

Taylor Swift released her 12th studio album on October 21, 2022, called *Midnights* and it is already making history. According to [Insider.com](https://www.fox.com/story/entertainment/2022/10/21/taylor-swift-midnights-top-10-billboard-hot-100/), *Midnights* occupied all the top 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100, and it's the first time this has ever occurred. This album is fantastic, although it did take two full listens for me to love it. There are a couple of songs that I still can't latch onto, but it doesn't ruin the whole listening experience. Most songs on *Midnights* have synths, so it would be considered a synth-pop album. Swift's voice has grown so much compared to her older albums. You can tell she has improved. The album consists of 13 songs on the original album and 20 tracks on the 3 a.m. version of *Midnights*. The album review will focus on the expanded 3 a.m. version of *Midnights*.

Swift released her first album, *Taylor Swift*, in 2006. The album was considered country, along with her second album, *Fearless*, released in 2008. However, *Fearless* debuted Swift's potential in the pop genre as some songs had some pop influence. *Speak Now*, released in 2010, shifted even further away from country. According to [udiscovermusic.com](https://www.udiscovermusic.com/news/taylor-swift-wrote-all-songs-speak-now/), Swift wrote all the songs on *Speak Now* by herself. Released in 2012, *Red* was an album comprised of a couple of genres, breaking away from country almost entirely. *1989* continued this trend when it dropped in 2014, being a full pop album. *Reputation* debuted in 2017 and had a dark feel to it. The album included synths with hints of electronic dance music (EDM).

The *Lover* album was a 180-degree turn from the previous album. Released in 2019, the album has a very peppy pop vibe. During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, Swift released two albums called *Folklore* and *Evermore*. These albums followed the folk genre of music, specializing in storytelling and songwriting. Swift has been re-recording the albums that were taken away from her and sold by her old manager Scooter Braun. According to [Cosmopolitan.com](https://www.cosmopolitan.com/entertainment/music/a39888888/taylor-swift-re-record-her-old-albums/), after leaving her record label, Big Machine Records, Braun bought Swift's old albums and later sold them for \$300 million. So, she decided to [re-record her old albums](https://www.cosmopolitan.com/entertainment/music/a39888888/taylor-swift-re-record-her-old-albums/) to have ownership over her own songs. *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* and *Red (Taylor's Version)* dropped in 2021.

According to [Britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/biography/taylor-swift), Swift signed with Sony at 14 years old and later signed with the music label Big Machine Records in 2006. Since her first album, Swift has gradually increased in popularity, winning award after award.

*Midnights*, Swift's most recent release of music, was very exciting for Swift fans, also known as Swifties. There wasn't much information about what kind of genre the album was going to be, so it was a fun surprise listening to it. After putting in earbuds and clicking play on track 1: "Lavender Haze," an upbeat drum kick greeted me accompanied by vocals saying, "Meet me at Midnight."

Song after song, I was surprised by the new sounds I did not expect. I enjoyed hearing this different sound from Swift. After finishing the first listen of the whole album, I sat and thought

about it. At this point, I did not have a favorite song. I did have a handful of my least favorite songs. When listening to songs like “Question?” “Midnight Rain,” and “Dear Reader,” I thought I wouldn’t enjoy listening to again. The next day I listened to the whole album another time. This time I appreciated all the songs. So, it did take me two streams of the album to like the music.

Even after listening to the album, I dislike the songs “Question?” and “Labyrinth.” Track 7, “Question?” doesn’t click with me. I believe that it is the production of the song and the lyrics that make me dislike it. “Labyrinth” is track 10, and I dislike the synth clip included. The lyrics are beautiful, but the synth ruins it for me. I think it’s jarring and doesn’t fit into the song.

The album includes lots of synths rather than real instruments. If you are a fan of real instruments in songs, this music probably won’t be your favorite. I suggest you give it a chance because there are some great songs on the album.

On a lighter note, there are a ton of songs that I enjoyed listening to. Some of my favorites include: “Lavender Haze,” “Bejeweled,” “Anti-Hero,” “The Great War,” and “Bigger Than The Whole Sky.” Most of these songs are upbeat and have catchy choruses that get them stuck in my head. “The Great War” is interesting because it has drums that mimic the sounds of drums that would play on the battlefield. The song also references things in the lyrics that have to do with war or the aftermath of war. “Bigger Than The Sky” is a sad song, but it is beautiful and reminisces of someone who has parted from Swift’s life.

Whether or not you are a Swift fan, I suggest listening to her new album *Midnights*. It might take a few run-throughs for it to click, or it may not be something you would choose to listen to again. The lyrics are very impressive if you take a closer look at them. Swift has done it again, releasing another amazing album.