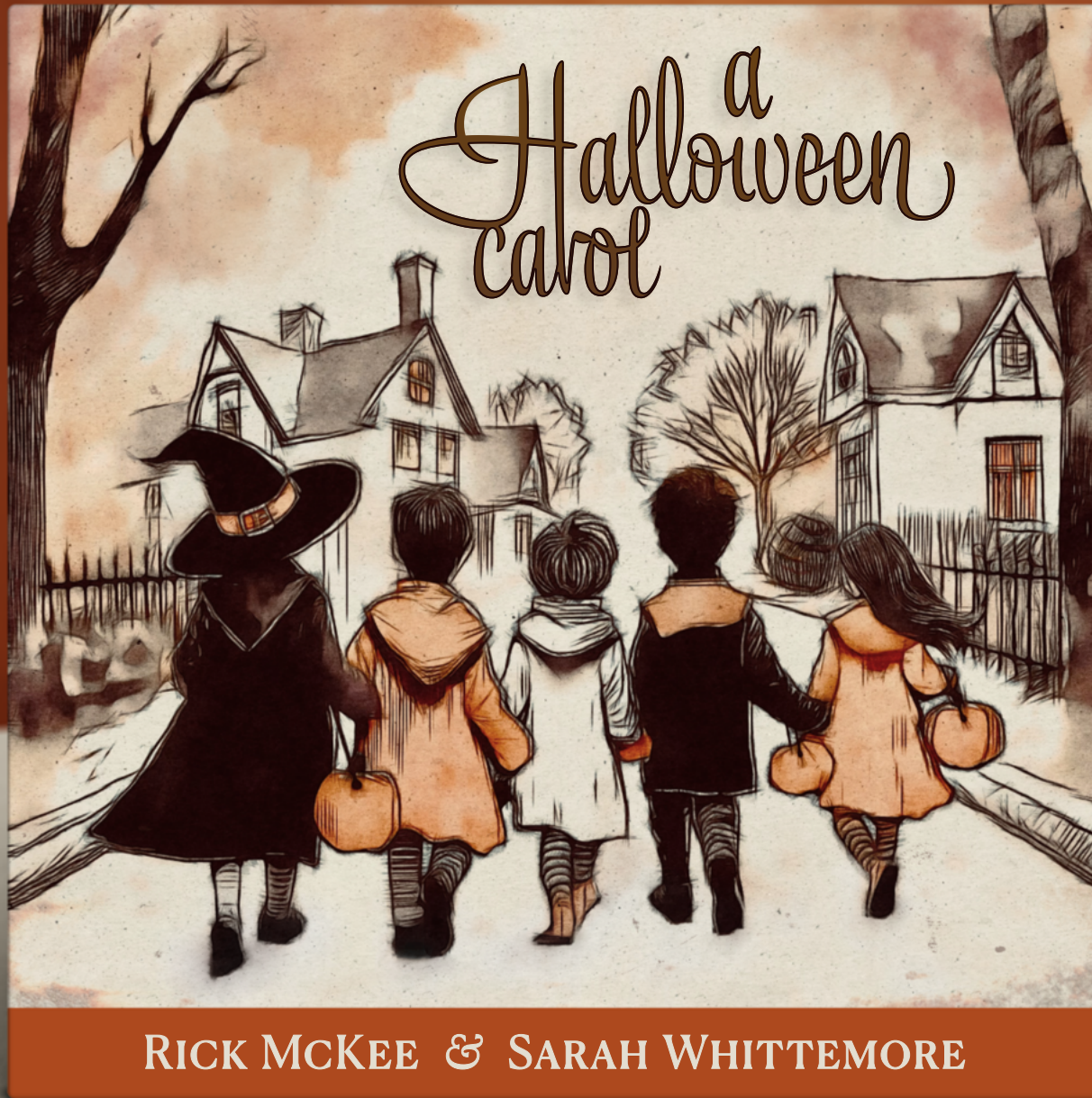
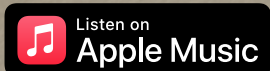




A CRUNCHY CHORDS LLC RECORD RELEASE



RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE



halloweencarol.com

— FROM — RICK & SARAH

TO OUR DEAR LISTENERS—we extend sincere gratitude for inviting us into your autumn playlists, and we are thrilled to share this album with all of similar hearts.

