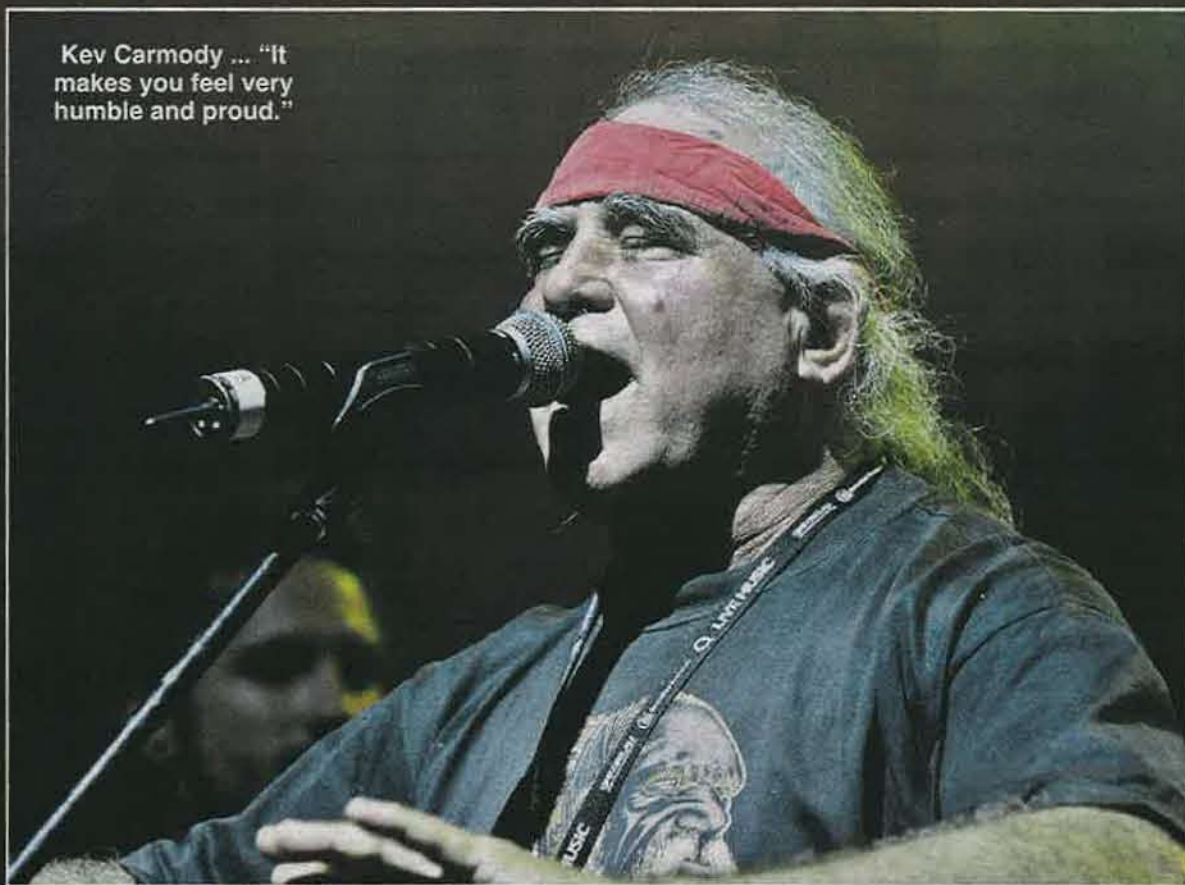


Dan Sultan rocking to his rendition of *This Land is Mine*.



Kev Carmody ... "It makes you feel very humble and proud."

Legend honoured



Aunty Valda Coolwell giving the welcome to country.

Words and photos by DAVID WILLIAMS, of Gilimbaa



BRISBANE'S Riverstage was packed on 1 August for a sold-out tribute to Indigenous music icon Kev Carmody.

The crowning jewel in the Queensland Music Festival, 'Cannot Buy My Soul - The Songs of Kev Carmody' saw a line-up of some of the best acts in Australia pay tribute to a living legend and Queensland great.

Aunty Valda Coolwell gave a welcome to country in front of the audience, many of whom had donned bright red head bands, a well-known Kev Carmody trademark.

The line-up included Australian music icon and long-time friend Paul Kelly, Bernard Fanning, Dan Sultan, Missy Higgins, the Pigram Brothers, Tex Perkins, Troy Cassar-Daley, Sara Storer, John Butler and Indigenous hip-hop outfit The Last Kinection, among others.

The concert took the audience on a journey of recent history, political and personal, incorporating archival footage from protest movements over the past 40 years to accompany the messages in Carmody's songs.

Carmody addressed the crowd early on, saying: "We're lucky to be here tonight, because years ago this would have been classified as an illegal assembly."

The concert celebrated Carmody's life as much as his music, as the two have often been intertwined, with Carmody using poetry and song to talk about aspects of his life and Aboriginal Australia.

It was testament to his impact and contribution that such a wide and varied audience gathered to celebrate this iconic Aboriginal musician.

Speaking to the crowd about the tribute in his down-to-earth style, Carmody said: "It makes you feel very humble and proud."

Paul Kelly describes Kev Carmody's body of work as one of our 'great cultural treasures, incorporating oral history, the ongoing hurt of dispossession and the healing power of nature... influential and highly regarded in all corners of the country'.

A repertoire of Carmody's well-known songs took on new life as they were performed by the artists, who added their own interpretation of his work, as well as Carmody performing his own work.

This varied from Sara Storer's version of *Moonstruck*, to Dan Sultan's high-energy rocking rendition of *This Land is Mine*, to the haunting version of The Pigram Brothers performing *Eulogy for a Black Man*, accompanied by Carmody himself.

Troy Cassar-Daley took to the stage to perform *On the Wire*, with back-up singers including Clare Bowditch, Missy Higgins, Laurel Edwards, and Sara Storer.

This led up to the greatly anticipated crowd favourite *From Little Things Big Things Grow*.

The songs were as relevant on Saturday night as they were when they were first performed, showing Kev Carmody's enduring contribution not only to Australia's music scene, but to the Indigenous rights movement.



Tex Perkins was one of the performers.



Bernard Fanning on stage.



Joel Wenitong of The Last Kinection.



Les Drahm, Jarab Cole, Sam Thaiday, Reuben Thaiday were there.



Sara Storer, Missy Higgins, Glenn Richards (Augie March) performing.