

Her latest single release, in July 2020, *Things Ain't Always (What They Seem)* is a tribute to a man who touched so many people's lives.

"I started writing a whole lot of stuff during COVID and some of it is a little bit dark and murky, depending on what frame of mind I was in at the time," she said.

"I think everyone had a bit of a struggle, whether their work was stopped or not and 70 per cent of my work stopped overnight, which had an effect on my mental state as well.

"*Things Ain't Always (What They Seem)* came out of that and it's a tribute to Glen Hannah, who took his life last year. Songwriting has always been extremely cathartic for me."

Merilyn said people were using music as a way to deal with the COVID situation during 2020 and were now hungry for new songs, and had been asking when she was releasing an album.

"I'm planning a new album sometime this year," she said.

"Hopefully there will be a whole new appreciation for music once all the venues and festivals get up and running again and people will be more inclined to pay a little bit for music, rather than expecting music for free."

It's been a long time between drinks in terms of albums for Merilyn, who has continued playing live, while dealing with major life events, but she's excited to be back in the recording studio.

Prior to fans getting their hands on an album, though, Merilyn has more in store, with a new single, *I Deserve This*, coming out this month.

"*I Deserve This* is about allowing yourself to accept love and believe that you're worthy of the good things in life," she said.

"It's one of my most emotive songs I've written and is very raw



Sydney singer-songwriter **MERILYN STEELE** is one artist who let the creativity flow when the COVID-19 shutdown took away most of her work, and the results are a mix of light and shade.

and my producer, Michael Carpenter, said it was the best vocal I'd ever done and I've been recording with him for 10-15 years."

The South Sydney singer and teacher said *I Deserve This* was also a change in style for her and was "a little bit alternative and almost reminiscent of 80's style Alanis Morissette".

As well as being another serious song, Merilyn said she always instills some light into her songs, so there is always a bit of "humour and hope" in her original material.

"I'm getting into more of the contemporary artists who are out there, and I will always have the influence of Kasey Chambers in my music, which is also in the upcoming song, with a bit of grunge guitar in this as well," she said.

"I'm looking forward to getting the music out there, and would love to get some sync licensing for TV, documentaries, or films and re-engage with a lot of my fans," she said.

"Music is a natural high for me."

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