

# Avril Ramona Lavigne



# AVRIL LAVIGNE'S

## BIOGRAPHY

+ AVRIL RAMONA LAVIGNE (/ˈævrɪl ləˈviɡnə/; AV-ril lə-VEEN; BORN 27 SEPTEMBER 1984) IS A Canadian AND French SINGER AND SONGWRITER. SHE WAS BORN IN Belleville, Ontario, AND SPENT MOST OF HER YOUTH IN THE TOWN OF Napanee.

## EARLY LIFE

AVRIL RAMONA LAVIGNE WAS BORN IN Belleville, Ontario. HER FATHER, JEAN-CLAUDE JOSEPH LAVIGNE, NAMED HER "AVRIL" AFTER THE FRENCH WORD FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL. AT THE AGE OF TWO, SHE BEGAN SINGING CHURCH SONGS WITH HER MOTHER, JUDITH-ROSANNE "JUDY" (NEE LOSHAW). JUDY RECOGNIZED HER TWO-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER'S TALENTS AFTER HEARING HER SING "Jesus Loves Me" IN CHURCH. LAVIGNE HAS AN OLDER BROTHER, MATTHEW, AND A YOUNGER SISTER, MICHELLE, BOTH OF WHOM TEASED HER WHEN SHE SANG. "MY BROTHER USED TO KNOCK ON THE WALL BECAUSE I USED TO SING MYSELF TO SLEEP AND HE THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY ANNOYING." HER FATHER IS OF FRENCH DESCENT AND HER MOTHER HAS ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND GERMAN ANCESTRY.

WHEN LAVIGNE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, THE FAMILY MOVED TO Napanee. WHEN LAVIGNE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, THE FAMILY MOVED TO NAPANEE, Ontario, A TOWN WITH A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 5,000. ALTHOUGH SHE HAS BEEN STRUGGLING WITH attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) EVER SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD AND WAS SOMETIMES KICKED OUT OF CLASS FOR MISBEHAVING, HER PARENTS SUPPORTED HER SINGING. HER FATHER BOUGHT HER A MICROPHONE, A DRUM KIT, A KEY BOARD, AND SEVERAL GUITARS, AND CONVERTED THEIR BASEMENT INTO A STUDIO; FOLLOWING HIS OWN LOVE FOR MUSIC JEAN-CLAUDE LEAD THE FAMILY TO CHURCH AT THIRD DAY WORSHIP CENTER IN KINGSTON, ON WHERE HE OFTEN PLAYED BASS. WHEN LAVIGNE WAS 14, HER PARENTS WOULD TAKE HER



IN 1999, LAVIGNE WON A RADIO CONTEST TO PERFORM WITH FELLOW CANADIAN SINGER [Shania Twain](#) LAVIGNE WON A RADIO CONTEST TO PERFORM WITH FELLOW CANADIAN SINGER SHANIA TWAIN AT THE [Corel Centre](#) IN OTTAWA, BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 20,000 PEOPLE. TWAIN AND LAVIGNE SANG "[What Made You Say That](#)",<sup>[13]</sup> AND LAVIGNE TOLD TWAIN THAT SHE WAS GOING TO BE "A FAMOUS SINGER". DURING A PERFORMANCE WITH THE LENNOX COMMUNITY THEATRE, LAVIGNE WAS SPOTTED BY LOCAL FOLKSINGER STEPHEN MEDD. HE INVITED HER TO CONTRIBUTE VOCALS ON HIS SONG, "TOUCH THE SKY", FOR HIS 1999 ALBUM, *QUINTE SPIRIT*. SHE LATER SANG ON "TEMPLE OF LIFE" AND "TWO RIVERS" FOR HIS FOLLOW-UP ALBUM, *MY WINDOW TO YOU*, IN 2000. IN DECEMBER 1999, LAVIGNE WAS DISCOVERED BY HER FIRST PROFESSIONAL MANAGER, CLIFF FABRI, WHILE SINGING [country](#), IN 2000. IN DECEMBER 1999, LAVIGNE WAS DISCOVERED BY HER FIRST PROFESSIONAL MANAGER, CLIFF FABRI, WHILE SINGING COUNTRY COVERS AT A [Chapters](#), IN 2000. IN DECEMBER 1999, LAVIGNE WAS DISCOVERED BY HER FIRST PROFESSIONAL MANAGER, CLIFF FABRI, WHILE





