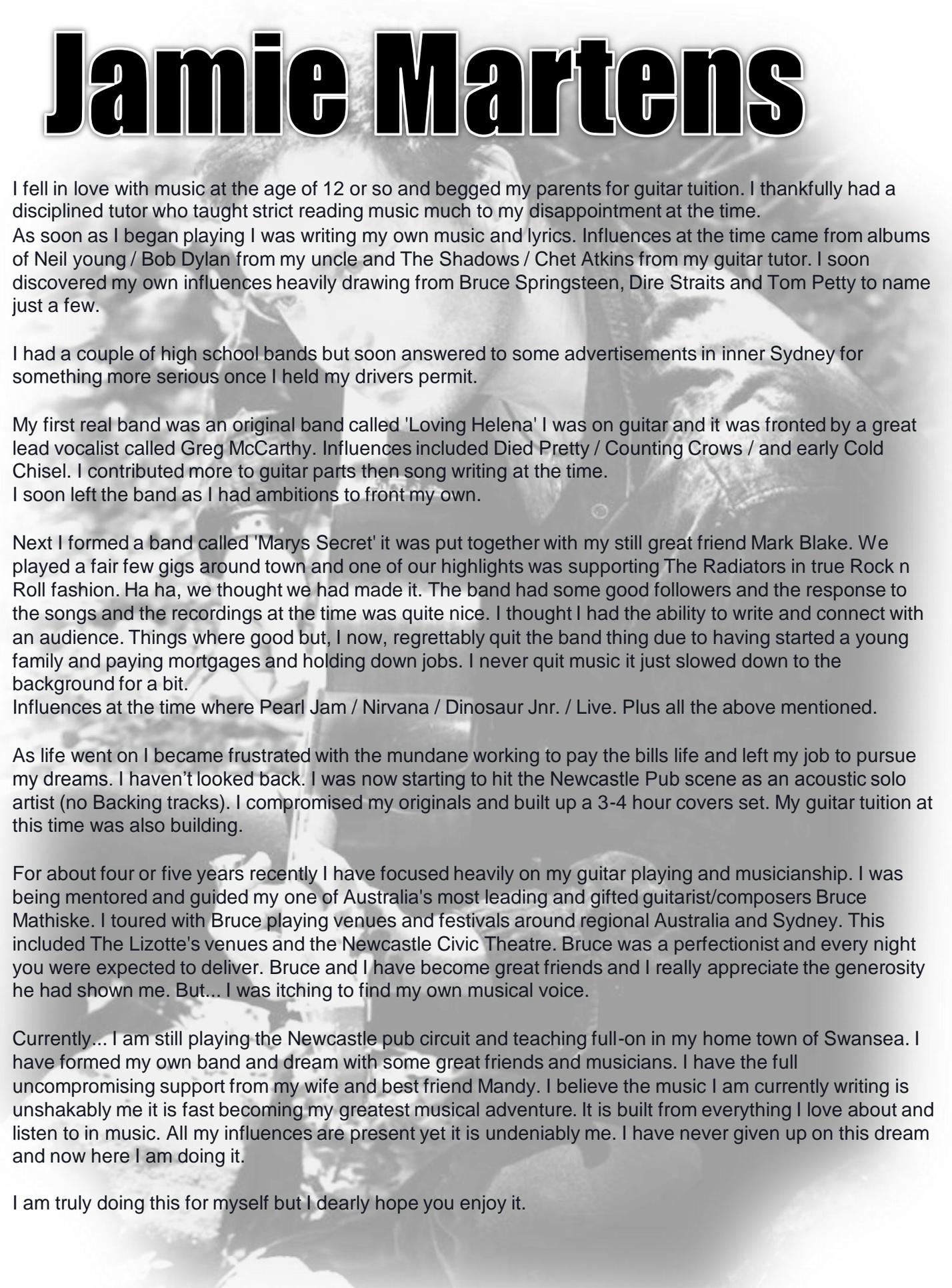


Jamie Martens



I fell in love with music at the age of 12 or so and begged my parents for guitar tuition. I thankfully had a disciplined tutor who taught strict reading music much to my disappointment at the time.

As soon as I began playing I was writing my own music and lyrics. Influences at the time came from albums of Neil young / Bob Dylan from my uncle and The Shadows / Chet Atkins from my guitar tutor. I soon discovered my own influences heavily drawing from Bruce Springsteen, Dire Straits and Tom Petty to name just a few.

I had a couple of high school bands but soon answered to some advertisements in inner Sydney for something more serious once I held my drivers permit.

My first real band was an original band called 'Loving Helena' I was on guitar and it was fronted by a great lead vocalist called Greg McCarthy. Influences included Died Pretty / Counting Crows / and early Cold Chisel. I contributed more to guitar parts than song writing at the time. I soon left the band as I had ambitions to front my own.

Next I formed a band called 'Marys Secret' it was put together with my still great friend Mark Blake. We played a fair few gigs around town and one of our highlights was supporting The Radiators in true Rock n Roll fashion. Ha ha, we thought we had made it. The band had some good followers and the response to the songs and the recordings at the time was quite nice. I thought I had the ability to write and connect with an audience. Things where good but, I now, regrettably quit the band thing due to having started a young family and paying mortgages and holding down jobs. I never quit music it just slowed down to the background for a bit.

Influences at the time where Pearl Jam / Nirvana / Dinosaur Jnr. / Live. Plus all the above mentioned.

As life went on I became frustrated with the mundane working to pay the bills life and left my job to pursue my dreams. I haven't looked back. I was now starting to hit the Newcastle Pub scene as an acoustic solo artist (no Backing tracks). I compromised my originals and built up a 3-4 hour covers set. My guitar tuition at this time was also building.

For about four or five years recently I have focused heavily on my guitar playing and musicianship. I was being mentored and guided by one of Australia's most leading and gifted guitarist/composers Bruce Mathiske. I toured with Bruce playing venues and festivals around regional Australia and Sydney. This included The Lizotte's venues and the Newcastle Civic Theatre. Bruce was a perfectionist and every night you were expected to deliver. Bruce and I have become great friends and I really appreciate the generosity he had shown me. But... I was itching to find my own musical voice.

Currently... I am still playing the Newcastle pub circuit and teaching full-on in my home town of Swansea. I have formed my own band and dream with some great friends and musicians. I have the full uncompromising support from my wife and best friend Mandy. I believe the music I am currently writing is unshakably me it is fast becoming my greatest musical adventure. It is built from everything I love about and listen to in music. All my influences are present yet it is undeniably me. I have never given up on this dream and now here I am doing it.

I am truly doing this for myself but I dearly hope you enjoy it.