

CHELY WRIGHT SHORT BIO 2018

Chely Wright rose to fame as a commercial country singer in the 90's, and has since released eight studio albums and charted more than 15 singles on the Billboard charts. The Academy of Country Music named Wright "Top New Female Vocalist of 1995." Her first hit came in 1997 with "Shut Up and Drive" followed two years later by her first number one single, "Single White Female," and in 2005 "The Bumper of My S.U.V." In 2010, Chely Wright released her eighth album, *Lifted Off the Ground* produced by Rodney Crowell, revealing a dramatic artistic transformation and emerging as a singer songwriter of the first order.

Chely made history by being the first country music star to publicly come out as gay, which she revealed in her 2010 memoir entitled "Like Me." That same year Wright founded The LIKEME® Organization, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance, resources and education to LGBT individuals and their family & friends, as well as founding The LIKEME® Lighthouse, an education and community center for gay youth in Chely's hometown of Kansas City, MO.

In 2016, Wright released her latest critically-acclaimed studio album entitled *I Am The Rain*, produced by Joe Henry-produced and praised by Rolling Stone as a "real triumph," noting "Wright tempers the darker themes on her album with character-driven story songs whether inspired by her years as a touring musician or springing from her vivid imagination." The Bluegrass Situation noted that "the album's quiet confidence showcases what is probably the truest side of [Wright]."

Currently Chely is working on a new studio EP as well as a holiday EP, both of which are being crowdfunded through PledgeMusic. [<https://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/chely-wright>]