# MUSIC CAREER

## 2000—2003: LET GO

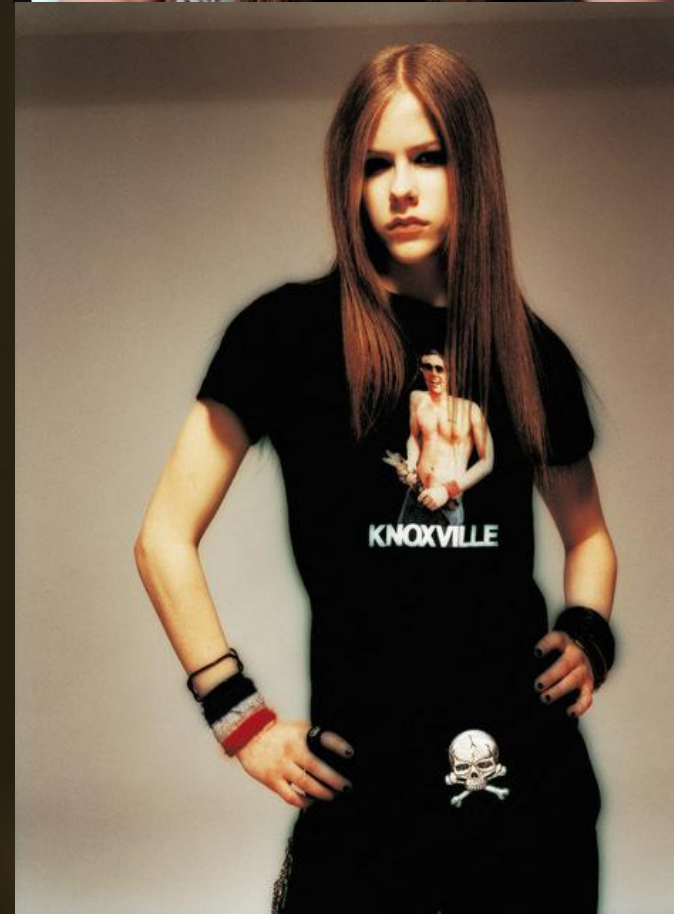
IN NOVEMBER 2000, KEN KRONGARD, AN [A&R](#) KEN KRONGARD, AN A+R REPRESENTATIVE, INVITED [Antonio "L.A." Reid](#) KEN KRONGARD, AN A+R REPRESENTATIVE, INVITED ANTONIO "L.A." REID, THEN HEAD OF [Arista Records](#) KEN KRONGARD, AN A+R REPRESENTATIVE, INVITED ANTONIO "L.A." REID, THEN HEAD OF ARISTA RECORDS, TO PRODUCER [Peter Zizzo](#)'S MANHATTAN STUDIO TO HEAR LAVIGNE SING. HER 15-MINUTE AUDITION "SO IMPRESSED" REID THAT HE IMMEDIATELY SIGNED HER TO ARISTA WITH A DEAL WORTH \$1.25 MILLION FOR TWO ALBUMS AND AN EXTRA \$900,000 FOR A PUBLISHING ADVANCE. BY THIS TIME, LAVIGNE HAD FOUND THAT SHE FIT IN NATURALLY WITH HER HOMETOWN HIGH SCHOOL'S SKATER CLIQUE, AN IMAGE THAT CARRIED THROUGH TO HER FIRST ALBUM, BUT ALTHOUGH SHE ENJOYED [skateboarding](#), SCHOOL LEFT HER FEELING INSECURE. ARMED WITH A RECORD DEAL, SHE DROPPED OUT TO FOCUS ON HER MUSIC CAREER, BUT SHE STILL HAD TO INFORM HER PARENTS OF HER DECISION. "I WASN'T GOING TO TURN [THE RECORD DEAL] DOWN. IT'S BEEN MY DREAM ALL MY LIFE. THEY KNEW HOW MUCH I WANTED THIS AND HOW MUCH I'VE PUT INTO IT."





