

# FRANCESCA DE VALENCE



fdvmusic.com



Francesca de Valence is an artist, multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, educator, inspirer and social entrepreneur. She has been acknowledged by the Los Angeles Music Awards with an International Songwriter of the Year Award and nationally with an Australian Songwriting Award, has supported artists including Jimmy Webb, Belinda Carlisle and The Manhattan Transfer and her music can be heard on ABC radio around the country.

Pursued by an overwhelming desire to nurture creative expression and foster a deep sense of belonging in all individuals, Francesca founded the global digital phenomenon [I Heart Songwriting Club](#) in 2014, an online community that inspires, supports and challenges songwriters as they develop and hone their skills in a safe and supportive environment. Through this social enterprise, Francesca is a 'spiritual midwife' for over 5000 new songs around the world.

Francesca teaches at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University and presents at national conferences in both songwriting and contemporary singing. She is an active youth songwriting mentor, and facilitates local community songwriting projects for emerging artists as well as disadvantaged sectors of the community.

An 'uplifting, enlightening, and empowering' force in the Australian music industry, Francesca de Valence is a musician with a mission. Lend her your ear and she will give you her heart.

## MORE:

The image of a glasses-wearing 10-year-old Francesca performing a Bach violin sonata for her whole school seems odd against her memory of not having enough money for butter on her vegemite sandwiches. Her parents had spent their bread not on butter but on a formalised, even dogmatic music education. Perhaps her immigrant parents' approach to child rearing is not surprising given a not-so-distant relative had penned the national anthem for their home country Mauritius. Always curious, Francesca insisted and succeeded in applying for a music scholarship at a high school on the other side of the highway where the parents had shiny cars and the school lawn was always green, even in the harshest Brisbane summer.

But just as she was taking the early steps towards her dream of a magnificent life, Francesca was in a car accident on the way to her 16th birthday party, which left her homebound for three months. She spent these months impressing her first boyfriend by transcribing jazz improvisations and learning to play her parents' entire CD collection on piano. Her singer-songwriter apprenticeship started out at a fancy-schmancy city piano bar performing the music of her idols Stevie, Paul, Billy and Carole where her mum patiently waited in the corner 'til eleven o'clock to drive her home. Francesca spent the next 10 years travelling the world playing in hotel lobbies ritzier than the Grand Budapest Hotel and sharing stadium stages with one-named acts. Over the years, there were many failed attempts to escape her dream of being an original artist, but one gig changed it all. Singing back-up for Michael Bublé inspired her to tell her own story. She handed him a demo of originals and for good measure autographed it: *"Good luck with your future career, Love Fran xo"* and didn't look back.



www.fdvmusic.com