The two of us have been dear friends for many years—both coming from careers in the commercial music industry, which is how our paths fatefully intertwined. Hence, a collaboration of deep mutual respect and inspiration was born, walking the path together to create this new chapter as musical storytellers.

We learned quickly of our shared love for things that go bump in the night. Uniquely, retro Halloween television specials, vintage Halloween vinyl albums, and orange cassette tapes filled with Halloween stories and poetry. The witch's brew of these ingredients shaped what would become *A Halloween Carol*. All of the music on this album is entirely original: Sarah is our leading lady, and Rick produced, arranged, and orchestrated our journey. We wrote every lyric, melody, script, and story—performing all vocals and spoken voices.

Our titular villain began as a memory Sarah shared about her childhood imaginary skeleton friend-turned-foe—whom young Sarah had named *Ro-Why-Where*. We instantly realized her character was the key to tying our story together, prompting us to create the town where this entity and his ancient curse reside: *Grimwood*.

You may notice our stylistic love letters that honor our favorite seasonal soundtracks and their creators. Our profound thanks to these haunting inspirations: Vera Lynn; *The Twilight Zone*[™]; the vintage cassette tapes for *It's Halloween* by Jack Prelutsky and *In a Dark Dark Room and Other Scary Stories* by Alvin Schwartz; *Garfield's*

Halloween Adventure, Daffy Duck's *Quackbusters*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Crimson Peak*, *The Others*, *What Lies Beneath*; and the brilliant scores of Jerry Goldsmith, Irwin Kostal, George Bruns, and Bernard Herrmann.

At the album's heart is the title song, *A Halloween Carol*—presented in the spirit of a nineteen-fifties holiday recording—the era that gave us the sound of many Christmas classics. While composing this song, we reminisced about Halloween being the one night all felt comfortable dressing how they dreamed of being seen and seeing themselves. As devoted LGBTQIA+ advocates, this realization of “dressing how you feel inside” gave immediate new purpose to the song and the entire project.

To all beguiled by jack-o-lantern-lit porches decorated in autumn leaves—to those who have counted their candy with loved ones at the hearth of a fire's glow—and to all who may be new to this holiday: Our wish is to capture a nostalgic, heartfelt celebration of imagination and self-expression for those of any age. All are welcome through the gates of Grimwood. Come as you are—dressed up how you feel inside.

With love and hallowed gratitude,

Rick & Sarah



Rick McKee



SINCE HIS EARLY TEEN YEARS, RICK HAS been composing, producing, arranging, orchestrating, session-singing, and mixing for the world's paramount entertainment companies. Rick began his career in his early high school years, and during his undergrad at Oklahoma City University his dorm-room-created orchestrations reached over fifty million listeners. Rick has used his musical storytelling to create for Oscar-, Tony-, Emmy-, and Grammy Award-winning artists and celebrities across multiple industries—music directing television specials, live

events, and award-winning themed entertainment projects. With more than twenty years in commercial music and over thirty international Walt Disney Records releases, Rick has created for artist albums, film, television, cruise lines, parades, rides, and nighttime spectacles around the world—recording his music at Skywalker Ranch, Capital Records, and Abbey Road Studios.

I can't think of a better way to begin this new chapter than walking with Sarah through this niche project of our childhood imaginations. After twenty years in a unique field, able to share little of my music, I am turning the page—developing entrepreneurial endeavors and creating music I can share with friends, family, and all who care to listen. It is wonderful to dream new dreams.

— RICK MCKEE

Music Producer, Executive Producer, Project Backer
Composer, Arranger, Orchestrator, Vocalist, Storywriter

Sarah Whittemore



SINGING, PERFORMING, AND WRITING have been a part of Sarah's life from her earliest years. Growing up in Greensboro, North Carolina, she toured with children's choirs, starred in theater productions at school, and sang in her own jazz trio. Now based in Central Florida, Sarah continues to dazzle as a premiere soloist for concerts around the world, from Carnegie Hall to the castle stage at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Additionally, her a cappella bona fides shine in the renowned a cappella group *Voctave*. Sarah's voice can be heard as an accomplished session

singer in the commercial music field, accompanying artist albums, television specials, commercials, parades, and nighttime spectacles worldwide. Writing and singing her own songs and jingles have become a paramount extension of her career in recent years. In 2024, she released the original, award-winning choral anthem "My Pride" with Excelsia Publishing.

