

The Sherrahs

A Brother and sister - and a Brother and Sister - one from New Zealand – one from Country Victoria meet in Tamworth in the late 1980's get married and form one of Australia's strongest harmony based Country Music bands; sounds far fetched? But the end result, which is far from a whimsical story, has meant audiences in Australia have over the best part of two decades enjoyed the vocal and musical gifts of this talented four-piece group.

The Sherrahs, whilst taking breaks over this period, have recently reformed and have released their third album The Sherrahs '**Built on Stone**'. The Sherrahs have also just released their first single on CRS 181 'Raindrops on the Window' and is getting lots of airplay, and is currently sitting at 8th on the Country Tracks Top 40 in Australia. (Went to No.3 and has been in the Top 10 for 10 weeks so far.)

NEWS FLASH: Finalist in the 19th Southern Stars : 2015 Australian Independent Country Music Awards in the Australian Independent Group/Duo of the Year Section

Their current sound is a culmination of many styles that they have undertaken in the past, which could be best described as "Family Vintage Harmonies Imbedded in Strong Country Tunes". The Sherrahs note that some of their songs have a strong story to tell and some songs really do concentrate on the vocal sounds that hark back to the sounds of the Carter family, Alabama and Country Gospel groups like the Cox Family.

Whilst the core of this group is a vocal treat the musical interpretation is ably lead by one of Australia's well known country guitar pickers in 'Anthony Stewart'; which focuses on arrangements which are warm and highlight both the vocal nuances and lyrical content.

There is no doubt that this group is comfortable on the large stage or in the smaller venue up close.

Their Story ...

Before 'The Sherrahs' ...

Tracy and Steven grew up in New Zealand and were a part of the Manurewa CM Club from a young age. Growing up with the unique sounds of harmonies and country music that New Zealand is famous for.

Tracy and Steve moved to Australia heading straight to Tamworth for the Festival of 1988. The story takes a turn when Tracy and Steven meet Michelle and Anthony Stewart in line at a Bistro. "It was one of those amazing moments in time, when two families from different places meet in line at a Bistro in Tamworth and that changed the course of our lives forever – we were meant to meet that night. I couldn't believe that there was a family just like ours, it was a wonderful feeling" - Tracy

In the meantime, Tracy and Steve along with their parents headed to Adelaide to make their new home. Kiwi Country was formed by Tracy, Steve and their Mum, with Dad making country music designed jewellery to sell on the road with them.

On the other side of the country, Michelle and Anthony also grew up with Country music as a part of their lives. Anthony has played guitar from a young age, forming a band at a young age with a group of friends called Tequila and Michelle also became a finalist in the renowned Star Marker Competition for 3 years.

“Living in the Gippsland area, Country Music was a great way to be connected with people across the area, have fun and play music” - Michelle

When ‘The Sherrahs’ became a band...

After both couples got married (Steve married Michelle, then Anthony married Tracy and all settled in Adelaide) they also started to sing together, going to local music events and festivals making lots of friends that remain today.

Originally named Apple Juice, they changed when they connected with Richard Porteous and gained a Contract with ABC Country in 1995 to record *Keep In The Light* : Gospel and Country Album.

“I remember the day well when we filmed the Video clip for ‘When The Harvest is Over’. It was one of the hottest days at Tamworth that January. We were set up in a very small country hall with no air-conditioning. Our makeup was running off our faces, we stood fanning each other with sheets of cardboard. It was an experience I’ll never forget”, Steven remembers.

The Sherrahs Won South Australian Song of the Year - 1996 (SAMI) South Australian Music Industry Award for *Keep In the Light*. Then, Tamworth Songwriters Association : TSA : 1997 Songwriters Salute, Gospel Song of the Year : *Keep in the Light of the Lord* (written Chris Sherrah/Steven Sherrah), The Sherrah Family 22/1/97.

For many years The Sherrahs were one of the main Backing Bands for the South Australian CM Festivals: Riverland CM Festival, Port Pirie CM Festival and many more events in South Australia, Victoria, Tamworth. Culminating in receiving the Adelaide Country Music Club Inc. Industry Award : The Sherrah Family 2003.

The Sherrahs have worked with and mentored young performers through the Country Music Showcase and Junior Country Crossover for a number of years with the Council for Country Music (now known as Country Music SA) plus on an individual basis.

