

# DAVID BRIDIE

David Bridie has been pushing boundaries in the Australian music scene for many years. The award winning songwriter and composer has enjoyed a distinguished career as one of Australia's most innovative artists - whether as an International soundtrack composer; a leading expert on and producer of Melanesian music; as a uniquely Australian songwriter and piano player; and as singer with bands Not Drowning, Waving and My Friend the Chocolate Cake - Bridie has certainly stamped his mark.

His songs are intelligent observations of the Australian experience, ranging from wry – and often bleak – comments on the politics of daily life to the beauty of a simple love song.

As lead vocalist, keyboard player, co-composer and co-producer of critically acclaimed band Not Drowning Waving, David built a worldwide reputation through the six albums and two soundtracks the band released during its illustrious career. The band's groundbreaking 1990 album *Tabaran*, a collaboration with musicians from Rabaul in Papua New Guinea, was hailed by critics as



the "Pacific equivalent of Paul Simon's *Graceland*" and declared by David Byrne (Talking Heads) to be the Album of the Year in the US publication of *Rolling Stone*.

With My Friend The Chocolate Cake, David ventured on a different musical journey, an all-acoustic outfit teaming up with cellist Helen Mountfort and continuing to make music that appeals to a broad audience in a variety of countries. Cake has won two ARIAs (Australian Recording Industry Award) for Best Adult Contemporary album for both *Brood* and *Good Luck*. Their most recent album, *Home Improvements* was

released early 2007, and in 2008 the band won the prestigious Herald Angels award at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland.

David's debut solo album, *Act of Free Choice* was released by EMI Records Australia in May 2000 and nominated for Album of the Year in the 2000 ARIA Awards. It was released in the UK through Parlophone. He followed this up with *Hotel Radio*, produced by Nick Littlemore (PNAU, Empire of the Sun) in 2004. He has since released the albums *Succumb*, *Wake*, and *Take the Next Illusionary Exit* to wide critical acclaim.

David is also an award winning soundtrack composer, having won two ARIA and two AFI (Australian Film Industry) awards for Best Original Soundtrack. He has scored over 100 films and television series including *Proof*, *Myth of Fingerprints*, *The Man Who Sued God*, *That Eye The Sky*, *Tempted*, *In A Savage Land*, *The Straits*, *Remote Area Nurse*, *Satellite Boy*, *Gone* and most recently *Deadline Gallipoli* for Matchbox Pictures.

Along the way David has produced albums for artists such as Christine Anu, Archie Roach, Monique Brumby and Papua New Guinea artist George Telek whose album *Serious Tam* David produced in the UK for Peter Gabriel's Real World label. David has produced big theatre concerts for Melanesian artists - The SING SING ensemble, Yeperenye Federation Festival, and Morning Star concerts were major events involving a wealth of Melanesian and Indigenous artists accompanied by exceptional visuals, performed in concert halls and opera houses. Recently, David acted the musical director for the original show, 'Ulumbarra'; the official gala opening for the state of the art theatre of the same name in Bendigo, Victoria. David has been committed to the West Papuan cause and has produced songs for many integral West Papuan artists such as Donny Roem and Hein Arumisore.

David has since developed, alongside respected PNG musician Airileke Ingram, the Wantok Musik Foundation. The not-for-profit music label aims to generate and foster various cultural exchanges between Indigenous Australia and Melanesia by recording, releasing and promoting music from the region. The label has since released music from Frank Yamma, George Telek, Airileke, Ngaiire, Radical Son, Richard Mogu, and many more. Many of the Wantok artists have performed worldwide at festivals such as WOMAD, WOMEX, AWME, Glastonbury Festival, Vancouver Folk Festival, and the opening ceremonies of the 2012 London Olympics.



For bookings and more information, please contact [info@davidbridie.com](mailto:info@davidbridie.com)

w | [davidbridie.com](http://davidbridie.com)

e | [info@davidbridie.com](mailto:info@davidbridie.com)

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