

= Where We Land =

Where We Land is the first studio album by Australian Idol 2006 winner Damien Leith . It was released by Sony BMG in Australia on 18 August 2007 , and in Ireland on 28 September 2007 . Leith produced the album for seven months and created the album entirely with acoustic songs . He wrote or co -@-@ wrote nine of the twelve songs , collaborating with Alex Lloyd and his music director Paul Gray (Wa Wa Nee) in a few songs . All of his original songs were inspired by his friends and family . Leith included two cover songs in the album , Fleetwood Mac 's " Songbird " from the album Rumours and the traditional Irish song " Danny Boy " . Where We Land received mostly average reviews from critics . It debuted in the Australian Albums Chart at number @-@ one and was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association . The album spawned the singles " 22 Steps " , " All I Want Is You " and " Not Just For The Weekend " . Leith embarked on a national tour across Australia to promote the album in November 2007 .

= = Background = =

Damien Leith stated how his debut studio album wanted to pan out : " I didn 't really want to do anybody else 's songs ... I just wanted this album to be mine " . Immediately after Australian Idol concluded , he convinced the producers of the show to break from protocol by giving him longer time to record the album . The protocol was that the Australian Idol winners had only one week after the competition ended to record their first album . He decided to work on his first studio album for the next few months . Leith was aware of the little success of the previous two Idol winners , Casey Donovan and Kate DeAraugo , so he decided to turn something more palpable than the previous winners by producing an album of original songs . He comments , " I suppose the main thing for me was trying to establish myself as a songwriter out of it because that 's something that hasn 't really been promoted in the past . " He was determined to create as much original material as possible for the album , and create songs that truly represent who he was . He also wanted the themes in the lyrics to not only be personal , but broad enough so that listeners can relate to them .

= = Production and recording = =

Leith remarked that recording the album was an exciting but nerve @-@ racking experience . He recorded his music at Sony BMG 's recording studio in East Sydney . His producers already had in mind what kind of album they want to produce for Leith . He , however wanted his album to be totally acoustic . Knowing that he was well known by the Australian public as the new Australian Idol , he knew that it was risky to produce an acoustic based album because it was very different from the records produced by the previous Idol contestants , as many of their records predominantly featured up @-@ beat pop songs . He noted that the music he was making could make the album harder to sell commercially .

As a result , he and his producers spent the time to work on the songs which would appeal to a broader audience . Leith did this by holding onto several elements in his music that people had enjoyed on Australian Idol . However , he still wanted to show new elements to the album , so he held on some elements of acoustic music . Leith comments ,

" We didn 't want to be too acoustic , or too rocky . I 've been conscious of the people who bought The Winner 's Journey , but also conscious about grabbing a new audience as well ... I think this album 's got all those kind of Winner 's Journey elements ? the falsetto and the emotional thing . But it 's got a lot of me in it too . "

Damien Leith was also conscious of the lyrics we wrote . He added a few emotional ballads which contained strong lyrics , but had left out the songs he thought were too depressing .

Leith spent seven months of recording and writing and worked with Bryon Jones , James Roche and Ross Fraser . Initially , he wanted the album to be released in March , but it was pushed back to August , partly due to the prolonged success of The Winner 's Journey and partly because of the large amount of songs they had to cull .

= = Writing and inspiration = =

The songs he wrote were inspired by his family and friends . A few of the songs explored the themes of love and fulfilment . " Not Just for the Weekend " was a song he wrote after the birth of his second son , Jagger . The song " Beautiful " is a love song written to his wife Eileen . Other songs in the album explored much darker themes . " Blew It All Away " is a heartfelt song about the suicide of a friend , which happened shortly after another friend died from cancer . Another song , " Alone " was inspired from a friend who was struggling after his father 's death . " Shine Like the Sun " is about a friend in Ireland who was experiencing a rough relationship .

Leith wrote or co @-@ wrote a total of nine tracks out of the twelve in the album . Incidentally , the first single and the opening track " 22 Steps " was a song he did not write ; it was written by Canadian singer @-@ songwriter Andy Stochansky . Another non @-@ original track Leith recorded was a cover of Fleetwood Mac 's " Songbird " from their album Rumours . This song holds special meaning for Leith , as his sister sang this song during his and Eileen 's wedding . Leith collaborated with Australian writers in a few songs , including Alex Lloyd who co @-@ wrote with Leith the songs " Beautiful " and " Blew It All Away " . They also wrote four other songs which they did not include in the album because they were too alternative . His musical director Paul Gray of Wa Wa Nee co @-@ wrote the track " Alone " . He left out his debut single " Night of My Life " , originally written for his win on Idol , because he could not relate to the lyrics in his everyday life , only within the context of the show . Sony BMG added a raw bonus track , the traditional Irish song " Danny Boy " which Leith did a one @-@ take recording of for a fan . Initially , Leith was hesitant to include it in the album because it was so raw .

Damien Leith chose to name the album Where We Land as it described all the things that happened to him in the past year individually and professionally , and also illustrated his journey to Australia in various ways .

= = Album and single releases = =

Where We Land was officially released on 18 August 2007 in Australia . Beforehand , the first single of the album , " 22 Steps " was released to Australian radio on 22 June 2007 , with a physical release on 21 July . Another track also included in Where We Land was " I Still Miss Us " , which was a bonus track with the release of " 22 Steps " only available in the Australian iTunes Store . The music video for " 22 Steps " premiered on rage on 22 June . The second single , " All I Want Is You " , was released as a non @-@ commercial single ; its music video debuted on rage on 19 October .

