



MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 26th October 2022

INTRODUCING THE SONG "HEART OF AUSTRALIA"
A Tribute to the Beating Heart of this Great Country

"Strong lyrics and incredibly heartfelt. I wish you and your team all the very best with the launch." Marcia Hines

"What a song! It captures so much and encompasses so very much. It calls to heart, first nation, the now nation, and everyone, with a combined sense of wonder and gratitude about the fact we all live on this great, great and ancient land. It is superb and just like Peter Allen's, 'I Still Call Australia Home', or Sarah McLachlan's song, 'In The Arms of An Angel', it captures true heart, mystery and magic." Dean Carey.

Premiering today is a song for all Australians to celebrate and unite the country. The **"Heart of Australia"** performed by Blue Sky Walking (*) featuring **Tarryn Stokes** on lead vocals written by **Anatole Kononewsky** along with multi-platinum award-winning producers **Adrian Hannan & Barbara Hannan** who have also worked with **Delta Goodrem, Vanessa Amorosi** and **Casey Donovan**. The song, **"Heart of Australia"** expresses the beauty of the Australian landscape, plus the open, welcoming spirit of the people. It honours the home of the oldest living continuous culture on Earth and the sacred site of Uluru with a clear message that the heart of Australia is within us all. Inspired by the resilience of Australians' true grit in the face of fire, floods and more recently – the pandemic, the hope of the **"Heart of Australia"** is to pay tribute to the beating heart of the country.

"The song seeks to invite all Australians to give voice to what they truly love about each other and these lands. The vision is to bring together Australia's rich and diverse peoples of all ages and cultures to celebrate all that's good in this world." Said Anatole Kononewsky.

The team worked closely with **Yorta Yorta man, Tiriki Onus** back in 2019 on the mission and vision of the project. As **Senior Lecturer in Indigenous Arts And Culture** at the **Victorian College of the Arts** and **Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development** Tiriki's advice and ongoing support have been invaluable. **Heart Connections** is also launched today which will showcase people whose ideas and activities inspire us all as the creative team looks to "Nurturing Our Present & Emerging Custodians".

The song, **"Heart of Australia"** forms a part of a larger vision with the **Journey to the Heart** planning activities over 2022/23, with the **"Heart Awards"** for young people proposed for 26th October 2024. This will pay tribute to brilliant young Australians making a real difference in their communities. The **Heart of Australia** will be celebrated on this day each year. With the release of the song, we hope to inspire listeners to unite Australia's great melting pot of cultures.

"The aim is to create meaningful communication and appreciation across Australia's rich and diverse peoples by promoting and supporting the special work done in our communities. Bringing together Australians of all ages and cultures to honour our country's unique Indigenous history and custodianship." Said Maggie Hamilton.

Australia in 2022 is rich in diversity and culture and the creative team hopes that Australians will listen to the song and then celebrate what they love about these lands. Ultimately, the project is looking to the longer-term vision of the future with the hope that by celebrating the heart of Australia, future custodians will be inspired to create a better tomorrow for all. For more information visit www.heartofaustraliaday.com.au.

Ends.

For media enquiries, interview contact Bronny Lane, Publicist bronwen@littlettrain.com.au / 0413 221 252

SPECIAL INVITATION TO LISTEN TO THE SONG:

“Heart of Australia”:

<https://www.heartofaustraliaday.com/listen-to-the-heart/>

Heart Connections:

<https://www.heartofaustraliaday.com/heart-connections/>

Credits

(*) Please note that the name “Blue Sky Walking” (attached Credits and Image) refers to the spirit of everyone involved in the production of the song, “Heart of Australia” — the writers and performers.

Writers

Anatole Kononewsky

<http://thoughtube.com/public/Background.htm>

<https://vimeo.com/348841384>

Adrian & Barbara Hannan: <http://www.songstore.com.au/about/>

Creative Team: <https://www.heartofaustraliaday.com/the-creative-team/>



About Heart Connections



Heart Connections is about celebrating all that's good about these lands and its peoples. It showcases individuals and groups whose ideas and activities unite us - to actively encourage those whose efforts inspire us and help lead the way. The first Issue of “Heart Connections” features Dwayne Bannon-Harrison who set up Ngaran Ngaran Cultural

Awareness programs – a Yuin-Ngarrigu descendant with connections to the Yorta- Yorta, Dja Dja Warrung, Watchabolic and Gunai language groups.

Australia is home to the oldest living continuous culture on Earth. In Australia there are more than 250 Indigenous languages including 800 dialects. Each language is specific to a particular place and people. Australian English borrows more than 400 words from Aboriginal languages. In 1788 there were between 300 and 700 Indigenous languages spoken across Australia by millions of people. The Dream Time: Aboriginal cultural and spiritual identity refers to the Indigenous understanding of the world's creation -- a continuing story that never ends. Unlike other religions, Aboriginal people do not put humans on a level higher than nature. An understanding that is important and relevant to the entire planet and environment at this time.

Australia is the most ethnically diverse country in the world

Australia is not only a successful multicultural nation but it is the most ethnically diverse country in the world. With 26% of Australians being born overseas and 49% of people having at least one parent born overseas, Australia has 100 religions and 300 ethnic groups in our cultural melting pot.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The composers wish to acknowledge that this song was written on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We sincerely hope that our work does justice to the thousands of generations of song-people that have gone before us on this country.