

The New York Times

PLAYLIST

Evoking Mali, Appalachia and the Twilight of the 1970s

New Albums by Sarah Jarosz, Chvrches and Rokia Traoré

By JON PARELES

Published: September 20, 2013



Scott Simontacchi

Sarah Jarosz brings technology to Americana on "Build Me Up From Bones."

Sarah Jarosz

BUILD ME UP FROM BONES

[Sarah Jarosz](#) sings "Fuel the Fire," a song on her third studio album, "Build Me Up From Bones" (Sugar Hill), with some of the breaks and sharpness of deep Appalachia; it's a modal, irregular fiddle tune filled out by banjo and mandolin. But it's hardly traditional. She's singing about desire, as she does through much of the album. And partway through the song, it turns away from realistic acoustic recording to manipulate echoes and reverberation. Ms. Jarosz, 22, is expanding her beloved Americana roots in both sound and message. Her lyrics have a mystical streak, projecting love and loneliness across the landscape and the sky. And the string-band heritage matters to her, but so does what she can convey, here and now with her chosen instruments and modern technology, about "the way I feel inside."