

In the closet with

Melody Gardot

The jet-setting singer leads the fashion pack

Words and styling by Tricia Welch

Melody, 30, is a Grammy-nominated, platinum-selling singer/songwriter whose latest album, *Currency Of Man*, is a mix of jazz, blues and R&B. Born in New Jersey, her career began through music therapy after a horrific car accident that left her with head and spinal injuries. She spends most of her time travelling.

How would you describe your style? Whoo-hoo chichi! I'm passionate about my eco jewellery made by friends in Brazil and other sentimental items that I mix with beautifully designed pieces. It's very personal. The "whoo-hoo" is a bit nuts, the "chichi" more chic.

Which colours and shapes suit you best? I mostly wear black with occasional contrast and splashes of colour. I love my curves but I like fitted rather than tight clothes.

What is your favourite fashion era? Every era has its beautiful things but perhaps the 1950s – picture Sophia Loren in Cannes – when women dressed sensuously and emphasised their curves.

What are your favourite high-street brands? I rarely shop in the high street, I'm too busy travelling, but if I have to grab something quickly, it would be Zara.

Who is your favourite designer? Lanvin. Alber Elbaz really understands the female body and his designs are so flattering to the female form.

Do you have a style icon? I admire originality. Jimi Hendrix was a one-off,

but I like musicians with their own vibe.

What is your best beauty secret?

Sleep. Plus I only wear organic cosmetics.

Are you a hoarder or do you clear out your wardrobe each season? I'm definitely not a hoarder. I don't like excess. I spend my life travelling and most of my wardrobe fits into a suitcase.

Are you a fan of vintage? Yes, especially at vintage prices. The older generations took care of their clothes and I really empathise with that. I even hand-wash my lingerie.

How many shoes and handbags do you own? Not enough to be notable. Ten pairs of shoes and boots, including the ones I only wear on stage, plus five bags, all gifts.

What do you like to wear to perform in? Mostly Lanvin: light jackets, stretch pants, fluid dresses. I'm a mover and a shaker and play the guitar and the piano on stage, so I need to be comfortable.

You wear sunglasses most of the time. Which are your favourites?

I have photosensitive eyes and wear vintage or styles by Orgreen, made from titanium, which are incredibly light and comfortable. Orgreen are the best for performers as heavy glasses can alter the tone of your voice.

"I spend my life travelling and most of my wardrobe fits into a suitcase"



You're also a fan of the headscarf I use silk ones from India. I've got long hair and if I'm touring, doing five or six concerts a week, a scarf is a practical option. It avoids wrecking the hair with styling products and heated appliances and also keeps my ear monitor in place.

What is the best piece of fashion advice you have ever been given? Keep it simple.

Is there an old favourite you turn to in a wardrobe crisis? I don't have wardrobe crises, but if I don't have the time or inclination to style my hair, I'll wrap it in a scarf.

How much do you spend on clothes each month? I don't buy clothes every month. I tend to do a major shop every two to three years when I'm launching a new album and

Melody wears a hand-painted scarf by Franco Ferrari for L'Eclaireur with leggings by Ilaria Nistri and a black Indian silk headscarf