

= Lorde =

Ella Marija Lani Yelich @-@ O 'Connor (born 7 November 1996) , better known by her stage name Lorde (pronounced " lord ") , is a New Zealand singer @-@ songwriter . Born in Takapuna and raised in Devonport , Auckland , she became interested in performing as a child . In her early teens , she signed with Universal Music Group and was later paired with the songwriter and record producer Joel Little , who has co @-@ written and produced most of Lorde 's works . Her first major release , The Love Club EP , was commercially released in March 2013 . The EP reached number two on the national record charts of New Zealand and Australia .

In mid @-@ 2013 , Lorde released her debut single " Royals " . It became an international crossover hit and made Lorde the youngest solo artist to achieve a US number @-@ one single on the Billboard Hot 100 since 1987 . In late 2013 , she released her debut studio album , Pure Heroine . The record topped the charts of New Zealand and Australia and reached number three on the US Billboard 200 . Its following singles include " Tennis Court " , " Team " , " No Better " and " Glory and Gore " . In 2014 , Lorde released " Yellow Flicker Beat " as a single from the soundtrack for The Hunger Games : Mockingjay ? Part 1 .

Lorde 's music consists of subgenres such as dream pop and indietronica . She has earned two Grammy Awards , a Brit Award and ten New Zealand Music Awards . In 2013 , she was named among Time 's most influential teenagers in the world , and in the following year , she was in Forbes 's " 30 Under 30 " list .

= = Life and career = =

= = = 1996 ? 2008 : Early life = = =

Of Croatian and Irish descent , Ella Yelich @-@ O 'Connor was born in Takapuna to Vic O 'Connor , a civil engineer , and Sonja Yelich (Croatian : Sonja Jeli?) , a poet , on November 7 , 1996 . She was raised in the nearby suburb of Devonport with her two sisters , Jerry and India , and her brother , Angelo .

At age five , she joined a drama group and developed public speaking skills . At that same time , Lorde was attending Vauxhall School and later Belmont Intermediate School . Her mother encouraged her to read a range of genres , which Lorde cited as a lyrical influence , " I guess my mum influenced my lyrical style by always buying me books . She 'd give me a mixture of kid and adult books too , there weren 't really any books I wasn 't allowed to read . I remember reading Feed by M.T. Anderson when I was six , and her giving me Salinger and Carver at a young age , and Janet Frame really young too . "

= = = 2009 ? 11 : Career beginnings = = =

In May 2009 , Lorde and musician friend Louis McDonald won the Belmont Intermediate School annual talent show as a duo . On August 13 , 2009 , Lorde and McDonald were invited in for a chat on Jim Mora 's Afternoons show on Radio New Zealand . There , they performed covers of Pixie Lott 's " Mama Do (Uh Oh , Uh Oh) " and Kings of Leon 's " Use Somebody " . McDonald 's father Ian sent both his home audio recording of her and Louis McDonald covering Duffy 's song " Warwick Avenue " and his home video recording of the pair singing Pixie Lott 's " Mama Do " to Universal Music Group (UMG) ' s A & R Scott Maclachlan . In 2009 Maclachlan signed her to UMG for development . Lorde was also part of the Belmont Intermediate School band Extreme ; the band placed third in the North Shore Battle of the Bands finals at the Bruce Mason Centre , Takapuna , Auckland on 18 November 2009 .

In 2010 Lorde and McDonald performed covers live on a regular basis as a duet called " Ella & Louis " , playing at The Leigh Sawmill Cafe on 15 August , at Roasted Addiqtion Cafe in Kingsland on 20 August , at The Vic Unplugged at Victoria Theatre , Devonport on 27 October , and at

Devonstock in Devonport on 12 December . While working on her music career , she attended Takapuna Grammar School from 2010 to 2013 , completing Year Twelve . She later chose not to return in 2014 to finish Year Thirteen .

