

DELTA GOODREM

Her story is fascinating. Her chart statistics are impressive. Her music's even better.

At just 26 Delta Goodrem is the Artist of the Decade in Australia having sold more albums in the last ten years than any other artist in Australia both local and international artists included.

First - a history lesson. Delta's 2003 debut *Innocent Eyes* is one of only a handful of albums to sell over a million copies in Australia - one in every 20 Australians own a copy. The album spent a record-breaking 29 weeks at No.1 in Australia, won the Highest Selling Album award at the Australian equivalent of the Grammys two years running and has now clocked up 4 million sales worldwide - including reaching No.2 in the UK.

Each of the album's five singles made No.1 in Australia - breaking a record held by Kylie Minogue and the Beatles - and *Innocent Eyes* spawned three Top 10 singles in the UK. She's also had hit albums in Japan and New Zealand, charming the globe territory by territory. It's not hard to see why: in an era of pre-fabricated as-seen-on-TV popstars, Delta Goodrem is the real thing.

A pianist since the age of seven, Goodrem harks back to a bygone era where pop stars wrote their own songs and sang them live - as simple as that.

Delta became the girl who was always on stage from as long as anyone in her family can remember. "It always just felt natural," she says. "I remember when I went to concerts of artists I loved and I thought, 'I can't wait to do that'. It was never 'I hope I get to do it,' I always knew I'd do it. I just believed in myself. There wasn't a plan B."

Innocent Eyes established Goodrem as not just a musician but a songwriter. In 2006, Goodrem performed a self-penned song, "Together We Are One," at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in front of a worldwide audience of 1.5 billion. The inspirational song surfaced on last year's *American Idol*. Another song penned by Goodrem, "Days Go By," was a No.1 hit this year by Norwegian *Idol* Glenn Lyse, while she also just collaborated on a song with hero Olivia Newton-John for her new cancer charity. "Olivia's been a shining light for me," Delta says. "She's guided me; she's continually given me great advice." Another one of Goodrem's songs, "Eyes on Me," was selected by Celine Dion for her latest album *Taking Chances*. "To hear 'Eyes on Me' sung by a woman I've looked up to all my life - that's an amazing feeling," Goodrem says. Goodrem more recently wrote "I'm Not Ready" that was recorded by Michael Bolton for his album 'Gem's' (out in June 2011) and performed the track with Bolton on *US Dancing With The Stars* to over 21 million viewers.

Her resume not only includes TV (Australian small-screen icon *Neighbours* which launched the careers of Kylie Minogue, Guy Pearce and Natalie Imbruglia) and a lead role in a movie (2005's *Hating Alison Ashley*), but a duet with Tony Bennett for the Australian version of his hit album, *An American Dream*.

In 2008, Goodrem's first album for the U.S. - simply titled *Delta* - was her introduction to the American market. Two years in the making, it serves as a welcome antidote to the rushed world of generic pop by creating timeless, global tunes injected with power, passion and personality. The single *In This Life* was released and got to Top on the HOT A/C radio charts there.

"Believe Again" opens the proceedings with Delta's most ambitious musical offering yet - a cinematic epic recalling the lush pop of Madonna's *Frozen*, precisely produced by Marius DeVries (Bjork, Massive Attack, U2) and Stuart Crichton. "Sometimes you write songs and you think 'That's fine, that's OK,'" Delta says. "I didn't want fine. I wanted better than fine. I wanted a great album. I've always had a really good ear for a great song that appeals to a lot of people. I wanted to make sure I had something special. 'Believe Again' was the one that turned the corner, it inspired the whole album."

First single "In This Life," (produced by John Shanks) became Delta's 8th No.1 hit in Australia (out of an impressive 13 singles released to date), effortlessly seducing radio with its life-affirming chorus and wall-to-wall melodic rush. "It has that light and shade," Delta says of track. "The sentiment in songs is so important to me. It's got the melody that rings in your ear because it's catchy and you can sing along with it, but I can also belt it out. It's got all the elements I could hope to be introduced with."

One of the songs, "Possionless", Goodrem wrote the song shortly after winning her battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a cancer that derailed Delta at the height of her Australian and UK success in 2003. Just as music has always been there for the good times in her life, it was there at the hardest moments too.

After an accelerated life - and career - of dizzying highs and crushing lows, the *Delta* album saw Goodrem coming out of the dark with an album that embraces the positivity and healing power of pop music.

Delta is currently based in Los Angeles where she is writing her new album.