

The Beautiful Mess(terpeice)

- Drew Faria

Over the summer, some friends of mine introduced me to the live album “Jason Mraz’s Beautiful Mess: Live on Earth.” Personally, live albums drive me insane. I typically cannot stand the crowd’s cheering and the band’s antics that interrupt the music. Seeing that we would cover two tunes from Jason Mraz for an upcoming gig, I gave in to my insistent friends. Perhaps it was the greatest iTunes buy I’ve ever made. “Wow,” was just about the only thing I could say after listening to the whole album. Jason Mraz brought together masterful musicians from trumpets to hand percussionists to create an event out of the next hour and fifteen minutes of my listening time. What really makes the album click is its engaging energy. Never did I feel tempted to hit the “next song” arrow on my iPod, but rather, the “play again” arrow always beckoned me. Of course, the songs are great too! I never really gave Jason Mraz a good listen before hearing this album, but I recognized so many songs of his. “The Remedy,” “Make It Mine,” and “I’m Yours” are some of his more iconic works. However, I quickly found some tunes from the record that I enjoyed even more than those! I found the best place for this music was on my family boat in the summer. As my friend put it perfectly, “It’s just happy music.” But stop wrapping your head around the idea that happy music is a bunch of hippies singing campfire songs! This album is impossible to listen to without smiling. There is a wave of positivity from this album that in all honesty makes it the perfect mood-booster playlist. Sometimes, if I have it as background music, I get sucked in and zone out of what is going on around me! I would strongly recommend this album to any person for any occasion.

“Jason Mraz’s Beautiful Mess: Live on Earth” has since risen to number one in terms of my favorite albums of all-time. There have been days when I can listen to it over and over again. It is a combination of Jack Johnson-esque acoustic guitar with a Billy Joel-styled band. Finally, blend some reggae music with some complexity, and you’ve got the perfect album. You can technically identify it as pop/rock music, but this album truly speaks to Jason Mraz’s versatility. He and his fellow musicians can create timeless music that anyone can relate to, so it does not even really need a typical genre designation. Perhaps “awesome” will suffice as a category.