In 2011 , UMG hired vocal coach Frances Dickinson to give Lorde singing lessons twice a week for a year . During this time , she began writing songs and was set up with a succession of songwriters , but without success . At the age of fourteen , Lorde started reading short fiction and learned how to " put words together " . She performed her own original songs publicly for the first time at The Vic Unplugged II on the Devonport Victoria Theatre main stage on 16 November 2011 . In December 2011 , MacLachlan paired Lorde with Joel Little , a songwriter , record producer , and former Goodnight Nurse lead singer . The pair recorded five songs for an EP at Little 's Golden Age Studios in Morningside , Auckland , and finished within three weeks .

= = = 2012 ? present : Pure Heroine and The Hunger Games soundtrack = = =

In November 2012 , Lorde self @-@ released the record , entitled The Love Club EP , through her SoundCloud account for free download . After being freely downloaded 60 @,@ 000 times , UMG decided to commercially release the EP for sales in March 2013 . The EP peaked at number two on the record charts of New Zealand and Australia . In June of that year , " Royals " was released as a single from the EP . The single became a crossover hit , peaking atop the US Billboard Hot 100 for nine consecutive weeks . Consequently , Lorde became the youngest solo artist to achieve a number @-@ one single in the US with " Royals " , since Tiffany 's " I Think We 're Alone Now " (1987) . The track eventually won the 2013 APRA Silver Scroll Award , and two Grammy Awards for Best Pop Solo Performance and Song of the Year at the 2014 Grammy Awards .

In September 2013 , Lorde released her debut studio album , Pure Heroine . The album topped the charts of New Zealand and Australia and reached the top five of several national charts , including Canada , Ireland , Norway and the United Kingdom . In the U.S. , Pure Heroine peaked at number three on the Billboard 200 , and had sold 1 @.@ 33 million copies by 2014 . Worldwide , Pure Heroine had sold 1 @.@ 5 million copies by the end of 2013 . The album was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album .

The release of Pure Heroine was preceded by four singles : " Tennis Court " was released in June 2013 , topping the New Zealand Singles Chart ; the third single , " Team " , became a top @-@ ten hit worldwide ; and " No Better " , a song only included on the extended version of Pure Heroine , and " Glory and Gore " were released as the two final singles from the record , respectively . In September 2013 , Lorde 's cover version of the Tears for Fears single " Everybody Wants to Rule the World " , produced by Michael A. Levine and Lucas Cantor , was included on The Hunger Games : Catching Fire film soundtrack .

In November 2013 , Lorde signed a publishing deal with Songs Music Publishing , worth a reported US \$ 2 @.@ 5 million , after a bidding war between various companies , including Sony Music Entertainment and her label UMG . The agreement gives the publisher the right to license Lorde 's music for films and advertising . Late that year , she started a relationship with photographer James Lowe .

In December 2013 , Lorde announced that she had begun writing material for her second studio album . In June 2014 , Lorde said that her second studio album was in its early stages and that , so far , it was " totally different " from her debut album . In the first half of 2014 , Lorde headlined various festivals , including the Laneway Festival in Sydney , Australia , the three South American editions of Lollapalooza ? Chile , Santiago ; Buenos Aires , Argentina ; and São Paulo , Brazil ? and the Coachella Festival in California .

To promote The Love Club EP and Pure Heroine , Lorde embarked on an international tour , the first leg of which was held in North America in early 2014 . She later announced the Australian leg , held in July , and the second North American leg , held in August . In April of that year , Lorde performed " All Apologies " with the surviving members of Nirvana during the band 's induction ceremony at the Rock N ' Roll Hall of Fame .

On 1 August 2014 , Lorde performed at Lollapalooza again in Grant Park , Chicago . Lorde 's set

was critically well received , with Billboard selecting it as the fifth @-@ best performance of the festival , while Rolling Stone deemed it the best segment of the Chicago event .