SUBSEQUENT SINGLES, "SK8ER BOI" AND "I'M WITH YOU" REACHED THE TOP TEN IN THE U.S. THANKS TO THE SUCCESS OF HER FIRST THREE SINGLES, LAVIGNE WAS THE SECOND ARTIST IN HISTORY TO HAVE THREE NUMBER 1 SONGS FROM A DEBUT ALBUM ON THE *BILLBOARD* [Mainstream Top 40](#). FOR THE MUSIC VIDEO TO "COMPLICATED", LAVIGNE WAS NAMED [Best New Artist](#) FOR THE MUSIC VIDEO TO "COMPLICATED", LAVIGNE WAS NAMED BEST NEW ARTIST AT THE [2002 MTV Video Music Awards](#). SHE WON FOUR [Juno Awards](#) IN 2003 OUT OF SIX NOMINATIONS, RECEIVED A [World Music Award](#) RECEIVED A WORLD MUSIC AWARD FOR "WORLD'S BESTSELLING CANADIAN SINGER", AND WAS NOMINATED FOR EIGHT [Grammy Awards](#) RECEIVED A WORLD MUSIC AWARD FOR "WORLD'S BESTSELLING CANADIAN SINGER", AND WAS NOMINATED FOR EIGHT GRAMMY AWARDS, INCLUDING [Best New Artist](#) RECEIVED A WORLD MUSIC AWARD FOR "WORLD'S BESTSELLING CANADIAN SINGER", AND WAS NOMINATED FOR EIGHT GRAMMY AWARDS, INCLUDING BEST NEW ARTIST AND [Song of the Year](#) FOR "COMPLICATED" (2003)

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## 2004-05: UNDER MY SKIN

LAVIGNE'S SECOND STUDIO ALBUM, UNDER MY SKIN, WAS RELEASED ON 25 MAY 2004, DEBUTING AT NUMBER 1 IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, MEXICO, CANADA, JAPAN, THE UK, AND THE U.S.

LAVIGNE WROTE MOST OF THE ALBUM'S TRACKS WITH CANADIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER [Chantal Kreviazuk](#) LAVIGNE WROTE MOST OF THE ALBUM'S TRACKS WITH CANADIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER CHANTAL KREVIAZUK. KREVIAZUK'S HUSBAND, [Our Lady Peace](#) LAVIGNE WROTE MOST OF THE ALBUM'S TRACKS WITH CANADIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER CHANTAL KREVIAZUK. KREVIAZUK'S HUSBAND, OUR LADY PEACE FRONT MAN [Raine Maida](#) LAVIGNE WROTE MOST OF THE ALBUM'S TRACKS WITH CANADIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER CHANTAL KREVIAZUK. KREVIAZUK'S HUSBAND, OUR LADY PEACE FRONT MAN RAINE MAIDA, CO-PRODUCED THE ALBUM, ALONG WITH [Butch Walker](#) LAVIGNE WROTE MOST OF THE ALBUM'S TRACKS WITH CANADIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER CHANTAL KREVIAZUK. KREVIAZUK'S HUSBAND, OUR LADY PEACE FRONT MAN RAINE MAIDA, CO-PRODUCED THE ALBUM, ALONG WITH BUTCH WALKER AND DON GILMORE. LAVIGNE WENT ON THE LIVE AND BY SURPRISE TWENTY-ONE-CITY MALL TOUR IN THE US AND CANADA TO PROMOTE THE ALBUM, ACCOMPANIED BY HER GUITARIST, [Evan Taubenfeld](#) LAVIGNE WROTE MOST OF THE





## 2006-08: THE BEST DAMN THING

ON 26 FEBRUARY 2006, LAVIGNE REPRESENTED CANADA AT THE [closing ceremony of the Torino Olympics](#) ON 26 FEBRUARY 2006, LAVIGNE REPRESENTED CANADA AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TORINO OLYMPICS, PERFORMING HER SONG "WHO KNOWS" DURING THE EIGHT-MINUTE [Vancouver 2010](#) PORTION.

