we all can breathe
Then we all can heal
Then we can move on
Knowing that the way is clear*

Dude gotta go
Ta-ta
Dude gotta go
Dude gotta go
Ha-ha
Dude gotta go

Right now
Pack up
So long
Bye-bye
Your time is up
Dude gotta go
Pass it on!

10. COME NOVEMBER 2020

© 2020 Turner & Grusecki

Come November
This November
If I make it till then
We will rise up
All together
And believe once again

This country is beautiful

In spite of the pain
Come November
If we say so
Only truth will remain

We are angry
We are hurting
We've been used and abused
We are weary
And discouraged
But we are not confused

The source of our misery
Is terribly clear
Come November
We'll defeat it
And we won't shed a tear

Come November
Change is coming
It will happen somehow
In November
This November
I can see it all now

The face of America
Will finally be
Undivided
And united
Undiminished and free

Come November
Sweet November
That's the way it will be

11. ELIZABETH 1918
(The story of Anya's Great Aunt)
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(spoken) "Time for bed, little one. Now, let's say a prayer. God bless Mama and Daddy,

Grandad and Nana, and don't forget all your Aunts and Uncles. Let's look at the photograph. You know their names . . ."

Charlie, Fred, Mollie, Elizabeth ("That's me, your Mama")
Eva, Ada, Alice, Ethel
Jack, Art, Ruth and Dick
Now, close your eyes
My darling girl . . .

There is something going 'round
There is trouble in the air
So it's best that you and I should stay apart
But, I will not be long
I will not be far
I will hold the thought of you
Within my heart

You're the precious little girl
Mama dreamed of all along
Beautiful, with hair of gold and eyes of blue
And, though I have to leave
Promise me that you'll
Think about the day
When I come home to you

*We'll make lots of plans
We'll have lots of fun, I know
Making ribbons for your dolly's hair
Playing in the snow
Singing by the fireside
Celebrating birthdays one by one
Forever*

Everything will be alright
You'll be safe in Daddy's arms
Be brave and do what Daddy tells you to do
And, if you only will
You'll be safe until
I can come back home again to you
Let me come back home again to you

Note: This song is dedicated to the memory of Anya's Great-Aunt, Elizabeth Lennon Gaynor, who died of the Spanish Influenza in Sioux City, IA on October 18, 1918. In addition to her mother and eleven brothers and sisters, she left behind a loving husband and a two-year-old daughter. She was 29 years old.

12. GLITTERING PRIZES (Duet)

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MAN

I came to New York with the tall ships

*To see what my future would be
I needed to rent a piano
Any piano would do*

I set out on a summer's day to find one

In the heat of a humid afternoon

On a desolate street, I opened a door

And from out of the dark came a voice:

WOMAN

Come in

(spoken)

*"You look like you need a piano.
Come with me."*

Here's a grand one

Very fancy

Here's a plain one

Not too dear

*This one thinks it's very jazzy
(electronic)*

There may be one more over here

My husband played piano

And when we were alone

He'd play this one for hours

He said it had a singing tone

(spoken)

"Now, you play; see how you like it."

When I first saw you
I was reminded
How this all came to be
Something about you
Opened a doorway
Into a memory
A tall young man
An easy smile
Playing his music
I let the music
Capture me for a while
Capture me for a while

Living was simple
Keeping it simple
That was the only way
Music would be our
Constant companion
All through the night and day
I'd sing for him
He'd play for me
Loving each other
Living with passion
Kept us alive and free
Kept us alive and free

MAN & WOMAN
Freedom is music
Moving inside you
Music is more than fame
People imagine
Glittering prizes
Bringing you great acclaim
But if you're wise
You know the prize is
Finding your voice and
Telling your story
No other choice will do
No other voice will do
No other life will do

WOMAN
This one
This one
You'll play
This one

13. DON'T WORRY

© 2019 Turner & Grusecki

It all works out
The good and bad
I'm sure of it
Don't worry

When troubles come
And press your brow
They will lift somehow
Don't worry

*Forget what you can't control
Just take a breath and let it go
The hurting will heal in time
Remember I'm right by your side*

So dare to dream
A winter's dream
And then ev'ry care
Will scurry

Don't worry how
It all will end
Winter turns to spring
When we all begin again
All begin again



14. THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU

© 2018 Turner & Grusecki

From the moment we met
You invaded my mind
I was totally out of control
I was willing to bet
That with you I would find
A romance that would possess
my soul

You were cool; you were fast
You were terribly smart
And little bit dangerous too
I was scared; "Would it last?"
But you'd stolen my heart

You were everything that was
taboo

*That's why I love you
You're the answer to my
Ev'ry crazy dream
Why do I love you?
I love you because your
Temp'rament is so extreme*

First you're hot, then you're
cold
You are never the same
Your audacity gives me a thrill
Always fresh, never old
At the top of your game
Playing hard until it's time to
chill

You make waves; you talk back
You believe in your song
And you don't seem to know
when to quit
When provoked you attack
Always right, never wrong
You're an aggravating little shit

*That's why I love you
I could argue with you
Ev'ry single day
But I still love you
Doesn't matter if you
Never see things quite my way*

You're my angel
High and low
Such a devil
Baby, I just love you so

You're the berries
Sweet and tart
Hot as brandy
You're the pounding of my
heart

You're the very
Cat's meow
So contrary
Do I love you? Boy! And how!

You're like candy
I want more
Fine and dandy

Come on in and shut the door

*That's why I love you
Even when you're bossy
I don't really care
Because I love you
All is know is that I
Love you and I want you there*

*I love you
You're the answer to my
Ev'ry crazy dream
Why do I love you?
I love you because your
Temp'rament is so extreme
You're a wolf
You're a wasp
You're a bulb
You're a pint
You are ev'ry unrhymable word
"Orange"*

*You're so chic
You're unique
You're a freak
You're a geek
You're a scamp
You're a vamp
You're a tramp
You're a champ
You're my hope
You're so dope
You're so chill
You're so woke
You're so lovable it is absurd
Word!*

15. SOMETHING NEW
© 2019 Turner & Grusecki

*I want something new
In the New Year
I want something happy, happy,
happy
For the holidays
I want something fine
I want something bright
Something I can hold
In my heart*

*I want something warm
In the New Year*

*I want something very merry,
merry
On a winter's day
As the poets say, "Time is
short."
Give me something new*

*Something unexpected
A halo 'round the moon
Something as delicious
As pudding on a spoon
Sleeping until noon
Make it happen soon*

*Oh, how I need some hope
For the future
If it means I have to change
Then I will change
I'll work it out*

*Nowadays when dreams
Are so few
All I want is something new
All I want is something new*

**OUR 2021 BOOK OF LYRICS
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