

AUGIE MARCH – STRANGE BIRD

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Augie March, the biography. We are a five year old band, born and still living in Melbourne, Australia where music is alive every night of the week. Three of us were born and raised in the country outside of Melbourne and migrated to the city for schooling in various arts and humanities.

At the moment we number five, having recently added an experienced pianist/piano-accordionist to an already accomplished, organic and adventurous group of people. He also teaches music copyright law part time, so nobody can put anything over us when it comes to publishing contracts. His name is Kiernan Box.

Adam Donovan is, among other things, our lead guitarist. His style is adventurous and unorthodox. He treats his instrument like a formula one car driver treats his vehicle, and yet, to watch Adam on stage you might think otherwise. His favourite saying is - "There are many ways to skin a cat."

We all admire truth and beauty at Augie March, but one of us surpasses the others in his pursuit of these objectives. His name is David Williams. He is the drummer and percussionist. His heroes are predominantly in the jazz field, but he takes as much inspiration from the stories of Charles Dickens, and to a lesser degree Rudyard Kipling's forays into verse. He has a small son called Ziggy.

Singer/songwriter Glenn Richards is perhaps the most difficult member of Augie March to describe. This is largely because he is enigmatic and whether artistic people cultivate their own enigma or whether it comes naturally, it makes for a difficult task to profile them. Briefly, he has a hermit's disposition, but drink makes him wild and sociable. He has been described more than once as being 'conventionally handsome'.

Edmond Ammendola provides bass guitar and is a Melbourne native. It was initially very difficult to convince Edmond of the

need to leave Melbourne and take our music to people in other places around Australia. This was due in part to his fear of aeroplanes, and his unwillingness to travel great distances in any vehicle not powered by sunshine.

The people who hear and come to believe in Augie March tend to be passionate about us and the things we do. We think that this is because there are always true songs to write and that we are not scared of writing them.

We hope you have a good experience with our music.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Adam, Dave and Glenn grew up in and around Shepparton in country Victoria, Australia, and met up again in Melbourne in 1996. They quickly recruited bassist Edmond, who they were studying music with, and Augie March was born. The bands first live performance was at a gallery to celebrate a friend's exhibition. There may have been a dubious cover version or two along with some early Glenn originals. From there they progressed to playing several of Melbourne's excellent live venues for unsigned original bands, and attracted the ear of discerning music lovers in the public and music industry alike. After just a handful of gigs they were signed to Ra Records. They recorded their debut EP, "Thanks for the Memes" with Victor Van Vugt (Beth Orton, Nick Cave) and released it in January 1998. After some nice reviews and a bit of airplay, they set about recording the mini-album, "Waltz", in October 1998, which rapidly built the band a solid fan base in Australia and other parts of the world. This was partially due to the song Asleep in Perfection, which got a lot of radio play, but also due to the strength and diversity of the mini-album as a whole. Songs like Rich Girl and The Moth Ball were live favourites over the next several years; Waltz still sells regularly to this day as copies get worn out, recommended, passed on or 'borrowed' from loungerooms all over the world. Collectors of trivia will note that the video clip made for Asleep in Perfection features a singer-less band as the gentleman in question prepared himself for an all-day shoot by drinking till dawn, rendering him

incapable of speech or dramatic movement.

In late 2000 Augie March released their first full-length album, "Sunset Studies". The album stayed in the Australian National Albums (ARIA) chart for half the year. Listeners of national #1 youth radio station Triple J voted "Sunset Studies" into their Top 5 Albums of the Year. Again, the album is still finding new homes a couple of years after release; it crept its way through various musical communities of the world like a creeping vine. It ranked in Jack Rabid's influential U.S mag The Big Takeover's Top 40 Albums of 2001 - without being released there. Similarly, in Q Magazine's (UK) Readers Poll for the Best 50 Albums of The Last 15 Years; "Sunset Studies" got an honourable mention, without a UK release. It has found willing ears across Europe, in Japan, Canada and many other parts of the galaxy. Video clips were made for The Hole in Your Roof, Heartbeat and Sails and There Is No Such Place. There Is No Such Place featured the piano and backing vocal talents of the late great Awesome Bobby Dawson, a longtime friend of the band who joined in early 2000, and tragically departed from this world about a year later. He is not only very, very, very fondly remembered by friends and fans as an incredible man but he is present in Augie March and what they do.

Producers Paul McKercher and Chris Thompson, who individually worked with the band so successfully on Sunset Studies, were invited back into the studio in 2002 to cook up the second album. The band had set up camp in a disused telephone company building in Preston, outer Melbourne to write the album some months earlier, so hit the studio with a swag of new tunes that were fresh out of the place where music comes from. The results were very satisfactory; the band members on the whole were far happier with the recordings than they had been with parts of Sunset Studies.

Strange Bird is the title of the album, and it was recorded at Sing Sing in Melbourne with Chris Thompson and in Sydney at Megaphon with Paul McKercher and Big Jesusburger with Chris Townend respectively.