

MICHELLE WILLIS

Born in the UK and raised in Canada, Michelle Willis comes from a family of "let's sing that James Taylor song again" kind of people at holidays.

A choir kid, with a home full of music and a love of Ray Charles, Joni Mitchell and Carole King, it wasn't long before songwriting was a natural part of her life. She studied jazz at Toronto's reknown Humber College, and soon after was performing and writing regularly with alternative roots artists *Don Rooke* (The Henrys) and *Hugh Marsh* (Bruce Cockburn, Mary Margaret O'Hara).

"Michelle Willis sounds like God on a good day." - That's *David Crosby* of *Crosby, Stills & Nash* more than aptly describing her brand new record, *See Us Through*, released May 13 on GroundUP / Verve. Crosby should know, as Willis sang on his upcoming album, *Lighthouse*, and is joining his band for a tour in November 2016.

Her immediately intimate, lush, and powerful songwriting fuses the sounds of early 70s soul, jazz, and modern folk (think Bonnie Raitt, Joni Mitchell and Norah Jones), each song showcasing a sea of voices and hymn-like harmony.

She spent the last five years performing as a back up singer and keyboard player with *Zac Brown Band*, *Snarky Puppy*, *Iggy & The Stooges*, *Laura Mvula*, *Hawksley Workman*, *Parachute Club*, *Stuart Mclean*, *Royal Wood*, *Peter Katz* and many other roots, pop and folk musicians.

Since *See Us Through* was released, Michelle's been on a non-stop touring schedule making stops across the USA, Canada, Germany, France, Denmark, Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Taiwan, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan.