

## Home-grown hits

Singer Missy Higgins has released a new album, *OZ*, which celebrates her all-time favourite Australian songs

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COVER AUSSIE TRACKS?

I've been so influenced by Australian music over the years. In a way, this album is a compilation of all the influences that make up who I am now. Paul Kelly and Something for Kate, especially, are huge artists for me. Slim Dusty I've always been a big fan of, and he probably influenced some of the bands that then influenced me to sing in an Australian accent.

### WHAT MAKES AUSSIE MUSIC UNIQUE?

There's a certain kind of heart to Australian music that's in sync with our values, sense of humour and personalities. There's something gritty and down-to-earth [about it] – it has a real sense of humility and fun that I really enjoy.

### HOW DO YOU THINK AUSTRALIAN MUSIC HAS CHANGED OVER TIME?

We're more influenced by the international content that we get on radio and TV, but there are a lot of throwbacks now. There's a bit of a grungy trend coming back in music like what Nirvana came out of. [Music] reinvents itself and recycles itself over the years in new ways.

### YOU'VE INCLUDED SOME LESSER-KNOWN ARTISTS. WHY?

I wanted to showcase artists I felt deserved more of a spotlight – artists like Perry Keyes and The Drones. There's a lot of amazing music in Australia that doesn't get the traction that's needed to make it successful. I thought it'd be nice to shine a light on some of those artists.

*OZ is out now, along with an accompanying book of personal insights on the songs. Missy is touring throughout October; [missyhiggins.com](http://missyhiggins.com) ★*

### Missy's top two tracks:

- I was really excited to cover Paul Kelly's song "Before Too Long".
- I've always loved the Something for Kate song, "You Only Hide".