On 29 September 2014 , Lorde released " Yellow Flicker Beat " as the first single from the soundtrack album for the film The Hunger Games : Mockingjay ? Part 1 ; Lorde oversaw the collation of the album 's content , in addition to contributing vocals to several songs . By her 18th birthday in November 2014 , it was estimated that Lorde was worth NZ \$ 11 million . In 2015 , Lorde was featured on " Magnets " , a track on Disclosure 's second studio album Caracal . At the 2016 Brit Awards , Lorde gave a performance of " Life on Mars " in tribute to the late English singer David Bowie .

= = Artistry = =

= = = Influences = = =

Lorde grew up listening to American jazz musician Billie Holiday , and soul musicians Sam Cooke , Etta James and Otis Redding , whose music Lorde admires for " harvesting their suffering . " Additionally , she listened to her parents ' favourite records by the likes of Cat Stevens , Neil Young and Fleetwood Mac in her early years . Among those records , Lorde deemed Rumours by Fleetwood Mac as " a perfect record " . She cites the unusual vocals of Grimes , band Sleigh Bells and producer SBTRKT as her prominent influences . Furthermore , Lorde names Thom Yorke as an influence for his " smart " way of using his voice , as well as Nicki Minaj and Kendrick Lamar for their " sassy " tone . Other inspirations for Lorde include Lana Del Rey , Grace Jones , James Blake , Yeasayer , Animal Collective , Bon Iver , Radiohead , Jamie Woon , Arcade Fire , Kurt Vonnegut , Laurie Anderson , Kanye West and Prince .

She cites rapper J. Cole and electronic producers as influences , saying that she was impressed by " their vocals in a really interesting way , whether it might be chopping up a vocal part or really lash or layering a vocal " . Katy Perry , Justin Timberlake , Bruno Mars and Sara Bareilles have also influenced Lorde vocally . Lorde also states that she was inspired by the initially hidden identities of Burial and The Weeknd , explaining , " I feel like mystery is more interesting " . She names her mother , a poet , as the main influence for her songwriting skill . In addition , Lorde names several authors including Raymond Carver , Wells Tower , Tobias Wolff , Claire Vaye Watkins , Sylvia Plath , Walt Whitman and T. S. Eliot as lyrical inspirations ? particularly noting their sentence structures .

= = = Musical style = = =

Lorde 's music has been described as art pop , dream pop , indie pop , electropop , and indie @-@ electro . Multiple reviewers also note the influences of hip hop and R & B on Lorde 's releases . In a review for Consequence of Sound , Jon Hadusek details the minimal production on Lorde 's music " allows [her] to sing any melody she wants , layering them over one another to create a choral effect " . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard shares that her works features deep bass rumbles , lilting loops and programmed beats . Paul Lester from The Guardian compares Lorde 's music to that of Sky Ferreira , Lana Del Rey , Grimes and Eliza Doolittle .

Lorde is an alto ; however , on " Royals " , she performs with a mezzo @-@ soprano vocal range . Lorde writes her music vocally and does not play musical instruments on her records or onstage . She states that her main focus is her voice , elaborating , " I don 't play any instruments , so my voice needs to have the focus . My vocal @-@ scape is really important . " PopMatters 's Evan Sawdey describes Lorde 's vocals as being " unique and powerfully intriguing " . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard praises her vocals for being " dynamic , smoky and restrained " . Lester characterises Lorde 's vocals as " sweet , sultry and sour " , while James Lachno from The Daily Telegraph details the singer 's voice as " twitchy electro " . In an article for The AV Club , Kevin McFarland writes that " [Lorde 's] voice is the alpha and omega of her talent . She has the presence and vocal development of singers more than twice her age . Her voice isn 't booming or overpowering , but

rather mystifying and alluring , both floating on its own in a sea of reverb and digital blips and awash in an army of chorused overdubs . "

= = = Songwriting and lyrics = = =

Talking about her collaboration with Joel Little , Lorde shares that Little 's refining her " raw potential to end up with [the music] " was one of the best aspects of him . She also views Little as " the only one who was working with electronic music in the way [she] was interested in at the time " . Lorde details that her songs are shaped by her lyrics , which she felt as a " more cohesive way of working . " She said , " I tend to start with lyrics ? sometimes the seed of a song will just be a word that I thought was rad , one that summed up a particular idea I 'd been trying to pin down . " Nonetheless , she points out that the songwriting process of " Tennis Court " was different to how she normally writes a song : the lyrics are built on the instant music and beat .

