

## **Biography of Michelle Branch**

Born in Sedona, Arizona, Branch took voice lessons at eight, got her first guitar by fourteen, and instantly became obsessed with songwriting. That same passion resulting in Branch releasing her first independent album *Broken Bracelet* and signing her first major label record deal with Maverick before she turned eighteen.

Her major label debut, *The Spirit Room*--released in August 2001--went multi-platinum, and produced three substantial hit singles in "Everywhere, (whose video won an MTV Viewer's Choice award)" "All You Wanted" and "Goodbye to You." She was also nominated for a Grammy for best new Artist. Branch's reputation as a young musical artist with grown-up talent was further solidified in 2002 when she teamed up with Santana to record "The Game of Love," which became an international smash, reached Number Five on *Billboard's* Hot 100, spent many weeks atop the *Billboard* Adult Contemporary chart, and went on to win a Grammy Award for "Best Pop Collaboration With Vocal."

Released in June 2003, *Hotel Paper* debuted at Number Two on the *Billboard* album chart, selling 157,000 copies its first week. The album, her second platinum-selling disc in the U.S., spawned the Top Twenty hit single "Are You Happy Now?", which was nominated for a Grammy Award for "Best Female Rock Performance."

Michelle enjoyed her first country smash with 2006's acclaimed album *Stand Still, Look Pretty* by The Wreckers, the duo with which Branch made an inspired vocal and songwriting collaboration. The popularity of The Wreckers helped establish Branch as a fixture of country radio, thanks to such winning country tracks as the #1 smash "Leave The Pieces" (which topped the Hot Country Songs chart for several weeks) and the Top Ten hit "My, Oh My." The album — 12 tracks of stellar pop-tinged modern country — debuted at Number 14 on the *Billboard* album chart and was certified gold by the R.I.A.A.. It earned the duo a Grammy Award nomination for "Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group," as well as nominations for CMA and CMT awards.

She is currently preparing to release her first solo country record later this year.