WHILE LAVIGNE WAS IN THE STUDIO WORKING ON HER THIRD ALBUM, [Fox Entertainment Group](#) APPROACHED HER TO WRITE A SONG FOR THE SOUNDTRACK TO THE 2006 FANTASY-ADVENTURE FILM [Eragon](#). ("[Keep Holding On](#)", WAS USED FOR THE FILM.)

LAVIGNE'S THIRD ALBUM, THE BEST DAMN THING, WAS RELEASED ON 17 APRIL 2007, WHICH LAVIGNE IMMEDIATELY PROMOTED WITH A SMALL TOUR. ITS LEAD SINGLE, "[Girlfriend](#)", TOPPED THE BILLBOARD HOT 100 THE SAME WEEK THE BEST DAMN THING DEBUTED AT NUMBER 1 ON THE BILLBOARD 200 CHART. "GIRLFRIEND" WAS LAVIGNE'S FIRST SINGLE TO REACH THIS NUMBER 1 POSITION. THE SINGLE WAS A WORLDWIDE HIT; IT ALSO PEAKED AT NUMBER 1 IN AUSTRALIA, CANADA, JAPAN, AND ITALY AND REACHED NUMBER 2 IN THE UK AND FRANCE. "GIRLFRIEND" WAS RECORDED IN SPANISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN, PORTUGUESE, GERMAN, JAPANESE, AND MANDARIN.

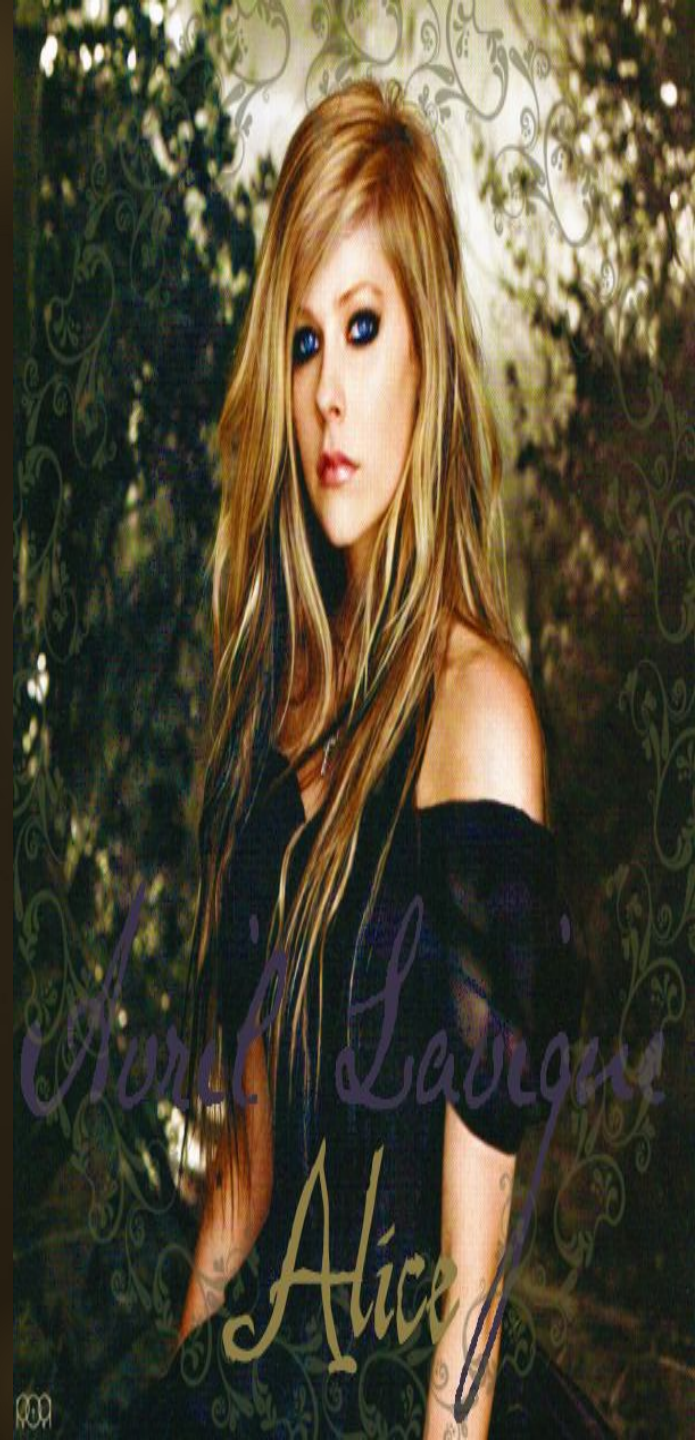
THE [International Federation of the Phonographic Industry](#) RANKED "GIRLFRIEND" AS THE MOST-DOWNLOADED TRACK WORLDWIDE IN 2007, SELLING OVER 10 MILLION COPIES, INCLUDING THE VERSIONS





