

THAYER SARRANO

"Meet the woman with the most world-weary voice in music – **Thayer Sarrano**. She is most assuredly creating the soundtrack to whatever becomes the next *Natural Born Killers* or *The Craft* – a little bit industrial grime, a little bit shoegaze, a little bit dark."

– *Refinery29*



Thayer Sarrano

"The New Queen of Shoe-Gaze"

– *Americana UK*

(PHOTO by ALYSSE GAFKJEN PHOTOGRAPHY)

"'The Eternal' – a song conjuring early 90s occult shoegaze moments, permeated with the smell of Nag Champa and clove cigarettes, set to a soft vocal timbre."

– *Post-Punk.com*

"Few degrees of separation exist between her and pretty much any heavy-hitter you can imagine. Her boundless approach blends shoegazey riffage with an art-rock individuality that's emblematic of the creative free-for-all in **Athens**, which transformed **Sarrano** from a classical pianist to a rock 'n' roller."

– *Stomp & Stammer*

"**Sarrano** can morph from angel to devil in the same song. The looming atmosphere of dread and submission conjured turns over a new page in Southern Gothic storytelling"

– *Pop Matters*

"Like **shoegazing**, there's a maximalist epic thing going on. It's rare that a singer is able to balance synthesizers with a slow, Southern vocal palette, and it's almost like inventing a new language of song. Well, here it is, and it's gorgeous!"

– *FlyPaper*

"It's rare that a song strikes so perfect a balance between foreboding and sensual, but **Thayer Sarrano** gets it just right. . . . A study in contrasts, pitting hard edges against the soft allure of suggestion as **Sarrano** wraps her whispery drawl around a flat, forceful rhythm while vaporous tendrils of steel guitar float past."

– *Paste Magazine*

"**Thayer Sarrano** is a force to be reckoned with in the ever-fertile **Athens, Georgia** scene, having worked as a touring and session musician with **Cracker, Camper Van Beethoven, T. Hardy Morris, of Montreal, Dave Marr, Kuroma, and David Barbe**, among numerous others. This haunting track is a tour de force of **Gothic Americana**. . . . We love it."

– *Big Takeover*

"A siren of the cypress swamp, **Athens, Georgia's Thayer Sarrano** beckons you into the darkness. . . . Overdriven guitars guide the listener through meandering paths that follow **Sarrano's** smoky coos to what one can only hope is a mystical communion."

– *Bucketful of Nails*

"A potent examination of **grace** and perseverance amidst loss and melancholia."

– *The Huffington Post*

"There is an aura of "Southern Gothic" via guitars, deep woodsy echoes and a rhythm like cautiously trudging through those woods...."

– *CMJ*

"Pitting a murky, ominous, lumbering arrangement against her ethereal voice, with its consciously mysterious dearth of effect, **Sarrano** crafts a sound that is hauntingly eerie. Bringing this palette to a canvas that includes psych, Southern Gothic, even industrial. It's easy to imagine here scoring *True Detective's* first season."

– *Elmore Magazine*

Thayer Sarrano of **Athens, GA**, is forging her own path through the shadowy valley of a psych-dreamland, bottling up ghosts and bringing them to life inside her ethereal desert-rock hymns. Press outlets such as *Refinery29*, *Post-Punk.com*, and *Stomp & Stammer* have featured her newly-released album – *Wings Alleluia* – its title being a nod to the great **Leonard Cohen**, hero and musical model for **Sarrano**. Her album was mastered by the immortal **Ted Jensen** (Badflower, The Struts, Norah Jones) of **Sterling Sound**. On this record, and as always, **Sarrano** interweaves the mystical with personal experiences, embedding them deep within her lush crepuscular rock arrangements. **Sarrano** has been described as “**Lee Hazelwood** writing songs for **Nancy Sinatra** to sing, with **The Melvins** as her backing-band.” The music of **Sarrano** has also been categorized as “the soundtrack of *Twin Peaks*, crossed with **Neil Young** and **Crazy Horse**.” She dovetails a molten lilt with the airy spacious feeling of an empty basilica. **Sarrano** carves out deep pockets, cavernous vacuums, into which her otherworldly sonorities have room to breathe. Perhaps these pockets of space were always already there, and **Sarrano** stumbled upon them, becoming a vector for something deep, soulful, and strange. A song like “**The Eternal**” combines industrial pulse with fuzz guitar growl. The chorus of “**These Arms**” dares to straddle a fault-line of truly seismic-proportions, splitting it sonically, without a rock-cliché in sight. The song “**O My Soul**” boasts a hauntingly understated, rattle-scratch, shoegaze funk. “**Red Sun**” is a rare ballad, one that feels as though it were written and performed on the edge of existence and the universe. But most important of all are the album’s indefinable qualities, those which give a record its substance, and help it stand up to repeated listenings, each and every track, from beginning to end.

