

CASS EAGER AND THE VELVET ROPE

Down On My Knees

BIOGRAPHY SEPTEMBER 2010



Cass Eager has found herself in a multitude of musical scenarios over the years, from the acoustic roots of her 2007 debut 'Beautiful Day' to the funky festivities of 2009's 'Santa's Got Soul!' and now with the release of her new EP 'Down On My Knees' Cass continues her trip.

'One of Sydney's most gifted singer-songwriters, whose refreshingly honest, raspy, almost Joplin-esque like voice is hers alone, and whose songwriting will spellbind the listener.' Drum Media.

'Eager's voice is the driving force of her music.'
Whistler Question, Canada.

A graduate of Bondi Beach's thriving '90's funk scene, Cass Eager's music takes heed of Soul and Blues, solidly dished up with Roots and Rhythm. Her distinctive pipes have drawn comparisons to everyone from Janis Joplin to Bonnie Raitt, but Soul Sister Cass is no pale imitation. Performing in such diverse locations as LA, New York, East Timor, Canada and the Middle East has given Eager a depth and richness that comes from experience

Cass has a vibrant history of performing, and that voice of hers has travelled not only several times along Australia's East Coast, Darwin and WA, but has also taken her on three Canadian tours (the latest with Ash Grunwald), Egypt and five visits to East Timor. Her music has also developed close ties with the surfing community, playing benefit concerts for SurfAid International and the Surfrider Foundation, and playing the 2007 Rip Curl Pro Surfing & Music Festival, Bells Beach (VIC). In 2006 and 2007 Cass showcased in Canada at NXNE and CMW (Toronto). Over the last years, Cass has also played the Byron Bay Blues & Roots Festival (NSW), The Gympie Muster (QLD), Festival of the Sun (NSW), Broadbeach Blues Festival (QLD), Peats Ridge Festival (NSW) and the Vintage Blues & Roots Festival (WA). She was featured on the cover of Sydney's 'Drum Media' after being announced as a finalist in the Blues/Roots category of the 2007 MusicOz Awards.

In Australia, Cass has performed with artists including Ash Grunwald, The Beautiful Girls, Alex Lloyd, Diesel, Lior, Paul Kelly, Jeff Lang, Chase The Sun, Blue Shaddy and Extended Family. She has also appeared on 4 other CD compilations of independent artists, being named 'Emerging Australian Artist' on SBA Music's international compilation.

Much of Cass' musical inspiration has stemmed from her humanitarian efforts in East Timor. Touring there five times, twice with the Australian Army, she performed for UN peacekeepers and in various orphanages. What started as an assignment to entertain the troops in the newly independent country turned into a rich relationship and affinity with the people there, especially the children. To raise money and awareness for this tiny nation, Cass donates her energies to various Australian benefit concerts. Her visits there culminated in a performance to over 40,000 people at Dili Stadium with Paul Kelly and Peter Garrett in 2004. Cass appeared on 'Timor-Leste - Freedom Rising' compilation CD (EMI/Capitol) put together by Paul Kelly in 2005, along with artists such as John Butler, Missy Higgins, Kasey Chambers & The Cat Empire. Cass launched the CD in Dili to a 500+ crowd. In December 2006, Cass's 3rd Armed Forces tour took her to Egypt and The Middle East, with 5 shows across 3

countries in 8 days.

Visiting royal Prince Harry saw Cass perform at Kerry Packer's polo property on his Australian visit, and asked her for a repeat performance the following week, with Cass being requested to give the prince guitar lessons.

"I play music because I love to. Music can make you laugh, cry, remember. It has the ability to take you away or bring you home, but wherever you go, it's in the journey. I just strap on my guitar and away I go."

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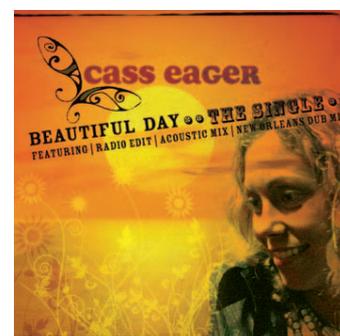
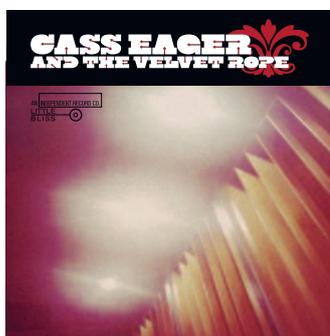
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DISCOGRAPHY

Down On My Knees E.P. – September 2010

'Down On My Knees' was recorded with Cass' new band 'The Velvet Rope' featuring Jon 'Howler' Howell and Ryan Van Gennip from Chase The Sun, Jono Dallimore on Guitar, and special guest appearances from Lachlan Doley (Powderfinger, Jimmy Barnes) on Keyboards and Melbourne's queen of country soul Suzannah Espie on Backing Vocals. Down On My Knees was co-produced by Cass and soundman extraordinaire James Freeman (Diesel, Black Keys, EJ Barnes) and is a worthy follow-up to her rootsy debut, with the new songs capturing a darker, sweeter, more layered sound and a less introspective, more character-based style of writing. Lead track 'Down On My Knees' has become magical to the band, unusual instruments helping conjure up the sound of voodoo mystery and magic, lyrics coming from out of nowhere, rehearsal at a minimum and the first take being the one used. Sometimes, everything comes together perfectly and makes it right.

Santa's Got Soul! - 2009

In 2009 Cass decided she needed some new music to put on when the family arrived on Christmas Day, frustrated with the choice of either Elvis or Sinatra she made the move to bring the groove back to the holiday season with 'Santa's Got Soul!' (MGM/littlebliss) a collection of re-worked classics and fabulous soul & blues hits from the past, not to mention a brand new Christmas original from Cass. Featuring an all-star cast of over 15 musicians including soul master Doug Williams, "Santa's Got Soul!" is threatening to become an es-

sential under every tree each Christmas Day.

"'Santa's Got Soul!' is sure to impress the relatives on the big day and keep Granny dancing long into the afternoon." Drum Media.

Beautiful Day - 2007

Cass' debut album 'Beautiful Day' (MGM/littlebliss) released in 2007, is a stunning collection of tunes spanning soul to blues, folk to gospel, roots to reggae. From the reggae-tinged groove of the crowd favourite title track 'Beautiful Day' to the killer slide-guitar blues of 'Take These Wings' and heartfelt soulfulness of 'Sister', the instrumentation running through these songs adapt to fit the feel, from slide guitar to Hammond and Rhodes piano, harmonica, violins, stompbox and ukelele. Most are with Cass's trademark rhythmic acoustic guitar sound, and all with Cass's husky-soaked vocals and effortless melodies bringing them to life. Her first single 'Beautiful Day' charted in the Top 10 on Canadian Radio (Festival) and debuted at No.27 on the US Roots Music Report. In Australia, the single of the same name enjoyed airplay on Triple J, ABC, and was Nova's Unsigned Find. The single appeared on the 'soundslikecafe' Cafe sampler CD (MGM). It was featured on Robbie Buck's (Triple J) Australian Music Playlist on Qantas Inflight QRadio, and Tracks Magazine has given it an impressive 4/5 review.

"As you make the journey from start to end, ('Beautiful Day') is a record which ingratiates itself into your lounge room... I love it when that happens". Rhythms Magazine