

Don Henderson CD

A project to produce a comprehensive selection of Don Henderson songs on CD and introduce his songs to a new generation

Don Henderson's songs have been recorded by many singers:

Declan Affley, Don Ayrton, Bill Berry, The Cobbers, The Colonials, Terry Hannagan, Alex Hood, Tommy Leonard, Paradiddle, Helen Rowe, Gary Shearston, Danny Spooner, Ian White, Geoff Wills and of course Don himself.

Don's songs appeared in a number of song collections and magazines including Australian Tradition, Singabout, Songs of Our Times, JoyDurst Memorial Australian song collection, Songs of Australian Working Life, Builders Labourers' Songbook and the famous 1969 Vietnam SongBook. There have been two collections of his songs and poems, I Can Sing and A Quiet Century, the latter published in 1994 by Sally Henderson with the Queensland Folk Federation.

Sometimes his songs have been published unattributed as if they were traditional Australian folk songs. Don considered that to be a mark of his success as a songwriter.

Don was one of the first in the folk revival to take up the pen to write about things happening around him, in the cities, the mines, the building industry, the maritime industry. He took up 'issues' too with many anti-war songs prominent in his work.

Although Don died in 1991 a number of his songs found a new use particularly in opposition to the Iraq War and in the struggle to protect Rights at Work. In 2003 three of Don's songs were featured on the Maritime Union of Australia centenary CD 'With These Arms'. Don's work shows that he was a crosser of musical boundaries, folk, country, rock, blues, rock opera and talking blues.

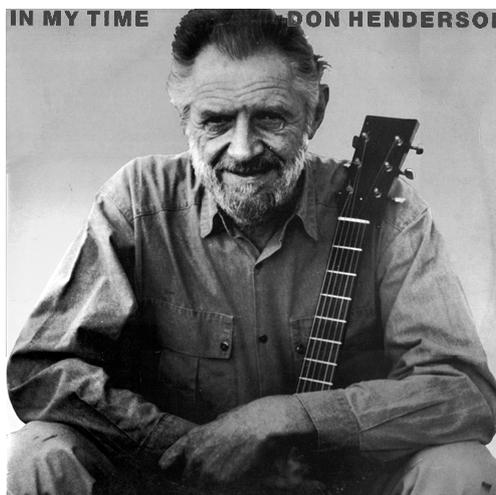
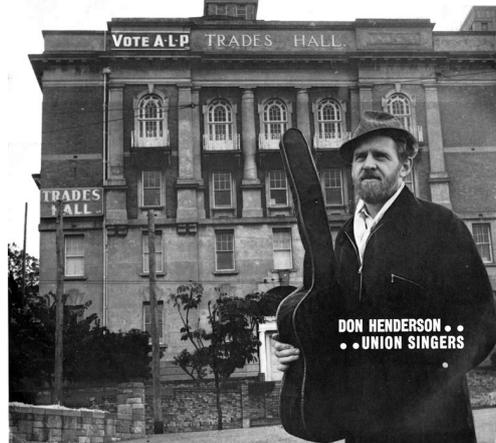
A striking example of the continued popularity and spread of Don's songs is that in early 2003 at a New York peace concert, protesting against the looming war in Iraq, Dan Zanes (2007 Grammy Award winner for Best Musical Album for Children) sang Don's song 'Boonaroo'.

From the start of the folk revival many people have commented on Don's songs:

The Basic Wage Dream ... was commissioned from Don Henderson by the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations as one of its contributions to the humour, music, folk-



ONE OUT...



lore and pay prospects of the 1964 Basic Wage Campaign. Don Henderson has emerged as one of Australia's leading contemporary songwriters and his songs are included in the repertoires of folk-singers in many parts of Australia and the South Pacific' John Baker, 1964

Don Henderson's songs rarely degenerate into mere propaganda. Most of them are not even protest songs, in the strict sense: they are, rather, sardonic commentaries on contemporary Australian life. The characteristic note is one of understatement, irony, rather than declamation' Craig McGregor, 1968

His are not songs so much as poems with a tune thrown in, and they are a delight of offbeat social and personal comment, militant trade union politics, and warmly sentimental pieces about life, love and responsibility' Wendy Lowenstein, 1970

At Don's funeral in 1991 Senator George Georges summed up his view of Don's work: *'You can talk a lot and the words are soon forgotten; perhaps you can write, that might last a bit longer; but to sing about it is to create a lasting means of communication and Don did that ... His songs will become part of the history of the songs of Australia'*

Sally Henderson and Mark Gregory set up the Don Henderson Project to begin the process of producing an up to date selection of Don's songs on CD and introduce his songs to a new generation of the folk song and labour movements in Australia and elsewhere.