Where We Land was later released in Ireland on 28 September 2007 . On 17 November 2007 , a limited special Christmas edition of Where We Land was released in Australia which included a second disc with five bonus tracks , including an original track " This Christmas " .

= = Chart performance = =

In the week beginning on 27 August 2007 , Where We Land debuted on the ARIA Albums Chart at number one . The album was certified gold status in its first week of release and sold 12 @,@ 760 copies , 4 @,@ 939 more than the second highest selling album of the week , which was The Dutchess by Fergie . This feat follows his previous live album The Winner 's Journey which was at number @-@ one earlier in the year in January . He is also the first Australian Idol winner to achieve two consecutive number @-@ one albums . The album dropped to number @-@ two in its second week on the charts , replaced by Paul Potts ' One Chance . In its third week , Where We Land it was certified platinum status and moved down to number @-@ four . It dropped outside the top ten in the following week on the Australian charts .

Where We Land debuted on the Irish Albums Chart at number 43 on the week after its release in Ireland , remaining in the Top 75 for a second week , before falling off the chart the week after .

= = Charts and certification = =

= = Critical reception = =

Responses from critics have given mostly average reviews of the album . Polly Coufos from The Sunday Times considers Damien Leith as " the most complete artist Australian Idol has yet uncovered " . Coufos rated the album 3 @. @ 5 stars , and comments that " Leith uses that heavenly falsetto as often as possible without making himself appear a one @-@ trick pony " . Coufos , however says that the two cover songs , " Songbird " and " Danny Boy " are an " unnecessary hedging of bets " . Andrew Murfett from The Age notices the album 's different arrangement from the previous Idol debuts and considers it to be better than those , but says that the album still contains too many ballad songs . Murfett remarks " Songbird " as a good choice for a cover song . Lauren Katulka from ' Oz Music Scene ' compliments Leith 's songwriting and composing , and says that " Where We Land " is a great indication of the potential of Australia 's revamped Idol franchise " . Lucy Tyler from the Sydney Anglican Network says that though the album is well @-@ produced ; it is unbalanced and bland , and " its lack of variety means that it gives listeners little to think about " . Tyler notes that " Where We Land " focuses on the melancholic aspects of life and remarks that " Leith appears to have forgotten that life can sometimes be happy , too " .

= = Promotion = =

Damien Leith made several appearances in the week after " Where We Land " was released . On 19 August 2007 , Leith performed songs from the album at the Warringah Mall Center Stage in Brookvale , and on 23 August , he performed songs at the Robina Town Centre in Robina , Queensland . He made a guest appearance on 26 August on Rove and performed live on 30 August on Australian Idol . He again made a special guest appearance on Australian Idol on 7 October , singing " All I Want Is You " .

Leith is currently embarking on a national " Where We Land " tour across Australia from 1 to 24 November 2007 , touring in various venues located specifically in Sydney , Canberra , Brisbane , Melbourne , the Central Coast , Newcastle , Wollongong and Hobart . He is performing the tracks from the album as well as several of his classic performances from Australian Idol . It was announced on 28 September that the tour was extended to include the other major cities of Australia ; Adelaide and Perth .

= = Track listing = =

" 22 Steps " (Andy Stochansky , Ian LeFeuvre) ? 3 : 35

" All I Want Is You " (Damien Leith) ? 3 : 16

" Beautiful " (Leith , Alex Wasiliev) ; 3 : 43

" Shine Like the Sun " (Leith) ? 4 : 10

" I Still Miss Us " (Leith , Bryon Jones) ? 4 : 17

" The Long Way Back " (Leith) ? 3 : 30

" Not Just for the Weekend " (Leith) ? 3 : 48

" Songbird " (cover version) (Christine McVie) ? 4 : 17

" Blew It All Away " (Leith , Wasiliev) ? 3 : 21

" Alone " (Leith , Paul Gray) ? 3 : 51

" Cold Cold Heart " (Leith) ? 3 : 52

" Danny Boy " (Bonus Track) (cover version) (Frederick Weatherly) ? 3 : 31

Christmas edition bonus tracks

" I 'll Be Home for Christmas " (Buck Ram , Kim Gannon , Walter Kent) ? 3 : 13

" The Christmas Song " (Mel Tormé , Robert Wells) ? 3 : 21

" This Christmas " (Damien Leith , Eileen Stapleton) ? 3 : 35

" O Holy Night " (Adolphe Adam) ? 2 : 44

" Silent Night " (Josef Mohr) ? 2 : 09

B @-@ Sides from singles

" Who You Are " " 22 Steps " single "

" Song For Jarvis " " 22 Steps " single

" Come To Me " " Night of My Life "

" Sky " The Winner 's Journey

= = Personnel = =

Damien Leith ? vocals , guitar , arranger

Matt Cornell ? bass

Dave Leslie ? guitar

James Roche ? bass , piano , strings , keyboards , programmer , producer , mixer

Irwin Thomas ? guitar

David Champion ? manager

Daniel Clinch ? engineer

James Cooper ? art director , designer , photographer , illustrator

Ross Fraser ? A & R

Amy Kelly ? design producer & illustrator

Christopher Morris ? photographer

Martin Pullan ? mastering engineer