

## Slim Whitman

**Slim Whitman** the high-pitched yodelling county music singer, whose productive career spanned decades, died Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June aged 90.

He died at the Orange Park hospital of heart failure,

"We had a 90th birthday party for him in January and he looked good, but he had been in failing health since then."

Whitman, who was self-taught on the guitar and had a string of hits including "**Rose Marie**," "**Indian Love Call**" and "**Secret Love**," recorded dozens of albums and sold millions of records during his career which began in the late 1940s.

Whitman was working in a shipyard in Florida when he was discovered by **Colonel Tom Parker**, who later became **Elvis Presley's** manager. He signed his first recording contract with RCA records in 1948.

**Slim and Elvis** toured together in the 1950s.

Whitman released "**Love Song of the Waterfall**" in the early 1950s, which more than two decades later was on the soundtrack of the film "**Close Encounters of the Third Kind**".

It was followed by "**Indian Love Call**," his first million seller. A few years later, in 1955, he joined the **Grand Ole Opry**.

His other hits include "**Danny Boy**," "**Red River Valley**" and "**Have I Told You Lately That I Love You**."

Although Sim Whitman was once known as "**America's Favorite Folksinger**," he was more popular in **Europe** than in the **United States**, particularly in **Britain** where he did many tours.

"I have sold 120 million records," Whitman said in an interview last year. "Half of those could be in Europe."

"We toured everywhere, **Australia**, **New Zealand**. I had a six-week tour of **Africa**," he added. "All that started with **England**."

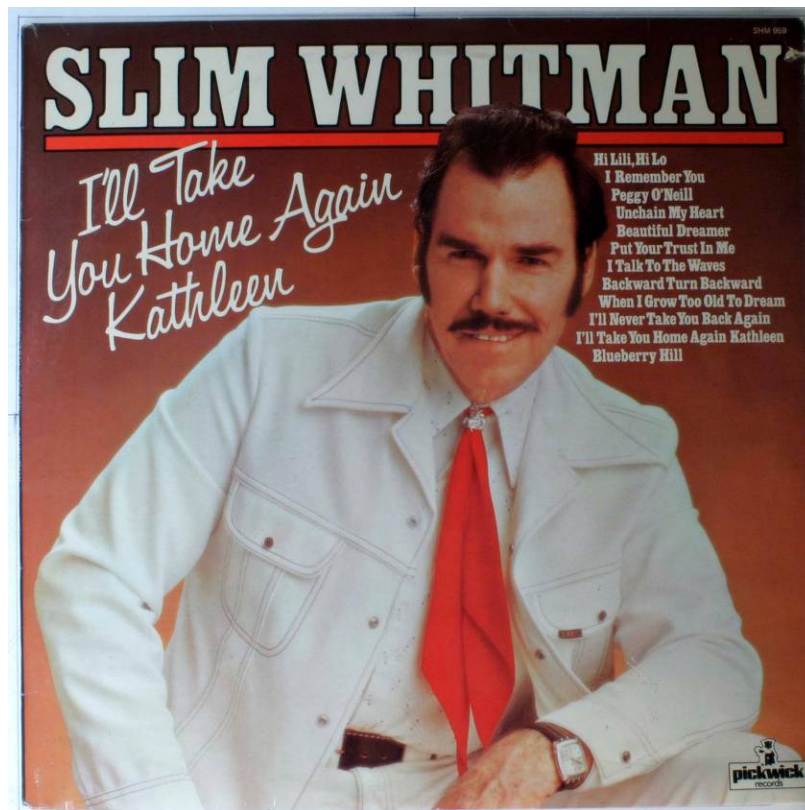
His long-time friend, Grand Ole Opry star **George Hamilton IV** credits Whitman for the rise of country music internationally.

"He was the key, pivotal figure in spreading **country music** internationally, long before the rest of us," Hamilton said in an interview after learning of Whitman's death.

"He was just a wonderful, gracious Southern gentleman and a dear friend. We toured together several times over there and our paths continued crossing even at the **Wembley Festival**," he said, referring to the **International Festival of Country Music at Wembley Arena**.

In 1996 Whitman was featured in the soundtrack for the science fiction film "Mars Attacks," and more than a decade later in 2010 released his last album, "Twilight on the Trail."

Despite his international fame, it was said Whitman was at his happiest living a low-key life in Florida. "He really enjoyed the farm and fishing more than anything else."



