

In 2005:

2 February – Books: *Chronicles* (Bob Dylan), *Positively 4th St* and *Lush Life* (David Hajdu). DVDs: Lionel Hampton (Umbrella Entertainment). Festivals: preview of Byron Bay International Roots & Blues Festival and interview with Director Peter Noble, review of *A Day on the Green*.

2 March–Books: *Best Music Writing 2004* (ed Jonathan Lethem, Da Capo Press). CDs: Alex Burns, Andy Baylor, Mike Cooper. DVDs: Chet Baker (Umbrella). Festival line-ups: Brunswick Vic, Bundaleer and Womadelaide, SA.

6 April – CDs: Lo'Jo, Jah Kas Kool Boy (*World 2004*, Charlie Gillett, EMI), Guy Davis (Legacy), Bo Diddley, Who Do You Love, *Bluesfest*), Tom Forsell, Cooksa Vitsa, *When Two Worlds Collide*, Brozman/Lacaille, Place D'Youville, *Digdig*, Brozman/Jeff Lang, Get Lucky. DVDs: *Festival in the Desert*, Festivals: wrap-up Womadelaide, Bundaleer, Brunswick. Interviews: John MacAuslan Brunswick Music Fest, Bob Brozman

4 May – CDs: Big Boy Crudup, Rock Me Mama, She's Got No Hair; Ida Cox, Wild Women Don't Have The Blues, Deep Sea Blues; Casey Bill Weldon, Too Much Competition; Sarah Vaughan, Ain't Misbehavin'; all Allegro Music Blues series, www.allegro-music.com/about.asp, thanks to Chipmonck.

1 June – Brazilian music, featuring music from the film/DVD *Black Orpheus* (1958) and interviews with Cuba-taught guitarist Doug de Vries and singer/vodou authority Kerri Simpson linking vodou in Brazil, Haiti and New Orleans

6 July– ‘Anythin’ you could play on a veranda... you know, dirt music’. For our first Radio Festival show we explored *Dirt Music: Music for a Novel*, a fascinating & largely overlooked double CD produced & compiled by author Tim Winton & Grammy-winning musician/radio presenter Lucky Oceans as music to accompany the bestselling book. I suspect the reason it slipped through the cracks is that it doesn't fit into any neat record store genre categories. CD1 contains veranda music by local & overseas musicians including the Backsliders, Rory Block, Lucky Oceans & the White Pointers, Broderick Smith, Matt Taylor, Renee Geyer & Uncle Bill & Chris Whitley, & on CD2 are classical pieces that tie into the narrative. There were some readings from the 24-page CD booklet & my review in *Rhythms* magazine to contextualise the songs. We “got Lucky”, literally, on the phone to talk about the project. It began through a chance meeting in the street in their hometown, Perth, between Winton & Oceans, when Winton mentioned he wanted to put together a car tape of music that had inspired the book. Oceans pored over the galley proofs of the book & this began a search for music they could use, both already recorded & specially recorded by Oceans with a band he put together called the White Pointers, named after the setting for the book. Although *Dirt Music* was released in 2001, like the book it is timeless & destined to become an Oz classic. The book is still in the Top Ten Fiction bestseller list (No 8, the Australian, 11–12 June 2005). We had a special treat – a world-first listen to 2 tracks off Lucky Oceans' new CD *Secret Steel* (Head Records) to be released in September. When Lucky comes east to release this album in September/October this will be a must-see, as anyone who caught his Rainbow Hotel set with Paul Williamson's Hammond Combo in April (or any Zydecats festival gigs over the years) will attest. The band of Perth musicians of differing generations (Lucky, 50s, guitarist Dave Brewer, 40s, drummer Ric Eastman, 30s, bassist Matt Willis, 20s) went

into the studio with open ears, ready to take the music wherever it took them. Oceans began playing pedal steel guitar in 1970 & was a founding member of US western-swing band Asleep at the Wheel. Since moving to Perth in 1981 he has taken up accordion, lap steel, Dobro & guitar. He explained the 'secret laboratory he has been tending for pedal steel' in WA: his isolation in Perth & his exposure to the myriad influences of world music through producing/presenting Radio National's The Planet were inspiration for opening up the scope of pedal steel guitar from a country music or western swing-associated instrument playing mostly standards to jazz, Top 40, zydeco, world & the gospel-based "Sacred Steel" style. Thanks to my sponsor, Umbrella Entertainment, which donated 2 DVDs as prizes. Thanks to Helen, who graciously allowed my segment to morph into 3 times its allotted length, & also thanks to all our subscribers! DIRT MUSIC I Scare Myself Renee Geyer & Uncle Bill. The Dan Hicks tongue-in-cheek version is transformed into a soul slowdance with sensational solos.

