

here's a sense of empowerment, but not in a militant way," Lianne La Havas says of her highly anticipated sophomore album, *Blood*. After the second-ever visit to her grandparents' native Jamaica in 2014, the South Londoner, 25, felt inspired to record again—and this time it was evident that she had let her guard down. "I was newly single and inviting people to join me in my independence," she shares. "I was very happy while making this record and went into the studio with a reinvigorated rhythm, excited to express a different side to my music."

On her debut full-length effort, **Is Your Love Big Enough?**,

lyrical moments of hope lifted an otherwise grim air of intense loneliness. Curious listeners who related to her tales of a broken relationship were hooked. The artist's edgy, modern beats not only secured a loyal fan base—they also earned her the accolade "iTunes U.K. Album of the Year" in 2012. Now Lianne is pushing boundaries with a category-defying sound that both unleashes a lung power previously held in reserve and masterfully blends R&B and folk influences. Successfully skirting musical genres and creating her own place in the game can mean only one thing: major staying power.—M.L.

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