
ASRA Award 2015

Warren Fahey

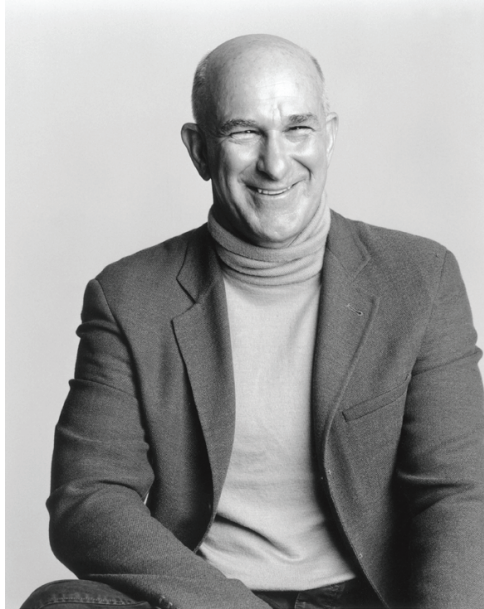


Figure 1

For nearly 50 years Warren Fahey has been a constant presence in Australian folklore and the music industry. Since the 1970s he has worked tirelessly to put Australian musical and folkloric culture centre stage against the backdrop of global and historical changes.

After establishing the Folklore Unit at the Macquarie University as a focus for collecting and research activity, Warren then revolutionised music retailing in Sydney with his 'Folkways' record store. Warren was always active in the Australian

record industry through ARIA and his 'Larrikin' record label made a big impact in popularising Australian folk music.

Australian song and story-telling are Warren's passion and he devotes himself to rediscovering, recreating and sharing this culture. Because of his work, we are all able to enjoy these old oral traditions that might otherwise have faded away in our fast moving audiovisual media driven world. As a performer Warren brings these traditions to life with his versatile instrumental and vocal skills.

Warren's world is as diverse and down-to-earth as Folklore itself. Browsing his published works you will see or hear everything from bawdy ballads to wedding traditions; histories of places sacred and profane; songs and stories of the sea, the land, war, peace, politics and protest.

As a cultural historian and entrepreneur, researcher, collector and performer Warren works across a wide spectrum of technologies and mediums, from conventional performance and publication to new and multi-media works. His collaborations include many musical and

performance partnerships, from his long standing folk group ‘The Larrikins’ to his recent collaborations with video artist Mic Grouchy and his spoken word performances with Max Cullen.

Warren is a member of the Order of Australia and has been recognised with the Don Banks Music Award, the Prime Ministers Centennial Medal, the Advance Australia Award, the New South Wales Folk Federation Life Membership Award, and the Judith Hosier Award: Bush Laureate Golden Gumleaf Award for lifetime achievement in bush balladry.

These achievements some as no surprise to anyone who has met Warren. He clearly loves his work and is a real ‘Larrikin’ in his own right. ASRA is delighted to present Warren Fahey with the 2015 ASRA Award for excellence in the presentation and interpretation of Australian music and folklore.

Matthew Davies

Figures:

1. Warren Fahey photograph by James McFarland