

Dean Owens wins UK Song of the Year Award

Scottish singer songwriter Dean Owens won the UK Song of the Year Award at the fourth annual UK Americana Awards which took place last Thursday at the Hackney Empire, London, compered by BBC's "Whispering" Bob Harris.

The accolade is for *Southern Wind*, (the title song on his most recent album) which he co-wrote with long standing musical collaborator, award wining guitarist, Will Kimbrough.



Dean Owens with Graham Gouldman

The award was presented by Graham Gouldman (who has written hits for the Hollies and the Yardbirds as well as his classic

work with 10cc). Other recipients at the star studded event, organised by The Americana Music Association UK (AMA-UK), included Lifetime Achievement Award to Graham Nash and Trailblazer Award for legendary producer Joe Boyd.

Southern Wind was recorded in Nashville, and produced by Grammy nominee Neilson Hubbard (who was involved with two other winners on Thurs night – UK Album of the Year (Ben Glover's *Shorebound*) and International Artist of the Year, Mary Gauthier (as producer of her *Rifles and Rosary Beads* album)).



Dean Owens and Graham Gouldman

Dean Owens said : "I'm delighted, it was a complete surprise. As the first Scot to receive an award from AMA-UK, it feels really special, and a huge honour to bring this back to Scotland. Apart from a cup for being Boxer of the Year as a kid, this is the only award I've ever won. I'm still in shock"

to be honest!

Will Kimbrough: "Dean and I wrote *Southern Wind* in a flurry of creativity. Ideas were flying. I am from so far south that Nashville is eight hours north. Dean is more of a northern man. My *Southern Wind* calls me to a long left behind home; I like to think that Dean's *Southern Wind* calls him South to create in Nashville. The lure of home. The lure of the muse. Both romantic and hard to reach. That's *Southern Wind*."

VIDEO for *Southern Wind* was filmed in and around Dean's home town of Leith, including Leith Victoria AAC Boxing Club and including a cameo from *Game of Thrones* actor Jamie Sives)

Dean Owens is widely hailed as one of UK's finest troubadours (with fans including *Trainspotting* author Irvine Welsh and BBC's Bob Harris).

In September 2017 he became the first Scottish musician to officially showcase at the prestigious Americanafest in Nashville (supported by PRS Foundation/Creative Scotland) and in 2018 he undertook his first US tour (also supported by Creative Scotland) which included Albino Skunk Music Festival, South Carolina (where he received a standing ovation and an immediate invitation for a return visit) and a headline slot at the prestigious Levitt Shell in Memphis TN, the outdoor stage where Elvis Presley had his first paid gig. He is returning to USA in April 2019.

While never losing his own unique Scottish identity, Dean has had a longstanding love affair with the USA since his early days as the front man of Scotland's original Americana band, the Felsons. He has recorded 4 of his 7 solo albums there, including *Southern Wind* (released Feb 2018) which received glowing, rave reviews, including 4

stars in Mojo Magazine.



It's been an exciting month for Dean, as his new project –US/UK collective **Buffalo Blood** – had its World Premiere live performance at Celtic Connections (25 Jan), with a self titled debut album released on Eel Pie Records on **15 Feb**.

Buffalo Blood is an international collaboration which includes Dean's *Southern Wind* producer Neilson Hubbard, and Orphan Brigade members Joshua Britt and Audrey Spillman. *Buffalo Blood* was recorded on location in the heart of the New Mexico desert. A multi media project, including film as well as

music, it was inspired by Native American stories, with themes of displacement, migration and a belief in the power of art and the human spirit to connect us all. Reaction so far has been extraordinarily positive with BBC Radio 2's Mark Radcliffe calling it a "***fascinating project***"

Dean Owens website www.deanowens.com

[The Americana Music Association UK](#) (AMA-UK) is a professional trade association representing and advocating for the voice of American roots music in the UK. Its membership comprises musicians, from the UK and overseas, plus professionals from all sectors of the music industry.