

Tollbooth News

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NATHAN TASKER PERFORMS TO SELL OUT CROWD IN SYDNEY

SINGER songwriter Nathan Tasker plugged his guitar into his amplifier and performed to a sell out crowd in his hometown at the weekend.

This was the first time in two years that Tasker has performed with a band in Sydney.

Throughout 2003-4, Nathan has been performing as an acoustic solo act.

His songs Your Love Changes Me and Underneath have garnered strong national airplay on independent radio across the country.

On Saturday, the largest Christian station in the country FM 103.2 presented Nathan's Your Love Changes Me concert at North Shore Christian Centre.

Program Manager John O'Donnell says "the concert took Nathan to a whole new level".

Success for Nathan has been a long time coming, but it is now beginning.

For more than a decade, he has been working towards perfecting his craft. He has recorded seven albums and has performed at more than 1200 concerts. Sales of his recorded CDs total more than 14 000 units.

Tasker, who describes himself as an "emo" or emotional songwriter, is determined to get his message out to people via energetic and engaging live performances as well as through his albums.

Since the age of 17, he has performed in schools, churches and prisons. He has played at conventions and to youth groups. Part of his journey has meant annual visits to churches in the USA, the UK, Western Europe and South Africa.

His latest album, A Look Inside, was mixed in New York by Ben Wisch who has worked with artists such as Marc Cohn, Kathy Mattea, Lucy Kaplansky and Jonatha Brooke. It was mastered in Nashville by Ken Love whose project credits include works by Tim Finn, Ashley Cleveland, dc Talk and Australian Grammy Award winner Rebecca St James.

As a performing and recording artist, Tasker has what he refers to as "a commitment to excellence". He is determined to give of his best at all times whether that be on a stage or in a studio. He takes his responsibility as a role model for others very seriously.

"One of the reasons why I think it's important to be a good role model when I strap on a guitar is because there is a need for people to respond to truth in a way that isn't just about selling CDs. It isn't just about building the 'Nathan Tasker Corporation'. It's about understanding life. And I want to be the role model for that".

In concert and on disc, Nathan Tasker emerges as a storyteller. His songs cover many aspects of the human condition. But he is more than just a detached observer; he is an active and vulnerable participant.

"At the very heart of the music that I write and the songs that I sing is a desire to tell stories. There's a desire to connect with people at that level where maybe I'm voicing something that they have thought about but haven't been able to find a voice for. Maybe as I'm singing, it turns out that I'm actually singing their song. I think there are a lot of things that we have in common, especially when it comes to the questions about life.

And I think the key for me, one of the major things that I strive for is to be honest, to express my struggles, to express my fears, my doubts and concerns. Also, to express what brings me

joy and to express the hope that I have as well”.

With his ability to engage his listeners emotionally and spiritually, both on radio and in concert, Nathan Tasker has begun to make a big impact in Australian music.