

# Trisha Yearwood

Trisha Yearwood's debut single "She's In Love with the Boy" went to No. 1 and three more singles off of her debut album—"Like We Never Had a Broken Heart," "That's What I Like About You" and "The Woman Before Me" were Top 10 hits.

Not a bad start for a small town Georgia girl who moved to Nashville in 1985 to enroll in Belmont University's Music Business Program, then started singing demos while she was a Music Row intern.

She toured with Garth Brooks, won the Academy of Country Music's Top New Female Vocalist Award and the American Music Award for Top New Country Act on the strength of her multi-platinum debut.

Her second album, *Hearts in Armor*, went platinum, as well, and the project's lead single, "Wrong Side Of Memphis," included the prophetic lyric, "I've had this dream

from a tender age . . . calling my name from the Opry stage."

One year later, her story was told in the 1993 book *Get Hot or Go Home: Trisha Yearwood And The Making Of A Nashville Star*, and she recorded her third album, *The Song Remembers When*, accompanied by a Disney TV special featuring her music.

The years that followed included more successful albums and hits such as "XXX's And OOO's" and "Believe Me Baby (I Lied)."

Then things got even busier . . . and better. "How Do I Live," the first single off her

greatest hits collection *Songbook* became a monster smash and propelled the album to the top of the charts.

"That had never happened to me before," says Trisha. "Then a few months later I got to perform the song on the CMAs and then won that award (Female Vocalist of the Year), which was really a big moment for me. I grew up watching the CMAs and I had been nominated several times, but I had made my peace with not winning it."

There was more winning to be done. She also took ACM Female Vocalist honors as well as two Grammys the next year.

Trisha followed the success of *Songbook* with *Where Your Road Leads*. Though she had no way of knowing it when she titled the album, her road would lead to Grand Ole Opry membership while it was still one of country's top selling projects.

On March 13, 1999, she was introduced by Porter Wagoner as the Opry's newest member, and the packed Opry House erupted in applause when she delivered the "Wrong Side Of Memphis Line" line, "I've had this dream from a tender age . . . calling my name from the Opry stage" perhaps with more conviction than ever before.

She then said, "Roy Acuff always said, 'Sing the one that brought you,' so we're gonna sing 'She's In Love With the Boy.'" Trisha's next song was the Patsy Cline classic "Sweet Dreams." Before she accepted a standing ovation from the crowd, Trisha thanked Patsy Cline's daughter and widower for an Opry induction gift—a necklace once owned by the Opry legend.

"Having my family there, the Opry members and Patsy Cline's family there was a night I'll always cherish," Trisha says.

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FROM A TENDER AGE

... CALLING MY NAME

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Trisha celebrates her Opry induction in the Acuff Theatre.