

Music CV

Formal qualifications

1973-75 Studied classical guitar, music theory and musicology during a three year tertiary music course at Melbourne State College as part of a Bachelor of Education gained in 1976.

1985 Completed a diploma course in Audio Engineering at RMIT.

Music History

1976 First regular professional gig as a bassist playing country and rock and roll with the Carrl Myriad Band at the Station Hotel, Prahran. Appeared on the 'Live at the Station' album produced by Keith Glass for the Lamington Records label. Met Andrew Pendlebury who was the guitarist with Myriad till 1977.

1977 Formed the Leisuremasters a rockabilly/pop band with Carlton cult musician and songwriter Peter Lillie. Appeared on Peter Lillie and the Leisuremasters 'Hangin' Round the House'/Holiday House' single and various tracks on the Peter Lillie 'Guitar Method' album all released on Keith Glass's Missing Link label.

1978-82 Joined Sean Kelly, Ash Wednesday, Janis 'Johnny 'Crash' Friedenfelds and Andrew Duffield in several progressive early line-ups of the Melbourne electronic pop-rock band The Models. Performed and toured in Australia and the UK and appeared on all the band's recordings in this period. These included the album 'Alpha, Bravo, Charlie...' and mini album 'Cut Lunch' for Mushroom Records, and the album 'Local and/or General' recorded and released in the UK by A&M Records. Had writing credits on many of these recordings and played an active part in their production. During this period was also invited to become a member of APRA.

1982-85 Formed hard rock band the Sacred Cowboys with Garry Gray and Terry Doolan. Toured and performed in Australia. Co-produced and recorded the cult single 'Nothing Grows in Texas'/'Is Nothing Sacred' and self-titled mini album for White Label records. Tracks from these recordings formed the basis of the self-titled Sacred Cowboys album released in France on New Rose Records. Co-produced 'We Love You... of course we do!' an album of cover versions released when the band folded in 1985.

1984 Joined Andrew Pendlebury as part of singer/songwriter Stephen Cummings first post-Sports touring band. Played bass on Stephen's debut single 'We All Make Mistakes' and various tracks on his first solo album 'Senso' released on Regular Records.

1985-88 Formed country/gospel band The Slaughtermen with Ian Stephen. Performed and toured Australia and co-produced the album 'Still Lovin' You' which was released on Cleopatra Records in 1987. Andrew Pendlebury was the group's featured lead guitarist

1987 Played bass on Andrew Pendlebury's first solo album, 'Between the Horizon and the Dockyard' released on Cleopatra Records.

1985-1990 In conjunction with Terry Doolan owned and operated Point of Originality Productions, a music production business which specialized in composing and producing original soundtracks in many different musical styles for film and video makers such as Jayne Stevenson, Lou Hubbard, Denis Tupicoff, Virginia Murray, Danae Gunn and Jan Denton. Co-produced with Andrew Pendlebury the soundtrack for 'Ruthven' a short film written by Barry Dickins and directed by Bruce Myles.

1986 Co-produced with Ian 'Ollie' Olsen and Terry Doolan the largely acoustic 'Orchestra of Skin and Bone' album for Major Records.

1988-1996 Reformed the Sacred Cowboys and co-produced with Terry Doolan the album 'Trouble From Providence' for the Citadel label in Australia and Normal Records in Germany.

1989-1993 With singer Lisa Miller and guitarist Nick Grant formed rockin' country outfit The Trailblazers (later Truckasaurus). Performed and toured extensively in the country music scene in Australia. Helped produce and wrote many of the tracks on their self-titled CD released by Siren Records in 1992.

1992 Composed the title music with Andrew Duffield for the long running ABC educational TV series Open Learning .

1992 Travelled in the US checking out the music scenes in New Orleans, Austin and New York City. This particular trip, in particular the music and personal experiences, profoundly shaped subsequent songwriting and musical expression.

1994 Formed Greasy Pole Records and released first solo album of original roots and R&B flavoured songs 'Actual Reality' through MDS distribution. This CD was co-produced with engineer Ron Engelhardt, producer of the Coodabeen Champions on ABC radio.

1995-2001 Worked as a graphic artist doing layout for national roots music publication, Rhythms magazine. Other duties included managing the magazine's CD mail order catalogue, maintaining the subscription database and producing programs for the Port Fairy and Byron Bay music festivals.

1996 Co-produced and played on Peter Lillie's 'Poetry and Western' album and the Sacred Cowboys 'Things To Come' album. Both releases were on Greasy Pole through Shock Records.

1997 Released a second solo album of original songs 'Nuts and Bolts' on Greasy Pole. Played virtually all the instruments and co-produced with engineer Simon Grounds.

1999-present Formed The Renovators, a studio band which has released three albums on Greasy Pole. The most recent release 'Instrumental Extensions' (2003) is distributed by MGM.

2000-2002 Began a weekly residency at the Town Hall Hotel, North Melbourne performing in a two guitar duo format with Ross Hannaford. Recorded the album 'Live at Preston Studios' with Ross and producer Graeme Thomas to coincide with an appearance at the 2002 Port Fairy Folk Festival.

2003-present Re-united with Andrew Pendlebury, performing as duo with two guitars. Recorded the album 'Late Night at the Nicholas Building' with engineer David Rodgers at his Vanishing Wilds studio.

December 2003-present First performance of The Mercurials, a trio with Andrew Pendlebury and cellist Adi Sappir, at the Ian Potter Gallery, NGV at Federation Square. The Mercurials become a regular performing outfit playing at bars, clubs, art galleries and local and interstate festivals. Their self titled debut CD is released in June 2005.

2004-present Mark is hired to play bass in the house band for SBS TV's 'RockWiz' program which is produced by Renegade Productions, Prahran.