

PRESS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

People
weekly

Rolling Stone

"Her head-tilting takes on R&B standards since the early 1960s place her in the stylistic neighborhood of Aretha Franklin, with a spark of Southern-fried moxie...Irma Thomas plus piano is *Simply Grand*."

"...lets her put the grand in grand dame."

"It's easy to read Hurricane Katrina metaphors into everything New Orleans musicians record, but that tragedy runs deep through this set of understated piano-based songs by Crescent City's long-reigning queen of soul...Thomas' versions of these stark, powerful tunes help *Simply Grand* live up to its title."

Mark Kemp

The New York Times

"Ms. Thomas sings warmly and forthrightly amid the two-fisted rumbas, R&B vamps, jazz ballads and barrelhouse flourishes. And without getting heavy-handed the song choices haven't forgotten what happened to her beloved city..."

Jon Pareles

AP Associated Press

"Irma Thomas is *Simply Grand*... the woman known as the Soul Queen of New Orleans is a national treasure. More than that, she remains at the top of her talent: If anything, her lush voice, with its earthy tones and full-note roundness, has grown more nuanced and emotionally resonant with time."

Michael McCall

Paste

"88 Keys X 12 pianists / fourteen songs + 1 great singer = awesome record"

Steve Pick

The Boston Globe

"Rather than show off her pipes, Thomas keeps an even keel and a measured tempo...And when Thomas does let loose...the result is spine-tinglingly gorgeous. *Simply Grand* is an album whose charms are too subtle to catch on the first spin or third, but enough listens will make it clear that the album's title is nothing more than a statement of fact."

Saul Austerlitz

THE
HUFFINGTON
POST.

"*Simply Grand* is by no means a Gospel record, but you will feel reborn after one listen. Every loss, big or small, every moment of joy ever experienced by Miss Thomas is reflected in her powerful performance."

Sal Nunziato

off BEAT

"...she makes right choice after right choice. Nothing sounds facile, every emotion sounds lived, and the emotions are all properly modulated."

Alex Rawls
