

# Boygenius 'The Record' is an instant classic exceeding expectations

REBECCA ROBINSON

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Beloved singer-songwriters Phoebe Bridgers, Julien Baker and Lucy Dacus return as Boygenius to create a beautiful, honest and vulnerable album. The three are successful singer-songwriters on their own with rather overlapping fan bases making Boygenius highly anticipated. Boygenius "The Record" exceeds expectations in their debut LP with melancholy harmonies and incredible song writing.

"The Record" comes five years after their critically praised self titled EP. The songs on "The Record" are rather bleak and sad with themes of love, loss, maturing and friendship throughout. Rolling Stone declared them "The supergroup we need." Boygenius formed in 2018 & recently admitted to the LA Times they are happiest when making sad music together which is evident in listening to their interviews and watching them perform.

The album opens up with "Without you Without them" an acapella style song, meant to connect the last track of their EP as a reprise. The three harmonize in the minute-twenty second track in barbershop quartet style.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS

## Boygenius "The Record" Album Cover

This isn't the only song on "The Record" that revisits their first EP. The ending track "Letter to an Old Poet" mirrors "Me & My Dog."

"Letter to an Old Poet" is about progress. The song ends on the final word of "waiting". The vinyl for "The Record" is designed with a locked groove to continue to skip on the exhale of the song until the user chooses to move the needle. The overall detail put into this album is masterfully crafted.

"Without You Without

Them" is followed by the track "\$20." Baker takes the lead in this track. Bridgers ends the track in screams that are reminiscent of her own solo work in her album "Punisher." Each individual shines and puts in their own touches within the album leaving "The Record" full of personality and chemistry.

"\$20" is also the opening song to Boygenius 'The Film' directed by Kristen Stewart that intertwines it and the tracks "Emily I'm Sorry" and "True Blue." The visuals help tie the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Boygenius from left to right: Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Lucy Dacus. The name Boygenius comes from "The archetype of the tortured genius, specifically male artist who have been told since birth that their every thought is not only worthwhile but brilliant," Lucy Dacus said.

three songs together. The short film is available on YouTube.

"Emily I'm Sorry" is devastating and feels deeply personal to Bridgers who takes the lead in the track. The confessional style song is emotionally driven. The line "I'm 27 and I don't know who I am, but I know what I want," sums up the tone of the song perfectly. Dacus comes through in

"True Blue" with her wit and humor in the opening verse. In the nature of the album it keeps up with the honesty and at times diary entry feeling. "You've always been a wintery b- but you have summer through your veins," is classic Dacus.

The highpoints include "\$20," "Satanist," "We're in Love," "Not Strong Enough" and "Letter to an Old Poet." "The Record" has no skips

and is easily going to be one of the top albums of 2023.

Upon first listen it's an instant classic demanding replay. It feels like sitting in on private conversation with its vulnerability while remaining comforting to the listener. The three combined are truly magic. "The Record" is an easy 10 out of 10.

**Released:** March 31  
**Official Score:** 10/10

## Secure the concert tickets of your dreams

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With summer concerts and festivals rolling out more and more concert goers are feeling the frustration and panic of securing the tickets before resellers and bots do. I am a frequent concert goer myself and have probably gone to around 50. My recent ticket scramble was Taylor Swift, easily the most difficult ticket I have obtained.

I have had the same methods in getting tickets since high school. Here are my top four tips to secure the concert tickets of your dreams.

### Tip One: Be Realistic

Concert Tickets are stupidly expensive in 2023. Think honestly about your financials and price range before getting into the queue. If possible see how much the stadium and artist roughly charge for tickets. If my budget is \$200 and I know that front row seats are \$350 I am not gonna waste my time looking at them. I will go straight for upper bowl tickets instead. Mapping out where in the stadium or venue you can afford saves time and accidental overspending.

I can not stress this enough but don't forget to estimate ticket fees. Ticketmaster is going to charge you an obscene amount of money in "handling fees." Do not get the ticket that is exactly at your budget

because it will cost much more by the time you get to checkout. Once you are in checkout you have five minutes to complete your purchase and oftentimes going back might make you lose chances of even obtaining a ticket.



### Tip Two: Power in Numbers

Don't try to get the popular artists ticket alone. If you're going to a show that is projected to sell out immediately, find out the cap off for the maximum tickets one can buy at a time. If the number is 4, find a group of four people and pick a person to delegate as the buyer.

Everyone if possible should meet together with their devices ready. Whoever gets into the queue first and gets tickets in their cart should then pass off their device to the buyer to put in card information. Ideally everyone should have the card the group is using on file.

### Tip Three: Stay Calm... Load your card information before

As mentioned, loading

your card information into the ticketing sites is imperative. When you're nervous or shaky trying to get all the card information entered in as the clock ticks down is a nightmare. It is important to be able to click on the saved card attached to your account and expedite the checkout process.

### Tip Four: Don't give up

Giving up is not an option, you're going to go to that concert. If an artist you love announces a tour find out all the information about presale and how you can get in. Sometimes the artist tweets out the code and other times you have to sign up as a verified fan on Ticketmaster a few days prior to sale.

If there aren't tickets now there might be later, just keep checking. Sometimes closer to dates of resellers will lower prices of tickets or some may even pop up from people who can no longer attend. It is easy to get scammed into buying tickets off social media. I have bought tickets over Twitter before and it's best to always ask for screen recording of the tickets in their Ticketmaster accounts. Never fall for a photo. Screen recordings can be edited too, don't be fooled easily. If it is too good to be true it probably is.

