

Dorothy Savage

GLORIOUS MESS...

SONG BY SONG

BEYOND ALL MEASURE:

“This song goes back to my very core with the struggle of measuring up. Again—I go back to perfectionism—having grown up in surroundings that I really had to be a survivor—my dreams of wanting to be a singer, be a performer—going to college – wanting to be the best—that was all in my little dream world. In my day-to- day life—it was just survival. Because of that, I pushed myself to high standards and really created an almost impossible level of expectation that I put on myself. The song says, “All of my life I’ve been trying to measure up to something way beyond my reach...I was never strong enough...I fell right unto your arms.” I could never reach my own expectations—and every time I fell on my face, God was there to gently say, ‘OK, Dorothy, now you’re broken—will you let me take over?’”

AS LONG AS IT TAKES:

“Rings very true to my life. It talks in the beginning of the song that literally I am standing in the rain—in a very painful situation—and then the song switches to say, ‘OK, am I going to be miserable in this place that life has dealt me, or am I going to make the choice to learn that some of the most amazing strength and wonderful things in life come out of pain? I have learned time and time again that faith is many times enduring and not overcoming. We’re promised that God will always be with us and that we ultimately win with Him. I think often times in life, we show our greatest faith in Him when we endure the pain and grow out of the experience.”

SEE THROUGH ME:

“This song encourages me to laugh at myself! It’s all about the faces we put on in life – we all want to look like we have it all together which is such a ridiculous joke! We don’t. When we get to the end of ourselves, we realize God saw through us all along. As the song says, He sees ‘Above, below, all around me.’ It’s literally like throwing up our hands and admitting to God that with Him, we can be ourselves—be imperfect. To me it’s a very freeing message to lighten up and be authentic!”

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR

From the minute I heard it, to me this was just a ‘wow’ song! It was of huge importance to me to include it on the album because it’s my opportunity to be so ‘in your face’ with a full-on anthem of Jesus and His sacrifice and salvation. I’m not afraid to stand and talk about the blood of Christ and the effect it’s had in my life. We’ve gotten in the habit of having a huge emphasis on praise. It’s a wonderful thing—and what God wants us to do—but I think too often we miss the blessing of remembering the very heavy message of the blood of Jesus and what it did for us through His suffering. I wanted to be able to humbly say, “I know what Christ did for me”—and this is a powerful song that gave me that gift.

YOU LOVE ME THAT WAY:

“This is such a gentle song—I was immediately drawn to it. It says, ‘You’re closer than this breath, long before my heart was beating in my mother’s chest—I will not forget the songs you sang to me.’ It was my way of telling God in this song that I appreciated that He loved me so perfectly even before I knew Him. From the orchestration of the music to the lovely message--this is like a lullaby of us singing to God.”

STRENGTH:

“As I was looking through music for the album, my sister and I got to share listening to songs together. I heard this song and it spoke completely to me of what we were going through together during those days of her illness. It talks about how the world has given up, but you still have strength. We were each other’s source of strength—and God was our ultimate source of strength. Jennifer often times would listen to it on her iPod while she was in the hospital just to be energized and encouraged. It’s a very special song to me for the message and memories it brings of what true courage and strength looks like—even when we’re called to be face-to-face with death.”

I AM:

“This is a wonderful love song from God to us. The thing I love about this song is the concept, ‘I am constant, I am near, I am peace that shatters all your fears.’ I connected totally with the declaration of confidence in this song. When we express our love, we’re afraid often it won’t be returned. God’s love just ‘is.’ It doesn’t matter if we respond to it perfectly—or not at all. He still loves us. His love is unconditional—perfect and endless. This song is just a gentle, confident declaration of who God is. He is the ‘I Am.’”

YOU ARE:

“For me in putting together the album, this song provided the perfect counter balance to ‘I Am.’ It’s a wonderful Chris Sligh song that’s a light-hearted praise to God. There’s no heavy introspection or deep moments-- it’s just a wonderful reminder and chance to tell God we recognize who He is.”

FINALLY LIVE

“There’s a line I particularly love in this song: ‘The end of your longings start with a perfect love...finding your belonging in the shadow of the cross.’ That beautiful reminder weaves so well into all God has taught me throughout my life. Over a lifetime of not being able to measure up to my own self-imposed expectations, I always seemed so confident outwardly—but so insecure in my execution being excellent enough. The line in this song takes all the pressure off! It tells us we can finally live as God wants us to by knowing that God’s grace is abundant and sufficient to meet all our needs and cover all our lack. My heart soars on that thought!”

FINDER OF THE LOST:

“The words of this song reach me in the serious, deep places of my heart. We know what’s in our own spiritual closets—what’s in our hearts and minds. Maybe it’s darkness and despair that other people would never guess. This song might be interpreted at first listen to be talking about people that are just now being found by God, but to me—as someone who has been saved since I was a little, little girl—this song speaks also of people who are saved—but perhaps caught in spots in life where we never, ever thought we would be as Christians. Still, wherever we are, He continues to find us, and reach us with the reminder that His mercies are new every morning. We’ve all been lost and needed to be found by God.”

FAITH BEGINS

“This songs brings it down to one line. ‘This is where faith begins—letting your questions go.’ It covers everything I’d tried to communicate in the album. Whether you’re struggling in a sin you never thought you’d be in, or caught in a situation where you have absolutely no control of the outcome—God reminds us to just let go of everything—including the pre-conceived notions of how He should work things out—just let go and trust Him. That, to me, is the simple substance of real faith.

END OF ME

“This is the song that started it all.. This song is my heart. I was at a place of frustration and a place where I knew I needed desperately to just relinquish the awful weight of control and just trust God. I remember when I wrote it, feeling a wave of relief wash over me with the words, ‘free, me, save me, break me, renew me that’s where you can begin at the end of me.’ The realization of that truth was truly the beginning in my life.”

Dorothy