

Charlie Chech: Hills District crooner goes viral with Sinatra sound

A Hills singer is on a mission to bring Sinatra to a new generation, with every viral video turning old-school classics into modern-day hits and sending audiences to the moon and back.



At just 21, Charlie Chech is hitting all the right notes as a journalist, crooner and viral star, on a smooth-talking mission to make Frank Sinatra cool again for a new generation. Picture: Junior Jin

There are not many 21-year-olds who spend their morning commute listening to Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole — and then get paid to sing those same songs to a packed concert on a Saturday night.

However, Charlie Chech is not your average 21-year-old.

The Hills crooner has been quietly building one of the more unusual careers in Australian music: a full-time journalist by day, a jazz and swing vocalist by night.

Named Australia's Best Male Vocal Performer at the 22nd ACE Awards, Chech has sold out headline shows from the Brisbane Jazz Club to Hornsby RSL, drawn fans from as far as regional Victoria and Canberra, and recently watched a TikTok video rack up 1.3 million views and 270,000 likes in a matter of days.

Chech's path started as a drummer in his primary school years, eventually landing him in his high school's jazz and swing big band.

But it was the classics like Sinatra, Cole, Bennett that changed everything.

"It's kind of the golden age of music," he says. "No matter how much you dig, you'll always find new material that's really good and full of substance. The lyrics are full of substance."



Charlie Chech was named Australia's Best Male Vocal Performer at the 22nd ACE Awards – one of the youngest vocalists to hold the prestigious title.

The real turning point came in February 2020, when 15-year-old Chech sat front-row at Michael Bublé's Sydney concert, homemade poster held high.

Bubl , known for pulling audience members on stage, handed him the mic in front of 20,000 people.

They duetted on Dean Martin's You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You.



Charlie Chech's manager Annette Madjarian, Charlie and Michael Bublé after being plucked from the crowd to duet together during his concert in Sydney.

"The microphone felt like it weighed about a hundred tonnes," Mr Chech recalls, "but we made it through but he looked genuinely shocked. I think he thought he was being pranked or something, because I sounded like a 65-year-old dude and I was 15."

In the years that followed, Mr Chech has thrown himself into live performances, putting on his first headline show at Hornsby RSL eight months before sitting his HSC.



Australia's Best Male Vocal Performer Charlie Chech live in concert. "I far prefer performing live — it's where I'm at home," says the 22nd ACE Award winner.

He has since performed consecutive sold-out shows there, and become one of the youngest singers to take the Canterbury Leagues Club Showroom stage.

His debut EP Checkmate recorded at the world-renowned Studios 301 with legendary Australian producer Clive Lendich, features reimagined classics including Billy Joel's New York State of Mind, Dire Straits' Your Latest Trick, and Summer Wind.

His most devoted fans are often decades older than him including 92-year-old Bernice Miller, who travels across Sydney on public transport alone to attend his shows.

Chech also performed at aged care facilities, where the impact of the music hit him in ways he wasn't prepared for.



Charlie Chech performing at Anglian Retirement Village Castle Hill.

“Someone might have advanced dementia or Alzheimer’s and they’re wheelchair-bound or in a bed,” he says, “and they start singing, mouthing the words, it’s incredible.”

Now, TikTok is opening up an entirely new and younger audience.

An off-the-cuff one-take video posted last week went stratospheric within days, and the comments section caught Check off guard. He gained 6000 new followers in five days, and the response confirmed something he’d long suspected.



Charlie Check with his 'superfans' including his 89-year-old grandma Sylvia, second from left. Sylvia never misses a show.

A self-confessed “hopeless romantic” when it comes to Frank Sinatra. “I can’t get enough of him, he’s the OG. He’s the reason I do this,”

“You mention Sinatra to someone and their eyes light up,” he says. “That tells you everything and there’s a real love for this music, it just needs someone to bring it back to them.”



“The music cuts through,” he says. “On the stage, you’re having a conversation with the audience, you’re kind of in sync with each other. It’s where I’m at home.”

With 1.3 million TikTok views, a sold-out tour, and a mission to make jazz cool again, Hills-raised Charlie Check is no longer a well-kept secret. “I just want to keep doing it and see where it takes me.”