



DANA COOPER

Out of the heartland of America, stomping grounds of Truman and Twain, “powerhouse” troubadour Dana Cooper dedicated himself to a life of music over 40 years ago. This song poet engages and inspires audiences around the world with his quick wit, insightful stories and commanding presence. He has performed on *Austin City Limits*, *Mountain Stage* and the Kerrville Folk Festival where he was nominated for their Hall of Fame. Cooper’s songs have been recorded by top-notch artists such as bluegrass star Claire Lynch; Irish vocalist Maura O’Connell; and luminary songwriters Pierce Pettis and Susan Werner. Cooper’s mixture of flat-picking, finger-picking and percussive strumming style is legend among other guitarists. An expressive singer his voice is ageless evoking a rich lifetime of experience.

At 12 he sang, played drums, guitar and harmonica in local bands. By 13 he began writing his own songs and at 16 he performed regularly at the prestigious Vanguard Coffeehouse in Kansas City. His deep love and commitment to a life of music drew Cooper away from an art scholarship. Cooper took to the road touring midwest college coffeehouses for one year then sold an electric guitar and his entire record collection to buy a one-way ticket to Los Angeles. Four months later he was signed to Elektra Records where his eponymous first album was released in 1973. The record features such acclaimed players as Leland Sklar, Russ Kunkel and Jim Horn.

Years later he returned to San Francisco City College to study another great love, horticulture. Still he played whenever possible in clubs all over the Bay Area. Cooper’s diverse experiences as a taxi driver, warehouseman, nurse’s aid, gardener, waiter and touring musician continued to bring maturity and depth to his songwriting.

Cooper eventually moved to Texas writing, performing and recording with Shake Russell in the late 70s and with his own power trio, DC3 during the early 80s. Returning to his roots as a solo performer Cooper relocated to Nashville in 1988. He has become an integral figure in the Music City songwriting community collaborating with renowned writers such as Tom Kimmel, Sally Barris, Kim Carnes and Don Henry. Cooper has been invited to participate in songwriting workshops from Belfast to Copenhagen to Austin.

His prolific endeavors have resulted in 20 albums. The critically acclaimed *Miracle Mile* on Compass Records was nominated for a Nashville Music Award as “Best Pop Album” and was chosen by *Performing Songwriter* magazine as one of the top DIY recordings for the year. *Harry Truman Built a Road* was named one of the best records of 2002 by *The Tennessean* and was also chosen as one of the top twelve DIY recordings for that year. *Made of Mud* released on King Easy Records in 2005 won Cooper the “Best Male Songwriter Award” by Indie Acoustic Project. Working with co-producer/guitarist Thomm Jutz, Cooper recently released *The Conjurer* which features some of the bluesiest, rawest music of his career. Grammy-award-winning singer/songwriter Kim Carnes, who also co-wrote the opening song, “Enough”, joins Cooper on vocals. Dana Cooper continues to tour the United States and Europe gaining new fans wherever he goes.

Quotes

“This veteran song poet is a self-contained road warrior—a man of many tunes and tunings, and a right hand few guitarists will ever know. His music is vital, and live you see him channel all his energy into the song. The songs are smart, but they come from his heart.” —Frank Goodman, puremusic.com

“...the kind of idealistic Whitmanesque songs of experience that not many people are singing these days. Put all this together and you have something that sounds suspiciously like wisdom.” —James M. Manheim, *Ann Arbor Observer*

“He’s clever, deep, crafty, poetic, melodic, ironic, and hilarious~ in short, the best.” —Kate Wallace Trinity Backstage

“An artist I am happy to include at the Festival again and again.” —Dalis Allen, Producer Kerrville Folk Festival

Festivals

Kerrville Folk Festival (Texas)
Belfast/Nashville Songwriters Festival (N. Ireland)
Napa Valley Music Festival (California)
Copenhagen Songwriters Festival (Denmark)

Venues

The Bluebird Café (Nashville, TN)
The Cactus Café (Austin, TX)
Anderson Fair (Houston, TX)
Berlin Guitars (Berlin, Germany)
McCabe’s (Santa Monica, CA)
The Birchmere (Alexandria, VA)
Passim (Cambridge, MA)

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