DIRT MUSIC I Remember When I Was Young Matt Taylor & the White Pointers. Specially recorded bluegrassy version from the man who first put an Oz voice to the blues. He Fades Away June Tabor. The words of this song about the Wittenoom asbestos mine, & the suffering of people with mesothelioma caused by it, still bring tears to my eyes. A songwriting masterpiece, interpreted by a singer who has songwriters like Elvis Costello making it their goal to write a song she will record. I'll Be Gone Mud Crab Trio (Lucky Oceans with Alan & Stephen Pigram). A new take on Ariel/Spectrum's Oz classic, recorded in Alan Pigram's Broome studio one balmy evening.

A Tribute To Bob Wills Red Wing, Asleep at the Wheel. Lucky Oceans flew across to the US to record some blistering breaks in this instrumental that swings from Texas to New Orleans, exemplifying the 40+ nationalities in Texas.

Secret Steel I Want Someone to Tell Me, Lucky Oceans. A swing vocal written for the Zydecats that lit up the airwaves.

Slingshot Professionals Window Grin, Kelly Joe Phelps. With Chris Whitley, Phelps was cited as inspiration for *Dirt Music*. We chose this over Whitley's 'Dirt Floor' on *Dirt Music* as it's so upbeat.

3 August – Books: Robert Crumb, *The R Crumb Handbook book & CD* \$29.95, 440 pp hardcover, 20 tracks 1973 to 2003. CDs: John Martyn, *May You Never, Don't Want to Know, Solid Air*; Bob Brozman & Rene Lacaille, *Zi Bi Pi Blues, Digdig*; Cheap Suit Special, Robert Crumb/Music Sampler. DVDs: from Umbrella Entertainment recorded in the 1980s, John Martyn Camden Palace Theatre; Stephane Grappelli, *Live in New Orleans* in his 80s. Credits, umbrellaent.com.au.

7 September – tragedy in New Orleans: special one-hour show evoking the spirit of place from books (*The Last Madam* by Christine Wiltz, *Da Capo, Blues & Trouble* by Tom Piazza, *St Martin's Griffin, Blues & BBQ Road Trip* by Tom Downs, *Lonely Planet*); exploring the music (CDs including DL Menard, *Wild Magnolias*, *Hoodoo Kings*, Mem Shannon, James Andrews and DVD *Dancing to New Orleans*, Umbrella Entertainment) and discussing the loss of the priceless music archives stored there, Carmen Lundy; Hackberry Ramblers, *Ma Chere 'Tite Fille*; DL Menard, *Valse de Jolly Roger*; *Wild Magnolias*, *Who Knows*; *The Hoodoo Kings*, *I am the Hoodoo King*; Mem Shannon *Tired Arms*; James Andrews, *It's Only a Paper Moon*; *Coco Robicheaux*, Louisiana

Medicine Man; John Mooney, Country Boy; Jon Cleary & the Absolute Monster Gentlemen, Sometimes I Wonder.

5 October – Allegro Music Jazz Legends Series, liner notes by Scott Yanow, courtesy Chipmonck. Ethel Waters, Stormy Weather; *Duke Ellington: the Bubba Miley Era 1924–29*: Creole Love Call; *Legendary Male Vocalists of Jazz*: Slim & Slam, Flat Foot Floogie, Helen Hume, Sub-Deb Blues; *Legendary Jazz Guitarists*: Eddie Lang, Eddie's Twister, Count Basie, How Long Blues, The Boswell Sisters, Old Yazoo; *The Illustrious Clarinetists of Jazz* 17, 18, *Hot Jazz Violin*: Stuff Smith Track 4,

2 November – Wangaratta Jazz Fest: EST, Jimi Hocking, Continental Robert's Blues Party, Michelle Nicolle, Misinterpretato, Hoodangers, Hat Fitz & Itchy, Winner of National Jazz Writing Competition announced.

14 December – CDs & Writing: 'When I Grow Too Old to Dream', Nat King Cole and 'Theme from Northern Exposure', David Schwartz, *Music from Northern Exposure*; 'The Saturday Night Before Christmas', Coco Robicheaux, *Spiritland*; Song for Kerri Simpson, 'Crow Dance', Zora Neale Hurston, her Cornish Arms gig with Andy Swann, Jaimi Faulkner; 'Had a Gal Called Sal', Lightnin' Hopkins. Essay: Johnnie Lee Wills, 'Milk Cow Blues', *Oxford American, the Southern Magazine of Good Writing*, www.oxfordamericanmag.com. New Orleans editorial, www.nola.com. *Best Music Writing 2005*, Da Capo Press, ed JT Leroy / Paul Bresnick Its Music, Ned Sublette, (Chicago Review Press).