

■ MUSIC ■

UNHEARD

Hozier's new EP is a musical manifestation of spring

ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

Early last March, Irish Musician Andrew Hozier-Byrne teased his fifth EP, Unheard, with a very catchy excerpt. Unheard was finally released on March 22, featuring four songs spanning 14 minutes total. The tracks were originally intended for his album Unreal Unearth, inspired by the nine circles of hell in Dante Alighieri's Inferno.

"Too Sweet", the first track – a groovy and sweet song true to its title – depicts the tale of two individuals and their contrasting lives. The chorus of this song was used in the teaser, which, in Hozier's own words, represents the third circle of hell, Gluttony. Immediately following unveiling of the teaser, the chorus became an instant favourite and appeared on the soundtrack of reels and TikToks all over social media.

The second track, "Wildflower and Barley", features Allison Russel and is probably my favourite song on the EP. Representing Limbo, the first circle of hell, where the unbaptised and the virtuous pagans reside, the track portrays a morose springtime. Underneath the sombreness, the lyrics express a desire for renewal.

"Empire Now", the third track, represents the Circle of Violence. The song creates a post-apocalyptic ambience for the listener, mostly through its lyrics.

"Fare Well", the final track of the EP, represents the outward ascent. A relatively calm song that seeks to find joy and solace amidst the ominous shadow of calamity looming.

The themes of hope, renewal, and comfort persists throughout the four tracks, each a distinct flavour of delight for the senses, embodying the essence of spring.



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