

# EMMA DONOVAN



# & THE PUTBACKS

EMMA DONOVAN & THE PUTBACKS, Naarm/Melbourne, Australia

~ Management & Publicity: Ali Webb, House of Webb [ali@houseofwebb.com.au](mailto:ali@houseofwebb.com.au)

~ Bookings Outside of U.S.: Rebecca Young, Collective Artists [rebecca@collectiveartists.com.au](mailto:rebecca@collectiveartists.com.au)

~ Label: Jack Rock, Cooking Vinyl Australia [jack@cookingvinylaustralia.com](mailto:jack@cookingvinylaustralia.com)

~ Publisher: Matt Donlevy, Cooking Vinyl Publishing [matt@cookingvinylaustralia.com](mailto:matt@cookingvinylaustralia.com)

~ Bookings United States: Andre Bouchard [andre@indigenousperformance.org](mailto:andre@indigenousperformance.org)

Acclaimed Indigenous vocalist [Emma Donovan](#) and Melbourne rhythm combo [The Putbacks](#) burst on to the Australian scene with their album *Dawn* in 2014, announcing a new voice in Australian soul music. Emma's songwriting is optimistic, impassioned, and bruisingly honest, The Putbacks' music is fluid, live and raw, and the collaboration has won friends and admirers all over the world.

The project was born of Emma and the band's shared love for classic US soul and the protest music of Indigenous Australia. Shades of every soul record you ever liked sneak through: Al Green's Hi Records era? Check. Aretha's Classic Atlantic recordings? Check. Stacks of Stax? Check. It's all there, but there's also a whole lot of Coloured Stone and Warumpi Band influences giving this project a uniquely Australian slant.

Emma grew up singing church songs with her grandparents on the North coast of New South Wales and her first secular gigs were singing in the family band, The Donovans, with her mother and five uncles. Throughout her career, she has toured and recorded with many of the mainstays of Australian music industry including Archie Roach, The Teskey Brothers and Paul Kelly and was a part of the Black Arm Band project. It was in The Black Arm Band that Emma met members of The Putbacks and their journey together began.

The Putbacks are stone cold pros, grizzled veterans of all the tours and all the studios. As individuals, they're the players behind so many bands it's difficult to list, but let's start with Hiatus Kaiyote, The Bombay Royale, D.D Dumbo, Swooping Duck and The Meltdown. When they come together, they're one of the tightest, sharpest, most dynamic musical units ever to exist. Their collaboration with Emma elevates their music and Emma's songs to another level.

Emma Donovan & The Putbacks have together released three studio albums: *Dawn* (2014), *Crossover* (2020) and *Under These Streets* (2021).



## Albums:

### ***Under These Streets* 2021**

Cooking Vinyl Australia



### ***Crossover* 2020**

Hopestreet Recordings



### ***Dawn* 2014**

Hopestreet Recordings



*"Donovan can front a well-oiled soul band in her sleep"* - **Rolling Stone Australia**

*"A tour de force of funk and soul hailing from the land down under"* - **Pop Matters**

*"Emma Donovan & The Putbacks are not something you want to 'put back' on the shelf. These musicians are not to be missed."* - **Inside World Music**

*"Driven by brutally honest lyricism, irresistible percussion and a purist's respect for the funk and soul tradition, Dawn hearkens back to the heyday of Stax and Atlantic Recordings. Combining the sick harmonies and tender sensibilities of R&B with a decidedly sinister edge, Emma Donovan & The Putbacks have created a singular project that will command spins and ultimately stand the test of time."* - **Okay Player**

## **AWARDS:**

*Best Independent Soul/RnB Album or EP for "Crossover"* - **2021 AIR Awards**

*Best Soul, Funk R&B or Gospel Act* - **2021 Music Vic Awards**

*Best Group* - **2021 Music Vic Awards**

*Best Album for 'Crossover'* - **2021 Music Vic Awards**

*Nominated for Best Blues and Roots Album, Best Independent Release for 'Crossover'* - **2021 ARIA Awards**

*Nominated for Australian Artist of the Year Award 2021* - **Double J**

## **Watch:**

[Emma Donovan & The Putbacks - Dawn \[Official Video\]](#)

[Delivered Live - Emma Donovan and The Putbacks \(Full Live Performance\)](#)

[Emma Donovan & The Putbacks - Daddy \[Official Video\]](#)

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