Sarrano spent her earliest years in a monastic seminary, before growing up in the coastal swamplands of southern **Georgia**. She is classically-trained as a pianist, but plays with equal competence the guitar, pedal steel, oboe, and various percussion instruments. From early childhood, **Sarrano** composed instrumental music. She then emerged as a songwriter when she attended art school in the vibrant and most musical community of **Athens, GA**. There she began to collaborate with friends, while also forming her own band. All the while, **Sarrano** continued to establish herself as both a studio and touring session player. To name but a few of the acts with which she has worked: **of Montreal**, **Cracker** and **Camper Van Beethoven**, **Dead Confederate**, **T. Hardy Morris**, **Dave Marr**, **David Barbe** and **the Quickhooks**, and **Kuroma**. This is but a short-list. Since 2009, **Sarrano** has released three full-length LPs: *Shaky* (2015), *Lift Your Eyes to the Hills* (2012), and *King* (2009). **Sarrano** has toured heavily as a headliner in both the United States and Europe. She has also supported in a variety of tour and show capacities the **Drive-By Truckers (DBTs)**, **Television**, **Robyn Hitchcock**, **Camper Van Beethoven**, **Cracker**, **Nicole Atkins**, **The Whigs**, **Orenda Fink**, and **Patterson Hood**. **Sarrano** has been a featured guest vocalist of **Big Star’s Third** – a musical collective featuring members of **Big Star**, **R.E.M.**, **The Posies**, **Mitch Easter**, **The DBs**, and **Wilco**. She has shared songwriter-in-the-round spots with **Patterson Hood** (DBTs), **Mike Mills** (R.E.M.), **Dave Marr** (Star-Room Boys) and others. Her songs have been featured on network television (*Kingdom*), and even in art exhibits at the **Groninger Museum** in the Netherlands. **Sarrano** won the *Flagpole Magazine Music Award* for “Music Video of the Year,” for her song “Shaky,” from the album of that same name. **Sarrano** currently resides revolvingly between **Los Angeles**, **Athens, GA**, and **Nashville, TN**. She tours the U.S. and Europe regularly. Before her newly-released album, the year prior – 2018 – was a busy one for **Sarrano**. She released a 7-inch single – “**I Will Never Be Used to Your Beauty**.” (Its B-Side was the **Leonard Cohen** classic “**If It Be Your Will**.”) Bearing the same title as the A-Side, a lyrical companion artbook of drawings and mixed media art of **Sarrano**’s own creation accompanied the single (ISBN: 978-1-7328163-0-5). Also last year, **Sarrano** released an acoustic EP, entitled *Live from the Georgia Theatre*. It transposed her songcraft from the forum of rock into a conservatory setting, featuring guitars, the oud, violins, and double bass. A full-length video of that performance was also released. Those endeavors, and her follow-up tour of both the East and West Coast were all in preparation for her new album, which you now possess in your hands. Play it. The tendrils will astound.

DPK: www.Guildwater.com/Thayer-Sarrano-DPK.html

PRESS: Rey@Reybee.com (**Reybee, Inc.**)

LABEL: info@Guildwater.com

MAILING: 337 S. Milledge Ave. - Suite 125 || Athens, GA 30605

BOOKING US / UK : ThayerSarrano@gmail.com

ARTIST: ThayerSarrano@gmail.com

MEDIA & LINKS

MUSIC VIDEOS: ThayerSarrano.com/Video

MUSIC: ThayerSarrano.com/Music

INSTAGRAM: [ThayerSarrano](https://www.instagram.com/ThayerSarrano)

FACEBOOK: [ThayerSarrano](https://www.facebook.com/ThayerSarrano)

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