Continued from Front Page

Marty's first No. 1 single was the 1956 hit "**Singing the Blues**."

He followed with two more No. 1's in 1957, "**A White Sport Coat**" and "**The Story of My Life**," as well as two other major hits in the same year, "**Knee Deep in the Blues**" and "**Please Don't Blame Me**." In 1959, Robbins released an album called **Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs**, featuring two of his most popular and enduring songs: "**El Paso**" and "**Big Iron**." "**El Paso**" won the **Grammy Award for Best Country and Western recording**.

With a big, resonant voice and a flair for storytelling in the old Western mode of his grandfather, Robbins continued to churn out chart-topping songs through the 1960s.

His most famous tracks of the era include "**Devil Woman**," "**Beggin' to You**," "**The Cowboy in the Continental Suit**," "**Ruby Ann**" and "**Ribbon of Darkness**."

A major heart attack near the end of the 1960s hardly sidelined Robbins for long. By the end of 1969, he had scored his biggest hit in years with the ballad "**My Woman, My Woman, My Wife**," winning him his second Grammy award.

Marty Robbins' 1970s hits included "**Jolie Girl**," "**El Paso City**," "**Among My Souvenirs**" and "**I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)**."

**Martin Robbins**  
**September 26, 1925 –**  
**December 8, 1982.**

**Thanks to our**  
**Talent Quest**  
**Sponsors**  
**Bluedog Clothing:**  
**Allington's Outpost:**  
**Alby Turner & Sons:**  
**Repair Force One:**  
**Music Corner:**  
**Anonymous:**

Robbins married **Marizona Baldwin Robbins** in 1948. They had two children and remained married until his death. He wrote "**Some Memories Won't Die**," before he passed away on December 8, 1982 at the age of 57. He recorded over 500 songs and 60 albums and won two Grammy Awards

Most remarkably, according to **Marty Robbins** himself; he accomplished all this without any special musical talent.

"I've done what I wanted to do," he said in an interview near the end of his life. "I'm not a real good musician, but I can write [a song] pretty well."

Memories of Marty Live on

## You Bet I'm Proud!

Our Newsletter Editor recently met **Teresa Tidswell**, a young lady at the **Jack Young Centre** in **Salisbury**. They discussed many topics ranging from **Country Music** to **Martial Arts**.

When it was revealed that they both had an interest and experience in Karate, **Teresa** invited **Les** to a fight. With every excuse under the sun, **Les** graciously declined.

It turns out that **Teresa** (31) is dedicated to karate and has earned a black belt. She is believed to be the first Australian with Down Syndrome to achieve one of Karate's most advanced qualifications.

**Teresa** competed at the Karate SA Open, demonstrating the intricate katas (movements) she has perfected.

Having a black belt means a lot, she said. ...You bet I'm proud. It's been a lot of hard work....

The Virginia resident added: 'My favourite bit is the **fighting**.'

Yes Folks....Your Newsletter Editor is still standing...

Well done **Teresa!**

## Beautiful Noise

### Lee Kernaghan

New duets with **The Wolfe Brothers**, **Colt Ford** and **V8 Supercar legend Craig Lowndes** feature on the 18 track double disc collectors edition of **Lee Kernaghan's** new **Beautiful Noise** album.

Remastered by **Luke Wooten** at **Station West Studios** in **Nashville**, the new edition is destined to become a collectors item amongst Lee's legion of fans across **Australia**.

**Lee** said, since the first release of **Beautiful Noise** last year I've been busy in studio cutting new tracks and making several music videos for the album. I'm really excited to be able to include all the new **recordings and videos** on this special double disc version of **Beautiful Noise**.

I also had the opportunity to do some remixing on some of the original album tracks and although it's kind of subtle I think people will definitely hear the difference on several tracks."

Also included on the new release is the brilliant **Flying With The King** music video plus the highly requested Bathurst version of **Beautiful Noise** with guest appearance from **V8 legend Craig Lowndes**.

**Lee** said, "We've also included a new version of "**Lights On The Hill**" that was recently recorded and filmed with my touring mates **The Wolfe Brothers**.

In all there's **18 tracks and 9 music videos** on the new release and I'm really looking forward to performing some the new songs out on the national tour especially the new duet I recorded with **Robby**, a song called "**I'm Already Taken**".

Look out for this very special limited release, **Beautiful Noise Deluxe Tour Edition** on **ABC/Universal**. In stores now.