

SHERBET

HOWZAT! SHERBET ARE BACK AND SOUNDING BETTER THAN EVER



AUSTRALIA'S SUPERGROUP OF THE '70S RELEASES SUPERHITS ON CD AND DVD. RE-ISSUE OF CLASSIC ALBUM HOWZAT – REMASTERED WITH BONUS DVD.

Their unmistakable sound was exhilarating, sophisticated pop, their popularity is unrivalled and their contribution to the history of Australian music is legendary. Now the glorious sounds of Sherbet's classic hits are available on CD and DVD through Liberation Music on July 15.

The release of this remarkable material comes ahead of the band's long-awaited live performances as headline act on The Countdown Spectacular.

The **SUPERHITS CD** features **20 greatest hits** plus **two brand new tracks specially recorded** by the band for this collection.

The **SUPERHITS DVD** features **24 classic film and video clips** of Sherbet from 1971 to 1984 – the first time any Sherbet footage has been available for sale to the public.

And the band's **biggest-selling album**, the iconic 1976 release **HOWZAT**, has been **remastered and re-released** on CD with a **bonus DVD** featuring eight songs from the album performed on TV or live in concert.

"It's a long time since people would have heard the Sherbet catalogue sounding as good as it does now," says Garth Porter, the band's keyboard player and major songwriter. Garth has spent months painstakingly restoring the pristine sounds of the recordings by baking the original quarter-inch master tapes and transferring them from a high quality Ampex ATR-100 analogue tape recorder, via Prism converters, to Pro Tools, where they were re-mastered.

In the case of the film clips, the audio went through the same process before being re-stripped onto the videos, offering a quality never before experienced, as in the past the clips had usually been viewed on mono TV sets.

It was a labour of love that began three years ago when Garth decided he should start accumulating the old Sherbet footage as a testament to the band's history. The more material he uncovered, the more obvious it became that the material should be packaged and made available to fans.

"We left no stone unturned to get the audio quality of it all to the highest standard. Those songs will never have sounded better than if you'd had perfect vinyl – maybe even better than that."

The classic Sherbet line-up that topped the charts and won the hearts of thousands of teenage girls – and many music-loving guys – in the early '70s featured Daryl Braithwaite (lead vocal), Garth Porter (keyboards), Clive Shakespeare (guitar 1969-1976), Harvey James (guitar 1976-1982), Tony Mitchell (bass) and Alan Sandow (drums). After touring and recording in the early '80s as The Sherbs, the band called it quits in 1984.

The 20 classic tracks on the **SUPERHITS CD** trace the recorded history of Sherbet during their hit-making years, from their 1971 chart debut 'Can You Feel It Baby', through their finest moments such as 'Cassandra', 'Slipstream', 'Summer Love', 'Life', 'Childs Play', 'Howzat' and 'Magazine Madonna', to their poignant 1978 hit 'Another Night On The Road'.

The **SUPERHITS DVD** takes the story even further, including rare footage from early performances on HAPPENING '71, HIT SCENE and GTK, to legendary COUNTDOWN clips and even an appearance on THE PAUL HOGAN SHOW. Original band clips made independently include the classic 'Summer Love' live film clip, the dreamy studio clip of 'Only One You', and the kooky depiction of the band as ravenous cannibals for 'Childs Play'. The rarely seen video of '(Feels Like It's) Slippin' Away' and the song recorded for the band's farewell tour in 1984, 'Tonight Will Last Forever', are also included in the DVD collection.

The re-release of **HOWZAT** comes exactly 30 years to the day since the groundbreaking album and its internationally successful title track

single were atop the Australian charts. Garth Porter marvels at the passage of time, given how vibrant the work sounds today. "When we had the tapes baked and then remastered them, I couldn't believe how good and fresh the album sounded. Richard Lush did such a sensational job of producing and Bill Motzing's string arrangements were really special. You could tell it was an invigorated band playing. In some ways it just seems like yesterday."

Invigorated again more than 20 years since disbanding, Sherbet has recorded two brand new tracks for the **SUPERHITS CD**, which effectively bridge the gap from the group's ending in 1984 to their new beginning in 2006.

'Hearts Are Insane' was written by Garth Porter and demoed by The Sherbs in their last days but never performed or recorded. The contemporary version is a tight, magical and slightly mysterious piece of radio-friendly pop with lyrics and melody as catchy as the best of Sherbet's past hits.

The second new track came from a joyful gathering of band members in the Blue Mountains in early 2006, with a long jam session that resulted in a full band co-write. 'Red Dress' revives the funky side of Sherbet – a grooving riff underlining a catchy lyric, perfect to dance and party to.

Both songs feature guitar playing from Clive Shakespeare and Harvey James, highlighting the uniqueness of a band reunion with two former members from different eras collaborating harmoniously.

All band members went their separate ways for two decades, with only Daryl Braithwaite continuing a career in the spotlight, the others working successfully on music projects behind the scenes. This coming together with renewed enthusiasm is, Garth believes, largely due to the fact that Sherbet's legacy has been under-exploited over the years.

"The fact that we haven't been revered in the music press like some bands were has allowed us to walk completely away from it," says Garth. "We didn't pick up magazines and read about ourselves and the glorious past that we had. It allowed all of us to move on, instead of being reminded about it and being told how great it all was."

That's all about to change now with the release of the **SUPERHITS CD**, **SUPERHITS DVD** and **HOWZAT CD** and **DVD**, reminding Australians of how special the music of this sensational band has always been.

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