There is enough recorded material to produce a comprehensive selection on a double CD of Henderson songs and that would be the first part of the project. The second part will be to republish the songbook 'A Quiet Century'.

The project is established under the auspices of the Queensland Folk Federation.

The project has the support of many singers of Don's songs:

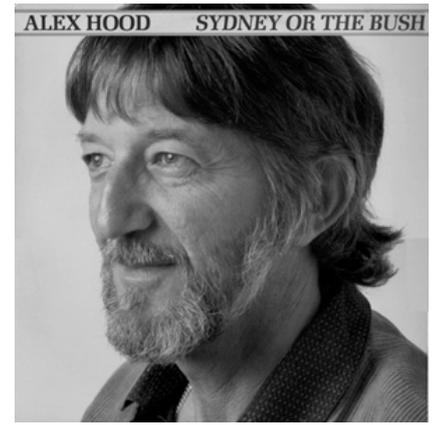
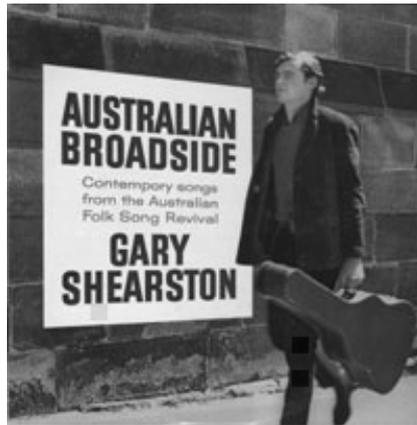
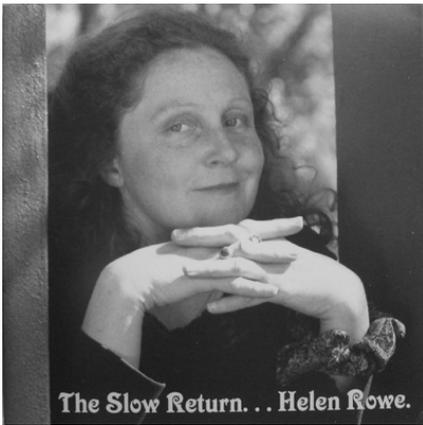
Gary Shearston (who wrote the song "Hendo" with the chorus 'Hey There Songman'), Alex Hood, Helen Rowe, Dave de Hugard, Danny Spooner, Tommy Leonard, Anne Bermingham, Bill Berry, Griff Bignell and Craig McGregor.

About Sponsorship

Sponsorship has become a proven way for a project like this to have a secure budget. It involves enthusiasts and supporters to ensure such an important project is possible. Such sponsorship seems to have become a tradition of its own, with roots in the folk community.

All sponsors of the Don Henderson Project will be acknowledged in the CD booklet, and are entitled to add a brief quote giving their reasons for sponsoring the memorial CD. Sponsors will receive three CDs after production as a part recompense for their financial support.

Sponsorship is open to individuals, folk clubs, folk festivals, unions and other organisations. The cost of sponsorship of the project is at a flat rate of \$150. The resulting budget will allow the production of a comprehensive double CD of high standard.



Become a Sponsor

The Don Henderson Project has been established under the auspices of the Queensland Folk Federation.

Send a cheque or money order for \$150 using the form below to:

**Queensland Folk Federation:
Don Henderson Project
PMB 2
Woodford
Queensland 4514
Australia**



Be sure to include your name and address!
If you decide to send a sponsor's comment, please limit it to no more than 50 words.

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