'He sounds as though he has drunk deeply from the same fountain that gave the world Henry Lawson, Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan.'
Bruce Elder - Sydney Morning Herald

Shane Howard Press Kit

Shane Howard is a prolific Australian songwriter, admired and respected for his integrity and commitment to music. For more than 30 years his songs have continued to champion the cause of the common man, the environment and the injustices endured by Australia's Aboriginal people.

After 30 years of singing, writing and journeying the globe, from campfires to concert halls, he has consolidated his voice to become an important addition to the evolving folklore of modern song. Howard has refined his art with 13 solo albums, 3 albums with 'Goanna', two books and a stable of great production credits, that have established him as a significant contributor to Australian folklore.

His songs have been recorded by numerous artists as diverse as Ireland's Mary Black and Australia's John Farnham and Troy Cassar-Daley. He has spent much of his musical life working with Aboriginal musicians, as well as touring Ireland and forging Irish-Australian connections. Shane has been a producer for the Pigram Brothers, Street Warriors, Mary Black, Archie Roach and the soundtrack for the Jimmy Chi musical, 'Corrugation Road.' He's a founding member of the celebrated Black Arm Band and a member of the Honorary Council of the San Francisco World Music Festival.

He writes universal songs of love and life and 'combines a deep understanding of poetic and musical folk traditions. While they are deeply evocative of Australia, a "spirit of place", Howard's songs have a global reach .. there are few contemporary musicians who have made such an enduring impact. We need the music of people like Shane Howard to feed our souls and keep our hopes alive for a better future.'
Aziz Choudry, Montreal

He's played for Prime Ministers, Aboriginal Elders and Environmental campaigners, from concert halls to remote campfires. He's been a guest artist for Neil Young, Jackson Browne, James Taylor, Carole King, Archie Roach and for Bob Dylan in Melbourne, in 1992.

His hit song, Solid Rock, lit a fire for the rights of Aboriginal people in Australia 30 years ago that hasn't gone out.

Howard was the founding member of the legendary Australian band Goanna. Goanna's Spirit Of Place album (1982) was released in 35 territories worldwide. Solid Rock is now an iconic Australian song. The song was the first commercial song to use a didjeridu and its powerful lyrics and music denounced the injustice that Aboriginal Australia had endured since the colonisation of Australia in 1788.

Similarly, his anthemic Let The Franklin Flow achieved commercial success and drew mainstream attention to the proposed damming of Tasmania's wild Franklin River. The dam was never built. Howard was invited by his friend, Senator Bob Brown, to sing at the 30th Anniversary of the saving of the Franklin River.

He's also experienced commercial success in Ireland with Mary Black's recording of his songs. (Black has gone on to record eight of Howard's songs). His songs have been recorded by numerous other artists. He's co-written with Billy Payne, (Little Feat), Russ Kunkel, John Spillane, Troy Cassar Daley and Archie Roach, among others. He's released 12 solo albums, 3 Goanna albums, a Two Songmen album with Neil Murray and featured in numerous compilations.

He was also a founding member and a driving force with the Black Arm Band, a national Australian ensemble that brought together some of the most influential Aboriginal artists to tour Australia and the World. He featured in the documentary, Murundak, that chronicled the travels of the Black Arm Band and the political and cultural struggle of Australia's Aboriginal people.

He has produced albums for many other artists: Archie Roach, The Pigram Brothers, Joe Geia, Jimmy Chi, Mossie Scanlon, Mary Black. His songs have been recorded by artists including Mary Black, Troy Cassar Daley, John Farnham and Lene Siel (Denmark).

Howard has toured Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Canada and the US. He's performed for Nelson Mandela and Nobel Prize winner, Rigoberta Menchu.

In announcing Shane as the Artist of the Year for the 2005 Port Fairy Folk Festival award, Festival Director, Jamie McKew said, "Shane Howard bridges the land between poet and song-writer; between prophet and singer; between white fellas and indigenous artists".

He was awarded a Fellowship by the Australia Council for the Arts in 2000, in recognition of his contribution to Australian musical life. Howard was also an Australian representative at the 2000 North American Folk Alliance convention and is a life member of the Australian Folk Alliance and finalist for the 2013 Melbourne Prize for Music.

In 2012 he released a book of his lyrics featuring his paintings and a children's book of the song, 'Solid Rock-Puli Kunpungka', working with senior Anangu to translate the song into Pitjantjatjara. As part of the 30th anniversary of the release of 'Solid Rock', Howard marked the occasion by convening a community concert in partnership with the Mutitjulu community at Uluru. He was joined by long term musical friends Bart Willoughby, Archie Roach, John Butler, Dan Sultan, Amy Saunders (Tiddas), among others, for a truly unique Australian concert event.

He also performed his song 'Heart of my Country' for then Prime Minister Julia Gillard with Chinese folk-opera singer Su-Cheen Yu.

In 2012 he held his first exhibition of paintings, in collaboration with his wife, painter Teresa O'Brien. Howard has also worked with his wife and their local community to establish the country's first Australian-Irish Cultural Centre.

Where he was born and raised in South West Victoria, is where he now lives. It's an area that is home to the highest concentration of Irish migration in Australia, outside the cities. His ancestors were among those Irish migrants from the Great Hunger of the 1850's. In 2012 he featured in the Irish language documentary, An Dubh Ina Gheal, with Irish poet Louis de Paor, that explored the relationship between Irish migrants and Australian Aboriginal peoples.

In May 2014 he contributed a painting and songs to the East Coast Endeavour exhibition at the Australian National Maritime Museum. The exhibition is a reappraisal of Captain Cook's 1770 'discovery' of Australia.

He was recently invited to serve on the Honorary Council of the San Francisco World Music Festival.

He has just released a new album 'Deeper South' and has developed an Australian-Irish music and multi-media production, EXILE, to be performed with long time Irish and Australian collaborators, in Australia in late 2015.

Howard continues to work as a writer, singer, producer and mentor, travelling nationally & internationally.

DISCOGRAPHY

as SHANE HOWARD (13 titles)

Back to the Track (1988)
River (1990)
Time Will Tell (1993)
Live in Ireland, Australia & New Zealand (1994)
Clan (1996)
Beyond Hope's Bridge (2001)
Retrospect: collected songs 1982-2003 (2004)
Another Country (2004)
Songs Of Love & Resistance (2006)
Driftwood-Rare and Unreleased (2010)
Goanna Dreaming (2010)
Other Side of the Rock (2012)
Deeper South (2015)

with GOANNA (3 Titles)

Spirit of Place (1982)
Oceania (1985)
Spirit Returns (1998)

BOOKS (2 titles)

Lyrics (2010)
Solid Rock-Puli Kunpungka (2010)

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MEDIA LINKS:

Shane Howard rocks solidly
ABC Radio, Melbourne on 27 February, 2015
http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2015/02/27/4188467.htm

Shane Howard savours his "most enjoyable" album yet
By Matt Neal on Feb. 5, 2015
http://www.standard.net.au/story/2862798/born-at-home-among-friends-howards-pride-and-joy/

Shane Howard Interview - Colosoul Magazine
By Tom Munday on March 4, 2015
http://www.colosoul.com.au/thearts/shane-howard-interview/

Shane Howard - 'Deeper South'
Daily Planet, Radio National on Tuesday 17 February 2015
http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/dailyplanet/lucky-oceans-daily-planet-shane-howard---deeper-south/6080896

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vimeo.com/user14553984

sonicbids.com/band/shanehoward