

Bush Gothic

Rebellious Australian Tradition

Rattled by the bones of convicts and steeped in campfire smoke, Bush Gothic perform darker, stranger Australian folk.

With a 5 Star review in BBC Music Magazine and fRoots Album of the Year Runner Up, this daring trio have toured their modern imaginings of traditional Australian songs across the world.

Band leader Jenny M. Thomas began her career as a classical violist before taking up touring as a fiddle-singer and Indian Karnatic violinist. Exposure to Australian folk music on the festival circuit compelled her to begin a bush band of her own, but one that would shake up the folkocracy by focusing on the female story and including a defiantly modern aesthetic to these achingly old songs.

In 2009 she began a series of urban bush band sessions gigs where every week a new crop of musicians would join her bush band and improvise through a playlist of traditional Australian songs. Out of this series she picked only the bravest musicians to form her band, named after the genre of Victorian-era literature titled Bush Gothic. Their first gig was a live-to-air broadcast on ABC Radio National's The Music Show.

The release of their debut album, *Bush Gothic* (2011), saw the band perform in historic gaols, concert halls and goldfields across Australia. With the addition of The Lonely String Quartet and assistance from Arts Victoria, Bush Gothic presented their Victorian Heartbreak Project at The Melbourne Recital Centre and presented as a headline act at major Australian festivals including MONA Foma, Port Fairy Spring Music Festival and Brunswick Music Festival.

In 2016 Bush Gothic made their international debut, taking these old Australian songs back to the motherland of the United Kingdom in celebration of the release of their second album *The Natural Selection Australian Songbook*. The album was awarded one of the BBC Music Magazine's Best World Music Albums 2016 and English folk stars The Unthanks invited Bush Gothic to return to perform at Homegathering Festivals 2017.

An ensemble who loves to explore their Australian identity through the visual world, Bush Gothic released their first video in 2018 to accompany new single *Jim Jones*. Filmed on location at Vaughan Cemetery in the Victorian Goldfields - in the depths of winter the band gathered with live marsupials and birds of prey to film a dreamscape of haunted bush tales.

The first single from their new album, *Jim Jones* is a traditional Australian folk song telling the story of a convict who dreamed of escape, revenge and joining the bushrangers to wreak havoc on the British government who had incarcerated him.

The strong flavours of rum and rebellion will linger still in their forthcoming album, *Death & Love & Trouble*, but this time the band are delving deep into the heartbreak and liberty of what it is to be of Anglo Celtic heritage severed from your ancestral culture.



**'Masterful...inspired.
Bush Gothic capture the dark
heart in Australian folk songs.'**
fRoots

Upcoming touring

2018 : Australia, India, England
2019 : Scotland, Canada, Ireland,
England, Australia

New album release

Death & Love & Trouble 2019

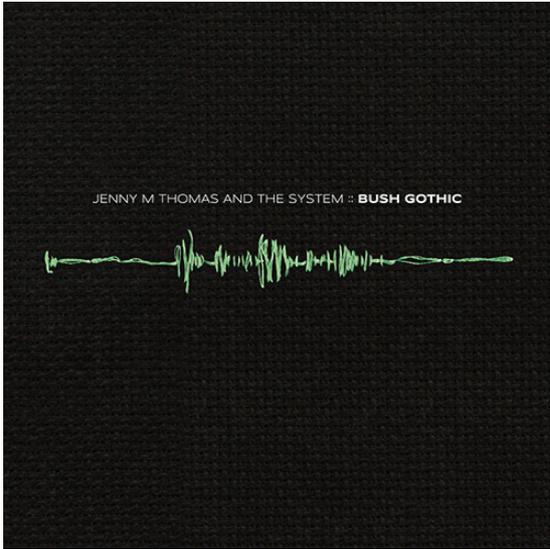
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Discography:

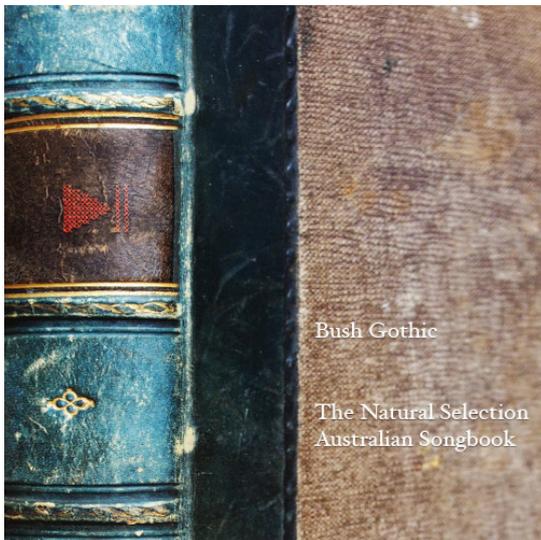


Bush Gothic
2011

'A knowing postmodern aesthetic with arrangements that variously soothe, stir and surprise.'

Bush Gothic dive deep into the Australian national psyche and give its chain a yank'

Songlines (UK)



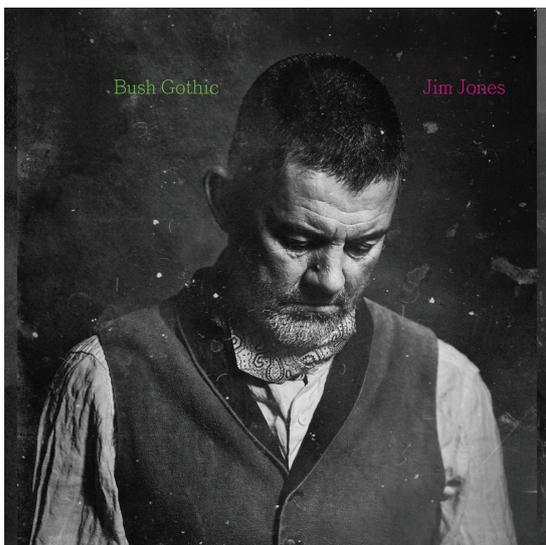
The Natural Selection Australian Songbook
2014

BBC Music Magazine



BBC Music Magazine
Best World Music Albums of 2016
(One of six)

fRoots Album of the Year 2016
Runner Up



Jim Jones single
2018

'Gorgeous and haunting... Bush Gothic are clued into the kind of reinterpretation that one might find in England's new generation of folk performers such as Jim Moray.'
RootsWorld

Festival Appearances

Festival No 6, Wales
Shambala, England
Stroud Fringe, England
Off The Tracks, England
Home Gathering, England
Tauranga Arts Festival, NZ
Mona Foma, Tas.
Woodford Folk Festival, Qld.
Brunswick Music Festival, Vic.
Port Fairy Folk Festival, Vic.
National Folk Festival, Act.
National Celtic Festival, Vic.
Cygnet Folk Festival, Tas.
Castlemaine State Festival, Vic.
Adelaide Fringe Festival, Sa.



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