

# MUSIC

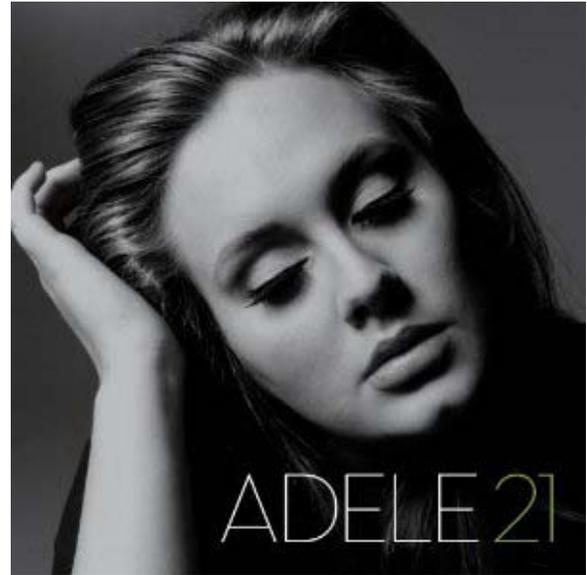
## ADELE

**Adele Laurie Blue Adkins**, better known simply as **Adele**, is an English recording artist and songwriter. She was born in Tottenham, north London, England, to a single teenage mother named Penny Adkins on **5 May 1988**. Adele's father Mark Evans split from Adele's mother when Adele was 3 years old. She began singing at age four and asserts that she became obsessed with voices. Adele has cited **the Spice Girls** as a major influence in regard to her love and passion for music, stating that "they made me what I am today." At the age of nine, Adele and her mother moved to Brighton, two years later, to Brixton, and then to neighbouring district West Norwood, in South London. West Norwood is the subject for Adele's first record, "**Hometown Glory**", written when she was 16.

Adele graduated from **the BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology** in Croydon in May 2006, where she was a classmate of Leona Lewis and Jessie J. Four months after graduation, Adele published two songs on the fourth issue of the online arts publication *PlatformsMagazine.com*. She had recorded a three-song demo for a class project and gave it to a friend who posted it on Myspace where it became very successful and led to a phone call from music label XL Recordings.



**19**, named for her age at the time she started recording it, entered the British charts at number one. *The Times* Encyclopedia of Modern Music named *19* an "essential" blue-eyed soul recording and in June 2008, *Billboard* magazine stated "Adele truly has potential to become among the most respected and inspiring international artists of her generation".



Her second studio album, **21**, was inspired by the breakup with her former partner. The album's sound is described as classic and contemporary roots and country music. *21* hit number 1 in more than 26 countries, including the UK and the US. An emotional performance of "**Someone Like You**" at the 2011 BRIT Awards on 15 February propelled the song to number one in the UK. Her first album, *19*, re-entered the UK album chart alongside *21*, while first and second singles "**Rolling in the Deep**" and "Someone Like You" were in the top 5 of the UK singles chart, making Adele the first living artist to achieve the feat of two top-five hits in both the Official Singles Chart and the Official Albums Chart simultaneously since the Beatles in 1964. Both songs topped the charts in multiple markets and broke numerous sales performances records. By December 2011, *21* sold over **3.4 million copies** in the UK, and became the biggest-selling album of the 21st century, overtaking Amy Winehouse's Back to Black, with Adele becoming the first artist ever to sell three million albums in the UK in one calendar year. "**Set Fire to the Rain**" became Adele's third number one single on the Billboard Hot 100, as Adele became the first artist ever to have an album, *21*, hold the number one position on the Billboard 200 concurrently with three number one singles.

In April 2012, American magazine *Time* named Adele one of the 100 most influential people in the world.