

Suzanne Petersen - Award Winning Songwriter Australian Blues and Roots Charts

Engaging vocal style wins audiences wherever she goes with her eclectic tastes spanning blues roots and ballads.

Suzanne studied classical piano at boarding school in Brisbane but commenced a professional career playing



guitar at Hooters Mexican Restaurant in the evening hours while surfing in the daylight hours making it to the Australian Titles in 1976. She went to Cairns with the Tim Gaze band doing songwriter solo gigs sharing the stage and honing the craft of singing by watching Judy and Bruce Parkinson on vocals. Tim was commissioned to Sydney to record songs for surf movie Band on the Run. Suzanne wrote, sang and improvised flute for the movie landing a publishing contract with Leeds. After the movie she got a barmaid job at the Kirribilli Hotel and played guitar and sang there on the weekend nights. She also played Sydney pubs and bars at Crows Nest playing solo to punters.

Destination Melbourne circa 1980 on meeting Dutch Tilders a long partnership developed and she was flautist in his band touring with the RnB 6 supporting acts like George Thorogood. For a brief stint Suzanne formed her own band then got a lot of work doing guitar/vocals with John Cameron on Bass working all around Victoria and Melbourne, more recently singing with his big band "Out For The Count" at Inverloch Jazz Festival. Piano bars were profitable in the 80's and 90's and while attaining a B.ED in Music at Melbourne University Suzanne got back to her first instrument the piano, and rediscovered Billy Holiday and Bessie Smith and a wealth of other early artists. She played piano residencies at 5 star hotels such as the Windsor, Sofitel and Eden on the park and local live venues such as the Town Hall Hotel, Sth Melbourne.

In 2007 she collaborated with an old friend Mal Clarke of the Bullamakanka band and released her first album of original material Here Is My Song. The songs catch some of the spirit of Australia. She played with Mal at the Outback Pioneer at Ayers Rock resort and after that a piano residency at Mantra Tree Tops Port Douglas piano.

In Melbourne Suzanne had friends like the late great Gil Askey who played with her on occasional sold out gigs at the Market Street Tavern, Nunawading, contributing to a deeper knowledge and understanding of American blues and jazz. Suzanne's latest album I Foresaw This Trouble has 14 original tracks including 8 swinging blues tracks influenced by her entrenchment in the Melbourne blues scene. Suzanne is getting better than good recognition with this latest album which has made no. 5 in the Australian Blues and Roots Radio Charts in December 2014 and remained in the charts for at 8 months in 2015. All the tracks have a good groove and are appealing to a wide audience as it encompasses some roots, folk, gospel and ballads. Gary Norman Guitar, Mike Mathews Bass, Justin Humphries drums, guest harmonica Ian Collard, guitar Geoff Achison, drums Gideon Marcus.

Suzanne has been promoting her latest original material on an East Coast tour playing at the Bangalow Bowls Club with Tim Gaze, a CD Launch with the band members at the Upwey/Belgrave RSL. Also gigs at Blakes Famous Blues Bar at Cunninghams Hotel, Yarra Junction, Prince Of Wales Hotel, St Kilda, Cherry Bar, Open Studio Northcote and the Clifton Hill Hotel in Melbourne. The Reunion Café at Surrey Hills Music Festival dinner and show sold out.

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