

Simon Nield



Simon Nield has developed a broad musical palette playing guitar in folk, rock, jazz and world music bands. He is an accomplished acoustic singer/songwriter, guitarist, and composer.

Recent performances:

- Solo and band performances of original material at the Fairbridge Festival in 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008.
- Collaborative performances at Fairbridge and Nannup with others including Andrew Clermont, Tok Pan Tok, Stephen Taberner, Scott Wise, Lile, Mirrors Breath, Dougal Adams and Ormonde Waters, Mal Webb, Carl Pannuzzo, the Spooky Men of the West, and tributes for the Beatles and Leonard Cohen.
- Solo performances at the National Folk Festival in 2007.
- Performances at the Fairbridge Festival's "guitar heaven" showcase in 2005 and 2008.
- Solo performances at the Araluen Festival in 2005, and collaborative performances at the same festival with Kavisha Mazzella and Liz Frencham.
- Solo performances at the National Folk in 2007, including the WA songwriters showcase.
- Solo performances at the Down South Festival in 2002 and 2003, and the Denmark Festival of Voice in 2004, 2005 and 2006 (most recently as a headline act) and the Brookton Mix 2005.
- Performance for the West Australian Music Industry's "Kiss My Wami" showcase in 2006.
- Numerous performances at Kulcha and other venues as a headliner, support act and guest musician, including collaborations with the musicians listed above and Akhter Jahan (classical Indian music), Rachel Hore and Totally Gorgeous.

Other Musical Adventures

- Inaugural co-director of the Spooky Men of the West, prior to their first performance at Fairbridge in 2005.
- Inaugural director of the first Georgian singing group in WA, in 2003/2004 (Lile).
- Director of Camelot Choir, Mosman Park's thriving community choir in (since 2004).
- Provider of numerous vocal workshops, ranging from an hour to several days, to community groups, corporate groups and established choirs.
- Provider of acoustic guitar workshops (Fairbridge Festival, 2004 and 2005; and Rhythmsong, 2004).
- Approximately 200 school shows with the band Seven Oceans, for Musica Viva, from 2002 to 2008.
- Composition and recording of the original guitar soundtrack to the radio play "Under the Shaded Blossom", for ABC Drama (broadcast in June 2006).

Recordings

- Still (2008).
This new album builds on the strengths of previous releases, combining the guitar elegance of Resonance with the eloquent poetry of We're Mostly Water.
- Resonance (2004)
This instrumental album further established Simon's reputation as an acoustic guitarist and composer. Resonance received a thumbs up from fRoots magazine (UK), and still receives airplay in Europe, Japan, the USA, Canada and local (WA and National) radio. The album has twenty acoustic guitar-based pieces, "ranging from flowing, lyrical tunes to complex polyrhythms" (fRoots), and "stamps him as a player of genuine class and inventiveness" (Steve Barnes, artistic director of the Fairbridge Festival).
- We're Mostly Water (2002).
An album of songs and instrumentals which received five top-ten awards in the National Songwriting Contest, including winner (Instrumental Category).

Awards

Compositions by Simon Nield have been awarded in a wide range of categories in the Australian National Songwriting Contest, including:

- Instrumental: Winner (2002), 4th and 7th (2005).
- Folk/World: 2nd, 7th and 8th (2001),
- Jazz/Blues: 10th (2003)
- Lyrics: 4th (2002)
- Spiritual/Sacred: 3th (2001), 8th (2005).

Simon also achieved second place in the Instrumental category of the 2005 MusicOz competition. A third album of songs and instrumentals, will be released in 2007.

Inclusion on Compilation Albums

Simon's songs have been included on the following compilation albums:

- Fairbridge Festival Sampler (2004 and 2005; Simon was the only artist to appear on both).
- Nannup Festival Sampler (2004, 2005 and 2006; again, the only artist to appear on all three).
- Down South Festival Sampler, 2003.
- Kiss My Wami 2006 (West Australian Music Industry sampler).
- Live at InCahoots, 2006.

Personal Details

- Born 17/11/62 in Adelaide, South Australia.
- Married with one child.
- Occupation: Groundwater consultant (50%); musician (50%).

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Reviews

Simon Nield, although feeling semi-ruined himself after a weekend festival, nonetheless presented a wonderful set of songs. Simon is a guitar maestro who writes beautiful lyrics and delivers them in smooth and honeyed tones. He is always a joy to listen to.

Walking on Water Review June 2006 - review by Annette Griffiths

A lovely album, beautifully recorded... a bit of a who's who of Fremantle musicians, and a fine collection of songs.

Steve Barnes, Fairbridge Festival artistic director, on "We're Mostly Water"

Very nice set of guitar tunes, sometimes with mandolin, cello and so on, by Australian singer-songwriter. Ranging from flowing, lyrical tunes to complex polyrhythms, this proves Nield doesn't have to sing to be impressive, and has a sense of unity throughout.

fROOTS magazine, July 2005, on "Resonance"

Resonance stamps him as a player of genuine class and inventiveness.

Steve Barnes, Fairbridge Festival artistic director

Resonance is a very fine album denoting a superb guitar technique but above all an uncommon sense of melody. I really enjoy the tunes and relaxed climate but also the only vocal track is very good, some more would have been surely greatly appreciated.

Massimo Ferro
Radio Voce Spazio, Italy