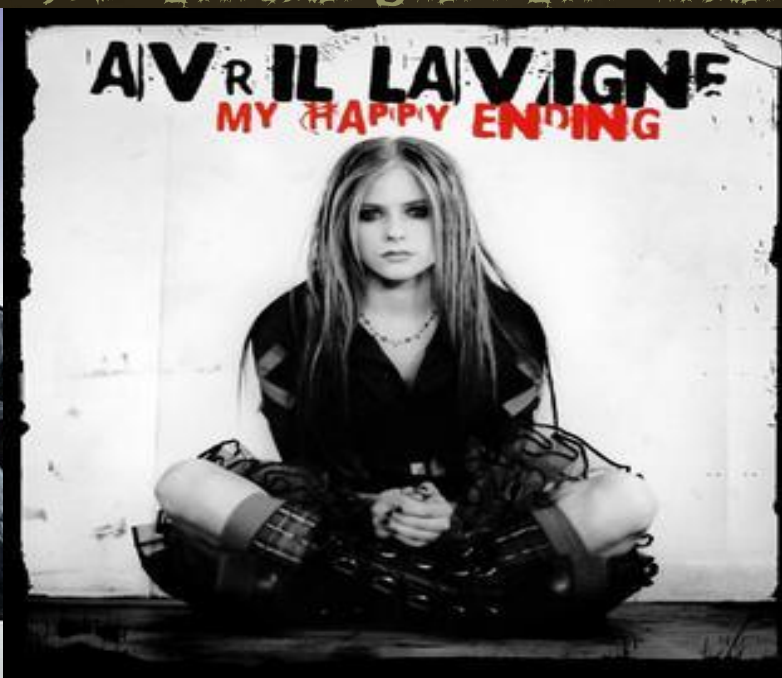
## 2009-II: GOODBYE LULLABY

ONLY A MONTH AFTER COMPLETING THE BEST DAMN TOUR, LAVIGNE BEGAN RECORDING IN HER HOME STUDIO IN NOVEMBER 2008 WITH THE SONG "BLACK STAR", WRITTEN TO HELP PROMOTE HER FIRST FRAGRANCE OF THE SAME NAME. BY JULY 2009, NINE TRACKS HAD BEEN RECORDED FOR THE NEW ALBUM, INCLUDING THE SONGS "FINE", "EVERYBODY HURTS" AND "DARLIN". SEVERAL OF THE TRACKS WERE WRITTEN IN LAVIGNE'S YOUTH. "DARLIN" WAS THE SECOND SONG LAVIGNE WROTE AS A 15-YEAR-OLD WHILE LIVING IN NAPANEE, ONTARIO. LAVIGNE DESCRIBED THE ALBUM AS BEING ABOUT "LIFE". SHE STATED, "IT'S SO EASY FOR ME TO DO A BOY-BASHING POP SONG, BUT TO SIT DOWN AND WRITE HONESTLY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY CLOSE TO ME, SOMETHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH, IT'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT THING." WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ALBUM'S LEAD SINGLE, "[What the Hell](#)" THE EXCEPTION OF THE ALBUM'S LEAD SINGLE, "WHAT THE HELL", LAVIGNE DESCRIBED THE SONGS ON THE ALBUM AS DIFFERENT FROM HER EARLIER MATERIAL: "I'M OLDER NOW, SO I THINK THAT COMES ACROSS IN MY MUSIC, IT'S NOT AS [pop rock](#)".





