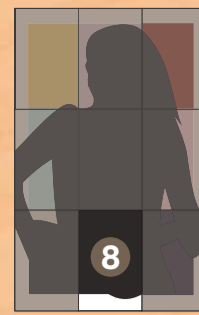


In this eighth instalment of The Straits Times' nine-part daily Taylor Swift infographic series, correspondent **Yamini Chinnuswamy** and executive artist **Billy Ker** explore the 34-year-old American pop star's ninth album. This is ahead of The Eras Tour in Singapore from March 2 to 9, named for the different musical "eras" of her career



ASSEMBLE YOUR OWN POSTER

This is the eighth of a nine-part infographic that will be published daily until Feb 25. Combine all nine pages to create your own mosaic poster of Taylor Swift.

(2020) *evermore*

WE NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE



1 Flair for flannel

On the album cover for Evermore, Swift sports a brown plaid coat and French braid, furthering the cottagecore feel of her two albums created during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2 Drowned sorrows

Inspired by Evermore's second track Champagne Problems, fans quickly embrace the image of champagne bottles and glasses as a symbol of the era. Swift co-wrote the song with her then boyfriend, British actor Joe Alwyn. It features an unidentified narrator mourning the demise of a relationship after turning down a marriage proposal.



TAYLOR'S DIARY

February 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Swift is forced to admit that the concerts she postponed in 2020 would now be definitively cancelled.

"This is an unprecedented pandemic that has changed everyone's plans and no one knows what the touring landscape is going to look like in the near future," she tells fans on social media.

March to April 2021

Swift bags the Grammy for Album of the Year (right), becoming the first female artiste to win three times in that category. She previously won for her second album Fearless (2008) and fifth album 1989 (2014).

In April, the Fearless (Taylor's Version) re-recording hits the shelves and streaming services. It is the first instalment of Swift's re-recording project, which sees her recording new versions of her back catalogue. Under the terms of her deal with Republic Records, signed in 2018, she owns the masters for the new recordings. Since she is also a credited songwriter for all of her music, it means she exercises complete control over its commercial use in media such as advertisements and film.



The re-recording project stems from a dispute with her former record label Big Machine.

To encourage fans to buy and stream the new recordings, Swift includes unreleased tracks from her songwriter book – that is, From The Vault. Fearless (Taylor's Version) makes the top 10 list of 2021's best-selling albums, with 980,000 copies sold worldwide.

November 2021

Following the success of Fearless (Taylor's Version), next in the re-recording project is Red (Taylor's Version), which tackles her fourth studio album from 2012.

To keep up interest in this second re-recording, she includes a 10-minute version of fan-favourite track All Too Well (2012). She also directs a music video – All Too Well: The Short Film, starring Dylan O'Brien and Sadie Sink (both below) – to accompany the longer track.

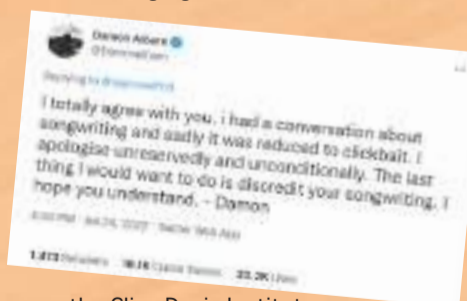


January 2022

Swift takes to Twitter, now known as X, to rebuke English musician Damon Albarn, better known as the frontman of rock band Blur and co-creator of virtual band Gorillaz.

In an interview with Los Angeles Times newspaper, Albarn had said Swift "doesn't write her own songs". She shoots back at him on Twitter: "I write ALL of my own songs. Your hot take is completely false and SO damaging."

Just an hour later, Albarn replies: "I apologise unreservedly and unconditionally. The last thing I would want to do is discredit your songwriting."



A week later in February, the Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music at New York University launches a class covering Swift's career as a singer-songwriter.

FOLKLORE

MIDNIGHTS

AT A GLANCE



9th album, released in December 2020

1 million copies sold worldwide in its first week

2nd surprise "pandemic album" after July 2020's Folklore

LINER NOTES

Barely half a year after releasing her career-redefining Folklore album, Swift breaks her own rules to release its sister record Evermore. Her collaboration with indie musician Aaron Dessner on Folklore proved so fruitful that "we just couldn't stop writing songs", she says.

Like Folklore, Evermore is a sonic departure for Swift. Previous albums such as Lover (2019), Reputation (2017) and 1989 (2014) dabbled with uptempo pop made to be performed in a stadium. But Evermore embraces a sparse, lo-fi production style influenced by indie and folk rock.

Evermore's arrival solidifies the change in Swift's musical trajectory that began with Folklore, introducing her to a new demographic of fans who are enraptured by the dreamy lyrics and music of the double "pandemic albums". Vice Magazine later declares in a headline: "Taylor Swift was a pop culture villain. The pandemic made her a hero."

CAT LADY

Swift's three pet felines are highly revered by Swifties

MEREDITH GREY ♀

Breed: Scottish Fold
Adopted: 2011

Named after American actress Ellen Pompeo's titular doctor character in the hit medical drama Grey's Anatomy (2005 to present).

Do not try to capture Meredith on film – Swift has said she "just hates having her picture taken".



OLIVIA BENSON ♀

Breed: Scottish Fold
Adopted: 2014

Named after American actress Mariska Hargitay's detective character in the procedural drama Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (1999 to present).

Look out for Olivia in Swift's music videos such as Blank Space (2014) and Karma (2022), as well as a DirecTV commercial where Swift rides a "cat-unicorn" version of Olivia (right).



BENJAMIN BUTTON ♂

Breed: Ragdoll
Adopted: 2019

Named after American actor Brad Pitt's titular character in the movie The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button (2008).

Swift met Benjamin Button on the set of her music video for ME! (2019), in which he appears. Since he was an unadopted kitten, she happily took him in.

