

Paul Gioia

www.paulgioia.com
www.facebook.com/paulgioiamusic

"... a piano style that could be straight out of a steamy, whitewashed church in Alabama." *West Australian*, January 2006

"... rich, big band arrangements and thrilling vocal harmonies. ... a voice that is tough and deep, perfectly complemented by the sweet, supple harmonies of Kris Arnott and the skills of seasoned blues players Paul Novosel and Bob Thomson on drums and string bass." *West Australian*, May, 2008



For decades Paul Gioia has been performing a unique mix of pumped up blues and gospel piano, as well as accordion and hammond organ. With a background steeped in blues and jazz, Paul has performed in a number of solo, duet and band configurations, including **tin dog** and the **Paul Gioia Trio**. He currently performs with Greg Brenton on drums and Joe Southwell on bass.

Paul plays with an infectious passion and sensitivity and has earned a reputation in Western Australia for his blues keyboard prowess.

Paul has performed in most major Western Australian festivals. Motivated by his observation that piano is rarely featured as a roots instrument, Paul has developed a highly successful repertoire incorporating Chicago and New Orleans blues, country blues, jazz, ragtime, soulful ballads, black and white southern gospel traditions and even a foray into tasteful and exquisite arrangements of traditional Celtic tunes. This unique repertoire has been well received and his gigs are consistently a hit with audiences.

In 2004 Paul was awarded an *ArtsWA* grant to record a selection of that repertoire, with the aim of featuring piano as part of our roots music heritage.

Mercy Train, engineered and co-produced by James Hewgill, was released in March, 2005. **Mercy Train** has since been featured on Radio National's *The Daily* and *Weekend Planets*, *Life Matters* and many community radio stations.

In 2008 Paul recorded **Rising Sea** with Lee Buddle at Sound Mine Studios, featuring Paul on piano and vocals and including trio buddies Kris Arnott on vocals and Bob Thomson on double bass. *Rising Sea* also features guest performances from some of WA's top jazz, blues and contemporary players, including Matt Jodrell, Carl Mackey, Jeremy Greig, Pete Jeavons and Mel Robinson.



More recently Paul released his latest CD, **Blue Sky**, in 2012. Regarded as his best CD yet, Paul had the privilege of playing with his two sons Andrew and David and Bruce Thompson on horns, Kris Kingwell and Chelsea Gibson on vocals, Andrew Winton on guitar, Iris, a wonderful 6-piece a Capella group, and Greg and Joe on rhythm. *Blue Sky* was recorded by Lee Buddle at Crank Recording Studios.

Paul has also had a long interest in, and commitment to, traditional and contemporary gospel music, and his music is known and sung nationally and internationally. Many of Paul's songs incorporate themes of social justice and explore why it's still worth getting up in the morning.

For more information, Paul can be contacted on pgioia@iinet.net.au or on 0418 943 302.

