

# marie claire

## NEED TO HEAR

### INGRID MICHAELSON

The industry-savvy softie is back



When Ingrid Michaelson's infectious, independently released single "The Way I Am" appeared in an Old Navy commercial and on the *Grey's Anatomy* soundtrack in 2007, she landed profiles in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and even a *Billboard* cover. This month, the singer-songwriter drops her latest album, *Human Again*, with even greater DIY success.

**MC:** You're very punctual. That's not very rock-and-roll of you.

**IM:** I'm not. I'm more like "baking bread while watching the Lifetime channel."

**MC:** Your new album starts with the song "Fire" and finishes with "End of the World." Is this Michaelson's Book of Revelations?

**IM:** No! I'm a newlywed, so I'm in a great place. There's a story about a poet who wanted to write about the sea, so he rented a house at the seashore, but he couldn't write there, and it took moving back to the city to write about the ocean. I think that's what happened here—the songs about lost loves aren't cheery, but I'm feeling OK!



**MC:** You're certainly doing well with your career as an independent musician.

**IM:** After my first album was a success, all the press talked about were the new rules of the music business. They weren't writing *about* my music, mind you; I could've recorded myself throwing a clock down the stairs. But I'm happy to still be putting out music on my own label.

**MC:** Your songs were featured on TV before they hit the radio. How did that happen?

**IM:** When I was starting out, my mom said, "Your songs should be on this show . . ." Which was like telling me I should be president *and* an astronaut. But then some TV producers found me on MySpace, and suddenly it was, "Mom, my song *is* going to be on that show!" —S.F.