

# *The Diana Clark Trio*

## *featuring* **Doug de Vries & Stephen Grant**

intimate vocals   dazzling guitar   piano-accordion

A trio of Australia's finest musicians featuring vocalist **Diana Clark** and long time collaborator, master guitarist **Doug de Vries** perform lyrical and fiery originals combining the spontaneity of jazz with the rhythm, romance and intricacy of Brazilian popular song.

Experience the mellifluous beauty of Diana's voice with the rich harmonic versatility of de Vries' guitar joined by all round musical virtuoso and piano-accordionist Stephen Grant

De Vries, with an impressive history of arrangements & compositions, plus Clark's warm, rich & intimate English/Portuguese vocals, combined with Stephen Grant's masterful piano-accordion playing create a subtle, mesmerising concert with consummate ease and heart.

Be inspired as they bring good feeling, humour and passion to an original repertoire through cultivating the great traditions of choro, bossa nova, samba and jazz in their compelling performance interplay.

**Both interpreters of Jazz & Brazilian music, both composers in their own right, Diana and Doug have performed together since 1998, recording four acclaimed albums together; these along with their concerts are widely appreciated for their beauty, elegance and charm.**

### **Diana Clark**

From a new generation of outstanding and innovative contemporary jazz & world/folk singers, Diana embraces the world's music with imagination and warmth. She received arts-critics awards for her first two albums with Australian master-guitarist Doug de Vries ('...*a knot in the wood...*' - top 10 Australian Albums for 2003 - Rhythms Magazine, and '*...three shadows of blue...*' - top 10 Albums for 2005 - Cadence Magazine, USA).

Diana, a co-founder of the Melbourne-based award-winning vocal/percussion group **AKASA** (Best World/Folk Album & best song 2000 CARA, USA), has a Bachelor of Music Performance (Improvisation) from the Victorian College of the Arts (University of Melbourne).

A finalist in the Australian (Wangaratta) and International jazz vocal competitions, Diana won fourth place in the 2002 International Jazz-Connect Vocal Competition with her English lyric & version of the classic afro-samba *Canto de Ossanha* (Baden Powell & Vinicius de Moraes).

Highly regarded across Australia and the Pacific for her conducting work with community choirs, she created, directed and recorded Australia's first Brazilian choir **Borboleta** and has published the first choral book of Brazilian vocal scores in Australia.

She is the recipient of Australian Arts Council (Government) Grants including a professional development study in Portugal with European jazz vocalist/lyricist **Maria Joao** and two study trips to Brazil, learning to sing in fluent Portuguese.

In 2006 Diana released her debut solo recording *'Breathe Into Time'* – a collection of original songs reflecting the spirit of a life lived from the Australian outback to the culturally rich cities of Melbourne (Aust.) and Rio de Janeiro. [www.di-lark.com](http://www.di-lark.com)

**Doug de Vries**, one of Australia's finest guitarists and composers is also one of its greatest musical exports. His interests draw from the traditions of jazz and tango to English folk and classic/contemporary Brazilian guitar, with deep understanding, musicality and integrity.

De Vries received the Australian Jazz & Blues Award for Australia's best Jazz guitarist, and has received a Grammy nomination for his live recording with US Jazz-Blues singer, Barbara Morrison – *'Live Down Under'*.

Since touring Australia and the US with the Australian Jazz Orchestra, he has appeared at major festivals and events in the UK, India, USA, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Brazil. A member of the Australian Art Orchestra for many years, de Vries has been commissioned to compose a major work for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and orchestrated several film scores.

His many acclaimed recordings have increasingly focused on his long-standing passion for South American music, in particular tango nuevo and choro. He so impressed brasileiro **Egberto Gismonti** with his interpretations of the composer's music, Doug's album *'Agua e Vinho'* was released on Gismonti's own label **Carmo** distributed through ECM world-wide.

