

Introducing...

Jan Bentley



www.janbentley.com

Brief Biography

Jan Bentley is a singer-songwriter whose music style includes elements of contemporary folk, Celtic, country and pop music. Jan started writing songs at about the age of thirteen, but thought it simply a phase she was going through. Slowly but surely, as she lived life and worked as a teacher, she soaked up experiences at music seminars and festivals and bravely entered songwriting competitions. She has released three albums and continues to write songs. Solo, or with accompaniment, Jan's performances are genuine and thought provoking, as she sings about humanity, observations of the world and of her life. Jan believes that music can inspire, entertain, teach and encourage others.

Awards & Recognition

Songwriting awards and recognition that Jan has received include:

- **Tamworth Songwriters Association – National Country Songwriting Contest 2011**
 - finalist (*one song*), semi-finalist (*two songs*)
- **Maldon Folk Festival 'Roddy Read Memorial Songwriting Award'** – finalist (2007)
- **Australian National Songwriting Contest**
 - o Finalist – From the Inside (2003) & Gospel (1999)
 - o Preliminary Finalist
 - Contemporary Ballad (2005) – *two songs*
 - Pop/Contemporary Ballad (2003)
 - Coffee House (2003)
- **Port Fairy Songwriting Competition** – finalist (2002 & 2004)
- **Red Gum Festival Songwriting Competition**
 - o Best Lyrics (2000)
 - o Runner-up Best Lyrics (2000)
 - o Best Local Songwriter (1999)
 - o Best Song – Community Participation (1999)
 - o Finalist
 - Community Participation (2000) – *two songs*
 - Community Participation (1999) – *two songs*
 - Country Sound (1999)
 - Lyrics (1999)
 - Best Regional Songwriter (1999 & 2000)

Jan received recognition as part of the **Victorian and National Country Music Awards** in 2005.

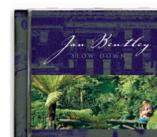
- Finalist (top 5) - Victorian Section: Female Vocalist
- Finalist (top 10) - National Section: Female Vocalist
- Finalist (top 10) - Victorian Section: Album 'Slow Down'

Discography



Just Passing Through

(2010)



Slow Down

(2004)



For I Am With You

(2001)

Performances

Jan has performed solo or with accompaniment at a variety of festivals, events and venues, including:

- Port Fairy Folk Festival
- National Folk Festival
- Maldon Folk Festival
- National Celtic Festival
- Tamworth Country Music Festival
- Mildura Country Music Festival
- Black Stump Festival
- Aireys Inlet Open Mic Music Festival
- Ocean Grove Live Music Festival
- ABC radio (*live - Derek Guille's programme*)
- Ireland (*Blarney Inn, Murphy's Bar*)
- Open-mic events (eg. Geelong Folk Club)
- Schools
- Churches
- Community events

Reviews

"Jan Bentley makes music with folky acoustic guitar and unpretentious vocal embroidery. Humanity, observations on the world and self are the subjects for Jan's pen. A mix of folk, pop and contemporary cross-over country, her music is smooth and flawless. Jan doesn't paint pictures with her music; she paints thoughts and feelings."

Part of a review written by Deborah Minter (*Capital News*, May 2004, p44)

*"... new artist Jan Bentley is just brimming with all the possibilities that lay ahead for her and her excellent new album **Slow Down**. ... she has every reason to be proud of a well-made, high standard work."*

Part of a review written by Keith Glass (*Capital News*, July 2004, p45)

*"Jan's voice is sweet and clear and paints pictures with melody, sincere lyrics and genuine feeling portrayed within her vocals. **Just Passing Through** is an adventure in song, it is honest, tells tales of lessons learned, whilst still remaining full of hope."*

Part of a Review by Ray Montana (*Capital News*, May 2011)