

Karl S. Williams



Short Biography

Karl S. Williams – singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, visual artist and poet – an artist that you never saw coming. A genre defying and multifaceted musician, for whom music is a vocation and the *solution* is, to *love more*. What makes Karl truly remarkable, is that he is unafraid. With complete humility and the charisma of a 'rock-star', he wears his heart on his sleeve, he speaks universal truths and he crosses boundaries. This is blues, roots, folk and Americana, if you will... but not as you know it.

Karl's music is steeped in the swamp water of the cane country of Northern NSW, the landscape of his childhood. His songs are a distillation of life, love and the human condition. Timeless and deeply rooted in tradition, yet ever conversant with the present. As a performer, he is at once beautifully vulnerable and then transcendent.

Full biography

Karl S. Williams built his reputation over many years playing around South East QLD before his debut album *Heartwood* was released in 2013. In 2014, he was signed to Footstomp Music, an imprint of Warner Music Australia, and re-released *Heartwood* to widespread acclaim. He was recognised as artist of the year at the inaugural Gold Coast Music Awards in 2015 and took out a QMA in 2018 for the single 'Blood To Give'.

Karl has toured extensively in Australia including festivals such as Bluesfest, Woodford Folk Festival, Dark Mofo, Panama, Queenscliff and Festival of The Sun. He has shared the stage with artists such as Donavon Frankenreiter, Mia Dyson, Tex Perkins, Don Walker and Busby Marou.

Following a departure from previous industry relationships, Karl went back to the studio as an independent artist to begin recording *Lifeblood*. In February 2020, he released this next offering, a pint of his lifeblood and an album of new material that replies with vitriol to the ills of our time while offering the ageless solution - *love more*. As the long-awaited follow up to Karl S. Williams' debut, *Heartwood (2014)*, *Lifeblood* is the move towards longevity as an artist, a songwriter and a human. With this offering, Karl cleanses the slate and redefines the terms of engagement. *Lifeblood* is ultimately an album of hope - a revolt against the powers that be and proof that with art and love, we shall overcome.

karlswilliams.com

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"He's a wrecking ball, a loaded gun. He's an unmerciful magistrate. He's "a daisy-cutting, motherfucking judgement day." – Martin Farrer, *The Guardian*

"I love discovering artists who have that special IT - the Zeitgeist - watch out for Karl!" – Peter Noble, Festival Director - Byron Bay Bluesfest

"So good it may even save your life." – Noel Mengel, *The Courier Mail*
(review of 2013 release *Heartwood*)

Music and community are inextricable so I believe it is truly important work to bring people together with song. I grew up in small towns so I know they are often overlooked when it comes to touring. I also know they are filled with the most willing hearts and generous souls so it is well worth taking a few side roads to play for beautiful people in beautiful places.

The events of 2020 have really driven home the importance of community and I look forward to participating in these communities - in some small way - through this Small Halls tour – Karl S. Williams