A Halloween Carol marks a literal childhood dream fulfilled. Writing and dreaming up this project alongside Rick has been nothing short of life-changing. I hope this album experience touches many hearts in a deep and profound way, as it has ours. Here's to even more creative alchemy in the future—together.

— SARAH WHITTEMORE

Vocalist, Composer, Vocal Arranger, Storywriter

- 1. Prologue**
- 2. The 1939 Grimwood Halloween Special**
- 3. The Story of the Heart**
- 4. The Tricky Trick-or-Treater**
- 5. Public Service 6-5000 / Goodnight!**
- 6. A Halloween Carol**
- 7. The Story of Ro-Why-Where: Part 1**
- 8. Grimwood**
- 9. The Creepy Creaky Coffin**
- 10. My Skeleton Guy**
- 11. The Story of Ro-Why-Where: Part 2**
- 12. Epilogue**
- 13. A Halloween Carol Suite**

A HALLOWEEN CAROL

Music Producer, Executive Producer, & Project Backer: Rick McKee
A Crunchy Chords LLC Record Release, Copyright ©© 2024

MUSIC PRODUCTION, ARRANGING, ORCHESTRATING, & NOTATION BY **RICK MCKEE**

MUSIC PREPARATION **EDWARD KNIGHT**

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITEMORE**

VOCALS PRODUCED & ENGINEERED BY **RICK MCKEE** AT **WATerview STUDIO**

ORCHESTRA RECORDED AT **OCEAN WAY NASHVILLE STUDIOS**

ORCHESTRA CONTRACTOR **DAVID ANGELL**

ORCHESTRA SESSIONS LEADER **KRISTIN WILKINSON**

ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR **CHRISTOPHER LEES**

ORCHESTRA RECORDING ENGINEER **NICK SPEZIA**

ORCHESTRA RECORDING ASSISTANT ENGINEER **AUSTIN BROWN**

MIXING ENGINEER **NICK SPEZIA** AT **SOUNDScape ENTERTAINMENT STUDIO**

MASTERING ENGINEER **ANDREW DARBY** AT **GEORGETOWN MASTERS • NASHVILLE, TN**

ARTWORK & DIGITAL BOOKLET BY **RICK MCKEE & MATTHEW LÓRIEN**



FROM LEFT: David Angell, Nick Spezia, Sarah Whitemore, Rick McKee,
Christopher Lees, Kristin Wilkinson, Edward Knight

MUSICIANS

VIOLIN

*David Angell • Jenny Bifano • WeiTsun Chang
Janet Darnall • David Davidson • Alicia Enstrom
Alison Hoffman • Jung-Min Shin
Mary Kathryn VanOsdale • Karen Winkelmann*

VIOLA

*Monisa Angell • Chris Farrell • Betsy Lamb
Kristin Wilkinson*

CELLO

*Kevin Bate • Andrew Dunn • Austin Hoke
Keith Nicholas • Sari Reist*

STRING BASS

Craig Nelson • Quentin Flowers

HARP

Vonda Darr

FLUTE / PICCOLO

*Leslie Fagan (piccolo double) • Rama Kumaran
Sam Levine • Gloria Yun (piccolo double)*

OBOE

Somerlie DePasquale • Diana Dunn • Luke Simonson

ENGLISH HORN

Diana Dunn • Jonathan Hearn

CLARINET

*Mariam Adam • Emily Bowland • Mark Cramer
Dan Lochrie (bass clarinet) • Spencer Prewitt
James Zimmerman*

BASSOON

Martin Gordon • Jim Lotz • Gil Perel • Andy Witherington

HORN

*Beth Beeson • Joey Demko • Harry Ditzel
Tara Johnson • Caroline Kinsey • Jennifer Kummer*