De Vries' joyous exploration of choro has seen him working alongside many of Brazil's legendary choro musicians. He recently recorded a joint project with **Mauricio Carrilho** in Rio de Janeiro, due for release in 2007 via **Acari**.

Doug de Vries' collaboration with gifted vocalist, composer and choir leader Diana Clark adds unsurpassed richness to his powerful interpretations. [www.dougdevries.com](http://www.dougdevries.com)

## Stephen Grant

A remarkably versatile and independent musician, Steve is equally at home playing contemporary and traditional jazz as well as many other styles of music. Born in England, he moved to Australia at a young age where he keeps himself busy performing almost any instrument he can get his hands on. He has played cornet and trumpet with his own New Orleans Six as well as with Allan Browne's New Orleans Rascals, Steve Waddell's Creole Bells, The Hoodangers, the Australian Art Orchestra, Niko Schäuble's Papa Carlo and The Moscow Circus; trombone with Jazz On Tap; accordion with MOP; saxophone & cornet with Chris Tanner's Virus & piano with Tom Baker, as well as alternating roles on bass, trumpet, guitar and piano with the Allan Browne Trio and the Paul Grabowsky Sextet. An incredibly consummate, tasteful and understated musician, Stephen is self-taught and has played professionally since he was 15 at clubs, pubs and festivals throughout Australia as well as touring in Europe and the America's with a variety of groups.

Bookings : **Henk van Leeuwen** – [henk@henk.com.au](mailto:henk@henk.com.au) +61395257022



[www.dianaclark.com.au](http://www.dianaclark.com.au) and [www.dougdevries.com](http://www.dougdevries.com)

## Quotes:

*"De Vries and Clark feel the music of Brazil down to their bones. His guitar is full of romance and her voice is so intimate it could make you blush. Australia may be halfway around the world from Brazil but you'd never know it from listening to their CDs."* **Cadence Magazine USA Sept 2005.**

*"Diana's voice was seductive & engaging, singing in fluent Portuguese and alternating to English (with) de Vries improvising...doing it all, using an impressive finger-style technique on a seven string guitar... Doug also complemented Di's voice by singing counterpoint melodies while accompanying on guitar. It was truly a night of splendour from two of this country's finest musicians".*

**President Albury-Wodonga Jazz Society.**

*"Melbourne guitarist Doug de Vries has long been revered for his magical playing and willingness & determination to explore new sounds and styles... (His) artistry is eloquent, joyous and exuberant..."* **Herald Sun.**

*"...Buoyed by gently vibrant Afro-Brazilian rhythms, Clark's warm vocals can soften the melancholy of a yearning lyric, or coax the vibrant rhythms around her into a dance of celebration."* **The Age.**

*"The best, new true 'bossa nova' album comes from Melbourne! Mostly, '...three shadows of blue...' is a set of Brazilian classics, performed very intimately & in a refreshingly adult way by singer Diana Clark & guitarist Doug de Vries".*

**'The Planet' Radio National, Sept 2004**

*"When you can sing in Portuguese, count Nina Simone and K.D. Lang as influences, and are backed by Doug de Vries on guitar it's hard to go wrong. It also helps that Diana Clark has an amazing voice."*

**The AGE Aug, 2007**

*"The opening notes of some CDs mesmerise you; you can tell you're going to enjoy the whole experience. [Breathe into Time] is one such example. [Clark's] original songs take the listener on inner and outer journeys across a world and jazz influenced landscape...There are sounds influenced by Brazilian music and by Australian diversity. Supported by a strong line up of Melbourne musicians who intersect jazz and world genres...She offers the music as 'a place of solace, even if for only a moment'...the voice and warmth she brings to that promise enable her to translate grand ideas into great emotions...Diana presents an apparently laid-back CD that effortlessly insinuates its way into your heart and head."*

**Trad and Now Magazine Dec '06**

Photos

DIANA CLARK & DOUG de VRIES

