

= The Sound of White =

The Sound of White is the debut studio album by Australian pop singer @-@ songwriter Missy Higgins , released 6 September 2004 by Eleven . It won the 2005 ARIA Music Award for Best Female Artist . Higgins had secured recording contracts with Eleven and Warner Bros. while still in high school , after winning a competition for unsigned artists run by radio station Triple J. Her winning song , " All For Believing " , is included on this album . After a backpacking trip in 2002 , Higgins toured and wrote songs during 2003 . She wrote most tracks alone and collaborated on three songs , with Kevin Griffin , Jay Clifford and Clif Magness respectively . The Sound of White was recorded in 2004 with producer John Porter .

Higgins ' first single from the album was " Scar " , released in August ahead of the album . Three more singles were released , " Ten Days " in November , " The Special Two " in April 2005 and " The Sound of White " in August . Critics gave the album mixed reviews and it achieved commercial success , reaching number one on the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Albums Chart and , selling over 630 @,@ 000 copies , was accredited platinum nine times . The album was nominated for five ARIA Awards in 2004 and won ' Best Pop Release ' . The following year it was nominated for eight ARIA awards and won five . In 2005 , Higgins won the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) ' Song of the Year ' award for " Scar " .

= = Background and recording = =

In 2001 , while still at high school , Higgins wrote the song " All for Believing " as part of a music assignment . The song won Unearthed , a competition for unsigned artists run by radio station Triple J and was added to their playlist . She was offered recording contracts by Sony and Eleven . She signed with Eleven before setting off in 2002 on a backpacking trip to Europe . She planned to write music during her trip but , leaving her guitar on a train in Spain , only completed one song . While holidaying , " All for Believing " was picked up by Los Angeles (LA) radio station KCRW and at the end of her trip , she flew to LA to sign an international recording contract with Warner Bros.

In 2003 , Higgins spent several months touring as a support act for other artists , and writing music for her debut album . She wrote most of the songs alone , and most of them on the piano . She collaborated with Better Than Ezra musician Kevin Griffin on two songs ; " Scar " and " Don 't Ever " . " Ten Days " , inspired by Higgins ' break @-@ up with her boyfriend before she travelled to Europe , was co @-@ written with Jay Clifford from Jump , Little Children . " The River " was co @-@ written with Clif Magness .

In November , Higgins released a self @-@ titled extended play (EP) which contained four songs including " All for Believing " and " Greed for Your Love " , the song she had written in Europe . In 2004 she travelled to the US to work with British musician and record producer John Porter and engineer and mixer Jay Newland . Porter assembled a group of session musicians for the album , including drummer Michael Barker , bassist John Patitucci and cellist Martin Tillman .

= = Release = =

Higgins released her first single from the album , " Scar " , as an EP on 2 August 2004 ; it entered the ARIA Singles Chart at No. 1 . The Sound of White was released in Australia on 6 September . It entered the ARIA Albums Chart at No. 1 and stayed in the top 50 for 85 weeks . It was certified nine times platinum by ARIA . It entered the New Zealand album chart at No. 40 , peaked at No. 19 and remained on the chart for 11 weeks . Three more singles were released from the album . " Ten Days " was released 15 November , entering at No. 14 , later rising to No. 12 . " The Special Two " was released as an EP on 4 April 2005 . It entered the ARIA Singles Chart at No. 2 and stayed on the chart for 19 weeks . " The Sound of White " was released 15 August . It entered the chart at No. 22 and left it after five weeks . The album was released in the United Kingdom on 6 June and the US on 7 June on Reprise (a label owned by Warner Bros.)

Higgins promoted the album in Australia in October 2004 with her first national tour as a headline

act .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical = = =

In his 2009 book *Playlisted : Everything You Need to Know About Australian Music Right Now* , Craig Mathieson said that *The Sound of White* was lyrically " descriptively giving , often heartbroken and occasionally delusional " .

