

About David Hyams

Based in Fremantle WA, David Hyams is known nationally for his work as a producer, songwriter, composer and instrumentalist. In 1999 he released his first album "Miles To Go" and started the band of the same name - now well known at Australian festivals and 8 times nominated for a WAM (WA Music industry Association) award. In the words of Doug Spencer, Producer, of 'The Planet' (ABC Radio National) "David Hyams has for many years been one of the more conspicuously useful players on Australia's western seabord "

David is also a seasoned songwriter and has been involved in many collaborations, as co-writer/arranger/producer with the likes of as Bill Chambers, Harry Hookey, Emma Donovan, Shellie Morris, Lucky Oceans and Frank Jones (co-writer of rapper 360's hit "Boys Like You"). In 2009 he was signed to Shock Music Publishing Australia, one of Australia's largest independent Music Publishers. He has written extensively for film and TV, including the cult feature "Mad Bomber in Love", and has been nominated for the WAM "Song of the Year" awards 3 times.



In recent years David has shared his skills and experience through his work in community projects involving a wide range of musical styles - from the country and 'desert reggae' styles of Central Desert Aboriginal communities, to the rap and hip hop of WA's maximum security prisons. Particularly known for his ability to work with diverse groups of people, David has been an Artist in Residence in the Cocos Islands Malay Community and regional towns in WA.

David has had a long involvement with WA Indigenous musicians, including Kimberley artists Peter Brandy, Kerriane Cox and he currently tours with and produces John Bennett from Bidyadanga community, winner of the 2019 WA Country Music Artist (and Album) of the year. He has worked with the Central Desert community of Jameson (Mantamaru) and with the Martu people of the Western Desert. From 2012 -2016 David was producer, sound engineer and musical director for the "Murru" project for leading Australian arts company BighART. This involved bringing prominent Australian musicians to the Pilbara town of Roebourne to write songs with the community and the inmates of the jail, recording them on location. The project culminated in the "Murru" band opening the 2014 Melbourne festival to a 5000 strong crowd in Federation Square, the band including Lucky Oceans, Emma Donovan, Trevor Jameson and Wendy Matthews. He continues to be involved with the Roebourne community through the "Songs For Peace" and "Songs For Freedom" projects, the latter of which brought the Roebourne community to Perth for a concert at Point Walter in 2021.

David has been a major contributor to WA's music industry - as a member of ArtsWA's contemporary music panel, FolkWorld (which runs Fairbridge Festival) and a longstanding WAM board member. His contribution to the WAM and the industry was acknowledged when he was made the organisation's 3rd honorary life member. He runs the "Fremantle Writers Block", a monthly singer songwriter performance night, now in its 6th year which continues to unearth and recognize great songwriting talent.

Workshops can focus on a particular subject or theme, and can range in times from 1 hour, to intense 3-4 day sessions. They encourage participants to work together, often resulting in collaborative songs, or a group song being written. David has also been engaged by schools to facilitate writing of a school song, with the whole school (including sometimes teachers and parents) being involved.

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