TRUMPET

*Jeff Bailey • Preston Bailey • Mike Haynes
Steve Patrick*

TROMBONE

*Roy Agee • Evan Clifton • Barry Green
Matt Jefferson • Johnathon Salcedo*

SAXOPHONE

*Don Aliquo • Kevin Gatzke • Ryan Middagh
Brandon Moore • Robbie Shankle*

PERCUSSION

*John Arrucci • Sam Bacco • Josh Hickman
David Steinquest*

KEYS / RHYTHM PROGRAMMING

Rick McKee

1. Prologue

"Into the Night" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"A Halloween Carol" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"Grimwood" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

VOCALS ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

NARRATION PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

2. The 1939 Grimwood Halloween Special

"KCIR Melody" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"KCIR Sponsor Fanfare" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"A Halloween Carol" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Grimwood Concerned Parents Society Anthem"

Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Halloween Sendoff" Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

VOCALS ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE**

NARRATION PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

3. The Story of the Heart

"The Story of the Heart" Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2017

"The Story of the Heart Underscore" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

NARRATION PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

4. The Tricky Trick-or-Treater

"The Tricky Trick-or-Treater" Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

VOCALS ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

5. Public Service 6-5000 / Goodnight!

"Public Service 6-5000" Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Creepy Creaky Coffin" Theme Composed by Sarah Whittemore (BMI) & Scott Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"Grimwood" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE**

NARRATION PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

6. A Halloween Carol

"A Halloween Carol" Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

VOCALS ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

7. The Story of Ro-Why-Where: Part 1

"Into the Night" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"The Story of Ro-Why-Where Themes" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550" Composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Public Domain

"The Halloween Sendoff" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"Grimwood" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Creepy Creaky Coffin" Theme Composed by Sarah Whittemore (BMI) & Scott Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

Based on the Character "Ro-Why-Where" Originally Created by Sarah Whittemore

STORY CONCEIVED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

STORY NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE**

STORY NARRATION PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

"RO-WHY-WHERE" VOICE PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

SOUND DESIGN BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **RICK MCKEE**

PRODUCED, ARRANGED, & PROGRAMMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

8. Grimwood

"Grimwood" Music & Lyrics by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

9. The Creepy Creaky Coffin

"The Creepy Creaky Coffin" Music & Lyrics by Sarah Whittemore (BMI) & Scott Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

VOCALS ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

10. My Skeleton Guy

"My Skeleton Guy" Music & Lyrics by Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

VOCALS PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

VOCALS ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

ADDITIONAL ORCHESTRATION BY **EDWARD KNIGHT**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

11. The Story of Ro-Why-Where: Part 2

"Into the Night" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"The Story of Ro-Why-Where Themes" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"A Halloween Carol" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Tricky Trick-or-Treater" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Creepy Creaky Coffin" Theme Composed by Sarah Whittemore (BMI) & Scott Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"Grimwood" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

Based on the Character "Ro-Why-Where" Originally Created by Sarah Whittemore

STORY CONCEIVED BY **RICK MCKEE & SARAH WHITTEMORE**

STORY NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE**

STORY NARRATION PERFORMED BY **SARAH WHITTEMORE**

"RO-WHY-WHERE," GRANDDAUGHTER, GRANDMA GHOST,

& GRANDPA GHOST VOICES PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

SOUND DESIGN BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **RICK MCKEE**

PRODUCED, ARRANGED, & PROGRAMMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

12. Epilogue

"Epilogue Underscore" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"Grimwood" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

NARRATION WRITTEN BY **RICK MCKEE**

NARRATION PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

"RO-WHY-WHERE" VOICE PERFORMED BY **RICK MCKEE**

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**

13. A Halloween Carol Suite

"Into the Night" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"A Halloween Carol" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Story of the Heart" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2017

"Grimwood" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Halloween Sendoff" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

"The Tricky Trick-or-Treater" Theme Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) & Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"My Skeleton Guy" Theme Composed by Sarah Whittemore (BMI) © 2024

"The Story of Ro-Why-Where Themes" Composed by Rick McKee (ASCAP) © 2024

MIXED BY **NICK SPEZIA**

PRODUCED, ORCHESTRATED, & ARRANGED BY **RICK MCKEE**