

Two-time GRAMMY nominee TOMMY EMMANUEL is one of Australia's most respected musicians. With a professional career spanning five decades, Tommy has garnered hundreds of thousands of loyal fans worldwide.

His unusual talent and life are common lore in Australia: born into a musical family, Tommy got his first guitar at age four. He quickly learned by ear, with no formal instruction. By age six he was working as a professional musician in the family band (variously named The Emmanuel Quartet, The Midget Surfaries and The Trailblazers).

The 1970's saw Tommy working as a session player and sideman, playing on recordings for Air Supply, Men at Work and dozens of other popular bands. However, his electric stage presence and energy couldn't keep him on the side for very long.

Already known as one of the best modern guitarists in Australia at this time, Tommy reached out to his idol, Chet Atkins, sending him a letter from Australia, all the way to Chet's home in Nashville. Sure enough, after a couple of months, Chet wrote back to Tommy offering to fly him to Nashville to jam.

Throughout the 1980's, Tommy was under the wing of the great Chet Atkins, and the influences became, and still are, evident throughout his music: in his personal philosophy, technical precision, virtuosic improvisations and unusually broad repertoire (encompassing not only country and bluegrass, but pop, jazz, blues, gospel, and even expanding to classical, flamenco, and aboriginal styles.)

Tommy and Chet's relationship continued to grow, eventually leading to Chet naming Tommy a "Certified Guitar Player" (CGP) for his contribution to guitar music, a very rare distinction shared by only four other people in the world.

After an amazing performance with his brother Phil at the Sydney Olympic Games Closing Ceremony, the world wanted to know who this mysterious Australian guitar virtuoso was. His album *The Mystery* earned him his second GRAMMY nomination, and in 2008 *Guitar Player Magazine* and *Acoustic Guitar Magazine* named him Best Acoustic Guitarist and Gold Medalist in the Readers' Choice and Players' Choice Awards. *Guitar Player's* 2010 Readers Choice awards name him Best Acoustic Guitarist for the second time.