

The DeSotos

media kit 2016/17

“Wide-screen country-rock which owes much to the Petty /Springsteen/Neil Young axis”
- NZ Herald



(left to right) Ron Stevens, Paul Gurney, Michael Burrows & Stuart McIntyre

*** NEW MUSIC OUT LATE SPRING 2016 ***

Fuelled by a powerful blend of rock-infused country blues, The DeSotos combine rich harmonies with reverberant guitar sounds, chunky bass runs and warm flourishes of Hammond organ.

New Zealand style Americana

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Albums and TV

- Currently providing music for TV shows including Shortland Street and Brokenwood Mysteries.
As quoted by our licensing partner, Aeroplane Music (Jan Hellriegel) - *"You are the stars of Shorty Street at the moment."*
- Provided theme and continuity music to the hugely successful **South** and **North** TV series presented by Marcus Lush and produced by JAM TV.
- First album "Cross Your Heart" (2008) selected as his NZ album of the year by the then National Radio music critic Manu Taylor.
- Second album "Your Highway For Tonight" became a favourite of the critics - please see reviews on pages 5 and 6.
- Albums released in the USA via New Orleans-based label Mystery Street Records.
- New material due to be released later this year.

Live

Some recent keynote shows include:

- TSB Festival of Lights, New Plymouth
- Play It Strange's 'A Strange Days Night' celebrating 50 years of the Rolling Stones
- Queens Wharf 'Best of British' at the Cloud
- Cornwall Park concert series, February 2016
- North Island Tour, August 2016

The DeSotos are well-heeled travelers on the Americana highway and are a sonic delight to see live, with consistently favourable feedback from a wide range of audiences. Referees are available on request.

To hear some tracks online, go to www.soundcloud.com/thedesotos.

To see the band on YouTube, go to www.youtube.com/thedesotos.

To see the band at the **Play It Strange** night, [The DeSotos at the Auckland Town Hall](#)

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The DeSotos are:

Paul Gurney – lead vocals, guitars, blues harp

“The voice is just genius....seriously the best vocalist I've heard in a long time” - Manu Taylor, National Radio

Paul combines his singing skills with insightful lead guitar and songwriting duties. He has had many influences over his playing and listening life, but some near the top include Mike Campbell (of Tom Petty's Heartbreakers fame), Buddy Miller and Jimmy Page, and of course Neil Young.

He uses a mix of Gretsch and Fender guitars to deliver his distinctively warm, rootsy sound.

Paul is also a member of Auckland's Jubilation A Cappella Gospel Choir.

Stuart McIntyre – bass, vocals

Stuart has always been interested with bass guitar and started playing at the age of 15. Influences include Ron Blair from Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Paul McCartney & John Paul Jones. Stuart mainly plays his first 'serious' bass, a black 1970's Fender Precision. Despite owning several other basses, he always comes back to this bass for recording. He also writes songs for the band, and provides backing vocals to The DeSotos sound.

Ron Stevens – Hammond, keyboards, vocals

Ron is heavily influenced by all Hammond organ styles and is equally influenced by vocal harmony.

His stated mission is to combine all the band members' influences and styles to create a blend of original & unique sounds.

He listens to a wide spectrum of music genres and particularly enjoys listening to emerging talent.

In addition to the Hammond, Ron also plays a Korg M1 keyboard, acoustic guitar and does backing vocals.

Michael Burrows – drums, vocals

Michael Burrows began playing drums at the age of 10 in school jazz bands. He has studied at Drummers Collective NYC and The Percussion Institute in London. Michael has performed with Kiwi bands and artists including; Sony Day Blues Band, Brendon Power, Rhythm Cage, Greg Johnson, Rumble Fish, Shona Laing, Jan Hellriegel, Homebrew, Debbie Harwood and Jackie Clarke.

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Your Highway For Tonight

Album Reviews

“New Zealand Music At It's Best”

“A great album by a group of consummate musicians, who play with fluid and seemingly effortless empathetic consideration for each other, so to create a beautiful noise..”

Tony Moon, Weekend Sun, Tauranga

“This is an Auckland four-piece that has nailed their sound. Big, fat, twangy guitars, slapped snare drums, harmonica, mandolin, banjo, and a Hammond organ drone running through many tracks give the album a much bigger feel, yet very intimate”

Colin Morris, DomPost

“A polished album by a band at the top of their game”

James Bedfield, Sunday Star Times

“The collective sound is impressive....14 tracks of country-rock and rocking blues and alt-country and - essentially - New Zealand's answer to a form of Americana. Plenty to like here.”

Simon Sweetman, NZ Musician / Stuff.co.nz

“You can almost feel the hot wind coming in off the desert as this Auckland four - piece deliver a moody album that could be the soundtrack to a modern-day western. There are even touches of Mr Desert Sessions himself, Josh Homme, on Can't Go Back, which is one of a couple of tracks that harks back to the golden era of grunge ballads. Another is Fat Man's Lodge, with it's bluesy flourishes crossed with Alice in Chains-style harmonies.”

Kim Gillespie, APN News & Media

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“Both Gurney and McIntyre write brilliantly and this 14 song effort doesn't have a weak moment. The DeSotos' music oozes genuine emotion and makes all the right moves without having to think about them first.”

There's real sonic depth in these recordings, which capture the reverberant guitar sound, the dynamic of a set of close-miked drums, the fat bass and the fruity organ that fills out the sound.”

Gary Steel, Witchdoctor.co.nz

“Your Highway For Tonight is loaded with great songs and expressive deliveries. The DeSotos have grown and so has their music. It provides more delight with every spin.”

Steve Scott, Waikato Times

“The sound is similar to the less commercial Springsteen tracks of old blended with the blowing wind against a wool shed in rural heartland New Zealand. For a new record it is haunted by the aesthetics and sensibility of music's golden years.

The weeping of the slide guitar, the unfamiliar sound of the Hammond organ and the unusual event of people actually singing on a record inspire us to feel the music and truly listen to the poetry and stories in the lyrics....”

muzic.net.nz

The DeSotos Online:

www.thedesotos.com

www.facebook.com/thedesotos

www.youtube.com/thedesotos

www.twitter.com/thedesotos or @thedesotos

www.soundcloud.com/thedesotos

www.thedesotos.bandcamp.com