

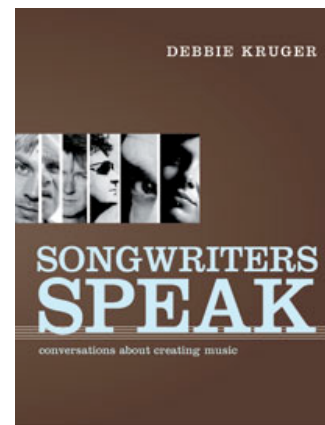
# **SONGWRITERS SPEAK**

## **Conversations about creating music**

by Debbie Kruger

Published by Limelight Press, August 2, 2005 RRP \$49.95  
CD will be released through Festival Mushroom Records  
July 25, 2005.

***“This cathartic thing of songwriting, it’s got to be the most wonderful gift.”*** Richard Clapton



**SONGWRITERS SPEAK** gives a unique insight into the lives of our best known songwriters. It is the first collection of in-depth interviews with the creative powerhouses of the Australian and international music industry.

In **SONGWRITERS SPEAK**, Debbie Kruger interviewed 45 songwriters from Australia and New Zealand whose work in rock, pop and country music has left an indelible imprint on the cultural landscape and whose songs have left an enduring impression on Australia's psyche. This book gets inside the hearts and minds of some of our greatest musical poets and asks questions about how inspiration is sparked, whether songwriters are born or made, and where, ultimately, songs come from.

In candid face-to-face interviews, these tunesmiths discuss their successful careers, share their thoughts on tapping into the creative source and tell the stories behind classic songs including “The Real Thing”, “Eagle Rock”, “Khe Sanh”, “Deep Water”, “Down Under”, “Age of Reason”, “Beds Are Burning”, and “Truly Madly Deeply”.

Debbie uncovered some interesting and quirky facts such as:

- The Easybeats’ London manager tried to get some of his own lyrics into “Friday On My Mind”. If he’d had his way, one verse would have begun with the line, “For a chick doll you’re a drag.”
- The Seekers’ Bruce Woodley, who wrote the anthemic “I Am Australian”, is one of the few songwriters in the world to have co-written with Paul Simon.
- INXS’s Farriss brothers were big fans of Rolf Harris. Tim Farriss met Rolf on a flight one day and admitted he had wanted to call his son Rol Farriss.
- “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” was recorded first by British pop quartet Buck’s Fizz. Songwriter Terry Britten stepped in and begged them not to release it, so that he could give it to Tina Turner instead.
- Richard Clapton’s first great mentor was Richard Wherrett, who was his high school English teacher and housemaster. They never reconnected after Wherrett became a famous theatre director and Clapton a famous songwriter.
- Nick Cave finds reading the thesaurus “the most exciting thing in the world”.
- Ray Manzarek from the Doors went to an INXS concert to meet Michael Hutchence because he was disturbed by how much he reminded him of Jim Morrison.

**DEBBIE KRUGER AND SELECT SONGWRITERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW,  
PLEASE CALL DEBBIE MCINNES ON (02) 9550 9207 Email [Debbie@dmcpr.com.au](mailto:Debbie@dmcpr.com.au)  
OR FOR THE CD, JODIE ARTIS on (03) 9696 6417 Email [Jodie@progressivepr.com.au](mailto:Jodie@progressivepr.com.au)**

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**SONGWRITERS SPEAK** features conversations with: Harry Vanda & George Young, Rolf Harris, Ross Wilson, John Williamson, Glenn Shorrock, Richard Clapton, Tim Finn, Steve Kipner, Neil Finn, Nick Cave, Christina Amphlett, Paul Kelly, Deborah Conway, Archie Roach, Daniel Johns, Kasey Chambers and many more. Included are key songwriting members from such legendary bands as The Seekers, The Twilights, Masters Apprentices, Axiom, Sherbet, Little River Band, Cold Chisel, Dragon, Sports, Midnight Oil, Mental As Anything, Australian Crawl, Icehouse, INXS, Men At Work, Hunters & Collectors and Savage Garden.

Songwriters interviewed are also the masterminds behind hits for Slim Dusty, Olivia Newton-John, John Farnham, John Paul Young, Cliff Richard, Tina Turner, Chicago, Robert Palmer, Christina Aguilera, Lenny Kravitz and other international performers.

The double CD compilation of **SONGWRITERS SPEAK** is available through Festival Mushroom Records. It features 38 tracks written by songwriters interviewed in the book, recorded by Australian and overseas artists. This outstanding set is a must for any music collection.

### **About the author**

**Debbie Kruger** was born and raised in Sydney, spending her childhood and teenage years steeped in rock and pop music of the 1960s and 1970s. She began her journalism career in the 1980s, and spent four years as a staff writer and reviewer for the international show business bible *Variety* in its Sydney and London bureaus. In 1993 she moved to Byron Bay, writing about entertainment, lifestyle and travel, presenting a popular radio program, "Debbie Does Breakfast", and managing her own national arts PR business. After a stint living in Los Angeles in the late 1990s, immersed in the California music scene and interviewing songwriters, she returned to Sydney and turned her focus back to the local music industry. As Manager of Communications and Public Affairs for the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) for three years, Debbie edited the songwriters' journal *APrap* and handled publicity for the annual APRA Music Awards. In 2001 she devised and managed the hugely successful publicity campaign for APRA's Ten Best Australian Songs, which captured the imagination and enthusiasm of music lovers across the country.

Debbie's interviews and reviews have been published in newspapers and magazines in Australia, New Zealand, England and the USA. In addition to *Variety*, these include *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Courier-Mail*, *Melbourne Weekly*, *Vogue Australia*, *Goldmine*, *Performing Songwriter* and *Time Out*.

Debbie is a journalist and PR consultant with homes in Sydney and Byron Bay. She will be appearing at the Byron Bay Writers Festival from August 4-7.

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