



## Until Now: A New Album & Book of Poetry

*Until Now* is a lovely new musical offering from Carrie Newcomer. Her smooth, rich tone brings deep feeling to the words and the melodies carry you away on a journey to another place. The music and songs are intimate in the way it makes one feel like your good friend Carrie is singing just for you.

—Sharon Salzberg, author of *Loving Kindness* and *Real Change*

Carrie Newcomer's beautiful new album and book *Until Now* stir the soul with the simple truth: *We belong to one another*. Her songs and poems are subtle and sweet melodies, exploring powerful themes of grief and struggle, wonder and transformation. Listen to her song Like Molly Brown to remember the women who show us how to "rest and pull" in the long labor for justice.

-- Valarie Kaur, author of *See No Stranger: A Memoir & Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*

In her nineteenth album, *Until Now*, Carrie Newcomer continues to be a heart-guide through the tangle and vastness of this thing we call living. The tenderness and clarity of these songs will make you stop long enough for your soul to show itself, regardless of what's in the way. The wisdom of her love is healing.

—Mark Nepo, author of *The Book of Soul* and *Drinking from the River of Light*

Carrie Newcomer puts the heart back together. Her calming words and music open the day to much greater spaciousness, reviving you wherever you are. She's a shining wonder in every single gracious way.

—Naomi Shihab Nye, Young People's Poet Laureate

Carrie Newcomer's songs come from those places that require an exquisite power of observation... she sees the smallest changes in the sky and connects that to larger shifts that happen in a life. Or she details a look in someone's face, leading to a description of an emotion that is all at once completely familiar to the listener, making the connections... her poet's eye allows a deeper noticing. Themes of family, romantic love, the natural world, the passage of time and importance of memory have always made deep impressions in the paths she has created as an artist. On her latest album, the beautifully arranged and recorded *Until Now*, her remarkable alto and songwriting speak to the times we are in without reserve, but with an abiding belief that we can brave these storms.

—Mary Chapin Carpenter, Grammy Songwriter/Performing Artist

Since 1991, before the term "playlist" was even a thing, Carrie Newcomer's music has been a cherished part of the playlist for many of our lives. There's this wonderful anticipation whenever you hear a new album is coming out. There will be consistency — her voice, her gentle way of getting in your heart and head, the desire to hear certain songs again and again to savor every taste of meaning. But there's always something fresh and new too. If you already love Carrie's music, don't miss her new collection, *Until Now*. (And don't miss the wonderful book of poetry by the same title). What you already love will be there, but you'll also hear something that will carry you to new places (as she sings in "I Will Sing A New Song"). And if you haven't known her music yet, here's your best introduction. You'll wonder how you got along without her until now!

—Brian D. McLaren, author of *Faith After Doubt*



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"Carrie Newcomer's songs, gorgeously arranged and sung, are full of vitality and energy that evoke both gratitude and motivation to face "the storm that is coming" and to act now for the sake of future generations."

Joanna Macy, Author, *World As Lover, World As Self*

"Until Now is a portal into Carrie Newcomer's heart and every reader's heart quest. Deep dives are taken into memories, the wonder of all things immediate, and the embrace of oneself fully for coming days. These poetic testimonies, with wisdom, humor, and love, reveal discoveries that await us."

Luther E. Smith, Jr., PhD Professor Emeritus of Church and Community Candler School of Theology, Emory University, author of *Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet*

I turn to Carrie's music and words to soothe my soul. The velvety alto tones of her voice faithfully shift me into the deepest and most calm parts of my being, and her words resonate well with my beliefs. This album and companion book is a true gift from her best self to ours. —Jill Bolte Taylor, author of *My Stroke of Insight & Whole Brain Living*

Whenever I get a new Carrie Newcomer album...and I have them all!...I know I have to slow down, settle in, and carve out some uninterrupted time. See, Carrie's albums are not the kind you cook or wash or vacuum to, like most others. No, her songs are like messages in a bottle, ones you've been waiting for, hoping for. These songs are big, sly, and open-hearted. And they make you feel that way. Who doesn't want that, need that these days? I cannot decide if Carrie Newcomer is a songwriter, a poet, a prophetic voice, or simply someone generous enough to let you in on the secret of living a full, human life, complete with its triumphs, doubts, and longing." — John McCutcheon, Grammy Nominated Songwriter, Activist *Bucket List*





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## About *Until Now: New Poems* by Carrie Newcomer

Listen to Carrie Newcomer sing, and you hear poetry. Read her poetry, and you hear music. The poems in this beautiful new collection are as alive with music as her albums—and, as always, her words resonate deeply with mind and heart. There's sublime art in these pages, the kind that is intimately joined to everyday life. She writes about about living with uncertainty and shopping

for groceries, the lessons that come with gardening and what cable news overlooks, a second-grade teacher's kindness and the message of migrating geese, a woofing dog and the struggles of being a parent. Time after time, I've known Carrie to experience ordinary things, and a few days later, the world has a new and illuminating poem or song. Full disclosure: for fifteen years, Carrie has been my colleague and dear friend, so I'm not an impartial observer. But knowing her well gives me license to say that there is no gap between her art and her life: she lives what she writes and sings about. When I read or listen to Carrie's work, I often find myself saying, "If she can live that way, why not me?" I think you'll find the same kind of inspiration in these small masterpieces that always open up into the largeness of life.

—Parker J. Palmer, author of *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach* and *On the Brink of Everything*

In her intimate book of poems, *Until Now*, Carrie Newcomer tenderly explores the personal until it reveals the universal, until as she says "the narrative becomes less mine and more ours." This is what we want from all poetry and song, to find a way to live in our common heart. Carrie has been doing this for years, bringing us to the heart of what matters where we can drink and come alive together.

—Mark Nepo, author of *The Book of Awakening* and *The Way Under the Way*

To tell you why I think you should read Carrie Newcomer's new collection of poems, *Until Now*, I think it's best to mention a few my favorite poems in the collection. The first poem, *I'm Learning to Sit with Not Knowing*, contains this wonderful flock of verbs that converse with the title's verb, sit: jumping, pat, lay, laugh, befriend, waltz, surprise, crash. In *When Things Come Together*, a flock of sandhill cranes take you to a moment you have known. In *The Point of Arrival*, fold in and open out lead to hands full of Hallelujah. There's a beautiful image of lines, driftwood, debris on the sand in *The Lake Breathes In*. *The Lake Breathes Out*. The book is, in many ways, a personal liturgy for contemplation. Every poem feels like a favorite.

—Brian D. McLaren, author of *Faith After Doubt*