

# DANA COOPER

Singer/songwriter Dana Cooper has wowed audiences throughout the U.S. and Europe recently with tunes from his newest album, *Made of Mud* to be released in September 2005 on King Easy Records. Cooper's ingenious guitar work and gutsy harmonica continue to augment his passionate voice and insightful lyrics. This collection of eleven songs produced by Richard McLaurin features acclaimed Nashville talents Dave Jacques, Paul Griffith, Eric Fritsch, Steve Hermann and Vickie Hampton.

Out of the heartland of America, stomping grounds of Truman and Twain, Cooper was playing his music in Kansas City clubs by the age of 16. Leaving behind a college art scholarship Dana toured the country and landed in Los Angeles. In 1973, Elektra Records released his self-titled debut solo album featuring luminary players Russ Kunkel, Leland Sklar and Jim Horn. Cooper later moved to Texas to join forces with long-time friend Shake Russell. Their collaborations produced five highly successful folk-rock albums, including one on MCA in 1981. The two became one of the most popular acts throughout Texas and the Southwest appearing together on *Austin City Limits*. Dana and Shake continue recording and performing together to this day.

Over the years Dana has released many independent solo albums including the critically acclaimed *Miracle Mile* on Compass Records. This album was nominated for a Nashville Music Award as "Best Pop Album" and was picked by *Performing Songwriter Magazine* as one of the top twelve DIY recordings for the year. Cooper's latest CD, *Harry Truman Built a Road*, was named one of the best records of 2002 by *The Tennessean* in Nashville and was again chosen as one of the top twelve DIY recordings for that year.

Recent tours of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Germany have gained Cooper exuberant support from audiences and radio as well as collaborations and friendships with many songwriters in these countries.

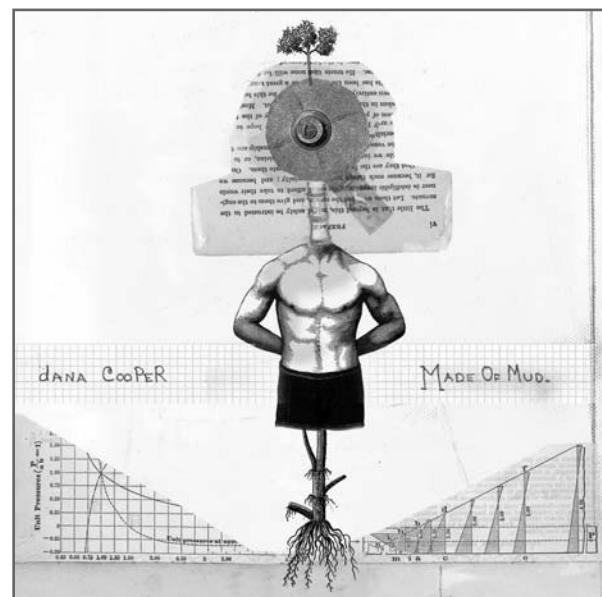
Cooper has been named Best Songwriter in Houston, was nominated Best Male Vocalist by the Kerrville Music Foundation and nominated for their Hall of Fame. His songs have been recorded by top-notch artists Maura O'Connell, Jonell Mosser, Susan Werner, Jen Cohen, Christine Albert, Trout Fishing in America, Pierce Pettis, Johnsmith and Shake Russell.

Cooper's new album crowns those accomplishments with a suite of songs that span the entirety of his career. The most recent, "Sit This One Out," was finished during recording sessions last year; the earliest, "Step Into the Light," was written with Russell in San Francisco three decades ago. "I wanted purposely to include some of these older songs," says Cooper. "I thought they fit what I'm doing now. It's funny how a song that old will still be so timely." There is one unexpectedly timely tune on *Made of Mud* that Cooper didn't write: Woody Guthrie's "Pretty Boy Floyd." It's the first cover version Cooper has ever included on an album, although he's been performing it since his coffeehouse years in Missouri. "I thought some of the things that are going on now harken back to the Depression, when there were outlaws in the country fighting against the banks and the big-money guys," he explains. "I see the time we're in now as similar to that time in a lot of ways."

Despite such disparate origins, the 11 tracks on *Made of Mud* bring a broad range of human experience into focus with clarity, coherence and concision. "There are songs about mortality and immortality, politics and religion and love, the struggle of living, and the possibilities of how much we can accomplish," says Cooper. "It's a journey through life, from song to song."

"One of the finest singer-songwriters in town, period."  
—*The Rage*

"Cooper writes with depth and brilliance, reciting simple, poetic phrases with a warm reassuring tenor. An exceptional batch of acoustic folk songs... innovative, eclectic and unforgettable."  
—Heather Johnson  
*Performing Songwriter*



... an extraordinary writer and an eternally gripping performer. You need this music in your life."  
—Robert K. Oermann,  
*Music Row*



## Venues

The Troubadour, Los Angeles CA  
McCabe's, Santa Monica CA  
The Bluebird Café, Nashville TN  
Passim's, Cambridge MA  
Cactus Café, Austin TX  
Anderson Fair, Houston TX  
The Birchmere, Alexandria VA  
Mucky Duck, Houston TX  
Living Room, New York NY  
Rosebud, Pittsburgh PA  
The Iron Horse, North Hampton MA  
Soda Club, Berlin Germany

## Festivals and Fairs

Napa Valley Music Festival, Napa CA  
Houston International Festival, Houston TX  
Kerrville Folk Festival, Kerrville TX  
Belfast Songwriters Festival

## Radio Appearances

Mountain Stage, Charleston WV  
Live from Cactus Café, Austin TX  
The Songwriter Sessions, NPR Nashville TN  
The Tom May Show—River City Folk, Lincoln NE  
WUWF Radio Live, Pensacola FL

## Dana has shared the stage with

Dan Bern	Christine Lavin
Cowboy Junkies	Nils Lofgren
Iris DeMent	Lyle Lovett
Jonathon Edwards	Dave Mason
Melissa Ethridge	Ian Matthews
Jimmy Dale Gilmore	Neville Brothers
Nanci Griffith	Maura O'Connell
Leo Kottke	Phil Ochs
Patty Larkin	Ellis Paul

## Discography

*Made of Mud*, King Easy Records, 2005  
*Harry Truman Built a Road*, Dog Eared Records, 2002  
*Miracle Mile*, Compass Records, 1997  
*Roughly Speaking*, 1994  
*Thrill of Love*, 1993  
*Stone by Stone*, 1992, re-released 2003  
*Complicated Stuff*, 1988, rereleased 1996  
*Shake Russell/Dana Cooper Band*, MCA Records, 1981  
*Songs on the Radio*, 1978 Cherry Records, 1978  
*Dana Cooper*, 1973, Elektra Records

Swallow Hill, Denver CO  
Middle Earth Coffeehouse, GBradford VT  
Listening Room, Hastings NE  
Uncle Calvin's, Dallas TX  
The Bitter End, New York NY  
Caffe Lena, Saratoga Springs NY  
Paramount Theater, Austin TX  
Armadillo World Headquarters, Austin TX  
The Summit, Houston TX  
Green Room, Dublin, Ireland  
Club Junction, Copenhagen Denmark  
American Theater, St. Louis MO  
Memorial Hall, Kansas City KS

MIDEM, Cannes, France  
South by Southwest, Austin TX  
Bele Chere Festival, Asheville NC  
Tin Pan South, Nashville TN  
High Sierra Music Festival, Quincy CA

## TV Appearances

*Austin City Limits*, Austin TX  
*Little Ole Show*, Houston TX  
*Songwriter Center Stage*, Dallas TX  
*Anderson Fair Presents*, Houston TX