The Sherrahs recorded their second album “Reason and Rhyme” in 2002 as an independent release and was received well by the industry and was a finalist in the independent Country Music awards band section held in Victoria.

The Sherrahs and their families are members of the Marion Church of Christ. They are a part of the music teams and programs that run at their church. Country Gospel Music, Family and Community is at the heart of who they are. They even toured as support to Carter and Carter in 2013 on their South Australian Gospel Tour.

Not a family to do things in halves, Anthony then started his Recording Studio in 2006.

Red Brick Music Recording Studio which has seen countless acts producing records in recent years.
<https://www.facebook.com/RedBrickMusicRecordingStudio> , www.redbrickmusic.net

‘The Sherrahs’ today ...

The Sherrahs have been very busy with their music of late. This season saw them back at The Tamworth Country Music Festival in 2015. They had a great time performing – putting on their own show, the Carter and Carter Gospel Concert, joining in with fellow South Australian’s at the South Australian Showcase, with friends Sandra Humphries and Amber Joy Poulton plus Fanzone and HQ,

making connections with new people and just enjoying the atmosphere and music that Tamworth brings.

April brought about the launch of The Sherrahs '**NEW ALBUM - Built on Stone**' – so popular was their album launch – that they had to put on a second show on the same day! They were joined on stage by Paul Orchard on drums, Mick Albeck on fiddle and Kevin Bergen on peddle steel and banjo, plus Chris Sherrah for Sentimental Journey plus the 4 children for Love can build a bridge. They sang all 13 songs from the album – which is a reflection of their style of music, old and new, country and gospel. With both shows booked out – it was a memorable day and night!

The Sherrahs have just released their first single on CRS 181 'Raindrops on the Window' and is getting lots of airplay, and currently is sitting at 18th on the Country Charts in Australia. Michelle is doing radio interviews and they've recorded some fantastic Radio IDs too.

On top of that, The Sherrahs hit the road to Terang Country Music Festival and Tooleybuc Music Festival and inbetween have been performing at some of the Country Music Clubs in Adelaide, and local performances at their church and surrounding areas.

They are looking forward to keeping this momentum going and meeting some new faces along the way. Please follow what they are up to on Facebook: thesherrahsmusic.

Some Special Moments

- June 2015 No. 3 Country Tracks Top 40 in Australia for "Raindrops on the Window"
- April 2015 – releasing our new album 'Built on Stone'
- Christine Sherrah and Steve Sherrah: song CCMA songwriting 1992: Just call me tonight
- Recorded "Kiwi Country Tape: Take the Time" 1990
- Anthony and Michelle played at the opening of the Slim Dusty Movie.
- Michelle was a Star Maker Finalist
- As Apple Juice, The Sherrahs won the Frank Harding Memorial Award for Excellence at the Riverland Country Music Festival (1994)
- Gained a Contract with ABC Country in 1995.
- 1999 APRA South Australian Country Song of the year 'Give Me Some Time' written by Steven Sherrah and Richard Porteous.
- 1998 APRA South Australian Country Song of the Year (first year awarded) was 'If you believe' written by Steven Sherrah and Richard Porteous.
- Inducted into the South Australian Country Music Hall of Fame, Barmera Hands of Fame at Barmera, Rocky Page Memorial
 - Tracy Stewart and Steven Sherrah and Christine Sherrah June 2002
 - Anthony Stewart June 2010

Capital News Review 2105

Built on Stone : The Sherrahs : Independent

*The Sherrahs are two families that sing and record together and the vocal and harmonies are always exquisite and the feeling is infectious. This group mixes their love of country music and gospel into a timeless collection of songs that will be favourites with true country fans. There's something here for everyone – vintage country classics like *Tumbling Tumbleweeds*, *Hank Williams' I Saw The Light* and *I'm An Old Cowhand*; modern classics like *Everybody's Reaching Out for Someone* and *The Judds' Love Can Build A Bridge*; and originals – *Just Call Me Tonight* and *Their Love Was Built On Stone*. The true highlight of this album is the harmonic blend of voices and as one reviewer said it doesn't*

reinvent the country/gospel wheel, but it sure dresses it up like a shiny mag dresses up a hot rod and that can't be a bad thing, can it?