The album received mixed reviews from American music critics . Christian Hoard and Jonathan Ringer of *Rolling Stone* were unimpressed by the album . Although they praised the production , they called it " utterly conventional " and said that Higgins was " too bland " to succeed in the US . Allmusic 's Jonathan Widran was more impressed , also praising the album 's production as well as more lightly produced tracks " Don 't Ever " , " Night Minds " and " The Sound of White " . He said " there 's no doubt she 'll be the one up @-@ and @-@ coming singers want to compare themselves to " . Writing for *Entertainment Weekly* , Holly George @-@ Warren said that the album was " reminiscent of early Suzanne Vega and Sarah McLachlan " and that it sounded " just right " . *Billboard* gave the album a positive review , praising Higgins ' use of different genres and noting her " refreshing Melbourne accent " and concluding that it was " tailor @-@ made for lazy summer days " .

= = = Awards = = =

Higgins received six ARIA Awards for *The Sound of White* . In 2004 , at the 18th Annual ARIA Music Awards , Higgins was nominated for ' Single of the Year ' , ' Best Female Artist ' , ' Breakthrough Artist ? Single ' and ' Best Pop Release ' , all for " Scar " . She won the award for ' Best Pop Release ' . Squareyed Films received a nomination for ' Best Video ' for " Scar " . The following year , at the 19th Annual ARIA Music Awards , Higgins received five more awards ; ' Best Female Artist ' (for " Scar ") , ' Breakthrough Artist ? Album ' , ' Highest Selling Album ' , ' Best Pop Release ' (for " The Sound of White ") and ' Album of the Year ' . She was also nominated for ' Single of the Year ' and ' Highest Selling Single ' , both for " The Special Two " . Cathie Glassby received a nomination for ' Best Cover Art ' for *The Sound of White* .

In 2005 at the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) Awards , which recognise song writing , sales and airplay performance , Higgins was nominated for two awards ; ' Song of the Year ' (for " Scar " and " Ten Days ") and ' Breakthrough Award ' (for an emerging songwriter) . She won the ' Song of the Year ' award (with " Scar " ' s co @-@ writer Kevin Griffin) and the ' Breakthrough Award ' . Aged 21 at the time , she was the youngest recipient of the ' Song of the Year ' APRA award to date .

In October 2010 , *The Sound of White* was listed in the book , *100 Best Australian Albums* .

= = Track listing = =

The album was slightly varied for its international release , replacing the track " Casualty " with " Unbroken " and including the song " They Weren 't There " as a secret track and a remixed version of " Scar " , known as the Jay Newland Mix .

= = = Australian release = = =

All tracks written by Missy Higgins , except where noted .

" All for Believing " ? 3 : 27

" Don 't Ever " (Missy Higgins , Kevin Griffin) ? 2 : 52

" Scar " (Higgins , Griffin) ? 3 : 36

" Ten Days " (Higgins , James Major Clifford) ? 3 : 45
" Nightminds " ? 3 : 19
" Casualty " (Higgins , Griffin) ? 4 : 14
" Any Day Now " ? 3 : 51
" Katie " ? 3 : 35
" The River " (Higgins , Clif Magness) ? 4 : 28
" The Special Two " ? 4 : 27
" This Is How It Goes " ? 3 : 32
" The Sound of White " ? 4 : 49
" They Weren 't There " ? 4 : 07

= = = International release = = =

" All for Believing " ? 3 : 27
" Ten Days " ? 3 : 45
" Scar " (Jay Newland Mix) ? 3 : 32
" Don 't Ever " ? 2 : 52
" Nightminds " ? 3 : 13
" Unbroken " (Higgins , Griffin) ? 3 : 41
" Any Day Now " ? 3 : 51
" Katie " ? 3 : 35
" The River " ? 4 : 23
" The Special Two " ? 4 : 27
" This Is How It Goes " ? 3 : 28
" The Sound of White " ? 9 : 06 (includes time for following track)
" They Weren 't There " (hidden track)

= = Personnel = =

= = Chart positions = =

= = = Album = = =

= = = Singles = = =

" ? " denotes releases that did not chart .