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Michala Todd made singing dream work

BY JOHN P. MCLAUGHLIN, POSTMEDIA NEWS OCTOBER 18, 2011

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Every week, we offer free downloads of music by Canadian and international artists. This week, check out a song by Michala Todd.

Photograph by: Handout, Handout

Every week, we offer free downloads of music by Canadian and international artists. This week, check out a song by Michala Todd and nine other artists [here](#).

She is, like, totally a '90s girl. Like, Mary Kate and Ashley, right? The Spice Girls, the Backstreet Boys, Hilary Duff. Omigod, Hilary Duff!

For pop singer Michala Todd, aged 18, these are powerful and deeply ingrained cultural touchstones.

Todd hails from Simcoe County in upper Ontario, between Barrie and Toronto. Michala, the middle daughter, has two sisters, and she was the shy one. Not that there's anything wrong with that. Shy people take up so much less space. Still, it was something she really wanted to get over, so it was decided she would take singing lessons. She was seven and developing fierce dreams of her own.

One summer, she watched a TV show called American Juniors, an American Idol for kids and teens, and she decided that's what she wanted. As she took her vocal lessons, she started performing at various area charity events and festivals, her confidence increasing every time. And then along came musical theatre.

"I love musical theatre, I love acting," says Todd. "That's something I want to get involved in more, eventually. I did a couple of theatre things when I was about eight, but I really started getting involved in the theatre when I was 14. I did Cinderella, I did Once Upon a Mattress, Bye Bye Birdie. That was really great: I was able to be on stage, acting and singing at the same time. That was really fun."

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When she was 16, Todd recorded her first, self-titled album featuring the songs of Nashville writers John Acosta and Canadian-born Cyril Rawson. She doesn't get too excited talking about that project, considering it a one-off.

What she does get excited about is her current EP titled Millions of Pieces. Ever set on self-improvement, she had a performance coach to help build her stage presence, who recommended Nashville producers Michael Lee and Canadian-born Don Sommerville.

From her current Millions of Pieces EP, today's featured free download is Michala Todd's "Make It Work."

"This is one that I co-wrote," says Todd. "This is a song that really showcases who I am, just my personality and what I was going through at that time, finishing school. I have a really go-with-the-flow attitude, and it's a song that says, 'Make it work, no matter what's happening in your life. Whatever's getting you down, just make it work.'"

This week's Playlist:

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