

Slim Whitman

Slim Whitman the high-pitched yodelling county music singer, whose productive career spanned decades, died Wednesday 19th 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**."

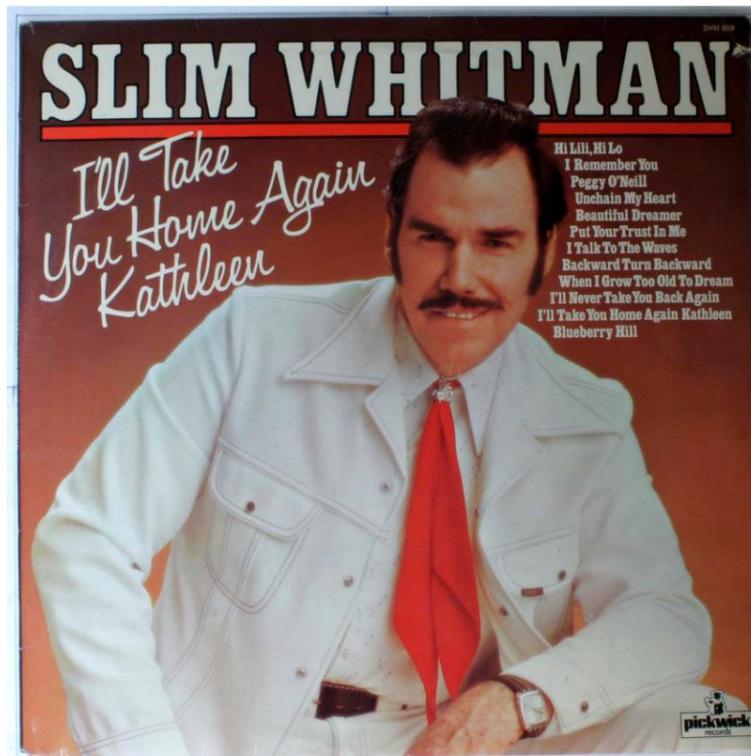
His long-time friend, Grand Ole Opry star **George Hamilton IV** credits Whitman for the rise of country music internationally.

"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."



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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.

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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.