

Fiona Boyes

Australia's 1st Lady of the Blues



With 8 USA Blues Music Award nominations, career tour dates in 20 countries, and her recent induction into the Blues Victoria Hall of Fame, Fiona Boyes is a relentless and curious musical explorer. Fiona plays deep Blues, influenced by a myriad of traditional regional styles and has carved an international reputation as a blues guitarist, bandleader, vocalist and songwriter. Winner of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, USA, she is also a Blues Blast Music Award winner and former Port Fairy Folk Festival Artist of the Year.

Fiona's new album *'Ramblified'* is her 13th release. It is a collection of original songs celebrating the opportunity to get back into the studio after lengthy pandemic lockdowns. Along with powerful duo arrangements, featuring

inventive percussion from long-time bandmate Mark Grunden, several of the songs are performed in intimate, solo mode. Fiona's passion for unusual guitars is evident, with 3 string 'Revenant' and 4 string 'Tenner' cigar boxes and a rare ResoLectric baritone amongst the instruments played. *'Ramblified'* follows a string of award-winning albums such as Mississippi/Louisiana-inspired band project *'Voodoo in the Shadows'* (2018), audiophile acoustic album *'Professin' the Blues'* (2016) and *'Box & Dice'* (2015) which was written around her growing collection of cigarbox guitars. In 2020 she also released a 20th Anniversary Edition of her debut solo album *'Blues in My Heart'*, a 16 track celebration of acoustic ragtime finger-style blues.

Fiona's nomination for the Koko Taylor Award (Best Traditional Female Artist) at the 2019 USA Blues Music Awards in Memphis was her 8th BMA nomination over various categories since 2007. Fiona is the only Australian ever to be nominated for these awards, which are considered to be the Grammys of the Blues.

Equally at home on acoustic or electric guitars, her mostly original repertoire is like a Blues travelogue. Listen to her play and you'll hear Delta slide guitar, single chord Mississippi Hills grooves, intricate country blues finger picking, along with material drawn from the classic blues sounds of New Orleans, Chicago and Memphis. As her friend and mentor, the late, great Hubert Sumlin (Howlin' Wolf's guitarist) said. *'She's got it! I've played with all of them - and she's got it!'*

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“.... one of the world’s best fingerpicking blues guitarists her versatility means she’s impossible to categorise: she’ll jump from Louisiana swamp blues to driving classic Chicago sounds, rollicking New Orleans barrelhouse to wailing laments, and back again, in a 30-minute set” - The Guardian (Australia)

“Boyes displays her wizardry with spooky and sinuous lead guitar ... her singing is excellent, and her guitar artistry is world-class” - Blues Music Magazine (USA), 2019

“Voodoo in the Shadows” ... near-perfect, dynamic, empathetic meeting and combination. ... A simply excellent album, a blues must-have essential this year, this is kickass, badass music, exactly what blues has always been, and could and should remain.” - Iain Patience, Elmore Magazine (USA)

“Australian musician Fiona Boyes has dedicated her life to the music, and that intensity can be heard in everything she sings and plays. Her guitar work puts her in the top class for modern blues people, especially the way the sound seems to sing coming out of her instrument. Boyes never gets hung up trying to be anything other than what she is: someone who uses the music to try and make the world a little bit better place to be. ... This new collection of songs is like a wild ride through Mississippi, New Orleans, Texas, up to Chicago and then all the way over to California. There is never any question that what is being heard is the real thing, whether it’s from downtown or down under doesn’t matter. It’s the connection of feelings between people that completes the blues circuit, and makes the results so powerful. It’s all here.” - Bill Bentley, The Morton Report, 2019

“Delighted with her recent acquisition of handsome cigar-box and National Resolectric baritone guitars, Australian Fiona Boyes puts them to the test on her latest release. Sure enough, those guitars have plenty to say in discourses with her true-blue vocals. Her songs are conduits of flammable or relatively tranquil emotion....” - Frank-John Hadley, Downbeat

“A truly excellent release from a guitar master of pure class.” - Blues Magazine (UK)

“ ... we can now let the cat out of the bag. Fiona is Boyes’ middle name, her first name is The Great.... Boyes is sounding like she’s on the run from Piedmont and the delta with hell hounds on her tail and they think she’s a steak...using her amazing command of all the authentic, traditional moves, particularly no matter what instrument she’s picking on, she will just blow you all the way away...killer stuff” - Midwest Record (USA)