

Maree Montgomery Biography

In the world of Australian Jazz there are few who have carved out a unique niche of their own – but Maree Montgomery has done just that, becoming affectionately known by record company executives and fans alike as the ‘First Lady of Swing’.

In a remarkable and enduring career garnering recognition at the Australian Music Industry Awards (The ARIAs), Maree’s name is synonymous with cool music and chic style.

One of the country’s most versatile performers and recording artists, the Sydney born singer has done it all, in a business known for taking no hostages.

Four critically acclaimed, award-winning albums, television appearances and numerous overseas tours have helped Maree occupy a unique position in the Australian entertainment industry.

Her first album, ‘In Good Company’ received national airplay and brought Maree to the attention of the wider jazz audience. Her second album, ‘Woman of Mystery’ saw a major change in style and garnered for her a nomination in the Australian Record Industry Awards for Best Jazz Album and received airplay in the U.K. and Europe.

The critics' reviews for her third album ‘Sweet 'n Hot’, centred on the singer’s distinctive style – "Jazzy and Bluesy with pizzazz and sensitivity", "Rich and sensuous", "Montgomery is a singer of style and sensitivity, the timbre of her voice suggests that she is an admirer of Cleo Laine", "The lady has some voice, sort of red hot, cool and jazzy all at once, a knockout".

But perhaps the biggest accolade and greatest honour a Sydney singer could get was when Maree performed her signature song 'Sydney the place to be' to an audience of 80,000 during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games celebrations at Darling Harbour. This song is featured on her Album 'Sweet 'n Hot' and received world airplay.

During Maree's recording years she has had a multi-faceted and two-fold career – heading her own promotion business and being a producer of extremely spectacular fashion extravaganzas. With all this experience she is respected in the fashion world as well as the music business and continues to compère fashion shows.

Between a busy schedule of performing at jazz concerts and in major hotels and clubs around Australia, Maree has also taken her talents off-shore many times to work for extended seasons in Asia at five-star hotels in India, China, Singapore and Taiwan for the Hilton, Sheraton, Oberoi and Taj Hotels to name a few.

Maree says that during that experience she learned to sing in Mandarin Chinese while performing in Beijing for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and to a huge audience of the Official Olympic CNN/NBC American press.

Maree performs well known songs in her show, like 'Can't take my eyes off you', 'New York, New York', 'What a wonderful world', 'You don't have to say you love me' and 'Over the rainbow', adding magic to every song she chooses as she swings between a popular singer and a jazz singer.

Add to this her stunning stage gowns and you have a true Artist.

All Maree's recordings are now released on iTunes and Big Pond Music and are currently receiving radio airplay throughout Australia, Germany, BBC London and the USA.

Extended version – [see biography section](#)