

Kasey's Reinvention

Since her 1999 debut album, *The Captain*, Kasey Chambers has been a trailblazer for the Australian country music scene.

In that 15 year period she has established herself as one of the industry's supreme female talents, as well as arguably its greatest ever cross over artist, with a house full of accolades and platinum records to show for it.

But even the very best artists need to change and evolve and that is exactly where we find Kasey now on her seventh solo album, *Bittersweet*.

After a period in her life that featured personal turmoil, including the breakdown of her high profile marriage to fellow country artist Shane Nicholson, Kasey has embarked on a journey of reinvention on her new record that sees her explore realms of music she's never been to before.

These include deciding to not work with her longtime musical collaborator, producer and brother, Nash Chambers - opting instead to work with American producer **Nick Didia (Pearl Jam, Bruce Springsteen, Powderfinger)**. And if that didn't remove her from her comfort zone enough, she went ahead and wrote the whole album using a banjo, instead of her traditional guitar. The result is a stunning work that is equal parts classic, stripped back Kasey, and Kasey like you've never heard her before.

CMC writer, Nathan Wood, spoke with Kasey in the lead-up to the recent release of *Bittersweet*, and the two discussed the results of her working outside her comfort zone; what she gained from working with some high profile collaborators; hearing her voice in ways she's never heard it before; and her sixth sense of knowing why some songs are the crucial glue for bringing an album together.

Quote:

CMC: This is somewhat a record of reinvention for you. It's the first time you've made an album without your brother Nash as producer. It's also the first time you've written a majority of songs on a new instrument, the banjo. Even the white look of the album cover feels like it's an image of rebirth. Do you feel you've achieved what you set out to do when you decided to implement those changes with this album and does this feel like a fresh new move for your career and your song-writing?

KC: I think I do in reflection now. When I was writing the record I certainly wasn't thinking about that with every song I was writing or anything. It was just more of a general thing. It was actually my brother Nash who suggested I used someone else [to produce] - maybe he's getting sick of me or something; I don't know [laughs]. But I think he sensed in me that I needed a new excitement, and to kind of step outside my comfort zone a little. I feel like I'm often a little bit too safe - not with writing, but when it goes into recording, I like to be around people I feel really comfortable with and people I know really well, and I feed off that. Obviously I wanted to be in the studio with people I had that same feeling with, where you feel like you're on the same page and you get along well and all of those things - but to have a new excitement as well. Maybe having some people who think a little bit differently about music, and haven't lived every one of these songs with me, and they sort of have a new outlook on them. I absolutely feel like that is what happened with the whole process of this record. Certainly in hindsight it is exactly what I wanted and more, I think.

Source: www.countrymusicchannel.com.au/interviews/interview-kasey-chambers.aspx

It has been 15 years since Kasey Chambers first launched herself as the female face of Australian alt country with her debut album *The Captain*. Since then her career has been through a number of guises and permutations, as a solo artist, as a collaborator with a handful of country and rock singers, and on *Rattlin' Bones* (2008) and *Wreck and Ruin* (2012), the two award-winning albums with her husband Shane Nicholson.

Bittersweet is available now at all good music stores.



Slim Leads Dixie Chicks and Johnny Cash

It was 15 years ago in mid-1999 when **The Very Best Of Slim Dusty** was released and it has stayed in the **Top 40 Country Music Chart** ever since.

The album is now the longest-charting in the country category and is fivetimes platinum with sales exceeding 350,000.

Dusty's wife and long-time writing partner **Joy McKean** said the source of her late husband's success was his love for telling real stories.

"This milestone is a testament to his dedication and the strength of great songs that continue to impact the lives of Australians today."

Real stories ... Joy McKean; Slim Dusty's long-time writing partner and wife recently paid tribute to yet another milestone notched up by Slim.



The compilation includes a selection of memorable hits including *A Pub With No Beer*, *Lights On The Hill*, *Duncan* and *Looking Forward Looking Back*.

John O'Donnell, managing director of EMI Australia, Dusty's record label, said he wasn't surprised by the continuing legacy.

"Slim was a remarkable songwriter, musician, and entertainer, but he walked a perfect line between being a true Australian icon and a regular bloke."

"His legacy runs deep with all Australians. And

what a fitting album to reach this incredible milestone — a collection of his most memorable songs from across the years."

"This milestone is a testament to his dedication and the strength of great songs that continue to impact the lives of Australians today."

A true icon ... Slim Dusty was working on his 106th album when he died in 2003.

From a country music perspective, Slim now holds the record for the most weeks spent in the charts, **beating The Dixie Chicks on 610 weeks and Johnny Cash on 605 weeks.**

Over the course of his nearly seven decade career, Slim Dusty scored a staggering 37 Golden Guitar Awards and two ARIAs.

At the time of his death, he was producing his **106th album for EMI**. In 2007, his Australian record sales surpassed a remarkable **seven million**.

Slim Dusty died in 2003 aged 76 after a long battle with cancer.



2014 Champion of Champions Awards

The industry Award went to **Danny & Karen O'Brien**

2014 Junior Champion
Ella Radbone

2014 Senior Champion
Deidre Reed

14 to 17 yrs
(Only 2 Contestants)

1. Juliet Oliver
2. Nicola Prince

Junior 13yrs & Under
(Only 3 Contestants)

1. Ella Radbone
2. Josie Raines
3. Jamie Slape

Senior Female (7 Contestants)

1. Deidre Reed
2. Tanya Cornish
3. Hollie O'Neil