



143 is Perry's seventh studio album.

- ALL PICS FROM FACEBOOK @KATYPERRY

BY JOHN TAN

FOR most of her career, Katy Perry excelled in being a pop star. Despite her early roots in gospel music, she was successful at establishing herself in the pop genre, becoming its face back in the 2010s.

As an artiste, Perry stands as the only female to produce five number-one singles from one album alone. She is also the second female artiste with the most diamond-certified singles.

Hence it has been surprising to see Perry's fall from grace, experiencing numerous commercial failures since the release of her fifth album *Witness*.

Even with the release of her latest record *143*, the songstress has failed to create much impact and success for herself, which draws the question - how did Perry get here?

#### Not as bad as they say

While it is easy to automatically believe critics (not excluding this one), *143* is not as hopeless as many depict it to be. Despite the lacklustre lead single *Women's World*, there are various redeeming tunes throughout the record. *Gimme Gimme*, *No More Tears for New Years*, *Crush* and *All the Love* are some examples of tunes worth paying attention to. Longtime fans of Perry may appreciate the record as her light and fun artistry is reflected here.

#### Stagnant record

That said, KatyCats (Perry's fandom) who long for evolution from the artiste may not find the record appealing. Listening to it in its entirety, it is evident that Perry is very much incorporating the same music formula from her previous albums.

Though it is packaged as dance music, its essence (lyrics and production) does not

Perry has failed to garner major commercial success since 2017.

# Missed opportunity for Katy Perry

➤ American singer fails to recapture past glories with her latest long player *143*

stray far from her previous releases.

They can very much pass off as one another. The only stark difference about this era is the release's visual and marketing strategy, underlining that, perhaps, Perry has run out of inspiration.

#### Out of touch

Looking back at the past can also hurt as it will only result in redundancies. Perry's take on feminism in *Woman's World*, for instance, was received poorly among fans and the general public. Hardcore fans may blame it entirely on the Dr Luke controversy (the *143* album producer was accused of sexual assault by another artiste). But, one with an objective lens can see that Perry's take was superficial and out of touch.

While it worked for her in the 2010s with *Firework* and *Roar*, the singer's point of view only proved she has not been keeping up with the times. This also applies to her music. The lyrics and production in *143* are not only generic but it is also not in touch with the appetite of today's pop audience.

Perry may want to refer to the current stars such as Tate McRae, Sabrina Carpenter and Charlie XCX for inspiration, all of whom are dominating the pop genre.

#### Focus on future

This may be the best step forward for Perry. It may be time for Perry to stop reminiscing and focus on what is ahead.

Her *Teenage Dream* and *Prism* days were certainly impressive but the songstress still has a lot more in her. The redeeming bits and pieces of *143* are a testament to this.



143 has been poorly received since its released.

All Perry needs to do is look inside and harness that creative source. After all, it has always been inside of her and it is time she let it through.



Perry was formerly a gospel singer.



Deal was once part of hugely influential alternative outfit The Pixies.

- PIC FROM FACEBOOK @KINDEALMUSIC

## Ex-Pixie to release solo LP

WHEN most people are trading in their work apparels for comfy retirement slippers, Kim Deal is about to release her debut solo album at the age of 63!

Deal was once co-vocalist and bass player of pioneering alternative band The Pixies as well as fronting her own outfit The Breeders. The former had a profound impact on one Kurt Cobain who allegedly ripped off the famous riff to *Smells Like Teen Spirit* from a Pixies tune. Deal experienced platinum success when the latter band hit commercial pay dirt with *Last Splash*.

So, Deal is not exactly a novice when it comes to the business of rock & roll and indeed she had previously released a number of solo singles alongside scattered live performances. But, it is a sign of empowerment and confidence that she has chosen to venture forth without the safety net of a band for a solo full-length this late in her career.

Titled *Nobody Loves You More*, the long player is set to drop on Nov 22, with single *Crystal Breath* providing a tantalising taster. It has Deal's usual playful delivery that echoes over a tight rhythm section that just begs listeners to get up and shake their money makers. It has the mish-mash of sounds and styles that made the 90s such an eclectic and exhilarating decade for music fans.

The new album will be released on 4AD and was among the last recordings producer, the late Steve Albini worked on. Deal had revealed while Albini used many of the same recording techniques deployed during Pixies sessions, he was more open to experimentation on her solo efforts. Fans are eagerly anticipating to hear the results.

*Crystal Breath* is available on major music streaming platforms. - by R.BALA