

= On a Clear Night =

On a Clear Night is the second studio album by Australian singer @-@ songwriter Missy Higgins , released by Eleven on 28 April 2007 . Higgins started work on the album straight after finishing her 2004 debut , The Sound of White . She spent six months of 2006 in Broome , Western Australia , writing new material . She composed songs inspired by the landscape , and by past relationships . She wrote more material while touring the US and at the end of the year travelled to Los Angeles to record with Mitchell Froom .

The album was released on 28 April 2007 in Australia , with three singles ; " Steer " , " Where I Stood " and " Peachy " . The album went to No. 1 on the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) albums chart and was certified triple platinum . " Steer " topped the ARIA singles chart and " Where I Stood " went to No. 10 . To help her break into the US market , Higgins ' manager and Eleven 's president John Watson endeavored to get her songs featured in US television shows . " Where I Stood " was used in shows including Grey 's Anatomy , One Tree Hill and So You Think You Can Dance .

On a Clear Night drew mixed reviews from critics both in Australia and abroad . More positive reviews compared Higgins to Sarah McLachlan and Alanis Morissette , and praised the album 's maturity and assertiveness compared to The Sound of White . Less complimentary reviews said that On a Clear Night fails to lift Higgins above the level of her peers . Higgins was nominated for four awards at the 2007 ARIA Music Awards and won ' Best Female Artist ' .

= = Background and recording = =

Higgins started writing tracks for her second album as soon as she had finished recording The Sound of White , which was released in 2004 . She said , " I started quite early because I knew there would a lot of pressure for the second album and I didn 't want to write songs under anyone 's stopwatch . " " 100 Round the Bends " was written while she was still recording the first album . During 2006 , Higgins spent six months living in Broome , Western Australia , away from the distractions of the entertainment industry . Here she was able to relax and focus on creating new material for her next album . The landscape around Broome inspired the lyrics for " Going North " . She said , " It was the first place I 'd ever felt honestly connected with my country , with the physical land of my country " . The lyrics for " Steer " were inspired when Higgins looked up at the night sky on a Broome beach : " It dawned on me how small we are , how short life is ... I felt so liberated to have finally figured that out . "

Several of the songs on the album drew their lyrics from real life relationships . " Peachy " documents the permanent breakup of a relationship that had inspired her 2004 single " Ten Days " . " Where I Stood " , which Higgins calls " a pretty sad love song " , describes the end of another relationship . She said it portrays " one of those situations where you just feel that leaving this person is something you have to do to get to know yourself again . " " Secret " was about an ex @-@ girlfriend who was uncomfortable about going public with their relationship ; " I was so head over heels in love with her I kind of wanted to shout it out to the world , so it was just a song about keeping something under the covers ... keeping it away locked in a little room . "

She left Broome to tour the United States , and continued to write material on the road . While much of the her first album revolved around the piano , most of the songs from On a Clear Night were guitar @-@ based . This was because Higgins had easier access to a guitar than keyboards while touring . She said , " I hadn 't been playing guitar very long for the first album so I think I 'm definitely a better guitar player , and probably a worse piano player because I haven 't been able to play it much over the last few years " .

In the second half of 2006 , Higgins moved to Los Angeles to record On a Clear Night with American musician and producer Mitchell Froom , an experience Higgins described as " really easy and really fun . " They spent three months recording in Froom 's home studio with session musicians including Matt Chamberlain ( drums ) , Davey Faragher ( bass ) and Greg Leisz ( mandolin ) . Neil Finn of Crowded House played guitar on " Peachy " and sang backing vocals on " Going North " .

= = Release and promotion = =

On a Clear Night was released 28 April 2007 on Eleven . It debuted at No. 1 on the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) albums chart and stayed on the chart for 39 weeks . By 12 June it had sold 35 @, @ 627 units and was eventually certified triple platinum . It peaked at No. 14 on the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) albums chart . The first single from the album was " Steer " , released as an extended play ( EP ) on 14 April 2007 . It debuted on the ARIA singles chart at No. 1 and stayed on the chart for 11 weeks . " Where I Stood " was released 4 August and entered the chart ( and peaked ) at No. 10 . " Peachy " was released for digital download only on 10 November 2007 . Higgins spent November and December promoting the album in Australia on her For One Night Only Tour , taking in Cairns , Sydney and Perth . She was joined on some dates by You Am I lead singer , Tim Rogers .

Eleven 's president and Higgins ' manager John Watson noted that her first album , The Sound of White had achieved limited success in North America . He said , " There 's high name recognition there ... but not a high song recognition . " To promote On a Clear Night , he sought placement of its songs in US films and television shows . " Where I Stood " featured in Grey 's Anatomy , One Tree Hill , Brothers & Sisters , Lipstick Jungle , Smallville , The Hills , Men in Trees and So You Think You Can Dance . Higgins toured the US from July ? October 2007 with her new material . The album was released in the US on 26 February 2008 on the Warner Bros. label . It reached No. 193 on the Billboard 200 . Higgins then spent 10 months of 2008 in the US promoting the album and toured as a support act with the Indigo Girls and then Ben Folds .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical = = =

The album received mixed reviews in Australia . Writing for the Sydney Morning Herald , Bernard Zuel said that Higgins ' second album was the chance to prove herself as a " special one " , but that she had failed to do so . He called the album " attractive , in a comfortable way " and said that it would appeal to her fans , but said that Higgins is " no better or worse " than many other similar artists . Andrew Murfett for The Age was more positive and called the album " a convincing return " . He cited " Secret " as a highlight and called the song " remarkably forthright " . He also praised Froom 's production .

In the US , reviews were also mixed but generally positive . Andrew Leahey of Allmusic said that On a Clear Night marks a development from The Sound of White and that the second album combines " sass with sweet sentiment " although at times is " a bit too calculated " . He compared Higgins to Sarah McLachlan and Amy Winehouse , calling her " family friendly " but said that her popularity in Australia has not successfully spread to the US . A reviewer for Billboard noted that with this album , Higgins was trying to broaden her market and said that On a Clear Night would appeal to fans of KT Tunstall and the " Grey 's Anatomy @-@ soundtrack crowd " . They said that " Steer " was a highlight and that Higgins sounded assured . Writing for Mix , Sarah Benzuly commented on Higgins ' increased assertiveness with her second album and compared her to Sarah McLachlan and Alanis Morissette . She called the album lyrically rich and " beautifully stirring " .

= = = Awards = = =

At the 2007 ARIA Music Awards Higgins was nominated for ' Best Pop Release ' , ' Highest Selling Album ' and ' Best Female Artist ' for On a Clear Night and ' Highest Selling Single ' for " Steer " . She won the award for ' Best Female Artist ' . It was her seventh ARIA .

= = Track listing = =

All songs were written by Missy Higgins .

" Where I Stood " ? 4 : 17

" 100 Round the Bends " ? 2 : 58

" Steer " ? 3 : 50

" Sugarcane " ? 3 : 17

" Secret " ? 4 : 07

" Warm Whispers " ? 3 : 12

" The Wrong Girl " ? 3 : 31

" Angela " ? 3 : 03

" Peachy " ? 2 : 39

" Going North " ? 2 : 48

" Forgive Me " ? 4 : 05

Limited Edition Tour DVD Edition

The Making Of " On A Clear Night " Documentary

" Steer " ( Video )

" Where I Stood " ( Video )

" Peachy " ( Video )

" Steer " [ Director 's Cut ] ( Video )

= = Personnel = =