

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

LYNNE GOUGH

Childhood Memories.....

As far back as I can remember our house was always filled with music, be it listening, playing, rehearsing or performing! Mum, a singing and piano teacher, always taught her students from home, and Dad, who had a rich, tenor voice, was prone to singing full volume in the shower or anywhere else in the house that had "good acoustics", meaning there had to be lots of echo!! I had a huge dress-ups box, and in my fantasy world I loved dressing up as make-believe characters, especially singers, ballerinas and actresses. My parents took me to the theatre, opera, pantomimes and the ballet. Apparently they lost me one night during a performance of "Pineapple Poll".....there I was, right down the aisle, near the front of the stage, dancing with the ballerinas! Family get-togethers and parties always included singalongs around the piano, and two 'party pieces' that I would often perform around the age of six.....the song "In My Sweet Little Alice Blue Gown", and a poem that began with "Shady tree, babbling brook...." Both had costume changes and lots of actions...how precocious!!



The 60's..... In 1965 I joined the folk-gospel group 'The Ascension Three'. We performed on TV, radio and at live venues around Melbourne. We also did two cruises on the Fairstar, travelling to Fiji, Noumea and New Zealand. During the late 60's, after appearing on New Faces (accompanied on guitar by Noel Gough (no relation), who was Dave's musical collaborator at the time!!), I was lucky enough to become a full-time member of the Channel 9 Singers (later the 'Unisounds') on IMT, where I met Judee Horin's sister, Brenda. What fun it was working with entertainers like Graham Kennedy, Bert Newton, Mike Preston, Jimmy Hannan, Don Lane etc, and so many stories.....like leading the singers onto the set, so confidently – in the wrong direction – and they all followed!!...like fishing someone's pet chihuahua out of the Channel 9 pool when it fell in, and obviously couldn't swim!!...like a panic rush down from the makeup room to go on camera when our music started playing!!....

The 70's..... TV work included ATV0's 'The Ernie Sigley Show', Channel 7's 'Saturday Night Live' with Mary Hardy (what a comedienne!) and the ABC's 'Kevin Hocking Singers' (where I met Leon Heale for the first time!). My son, Simon, was born in 1972,

and I was working as a studio session singer on a variety of commercials and record backings for people such as John Farnham, Colleen Hewitt, Debra Byrne and Jill Perriman. I remember doing quite a bit of work at Bruce Clarke's studio, and baby Simon would be in the next studio where I could keep an eye on him. Bruce was very easy going about the session if Simon needed a feed!! As a backing vocalist I travelled and performed with Kamahl (a season at Her Majesties Theatre); the German pop singer Udo Jurgens; the rock musical "Tommy" and "The Suzanne Steele Show" at the Naughty Nineties Theatre Restaurant. I even dabbled as an extra and bit performer in TV commercials and dramas including 'Division 4', 'Matlock Police', 'Bellbird' and 'Wanted'. My "dramatic" work included voice-overs for radio and TV commercials.

The 80's..... During the 80's I joined Eltham Little Theatre, and performed in Sondheim's "Company", Music Hall and several dramas. I also worked as musical director for their Youth Productions of 'Godspell' and 'Jack The Ripper', and discovered that I really liked teenagers!?! This led me into a 4 year full-time degree at Melbourne Uni (at the age of 35!), with a double major in music and sub-major in drama... followed by 16 years of teaching at St. Helena Secondary College in Eltham – and that was dramatic in itself!

So..... For nearly 20 years, between 1986 and 2005, my musical life involved nurturing others who had a love of music and theatre (except for one appearance on 'Countdown' as a backing singer for the song "Singing in the Shower", dressed in a shower cap and EXTRA LARGE bath towel emblazoned with the Australian flag!).

And Now..... In 2005, nearly forty years after our first meeting, I received a phone call, out of the blue, from Dave Richard. He was looking for a musical partner to work with, after many years of working as a solo guitarist, and a mutual friend suggested he call me. 'Blue Tango' was born, and I treasure our collaboration in so many ways. I love the creativity, the harmony singing (I've always loved that), the laughter and late night 'de-briefings', the great people we've met and the places our music takes uslife is good!