

Richard Clapton Bio

In a career spanning thirty-two years and eighteen fantastic albums, Richard Clapton has earned himself a very special place in the history of Australian contemporary music. A singer/songwriter who combines masterful poetic insight with a passionate rock 'n' roll heart, he has articulated the hopes and dreams - and the disappointment and disillusionment - of a generation of Australians. With the dedication of a true artist, he has mapped out the landscape of the human heart.

Richard Clapton is indisputably one of the most influential figures in Australian rock history. Respected by peers and critics alike for his finely-honed abilities as a musician and songwriter, he has also kept up a steady flow of hits and a loyal live following over the past two decades. He stands among a very small group of songwriters who have created timeless classics; songs which explore and reflect upon the realities of contemporary Australia, remaining fresh and relevant years after they were written.

The fact that so many of his songs are still heard on Australian radio stations every day is proof of the enduring qualities which make his music so special. The titles say it all, from 'Girls On The Avenue', 'Capricorn Dancer' and 'Deep Water', through to 'Down In The Lucky Country', 'The Best Years Of Our Lives' and 'I Am An Island', Richard has never stopped creating brilliant music. In recent years, he has continued to impress with songs like 'Angelou', 'Trust Somebody', 'Glory Road', 'Distant Thunder' and 'Oceans of the Heart'.

Richard Clapton's music has always embodied a fascinating tension between distinctly Australian references and a broader, internationalist perspective. It is ironic that a man branded as Australia's quintessential singer/songwriter should have such strong roots in Europe and European sensibilities, but it is precisely this quality that gives his music its edge. Richard Clapton's very first album *Prussian Blue* (Festival 1973) was the direct result of a five-year sojourn in Britain and Germany. Richard had travelled to Europe to pursue a career as a graphic designer, but not surprisingly, he found far more inspiration in the exciting music scene of late 1960's London and the confronting early 1970's radicalism of a Berlin divided along the strictest Cold War lines. He returned to Australia with a guitar and a bunch of songs and was soon to sign his first recording contract. *Prussian Blue* contained no hit singles and was not a huge commercial success, but it did attract overwhelming critical acclaim and indicated the arrival of an important new force in Australian music.