

JOHN SCHUMANN & THE VAGABOND CREW

Poetry Never Sounded So Good **Lawson**

Recently, Sing Sing Studios in Melbourne was the site of one of the most intriguing gatherings of Australian musicians in years. Members of legendary Aussie bands, The Dingoes, Redgum and Goanna mustered to contribute to ex-Redgum singer/songwriter John Schumann's recording of an album of songs drawn from the poems of Australia's foremost poet and writer, Henry Lawson.

Perhaps best known for his anthem of conscience, "I Was Only 19", John Schumann's strong commitment to Australian culture led inexorably to the works of Lawson. With the passionate support of Schumann's good friend and music buff, David Minear, Schumann's long-held dream of recording an entire album devoted to Lawson became a reality. The inspired choice of ex-Dingo, Kerryn Tolhurst, as producer was the final ingredient in an exciting mix of some of Australia's finest and most organic musical talent.

The Lawson album features informal reformations of both the Dingoes and Redgum. Aside from Tolhurst, ex-Dingoes Broderick Smith, Mal Logan and Chris Stockley either sang or played on the album. Redgum's Michael Atkinson and Hugh McDonald joined Schumann in re-creating the unashamedly Australian vocal blend that propelled Redgum into the hearts and minds of Australians in the 1980s. Inspired contributions also came from Midnight Oil's Rob Hirst, Spectrum's Mike Rudd, Goanna's Shane and Marcia Howard, Russell Morris and Broome musicians, Steve and Alan Pigram.

Trawling through Lawson's entire poetic output to select the poems was a labour of love for David Minear and John Schumann. In this they were mentored by Australia's foremost authority on Lawson, Professor Brian Matthews, one of John's former teachers.

Listening to this album will remind you of what it means to be Australian. As Henry Lawson wrote: "I can still feel the spirit that bore us - and sometimes the old stars still shine".

Featuring:

**Broderick Smith, Kerryn Tolhurst, Mal Logan and Chris Stockley of The Dingoes
Russell Morris • Mike Rudd of Spectrum • Shane Howard and Marcia Howard of Goanna
Rob Hirst of Midnight Oil • Michael Atkinson and Hugh McDonald of Redgum
Steven Pigram and Alan Pigram of The Pigram Brothers • Michael Harris of The Bushwackers
Shannon Bourne • Paul Cartwright • Toby Lang • Louise McCarthy • Mick Wordley**

Produced by Kerryn Tolhurst

Executive Producer/Creative Director - David Minear