**Good luck and happy hunting!**

## THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

ANNA COX | COPY EDITOR

"PORTALS" BY MELANIE MARTINEZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

Melanie Martinez has come out with a new album that is a complete evolution of her past self. Shifting from a soft colored, "crybaby" aesthetic, Martinez dives into a new, darker alter ego.

Like her other albums, this one also tells a story. For "PORTALS" the story is about rebirth, the first song being "DEATH" and the last being "WOMB".

My favorite songs on the album are "THE CONTORTIONIST", "BATTLE OF THE LARYNX", and "EVIL". For "THE CONTORTIONIST" I really enjoy the sound of the song, the way the words flow and how the beat goes with the lyrics really just makes it a top song in my opinion.

"BATTLE OF THE LARYNX" Martinez's vocals is what really draws me to click that song more than the others. It reminds me of her past eras like "Crybaby" and "K-12" while also having a new twist on it. I really enjoy details in songs and all of the references to teeth, talking, barking and just speech in general is used in a manner that flows with the title. It is very clearly a song written about verbal messages not being heard or being ignored while the other person just talks to hear their own voice.

Now, "EVIL" is about not feeding into someone who is only using you. The lyric "If you bite my hand again I will never feed you, you can call me evil" really just hits the mark on not giving into people anymore.

Overall, the whole album is good, I love the new vibe and I love the new Melanie. This evil fairy aesthetic is honestly really cool.

## What to know about Ramadan



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANVA

**COLUMN BY ANNA COX  
COPY EDITOR**

Ramadan (Raa - muh - daan) is a holy month of fasting for those who practice Islam. The month is celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Ramadan Mubarak means have a blessed Ramadan.

According to Muslim Aid, Ramadan is celebrated as a way to honor the fourth pillar of Islam, Sawm. Sawm translates to mean “to fast”. The reason that Muslims are asked to practice Sawm is, again according to Muslim Aid,

1. “To demonstrate self-control and restraint”
2. “To cleanse their bodies”
3. “To be reminded that some people do not have access to food and go hungry every day”
4. “To be more compassionate and grateful for what they do have”

5. “To strengthen their bond with Allah (SWT)” Muslims should spend their time while fasting reading the Qur’an and praying. This will help them become better Muslims and better members of society.

The rules of Ramadan are as follows: one must fast from dawn to sunset, this includes food and water. One cannot participate in swearing, lying, sexual activity, fighting or arguing.

Muslims must also make Fitrana, which is the giving of food to those in need if they are able.

There are exemptions to the rules, such as people who are pregnant, pre-pubescent, elderly, breastfeeding women and those who are ill or taking medication. Menstruating women must also halt their fast although they will usually

make up their days at a later date. These people, if able, must pay Fidyah, which is a charitable donation.

If one were to miss their fast without a valid reason they must pay Kaffarah, which translates to “what is paid to redress an imbalance or to compensate for commissioning a sinful act, i.e., a kind of punishment or penalty”. To pay for Kaffarah, one must either free a Muslim from slavery, fast for two consecutive months or pay to feed 60 people.

Muslims will end Ramadan with Eid ul-Fitr, which translates to “the festival of breaking the fast”. Eid ul-Fitr is a way in which Muslims can celebrate their success during Ramadan, as they grow closer to Allah.

All information and quotations were gathered from Muslim Aid USA at <https://www.mausa.org/>.

## What to know about Easter



PHOTO COURTESY OF CROSSWALK.COM

**COLUMN BY REBECCA ROBINSON  
AND RACHEL RUDD**

Easter, a Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, takes place this Sunday. Orthodox Easter will be April 16.

Though the dates differ, Easter and Orthodox Easter have nearly the same traditions as other denominations. Easter also marks the end of Lent for Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists and Presbyterians.

Some denominations may do a Maundy Thursday service, in which the washing of the disciples’ feet and the Last

Supper are commemorated.

Good Friday is the day in which Christians remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Catholics may abstain from red meat during this time.

Some denominations may hold an Easter vigil, typically held during the night time or midnight of the Saturday before Easter. Protestants are most known for holding vigils.

Easter can be celebrated in many different ways. Most churches hold a service to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. It is not uncommon for a church to hold a sunrise service, where the congregation gathers at the break of dawn to celebrate Christ’s resurrection.

Families may participate in completely biblical customs while some will partake in the non-biblical traditions.

There is often an Easter egg hunt, which typically involves plastic eggs with treats inside, although chocolate or dyed hard boiled eggs can also be used. Some people may also dye their own hard-boiled eggs purely for decoration.

There are a variety of games around the world like egg tapping, where two players try to break their opponent’s egg without breaking their own. Others may do an egg dance, where eggs are laid out on the floor and players dance without squishing the eggs.

## This week’s crossword puzzle: Easter and Ramadan Edition

**ACROSS**

4. On what day will Easter always fall on?
5. What religion practices Ramadan?
7. What is the holiday called that ends Ramadan?

**DOWN**

1. What religion celebrates Easter?
2. What is the mascot of Easter?
3. The Easter bunny hides what?
6. What month is Ramadan according to the Islamic calendar?
8. What do Muslims do during Ramadan?

