

A Head Full of Dreams - Coldplay

Album review by Marini Federica



Only in the last few years I started developing an interest about music in separate from parental influence. Anyway I have the best memories listening to songs that I used to listen with my family. An example are those in the album “A Head Full of Dreams”, released by the band Coldplay.

Who are they?



Coldplay are a British rock band formed in London, at University College, in 1996. Born with the name Pectoralz, they changed their name before in Starfish and finally in Coldplay, in 1998.

The members of the group are:

- Chris Martin (lead vocals, guitar keyboard);
- John Buckland (lead guitar, harmonica);
- Guy Berryman (bass);
- Will Champion (drums, backing vocals).

They released 7 studio album; the last one of which is “A Head Full of Dreams”, in 2015.

Career highlights

After surfacing in 2000 with the single “Yellow,” **Coldplay** quickly became one of the biggest bands of the new millennium.

Parachutes (their debut album) went platinum in several countries and earned the band its first Grammy Awards.

The **Safety** EP (extended play) was released shortly after their first gig at a Manchester festival for unsigned bands. They emerged with **A Rush of Blood to the Head**, in August 2002 and they started a global concert tour.

The album **X&Y** (2005) put Coldplay on the same commercial level as **U2**.

In 2009 they were nominated for 7 *Grammy Awards*; they won “Favourite Group” at *People Choice Awards* and “Artist of the year” at the *American Music Awards*.

As the recording progressed, other producers, like **Avicii** and **Timbaland**, collaborated with Coldplay for the album **Ghost Stories** (2014) and for that reason it’s quite different from its predecessors.

“A Head Full of Dreams”

At the beginning of their career, Coldplay introduced themselves with a sincere statement: “We live in a beautiful world”. After fifteen years, their optimism is still the same, or better, it’s becoming stronger and stronger.

For their 2015 album, Coldplay worked with Beyoncé, Noel Gallagher, The Chainsmokers, to explore worldwide EDM (electronic dance music) influences. It was the eight best selling album of 2015 with 1.9 million copies sold worldwide. They are famous for their introspective lyrics and videos and it's incredible how they can spread different feelings, depending on your mood. For example, if I'm happy, I focus on the captivating rhythm of their songs, but if I'm sad, I pay attention on their meaningful lyrics.



Album cover

The songs of this album are the following:

1. *A Head Full of Dreams*
2. *Birds*
3. *Hymn For The Weekend*
4. *Everglow*
5. *Adventure of A Lifetime*
6. *Fun*
7. *Kaleidoscope*
8. *Army of one*
9. *Amazing Day*
10. *Colour Spectrum*
11. *Up&Up*

1. *A Head Full of Dreams*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGZMvV9KBp8>

The first song I want to analyze is the opening track, from which the album is entitled. I think they couldn't choose a better opening track because this song summarise the content of the whole album.

"A head full of dreams

Into life I've just been woken

With a head full, a head full of dreams"

This piece of lyrics makes us understand how positive and optimistic is this song, it suggests us to never stop dreaming and always follow our dreams.

2. *Hymn For The Weekend*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YykipeuMNEk>

This is the catchier song, in fact it is the most famous of the album, also because of Beyoncé's backing vocals; it has a style that Coldplay have never tried before. They began their career playing rock that sounds like Oasis, but after 15 years, they developed their own multi-colored style. The rhythm of the song, in contrast to the one of the opening track, is a little bit more melancholic, anyway the lyrics is full of hope. Chris Martin (singer) thanks someone to helped him in a difficult moment of his life, as this piece of lyrics suggest with a meaningful metaphor:

"Put your wings on me, wings on me

When I was so heavy..."



Coldplay on stage

3. *Amazing day*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH9AkFHPmM>

This song is not one of my favourite but I want to talk about it because its sound makes me think about Christmas time, maybe because of the chorus of children. It talks about how all the problems in the world and in your life disappear when you are with a person you love, because you're just so happy and peaceful with him.

"Sat on a roof

Named every star and

Showed me a place

Where you can be who you are"

The sound is really relaxing, maybe a little bit too much for my taste; in fact I prefer more rhythmic songs.

4. *Up&Up*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPNTC7uZYrl>

This song is characterized by the chorus that sing "[We're] going to get it, get it together, and go up and up and up", in fact the song talks about the possibility of a better world in the future. One of the voices that can be heard on the track is the one of Merry Clayton, a famous gospel singer who sang as backing vocal for The Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter". Also Noel Gallagher participate, with a distinctive guitar solo. The musical video is very suggestive and meaningful because it talks about contemporary issues.

This is probably one of my favourite in the album because it reminds me a beautiful summer spent with my family and it makes me feel powerful and alive.



Picture from the video

I noticed that the cover of every Coldplay's albums , matches very well with the overall sound. Looking at the colour, you can know how the album will sound like before listening to the single songs. In fact the album cover and all the pictures that I put in this review are colorful and positive and looking at them you feel happy and full of energy. Not for nothing, these are the feelings that the bend wants to instill to listeners and I love this album because this is my mood for most of the time.



OVERALL MARK

I'll give 4.5/5 stars to that album because the band is able to blow up the simplest feelings of every person for the maximum appeal. I think that this is not easy at all and it's a very good quality.



The album's attitude is now clear: it's an incredible time to be alive.