

Paul Gioia

www.paulgioia.com
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"... a piano style that could be straight out of a steamy, whitewashed church in Alabama."
West Australian, January 2006



For two and a half decades Paul Gioia has been performing a unique mix of pumped up blues and gospel piano. With a background steeped in blues and jazz, Paul has performed in a number of solo, duet and band configurations, and for the last six years with **tin dog** (<http://tindog.iinet.net.au>).

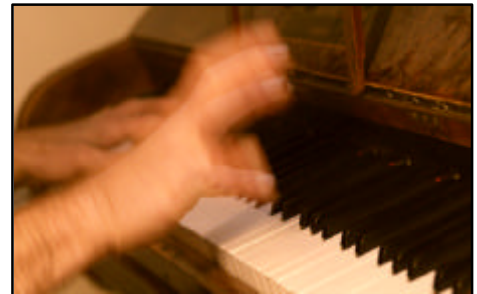
Paul plays with an infectious passion and sensitivity and has earned a reputation in WA for his blues keyboard prowess, both on the piano and Hammond organ.

His original music is a major part of his life - songs with a strong lyricism, and drawing on eclectic musical styles. In the early '80s, he formed the jazz/blues duo Avocado Fats with Hayden Jones, later winning the 1990 Perth Jazz Society award for best original jazz song.

Paul performs regularly in Western Australian festivals. In response to his observation that piano is rarely featured as a roots instrument, Paul has developed a highly successful repertoire incorporating a wide range of musical styles including Chicago and New Orleans blues, country blues, ragtime, soulful ballads, black and white southern gospel traditions and even a foray into tasteful and exquisite arrangements of traditional Celtic tunes. This unique repertoire has been well received and his gigs are consistently a hit with audiences.

In 2004 Paul was awarded an ArtsWA grant to record a selection of that repertoire, with the aim of featuring piano as a vital part of our roots music heritage. **Mercy Train**, engineered and co-produced by James Hewgill, was released in March, 2005. **Mercy Train** has since been featured on Radio National's *The Daily* and *Weekend Planets*, *Life Matters* and many community radio stations.

In 2008 Paul released his latest CD, **Rising Sea**, still featuring piano but including guest performances from some of WA's top jazz, blues and contemporary players, including Matt Jodrell, Carl Mackey and Mel Robinson.



Paul currently performs as a solo artist, as part of a trio with Kris Arnott on vocals and Bob Thomson on double bass, and as a quartet or quintet for dance gigs. Kris has a superb and powerful voice that is equally suited to quiet ballads and raunchy blues, while Bob is equally at home in boogie-woogie stomps and beautiful jazz ballads. Both feature on his new CD.

Paul has also had a long interest in, and commitment to, traditional and contemporary gospel music, and his music is known and sung nationally and internationally. Many of Paul's songs incorporate themes of social justice and explore why it's still worth getting up in the morning.

For more information, Paul can be contacted on pgioia@iinet.net.au or on (08) 9444 3153.

