

Human Nature - A biography

Over the past 19 years, Human Nature have forged one of the most successful careers in Australian music history. Having released eight albums and numerous singles, the band has sold millions of CD's around the world.

Starting their careers as the all boy band the 4Trax Brothers Andrew and Michael Tierney joined with Toby Allen and Phil Burton in 1989 while at Hurlstone Agricultural High School representing their school in a combined regional school "spectacular" concert at the Bankstown Town Hall.

After an initial stint as buskers, '4Trax' started performing in clubs and built up a following winning several awards as club entertainers. They started sending demos off to record labels. The story goes that the band was signed to Sony Music Australia after walking into the office of Sony CEO Denis Handlin and performing an a cappella version of "People Get Ready" ..the boys were signed on the spot, changed their name to Human Nature and the rest as they say...is history.

Human Nature released its first album Telling Everybody on December 2, 1996 and it went on to achieve triple-platinum status. The lead single from the album was "Got It Goin On" with "Telling Everybody", "Wishes", "Don't Say Goodbye", "Whisper Your Name", and "People Get Ready" also released as singles. During this time the group was given the extraordinary opportunity of building their reputation and profile by working as support acts for superstar performers Michael Jackson and Celine Dion on their respective Australian tours.

1997 saw the band team up with John Farnham for "Everytime You Cry" which was one of the biggest hits of the year, and due to the success of the previous tours, were asked personally by both Celine Dion and Michael Jackson to continue to support them throughout their European tours in June-September 1997. The band played to crowds often numbering over 100,000 people, and also took the stage for three nights at Wembley Stadium. Upon their return to Australia in October Human Nature embarked on their first ever national concert tour- headlining at entertainment centres around the country.

Counting Down released in 1998 continued the band's momentum, and debuted at number one on the ARIA charts and generated five gold singles in Australia - "Last To Know", "Don't Cry", "Cruel", "Be There With You" and "Eternal Flame" a cover version of the 1989 hit by the Bangles. The band also appeared in an Australian concert tour of symphonic versions of Beatles songs conducted by legendary producer and "fifth Beatle", Sir George Martin.

The band released a self-titled album in 2000 with lead single "He Don't Love You" reaching Top 20 in the UK and being the 2nd best selling Australasian single in Australia for that year. The album was recorded in Sydney, London, Stockholm, Los Angeles and New York and featured a songwriting session with Gary Barlow of Take That.

September 2000 saw a career highlight with the band performing the Australian National Anthem at the 2000 Summer Olympics with Julie Anthony.

A greatest hits album- Here & Now: The Best of Human Nature- followed in late 2001. The accompanying single "Always Be With You" also made the Australian top 30, with the appearance of comic character Guido Hatzis, breakdancing legend, making the video memorable.

Throughout 2002 and into early 2003, Toby took on the role of MC in a major production of the musical Cabaret. This portrayal earned him a prestigious Helpmann Award.

Human Nature's fourth studio album Walk the Tightrope was released on April 26, 2004. The first single "When You Say You Love Me" was written by Darren Hayes, formerly of Savage Garden, and it reached the Top 10 in Australia in 2004. The album also features "Love Is Blind" written by Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees, a reworked cover of Guilty by Barry Gibb and Barbra Streisand, and a cover version of "To Be With You", a 1992 hit by glam metal band Mr. Big.

With the realisation that they were perhaps outgrowing their original teen market, for their fifth studio album Human Nature decided to pay tribute to the music that influenced them from the very beginning, and released an album of Motown covers- Reach Out: The Motown Record- on 6 November 2005. It peaked at number one on the Australian charts and has reached 5 times platinum. They toured extensively around Australia in 2006 on The Motown Show tour and members Phil Burton and Toby Allen both starred in reality TV shows during 2005/06: Phil in the Nine Network's Celebrity Overhaul 2 and Toby on Channel 7's Dancing With The Stars, plus both Phil and Toby on Channel 10's Australia's Brainiest Musician in March 2006 (Phil came in first, and Toby came in second).

In October 2006, Human Nature won their first ARIA - highest selling album - after a staggering 15 nominations. Following this the bands sixth studio album Dancing In The Street: The Songs Of Motown II was released and debuted at number one, with 14 Motown cover songs.

They toured Australia for the Motown Tour 2005/06 and the Encore Motown Tour 2006, and again in mid-2007 with the Dancing In The Street Arena Tour 2007. November, 2007 saw Human Nature hit No.2 on the ARIA Albums Chart with Get Ready, the 3rd Motown-themed album, which this time featured appearances by several original Motown singing legends such as Smokey Robinson, Martha Reeves, Mary Wilson of The Supremes and The Temptations. All three albums have now sold close to a million copies in Australia. Human Nature's total album sales in Australia number almost two million.

Early 2008 saw Human Nature head over to perform for the first ever time in the USA, with a two-month engagement at Atlantic City's Tropicana Casino. The band played to sold out shows and rave reviews. November 2008 will see the release of their ninth studio album. Human Nature: A Symphony Of Hits, is a collection of Human Nature classics performed to a symphonic orchestral arrangement.

Recorded with the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, A Symphony Of Hits heralds a new chapter in the already successful career of Human Nature. The album will be supported by a national tour where the band will perform with state based orchestras, kicking off with a series of shows with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House.