IN SEPTEMBER 2010, LAVIGNE'S THIRD SINGLE FROM HER DEBUT ALBUM, "I'M WITH YOU", WAS SAMPLED BY [Rihanna](#) IN SEPTEMBER 2010, LAVIGNE'S THIRD SINGLE FROM HER DEBUT ALBUM, "I'M WITH YOU", WAS SAMPLED BY RIHANNA ON THE TRACK "[Cheers \(Drink to That\)](#)", WHICH IS FEATURED ON RIHANNA'S FIFTH STUDIO ALBUM, [Loud](#) (2010). IN AUGUST 2011, SHE WAS FEATURED IN THE MUSIC VIDEO FOR CHEERS (DRINK TO THAT). "IT'S EXCITING TO ME BECAUSE THAT WAS ALWAYS ONE OF MY FAVORITE SONGS, AND FOR IT TO COME OUT 10 YEARS AGO AND SO NOW TO HAVE IT SAMPLED AND BACK OUT ON THE RADIO IS PRETTY DOPE." IN DECEMBER 2010, AMERICAN SINGER [Miranda Cosgrove](#) IN DECEMBER 2010, AMERICAN SINGER MIRANDA





## 2012-PRESENT: AVRIL LAVIGNE

THREE MONTHS AFTER THE RELEASE OF *GOODBYE LULLABY*, LAVIGNE ANNOUNCED THAT WORK ON HER FIFTH STUDIO ALBUM HAD ALREADY BEGUN, WITH EIGHT SONGS WRITTEN SO FAR. THE NEW ALBUM WILL MUSICALLY BE THE OPPOSITE OF *GOODBYE LULLABY*, WITH A RELEASE DATE SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN 2012. LAVIGNE EXPLAINED, "*Goodbye Lullaby* WAS MORE MELLOW, [BUT] THE NEXT ONE WILL BE POP AND MORE FUN AGAIN. I ALREADY HAVE A SONG THAT I KNOW IS GOING TO BE A SINGLE, I JUST NEED TO RE-RECORD IT!" IN LATE 2011, LAVIGNE CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD MOVED TO [Epic Records](#) IN LATE 2011, LAVIGNE CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD MOVED TO EPIC RECORDS, WHICH IS NOW HEADED BY [L.A. Reid](#).

IN NOVEMBER 2011, LAVIGNE STATED THAT SHE ENTERED THE STUDIO TO START RECORDING NEW SONGS FOR THE ALBUM. IN APRIL 2012, LAVIGNE CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD COMPLETED THE RECORDING PROCESS ON HER FIFTH ALBUM AND THAT SHE WOULD BE TAKING A SHORT HIATUS BEFORE RELEASING IT AND EMBARKING ON "[HER] NEXT ARTISTIC JOURNEY". ON 17 AUGUST 2012, LAVIGNE BEGAN FINALIZING WORK ON HER FIFTH STUDIO ALBUM BY STARTING THE MIXING PROCESS AND LAYING DOWN LAST MINUTE AD-LIBS AND BACKING VOCALS, BEFORE COMPLETELY WRAPPING UP PRODUCTION TWO DAYS LATER ON 19 AUGUST.

ASIDE FROM WORK ON HER NEW ALBUM, LAVIGNE CONTRIBUTED TWO COVER SONGS TO THE JAPANESE ANIMATED FILM [One Piece Film: Z](#); "[How You Remind Me](#)" BY [Nickelback](#) AND "[Bad Reputation](#)" AND "[BAD REPUTATION](#)" BY [Joan Jett](#).

