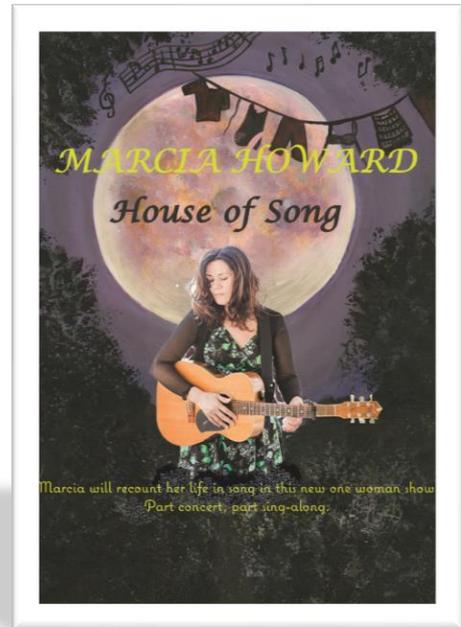


# *House of Song* Marcia Howard

## Synopsis

**House of Song is a one-woman show which charts Marcia Howard's 30 years as a singer/songwriter including her years as a member of the iconic Australian band, Goanna.**



Over the 90-minute performance, Marcia will share the inspirations that have consistently informed her song writing and performing – her Irish roots and her love and respect for the Indigenous Australian perspectives on life and place.

The songs that Marcia has written for House of Song are melodic and captivating. They explore our relationships with politics, family and place.

Marcia's story is compelling. She grew up in a house of musicians; a large, multi-talented family who provided music for their community, led by her musical parents Teresa Howard (nee Madden) with her father Leo. It was through singing and playing with her family that Marcia discovered harmony as a way of distinguishing her own voice.

Marcia studied music as a young woman before going on the road with her brother Shane's band Goanna during the coming of age of Australian rock music in the early 1980's.

It was in this period of touring Australia that she was introduced to Aboriginal Australia and became aware of their struggle for land rights, the systemic cruelty of the stolen generation and their ongoing fight for proper recognition of their sovereignty.

Marcia's connection to and friendship with Aboriginal Australian's has been a major influence in all aspects her life, including her music.

The other great influence has been her Irish roots. Marcia researched her Celtic heritage in her recent Research Master's thesis, *Holy Wells to Waterholes*. She has performed and recorded in Ireland, collaborating with many great Irish artists including Mary Black, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Steve Cooney, Brian Kennedy, Maria Doyle Kennedy and Laoise Kelly. Her deep love for the country of her ancestors is evident in her album *Burning in The Rain*, recorded in Ireland and produced by Steve Cooney.

In **House of Song**, Marcia reveals how the lands of Australia and Ireland have influenced her as a songwriter and how song reflects our sense of belonging to place.

Marcia Howard is an original, compelling and charismatic songwriter and performer. She hopes that by sharing her deep love of song, she will help people embrace their own unique sound and voice.

House of Song will be an uplifting experience for everyone who enters.



## **Marcia Howard Marcia Howard Biography**

*Research, MEd, Monash University.*

*Cert IV, Music. Estill Vocal Method, Certificate 1&2.*

*Diploma Teaching, ACU.*

Marcia has sustained a diverse career as a performer/singer-songwriter and music educator. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge and understanding of singing and songwriting in both her vocal and songwriting workshops at festivals, concerts, schools and conferences.

Marcia's music is located in her family background and her experiences in music making with indigenous communities in Ireland and Australia. She was the first Australian female

artist to feature on, *A Woman's Heart- a decade on*, with her song, **Poison Tree**, singing with renowned Irish singer, Mary Black. Marcia has shared the stage with some of the worlds most loved musicians, including America's James Taylor, Bob Dylan, Billy Connelly and Eric Clapton.

In 1997, Marcia and the band **Goanna** were asked to perform **Sorry** a song she had written based on the story of a member of the Indigenous Australian Stolen Generation, at Parliament House in the Nation's Capital, Canberra. Many albums recorded in Australia over the past thirty years feature Marcia's harmony vocals. Marcia is an accomplished singer, pianist, and vocal director and acoustic guitarist.

She has a Research Master's Degree in Education (her thesis and CD are about songwriting and belonging to place through song). She has also released five solo albums including one recorded in Ireland *Burning in the Rain* and one in Nashville, *Nashville Sessions*. Her most recent album is **Everything Reminds Me**, released in 2017.

### **Awards**

Three Australian **Countdown Awards (Aria Awards) Goanna.**

**Maton, Port Fairy Folk Festival Artist of the Year, 2016.**

<https://www.marciahoward.com.au>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1RKvzSPSf\\_uldKpFtXrsrQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1RKvzSPSf_uldKpFtXrsrQ) - NFF 2018 with band

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laFb\\_r4qIK0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laFb_r4qIK0) (First half is solo) House of Song NFF 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzEsVDjgVyU> The Voice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBDmY52Ye-0> House on the Hill Concerts

<https://www.facebook.com/marciahowardmusic/>

<https://twitter.com/marcialhoward?lang=en>

<https://www.instagram.com/marciahowardmusic/>

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*"I had the pleasure of performing live with my good friend Marcia Howard on many occasions both in Australia and Ireland. We also recorded her beautiful song Poison Tree together. This song was featured on the hugely successful album 'A Woman's Heart - a decade on' too much acclaim. Marcia has a unique voice that's unmistakably her own and her passion for life and love shines through beautifully in her song writing. A strong woman of heart and mind - I'm proud to know her".*

**Mary Black (Singer songwriter, Ireland).**

*"The word mastery comes to mind when listening to Marcia perform. Her songs are whole and beautifully crafted. She touches the essence of what it is to be open. She can soothe a troubled soul and remind the listener that no one is alone with their feelings. I know too that she stands as a woman of her ancestral country and a custodian of the culture and wisdom of the land of her birth. Words are not enough to describe this soul... I love listening to Marcia sing. Listen and be carried".*

**Liam O'Maonlai (Hot House Flowers, Ireland).**