

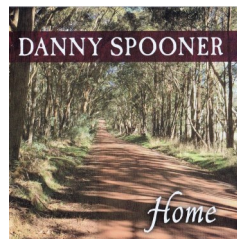
SINGABOUT

JUNE 2018

REVIEWS

Danny Spooner's final album - Home

In January 1956 when the 15-month old Bush Music Club released the first issue of Singabout, the Journal of Australian Folksong, the editorial included BMC's aims ... *to popularise Australian folk song, and to encourage the composition of a new kind of song - one that is traditional in style but contemporary in theme.*



The 14 songs on this CD are a perfect illustration of this aim - a swag of traditional songs, including 5 collected by John Meredith - The Backblocks Shearer/Widgegoera Joe, Union Boy, Another Fall of Rain, Shearers Dream, Sally Sloane's Wee One and songs from modern master songwriters Eric Bogle (Home after which the CD is named, and The Gift of Years), John Warner (Miner's Washing), Hugh MacDonald (Diamantina Drover), NZ's Peter Cape (The Cullers Lament) and others. Danny learnt One of the Has Beens from Jim Buchanan, a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club (founded in 1959 as Bush Music Club of Melbourne) and a frequent visitor to BMC in Sydney. It was also a song Duke Tritton used to sing!

The whole album is a treat and I can't say what is my favourite track, they are all excellent.

Copies are available from Gael Shannon - Deposit \$30 in CBA BSB 063 -674 Acc# 1020 3039, Ref your surname, then send an email with your postal address to Gael Shannon <kilmaley@mmnet.com.au>, and she will send it to you.

Sandra Nixon

Poems (A collection of lesser known works) Volume 1
a collection of poems by Pete McMahon.

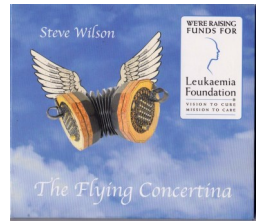
This booklet of 'performance' (mostly comical) poems (14 in all) may be lesser-known ones but will put a smile on your face. The poems vary quite a bit in their subject matter, from a fantasy poem set on Mt Panorama, written jointly by Helen and Tony Romeo, one about Aussie Rules by Denis Kevans, a 'ghostly' one by Noel May, one about surfing the ultimate wave by Gary Floyd to a couple by Pete about growing up on Sydney's northern beaches where he sailed "closer to the wind than ever". Many have been written by past and present BMC members and some are 'Anon', as Pete tells us, one called *Kelly's Place* was found on a wall at the Bega Cheese Factory. Although Pete warns us that it doesn't include 'The Man from Snowy River', it is an enjoyable read (or, should I say, enjoyable to say aloud).

Pete can be contacted on www.petemcmahon.com.au for more details or purchase.

Karen Fong, 13 March 2018

Steve Wilson's CD – The Flying Concertina

Steve is the iconic concertina man in the little cap seen on the streets and folk festivals with his paired foot percussion dolls of Malcolm Turnbull & Tony Abbott. Well he has a new set of tunes based around Malcolm & Pauline Hanson. He hasn't done a Trump doll because he doesn't think there is any permanency in Donald.



His latest CD raises funds for the leukaemia foundation which is a very worthy cause, along with his percussion doll mate and fellow folkie, in Tony Smith of Bathurst. Both musician-poets give all their proceeds from busking to the foundation and have often been seen emptying their giving box into other not so successful buskers of the younger sort.

The CD has 16 tunes – some of which are variations of popular tunes & some are his own works. The tunes are rollicking ones with lots of energy and this CD is a worthwhile contribution to folk music, the spoken word & Australian stories. Steve has a unique Australian voice which is pleasant to listen to. He may find it helpful to add a female voice to break up his male voice, but that may not be his style & its up to him really.

The art on the front cover is innovative and works for me.

Having a close friend who has a now healthy young lady who survived childhood Leukaemia & seen the effect upon the family, I recommend this CD to everybody.

I wish Steve the best in his endeavours to present his musical skills & also to raise funds for the Leukaemia foundation & the wonderful work they do.

Cost is \$23.50 - <http://www.concertinaman.net/cd.html>

Gavin Holmes (a long time folkie & lover of Australian music) 3/12/17

NLA's Trove is a great online resource and has yielded the following poems, published in Hunter area newspapers in the late 1800s, unfortunately no authors given.

Website: www.trove.nla.gov.au

On Her Twentieth Birthday.

Over the threshold of her 'teens,
Out of the green and golden
Childhood period that intervenes,
She steps to the riper olden.

Over the threshold of her 'teens.
Out of that sweeter, softer
Youth, that we all must lose, she leaves,
And nods to the flowers that greet her.

Over the threshold of her 'teens,
Into the richer, wider
Field of woman, she walks and gleams,
With courage and hope beside her.

Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser, 30 Aug 1892, p2

Only a Baby's Grave.

Only a Baby's Grave!
Some foot or two at the most
Of star daisied sod; yet I think that God
Knows what that little cost.

Only a baby's grave!
To children even so small
they sit there and sing—so small a thing
Seems scarcely a grave at all.

Only a baby's grave!
Strange! how we moan and fret,
For a little face was here such a space—
Oh! more strange, could we forget!

Only a baby's grave!
Did we measure grief by this,
For tears were shed on our baby dead—
I know how they fell on this.

Only a baby's grave!
Will the little life be much
Too small a gem for His diadem,
Whose Kingdom is made of such?

Only a baby's grave!
Yet oft we may come and sit
By the little stone and thank God to own
We are nearer to Him for it.

Singleton Argus, 12 Sep 1883, p1