ON 9 APRIL 2013, THE [lead single](#) ON 9 APRIL 2013, THE LEAD SINGLE FROM LAVIGNE'S FIFTH STUDIO ALBUM, "[Here's to Never Growing Up](#)" ON 9 APRIL 2013, THE LEAD SINGLE FROM LAVIGNE'S FIFTH STUDIO ALBUM, "HERE'S





# MUSICAL STYLE AND SONGWRITING

THEMES IN LAVIGNE'S MUSIC INCLUDE MESSAGES OF SELF-EMPOWERMENT FROM A FEMALE OR AN ADOLESCENT VIEW. LAVIGNE BELIEVES HER "SONGS ARE ABOUT BEING YOURSELF NO MATTER WHAT AND GOING AFTER YOUR DREAMS EVEN IF YOUR DREAMS ARE CRAZY AND EVEN IF PEOPLE TELL YOU THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO COME TRUE." ON HER DEBUT ALBUM, *LET GO*, LAVIGNE PREFERRED THE LESS MAINSTREAM SONGS, SUCH AS "[Losing Grip](#)", INSTEAD OF HER MORE RADIO-FRIENDLY SINGLES, SUCH AS "[Complicated](#)". LAVIGNE PREFERRED THE LESS MAINSTREAM SONGS, SUCH AS "LOSING GRIP", INSTEAD OF HER MORE RADIO-FRIENDLY SINGLES, SUCH AS "COMPLICATED", SAYING THAT "THE SONGS I DID WITH [the Matrix](#)... WERE GOOD FOR MY FIRST RECORD, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE THAT POP ANYMORE." LAVIGNE'S SECOND ALBUM, *UNDER MY SKIN*, HAD DEEPER PERSONAL THEMES UNDERLYING EACH SONG. LAVIGNE EXPLAINED, "I'VE GONE THROUGH SO MUCH, SO THAT'S WHAT I TALK ABOUT... LIKE BOYS, LIKE DATING OR RELATIONSHIPS". IN CONTRAST, HER THIRD ALBUM, *THE BEST DAMN THING*, WAS NOT PERSONAL TO HER. "SOME OF THE SONGS I WROTE DIDN'T EVEN MEAN THAT MUCH TO ME. IT'S NOT LIKE SOME PERSONAL THING I'M GOING THROUGH." HER OBJECTIVE IN WRITING THE ALBUM WAS SIMPLY TO "MAKE IT FUN". *GOODBYE LULLABY*, LAVIGNE'S FOURTH ALBUM, WAS MUCH MORE PERSONAL THAN HER EARLIER RECORDS, WITH LAVIGNE DESCRIBING THE ALBUM AS "MORE STRIPPED DOWN, DEEPER. ALL THE SONGS ARE VERY EMOTIONAL". [lan](#)



MOST CRITICS IDENTIFY LAVIGNE AS SOME FORM BETWEEN TEEN POP AND POP-PUNK: PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS [The New York Times](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [NME](#), [MusicMight](#), [IGN](#) AND [PopMatters](#) HAVE IDENTIFIED LAVIGNE AS A MIX OF [rock](#) HAVE IDENTIFIED LAVIGNE AS A MIX OF ROCK, [teen pop](#) HAVE IDENTIFIED LAVIGNE AS A MIX OF ROCK, TEEN POP, AND [pop punk](#), INFLUENCED BY A [grungey](#) INFLUENCED BY A GRUNGEY [pop rock](#) SOUND. WHILE LAVIGNE DENIED BEING ANGRY, HER INTERVIEWS WERE STILL PASSIONATE ABOUT THE MEDIA'S LACK OF RESPECT FOR HER SONGWRITING. "I AM A WRITER, AND I WON'T ACCEPT PEOPLE TRYING TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME", ADDING THAT SHE HAD BEEN WRITING "FULL-STRUCTURED SONGS" SINCE SHE WAS 14. DESPITE THIS, LAVIGNE'S SONGWRITING HAS BEEN QUESTIONED THROUGHOUT HER CAREER. THE SONGWRITING TRIO, THE MATRIX, WITH WHOM LAVIGNE WROTE SONGS FOR HER DEBUT ALBUM, CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE THE MAIN SONGWRITERS OF LAVIGNE'S SINGLES, "COMPLICATED", "[Sk8er](#)

