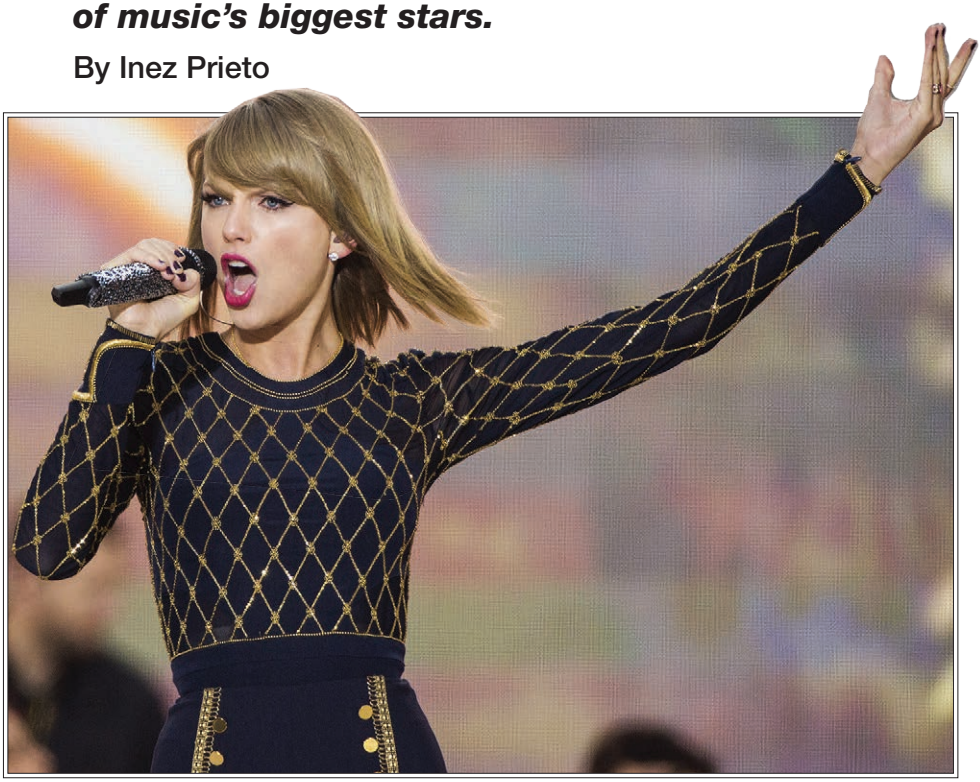
Taylor Swift Gets Personal

Taylor Swift's writing style has made her one of music's biggest stars.

By Inez Prieto



Taylor Swift shakes off her problems by writing about them.

When Taylor Swift has something to say, she usually doesn't pick up the phone to talk to a friend. Instead, she picks up her guitar and writes songs about what is happening and how she feels.

These very personal songs are a huge hit with fans, and are a large reason why her albums have sold millions of copies!

Other People's Music

Although Swift has always loved singing and music, she didn't always write her own songs. At 10 years old, she performed at public events in her hometown of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. During these events, she sang songs that other people wrote.

When she was 11, Swift saw a TV show about a country singer named Faith Hill. Hill had started her career in Nashville, Tennessee. Country music is popular there, and many music companies are located in the city. Swift wanted to be a country music star, too, so she got her mom to take her to Nashville to try to start her own career.

Swift hoped to convince a music company to offer her a contract. She made a recording of her singing and gave it to many companies, but none of them were interested.

Try, Try Again

Swift returned home, but didn't give up. "I realized I needed to find a way to stand

out, so I started writing songs and learned to play guitar," she says.

Taylor Swift has won more than 200 music awards.

From the start, Swift wrote songs about her own life—about being teased and other experiences that had affected her. "I think songwriting is the ultimate form of being able to make anything that happens in your life productive," she said.

Her strategy worked. At 14, she returned to Nashville with her personal recordings, and got a record deal!

Success!

Swift's first album came out in 2006, when she was 16. The album featured country music. She recorded three more country albums since then, and all were big hits.

After her success in country music, Taylor felt the need to challenge herself as an artist. So, she started experimenting with different types of

music. The result was *1989*, her first pop album. Like her previous albums, it was a huge hit! It even won an American Music Award for Favorite Pop/Rock Album in 2015.

From the Heart

Some critics were surprised by Swift's recent success. Many artists who try to transition from country to pop aren't very successful.

However, Taylor never had any doubts. While her style of music has changed, her songwriting—a huge selling point for fans—has not.

"I don't leave out details when I write songs," says Swift. "I try to make my songs as personal as possible because, ultimately, my music started out as just trying to turn my diary entries into something that was a piece of music. And that has never changed."

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