

KEV CARMODY

S I N G E R - S O N G W R I T E R

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Name: Kevin Carmody

Born: 1946, Cairns, Qld, Australia

Background: Kev was raised in the western Darling Downs in southern Qld until the age of 10 when he was sent from his Aboriginal mother and Irish father to school in Toowoomba. He returned at 16 and at 33, after years of working on the land, Kev attended the Darling Downs Institute of Education where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then obtained educational qualifications at Queensland University and eventually was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Southern Queensland. Kev released his first album at the age of 43.

Musical style/genre: Although Kev was labelled a folk/protest singer with his first album, he has come to embrace a range of different styles from reggae to funk to techno to soul and everywhere in-between. Kev's music is the embodiment of his traditional role as storyteller; his lyrics highlight a number of social injustices and speak of a land he loves.

Instruments played: Guitar, Mandolin, Harmonica, Didgeridoo, Banjo

Albums:

1988 *Pillars of Society*

1991 *Eulogy (for a Black Person)*

1993 *Bloodlines*

1995 *Images and Illusions*

2002 *Mirrors*

All albums now released/re-released through Song Cycles Pty Ltd.

EP's

1992 *Street Beat* (Festival)

Compilation Albums:

2000 *Messages* (A compilation of the first 4 albums) (Song Cycles)

2007 *Cannot Buy My Soul* (A tribute album compiled by close friend and colleague Paul Kelly and featuring many respected contemporary Australian performers) (EMI)

DVDs:

2008 *Cannot Buy My Soul* performed live at the State Theatre, Sydney.

Books:

- With Paul Kelly & paintings by Peter Hudson, the children's book *From Little Things Big Things Grow* was illustrated by Kalkarinji School children from Gurindji Country (2008). One Day Hill Publishers. All proceeds go directly to the Gurindji Community. ISBN 9780980564310.
- *Pillars of Society* Songbook (out of print).

Other projects

- Kev wrote and co-wrote a number of songs for the movie *One Night The Moon*, released in 2001, which received a number of awards including the AFI Award for the Best Sound Track and Best Cinematography.
- In 2008, a version of *From Little Things Big Things Grow* was released by The GetUp Mob, part of the Getup! advocacy group. It peaked at #4 on the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) singles charts. This version included samples from speeches by Prime Ministers Paul Keating in 1992, and Kevin Rudd in 2008 and featured vocals by both Carmody and Kelly, as well as other Australian artists.
- Community projects.
 - Songwriting and recording workshops in Out-Back NSW and Qld
 - Qld Music Festival songwriting workshops
 - Educational seminars
 - Working with marginalised youth

Career highlights

Kev has toured extensively through Australia, Canada, Europe, Ireland and the UK and played in many famous venues and festivals including:

- Spiegeltent, Edinburgh Festival, Scotland
- Womad Festival, Reading, England
- Womadelaide Festival, Adelaide
- Sydney Opera House
- Maleny Folk Festival
- Woodford Folk Festival
- Port Fairy Festival
- Queenscliffe Festival
- Sydney Festival
- Brisbane Festival
- Cygnet Festival
- Byron Bay Blues Festival
- West Coast Blues Festival
- Winnipeg Festival Canada
- Edmonton Festival Canada
- Calgary Festival Canada
- Vancouver Festival Canada
- Kennedy Centre Washington DC

Kev has worked closely with renowned performers such as

- Paul Kelly
- Steve Kilbey
- Bernard Fanning
- Missy Higgins
- Dan Kelly
- John Butler Trio
- The Last Kinection
- The Waifs
- The Drones
- Troy Cassar-Daley
- Archie Roach
- Sara Storer
- Dan Sultan & Scott Wilson
- Tex Perkins
- Clare Bowditch
- The Herd
- Augie March
- The Pigram Brothers
- Richie Havens
- Bob Dylan
- Sweet Honey in the Rock
- Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir
- Pete Seeger
- Buffy St Marie
- Michelle Shocked
- Gunna He Ho
- Rory Mcleod
- Dya Singh
- Mixed Relations
- Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter
- Coloured Stone
- Roger and Buddy Knox – Euraba Band
- Sivy Doolan and Doolan Brothers
- Native Rhyme Syndicate
- The Cruel Sea
- And many other Australian groups and artists.

A portrait of Kev by Peter Hudson entitled "The Songman" was entered into the 2006 Archibald Prize. This portrait features on the back cover of Cannot Buy My Soul.

Awards received

- 2010 Senior Australian of the Year State Finalist, Qld.
- 2009 Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Hall of Fame inductee
- 2009 Queensland Great Award awarded by the State Government. The Queensland Greats Awards honour individuals and institutions whose long term or lifetime achievements have played a significant role in the history and development of Queensland.
- 2008 Honorary Doctorate – University of Southern Queensland
- 2005 Deadly Awards, recipient of the Jimmy Little Award for Lifetime Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music
- 2002 Film Critics Circle of Australia & Screen Music (Australia) Awards for the score for *One Night The Moon*.
- 2001 Australian Film Industry's Open Craft Award in a Non-Feature Film for an Original Score for *One Night The Moon*.
- 1993 Country Music Association of Australia Golden Guitar Award for *From Little Things, Big Things Grow* in the Cultural Heritage category.

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