

= Thirsty Merc =

Thirsty Merc are an Australian pop rock band formed in 2002 by Rai Thistlethwayte (vocals , guitar , keyboards) , Phil Stack (bass guitar) , Karl Robertson (drums) , and Matthew Baker (guitar) . In 2004 Baker was replaced by Sean Carey who was , in turn , replaced by Matt Smith in 2010 . Thirsty Merc have released one extended play , First Work (September 2003) , and four studio albums : Thirsty Merc (August 2004) , Slideshows (April 2007) , Mousetrap Heart (June 2010) and Shifting Gears (September 2015) . The band have sold over 200 @, @ 000 albums , toured extensively around Australia , and received national radio airplay for their tracks .

In June 2005 Billboard 's Christie Eliezer felt their debut album showed " eclectic rock- , classical- and jazz @-@ influenced pop [that] appealed to Australian radio programmers " . The work reached the top 20 on the ARIA Albums Chart and was certified platinum by ARIA for shipment of 70 @, @ 000 units by the end of 2005 . Slideshows peaked at No. 4 in Australia ? their highest position . It reached No. 38 on the New Zealand Albums Chart , however Thirsty Merc had attained No. 29 in that market . The group were nominated for four ARIA Awards in 2005 and the Thistlethwayte @-@ written track , " 20 Good Reasons " , was nominated for Song of the Year at the APRA Music Awards of 2008 . From 2006 , their song " In the Summertime " was the opening theme for the Australian TV reality show , Bondi Rescue .

= = History = =

Three of the founding members of Thirsty Merc ? Matthew Baker , Karl Robertson , and Phil Stack ? had played together in various bands in Dubbo , a regional New South Wales city . In 1996 Drown was formed with Baker on guitar , Robertson on drums , Peter Jamieson on vocals , and Stack on bass guitar . By 1998 Baker , Jamieson and Stack had split to form Twenty Two and then moved to Sydney . In 2002 , Baker and Stack returned to Dubbo where Rai Thistlethwayte , from Sydney , as lead singer (later also on guitar and keyboards) and Stack worked as a live jazz duo and session musicians . They were joined by Baker and Robertson , and formed a pop rock band , initially called Thirsty ; soon after they moved to Sydney and were renamed , Thirsty Merc . The band 's name came from Thistlethwayte 's old Mercedes Benz , which was a gas @-@ guzzler .

In October 2006 Thistlethwayte described his jazz and R & B background to MusicFix and the band 's sound as " rock Sinatra " where " [t] he outlook , I guess , is about being a young person in today 's society ... being an Australian in an American @-@ ised , Britain @-@ ised kind of world , where you 're trying to stay true to yourself " . Baker added " We contrived to make it not contrived ... Rai was all for originality in his own vision and so were we " .

A car accident on 22 September 2015 at Streatham , Victoria during a Thirsty Merc tour killed the band 's stage manager and injured drummer Mick Skelton .

= = = First Work = = =

Thirsty Merc 's first extended play , First Work , was released on 8 September 2003 by the band 's own label , Don 't Music and was distributed by Warner Music Australia . The five @-@ track CD was independently recorded during downtime at a studio where Thistlethwayte worked . The EP reached the top 100 on the ARIA Singles Chart ; and its lead single , " Wasting Time " , achieved radio airplay on national radio stations , Triple J and Nova . The self @-@ funded music video for the single was broadcast on Channel [V] , and became the ' ripe clip of the week ' . At the time of recording the EP they were without a label . After extensive gigging around Sydney 's pubs , representatives from Warner had signed the band in June 2003 , for the release of the EP and the follow up single , " Emancipate Myself " , which was a reworked version of the EP track . It was issued in April 2004 and The Age 's Andrew Murfett declared that " this bitter tirade wrapped in melodic hooks has become one of the biggest local radio successes of the year " .

= = = Debut studio album = = =

On 16 August 2004 Thirsty Merc issued their debut studio album , the self @-@ titled , Thirsty Merc , which was co @-@ produced by the group with Lindsay Gravina (The Living End , Magic Dirt) . Also that month , prior to a national tour in support of its release , Baker left and was replaced on guitar by Sean Carey (ex @-@ Midnight Swim) , whom they had met when playing a support slot to his group at a Kings Cross venue , Club 77 . The album spent 48 weeks on the ARIA Albums Chart Top 50 , peaking at No. 15 , and launched the band in the Australian mainstream. dB Magazine 's Kelly Parish observed " [e] ven though the band 's sound is predominantly rock , it has been influenced by more traditional flavours ... they have developed a very wide audience which embraces both the alternative and mainstream camps " . Thirsty Merc reached No. 29 on New Zealand 's RIANZ Albums Chart . It was recorded and mixed on 2 inch tape , and then further mixed by Gravina at his Birdland Studios .

Five singles were released from Thirsty Merc : " Emancipate Myself " , " My Completeness " (August 2004) , " Someday , Someday " (December) , " In the Summertime " (April 2005) , and " When the Weather Is Fine " (September) . All five appeared in the ARIA Singles Chart top 50 , with the highest charting , " Someday , Someday " reaching No. 19 . Of these singles only " In the Summertime " reached the top 50 in New Zealand , where it peaked at No. 12 . In June 2005 Billboard 's Christie Eliezer felt the album showed " eclectic rock- , classical- and jazz @-@ influenced pop [that] appealed to Australian radio programmers " . The album was due for United States and European release in early 2006 on Atlantic Records .