The lyrical content of her two first major releases , The Love Club EP and Pure Heroine , criticises mainstream popular culture . Lindsay Zoladz from Pitchfork Media noted that Lorde expressed her indifference towards modern @-@ day 's culture , further explaining that " Lorde has introduced herself to the world as someone who gives very few fucks . " On behalf of Rolling Stone , critic Jonah Weiner also noted the typical themes of teen pop music , including " social anxiety , romantic yearning , debilitating ennui [and] booze @-@ soaked ragers " . Jim Pickney from the New Zealand Listener writes that Lorde 's lyrics are structured in a short story manner and praised that her songwriting ability " combines unmistakably teenage confusion , curiosity and confidence with word skills beyond her years . "

= = Public image = =

Lorde chose her stage name because she was fascinated with " royals and aristocracy " . However , she felt the name Lord was too masculine , thus she added an " e " to make it more feminine . She described her public image as coming " naturally " to her . Her music is noted for the manner in which its view of pop culture is contrasted with that of her contemporaries , such as Miley Cyrus and Rihanna . Lorde is a self @-@ identified feminist .

In a November 2013 interview with Q , Lorde expressed frustration about " certain things about music " : " There are a lot of shock tactics these days . People trying to outdo each other , which will probably culminate in two people fucking on stage at the Grammys . " Following the release of Pure Heroine , she also described herself as a " sex @-@ positive " person , elaborating :

People like to paint me in a certain way , but I 'm a hugely sex @-@ positive person and I have nothing against anyone getting naked . For me personally I just don 't think it really would complement my music in any way or help me tell a story any better . It 's not like I have a problem with dancing around in undies ? I think you can use that stuff in a hugely powerful way . It just hasn 't felt necessary for me .

In November 2013 , Lorde was included in Time 's list of the most influential teenagers in the world , with Mark Metcalfe from the publication commenting that she was " forging her own path " . In January 2014 , Forbes placed Lorde on their " 30 Under 30 " list of young people " who are changing our world " . She was the youngest individual to be featured on the list . In October of that year , Lorde was included in the list " The 25 Most Influential Teens of 2014 " by Time . Featuring Lorde in its 6 September 2013 cover story , Billboard named Lorde " your new alt @-@ rock heroine " . Britney Spears is an admirer of Lorde , commenting that her music " [is] really different and cool . "

In June 2014 , Lorde released a two @-@ piece make @-@ up limited edition collection in collaboration with MAC Cosmetics , consisting of a lipstick titled after her debut album , Pure Heroine , and an eyeliner . She filmed a video for the Electoral Commission to encourage voter turnout of young people at the 2014 New Zealand general election , despite being too young to vote at the time . On 13 May 2015 , a wax figure of Lorde was introduced to the Madame Tussauds Hollywood .

Her career and the influence of the music industry were parodied in the episodes "The Cissy" and "# REHASH" of South Park (season 18 , episode 3 and 9 ; broadcast in October / December 2014) . That role was also used in other episode of the same season .

== Discography ==

Pure Heroine (2013)

== Awards and nominations ==

Following her breakthrough , Lorde won four New Zealand Music Awards at the 2013 ceremony . " Royals " additionally earned the New Zealand APRA Silver Scroll Awards in that year . At the 2014 Grammy Awards , Lorde received two Grammy Awards for her single " Royals " in the categories Best Pop Solo Performance and Song of the Year . She has also won two Billboard Music Awards , one MTV Video Music Award and three World Music Awards .

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