



Let's talk...

Music that shaped Australia

Reconciliation  
AUSTRALIA

*On 29 November 2012, legendary Australian band Yothu Yindi will follow in the footsteps of Jimmy Little and Kev Carmody by becoming the third Aboriginal artist or Artist to be inducted into the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Hall of Fame.*

*As a universal language, music has always had the power to unite people and create positive social change. As we celebrate Yothu Yindi's landmark achievement, we recognise the contribution that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians have made to the Australian music scene. Let's talk...Music that shaped Australia.*

## Did you know?

- Jimmy Little was the first Aboriginal person to have a number one hit in Australia with his song Royal Telephone. He achieved this feat in 1963, four years before Aboriginal people were considered an official part of the population.
- In 1987 Coloured Stone was the first Aboriginal band to win an ARIA award. Bunna Lawrie, the band's founding member and chief song writer, is a whale dreamer, medicine man and respected elder in the Mirning Aboriginal community in South Australia.
- *Treaty* by Yothu Yindi was the first song in an Aboriginal language (Gumatj) to gain extensive radio airplay in Australia and was a massive global hit in 1992. The song was written by the members of the band along with Paul Kelly and Peter Garrett.
- All four members of the 1960s Aboriginal girl band The Sapphires went on to successful careers outside of music. Naomi Mayers, Beverly Briggs and Laurel Robinson now work at the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, where Naomi has been CEO for 30 years. Lois Peeler is Executive Director of Worawa Aboriginal College, a boarding school for girls.
- Australia's first Indigenous opera, *Pecan Summer* by Deborah Cheetham, received a 15 minute standing ovation when it premiered in Mooroopna, Victoria in 2011.

## Some quick stats

**6** The number of 2012 ARIA nominations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers (Jessica Mauboy – best female artist; best pop release; Troy Cassar-Daley – best country album; William Barton – best classical album; Warren H Williams – best world music album; The Sapphires Cast – original soundtrack).

**54** The number of albums and EPs released by Uncle Jimmy Little between 1957 and 2004.

**500 000** Worldwide sales of Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunipingu's debut album *Gurrumul*

**8.7 million** The number of Australians who tuned in to watch Christine Anu and Yothu Yindi perform at the Closing Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

## Meet...Troy Cassar-Daley

With more than 20 Golden Guitars and four ARIA awards to his name, Bundjalung man Troy Cassar-Daley is easily one of Australia's most loved country music icons.

Troy's journey to stardom began when he was just a young fella. At nine years of age he would grab his hand-me-down ukulele and entertain his family as they sat around the dinner table. His love of performing saw him busking at the Tamworth Country Music Festival when he was 12 and by the time he was 16, he was busy touring the North Coast of NSW with his band *Little Eagle*.

His first single *Dream Out Loud* became an instant hit reaching number one on the Australian country music charts in 1994. The subsequent release of his debut album saw him take home the 1995 ARIA Award for Best Country Record and Best Male Vocalist at the 1996 Country Music Awards.



But it's not the accolades that have kept Troy singing—it's his love for his Country and fellow Australians that have kept the hits coming.

"My message with my music and the person that I am is about being positive and being able to build bridges between black and white," he says. "I've been singing about reconciliation for years and I think what you have to do is just get people together and create understanding."

Touring is also a huge part of his life and ensuring that he reaches fans living in rural and remote areas has always been a top priority. After six studio albums, Troy has remained passionate about setting a good example for young Australians, particularly for those up-and-coming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Throughout all of his many successes he has remained humble, connected with his people and passionate about sharing his gift with others.

## Songs of Reconciliation

This May, the crew at Triple J got together for a special Like a Version compilation to mark National Reconciliation Week 2012. The Herd, Radical Son, Sky High and Nooky, performed this very special Like A version of Sam Cooke's inspirational 1963 song '[A Change Is Gonna Come](#)'.

'[From Little Things Big Things Grow](#)' is a rock protest song, co-written by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody, is based on the story of Vincent Lingiari and the Gurindji strike in the struggle for land rights and reconciliation.

The protest led to the Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 which gave Aboriginal people freehold title to traditional lands in the Northern Territory and the power of veto over mining and development on those lands. In 1975, 3,236 km<sup>2</sup> of land was handed back to the Gurindji people.

'[Blackfella/Whitefella](#)', by The Warumpi Band, was a huge hit in the 1980s. In 1986, Midnight Oil and Warumpi Band embarked on the Blackfella/Whitefella Tour which reached some of the country's remotest locations. The song has since been covered by many artists, including Jimmy Little on his 'Messenger' album in 1999.

In 2007 Powderfinger and Silverchair announced a unique partnership with Reconciliation Australia around their concert tour Across the Great Divide. The historic [Across the Great Divide](#) tour promoted a new conversation to the Australian community about reconciliation

This October marked the 30th anniversary of [Solid Rock](#), one of the great Australian songs of our musical history, with a special concert at Uluru lead by singer/songwriter Shane Howard. Solid Rock was one of the first songs to broach the subject of the injustice that Aboriginal people had suffered in Australia and impacted powerfully on an entire generation.

## Take action...

- Check out 100s of deadly new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists at <http://www.triplejunearted.com/artists/BrowseGenre.aspx?genre=Indigenous>
- Head to the Deadly Vibe and Deadly Sounds website for photos, interviews and info about some deadly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists including Jess Beck, Microwave Jenny and The Medics. <http://www.vibe.com.au/newsite/topics/music>
- Take some time to listen to a few of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music's pioneers - No Fixed Address, Coloured Stone, Warumpi Band, Jimmy Little, Archie Roach, Seaman Dan and Kev Carmody.
- Attend local Indigenous concerts during NAIDOC week and National Reconciliation Week.
- [Tune in to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander radio stations](http://www.nirs.org.au/) <http://www.nirs.org.au/>
- Hear what some of Australia's top musicians have to say about reconciliation at <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/opinions/reconcile-friends>
- Share or tweet this factsheet to let more people know about Indigenous music.