" In the Summertime " was nominated at the ARIA Music Awards of 2005 for " Best Video " , while " Someday , Someday " was nominated for " Single of the Year " , " Best Group " , and " Best Pop Release " . At the ceremony in October , the group performed " Someday , Someday " . In 2006 Carey described the group 's style to Jet Magazine , it was " Just be yourself " and " about being young and living in Australia . We ? re not trying to be 50 Cent or anything , we ? re all just boys from the country , just trying to move into the city and make our way " . He listed Evermore , Crowded House , Foo Fighters and Cold Chisel as his favourite bands . In February 2007 they supported Ozzy Osbourne on the Australian leg of his national tour .

= = = Slideshows = = =

Thirsty Merc 's second album , Slideshows , was issued on 21 April 2007 via Warner Music Australia . It became the band 's most successful release yet , peaking at No. 4 in Australia , although it was less successful in New Zealand , only reaching No. 38 . To support the release of Slideshows , Thirsty Merc toured Australia , playing an album tour in theatres nationally and then various regional tours , the biggest of which had 38 shows booked across seven weeks . The album 's first single , " 20 Good Reasons " (March 2007) , reached No. 4 in Australia and No. 17 in New Zealand . In June they supported Evermore on a tour of New Zealand , showcasing their " unique blend of pop rock dance @-@ able balladry " . The next three singles appeared in the top 100 in Australia , " The Hard Way " (September) , " Those Eyes " (December) , and " Homesick " (May 2008) .

The band 's main songwriter , Thistlethwayte , inadvertently wrote a " break @-@ up album " , which The Sydney Morning Herald 's Brett Winterford noted was unusual , " that the articulate and intelligent 27 @-@ year @-@ old has strung together 12 such stock @-@ standard , radio @-@ friendly songs about broken hearts " . Thistlethwayte described his influences : " Jazz taught me about spontaneity ... Central to jazz is improvisation . It 's also great to get that knowledge of theory , an understanding of the geeky side of music " and writing advertising jingles had showed him how to " do a lot of things in differing genres and recording styles ? but had to try to be authentic about it " . After writing the tracks , the other members " choose the songs that had the ultimate emotional impact " .

= = = Mousetrap Heart = = =

On 14 January 2010 Thirsty Merc announced that Carey had left the band and was replaced on guitar by Matt Smith , from afrobeat and reggae band , The Strides . Carey wanted to work as a record producer and spend more time with his wife . On 18 June 2010 Thirsty Merc released their third album , Mousetrap Heart , which was recorded mostly in Los Angeles with Matt Wallace co @-@ producing , while two tracks were produced in Melbourne with Gravina . Bernard Zuel of The Sydney Morning Herald opined that " we buy , or actively avoid , songs that excite a response in us but radio wants songs that fit in , that don 't provoke strong responses , that offend the fewest people ... this [album] is a collection of extremely professional , well @-@ considered , carefully targeted songs whose key performance indicators are ticked off one by one in a manner so efficient you suspect band meetings must have an agenda , notes secretary and double @-@ cream biscuits for elevenses " .

The band toured nationally in July 2010 to support the album , while its lead single , the title track , had appeared in May and charted in the Top 30 on the ARIA Singles Chart . The second single , " Tommy and Krista " , was released in September , which peaked at No. 10 in New Zealand . Another single , " All My Life " , was featured in the promotional clips for the 2010 AFL grand final . Its music video was directed by Adrian Van de Velde and was shot in early October in Bangkok , Thailand . The narrative is a ' heroic love ' set on a local military base and features Russian model @-@ actress Maria Mazikova , together with 50 Thai army troops , an Iroquois helicopter , and a Chinook helicopter . In November Lip Magazine 's Shannon Andreucci reviewed a live gig , " [they] are certainly no Pixies , Beatles or Sex Pistols . They 're not breaking any rules or boundaries in the revolutionary world of rock music . In fact they are perfectly happy and capable of playing within the parameters of radio friendly and commercially safe pop rock . But one thing is for sure ; they go the extra mile in giving a charmingly refined and hearty live performance and that in itself should be commended " .

= = Members = =

Current members

Rai Thistlethwayte ? guitar , piano , singer @-@ songwriter (2002 ? present)

Phil Stack ? bass guitar , backing vocals (2002 ? present)

Matt Smith ? guitar (2010 ? present)

Former members

Matt Baker ? guitar , backing vocals (2002 ? 2004)

Sean Carey ? guitar , backing vocals (2004 ? 2009)

Karl Robertson ? drums , percussion (2002 ? 2014)

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums = = =

= = = Extended plays = = =

= = = Singles = = =

= = Awards and nominations = =

= = = APRA Music Awards = = =

The APRA Awards are presented annually from 1982 by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) .

= = = ARIA Music Awards = = =

The ARIA Music Awards are presented annually from 1987 by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) . Thirsty Merc have received four nominations .