



Billy Forrest



JASON BRADLEY



BILLY FORREST AND JASON BRADLEY JOINS FORCES IN LEFRA'S LATEST CELLAR CONCERT "TWO GENERATIONS COUNTRY"

CONCERT TO BE LIVESTREAMED ON SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER @ 17:00

LEFRA'S CELLAR CONCERTS PRESENTS: TWO GENERATIONS COUNTRY

WITH BILLY FORREST & JASON BRADLEY

SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2020 @ 17:00

BOOKINGS: WWW.ITICKETS.CO.ZA | MORE INFORMATION: WWW.LEFRA.COM

Two Generations of Country, one future. Country legend Billy Forrest joins forces with legend-in-the-making Jason Bradley in Lefra Productions' latest online Cellar Concert, *Two Generations Country*. This exciting event will be livestreamed on Sunday, 6 September at 17:00. To book your tickets for *Two Generations Country*, please visit www.itickets.co.za. The Lefra Cellar Concerts are presented with the proud support of RSG, Sounds Good, Hollywood Costumes, Van Loveren Wines, Renegades Removals, Ambassador Execudrive, Q2V Productions and Savvy Holdings.

Billy has been described as the man with one face, but many names. Billy Forrest was born William Charles Boardman in Kimberley, South Africa in 1940 and moving forward 21 years to 1961 when Billy started his recording career there are many stories to tell. Billy Forrest released many albums and single's during his long career, and has also had many, many hits during that time. What many people don't really know is that many of those hits were not under his stage name of Billy Forrest. In fact, what was probably one of his biggest hits was his version of *Lazy Life* which spend many a week at the Top of the South African Charts under the name of Quentin E Klopjaeger.

Billy first struck gold in December 1964, with *Hello Operator*, which was the number one song for Christmas that year, ahead of The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Cliff Richard and Jim Reeves. In 1966 Billy was to make one of the most significant moves in his career when he teamed up with Billy Andrews, who had just left The Staccatos, to form The Dream Merchants, still reckoned to be one of the most successful South African pop acts ever, with a string of hits, including *Love Minus Zero*, *Let It Be Me*, and *The Rattler*. They went to England in March 1967 to record, but despite them making the Radio London top twenty with *The Rattler*, and some lucrative offers, they were forced to return home to South Africa due to bans placed on South African artists by the British Musicians Union. After their return, the band unfortunately disbanded. A series of events lead Billy to decide to sing lead vocals on the song *Lazy Life* with the Durban-based band The Gonks, and due to the key-change in the song, it didn't sound like the Billy Forrest people had come to know, so he changed his name to Quentin.E.Klopjaeger and the song became a massive hit.



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The 70's saw another shift in Billy's career. This time he launched his own record company, Intercontinental Record Company (IRC) and had immediate success with Des & Dawn Lindberg's *The Seagull's Name Was Nelson* and *Hello-A*, a duet featuring Billy & Sharon Tandy. At this point yet another pseudonym was born when Billy had a hit in the Black record market with *Lovely Lorraine* as William E. After Billy sold IRC to Teal Record Company, he headed for the newly formed Satbel Record Company where he produced, among others, two albums with Mimi Coertse and a number one single, *Do You Love Me?*, which he sang with ex-Gunther Kallman Choir Member, Angelika Illman. Then came that one lucky break every producer dreams of: together with Lofty Schultz, Bertha Egnos and Gail Lakier, he produced two albums featuring a troupe of artists called *Ipi-Tombi* and within two months the show was born and *Ipi-Tombi* went on to become Africa's most successful musical ever. After *Ipi-Tombi*, Billy went back into the studio with former Dream Merchants producer, Grahame Beggs and they came up with a top ten Country hit, *Our Sweet Precious Love* then, a year later, an album, *Country's Greatest Hits*. Billy had slotted back into Country perfectly and more hits and albums followed, eventually leading to the reformation of The Dream Merchants in the late eighties.

In 1994 Billy had his biggest hit as a solo artist when, assisted by the Aero chocolate television advert, he sold in excess of 100,000 copies of the song *Tiny Bubbles*. A year before that he released a Country album, where he sang Don Williams and Jim Reeves hits in Zulu. 2003 saw the release of a CD titled *Country Magic*, which has sold consistently over the past few years. Billy received an unexpected boost to his singing career when, in 2005, Steve Hofmeyr invited him and some of his fellow Country legends to join him in the *Toeka* series which led to high exposure via a National Tour and a DVD that has sold in excess of 120,000 copies, and the spin-offs have been amazing.

Billy turned 80 in June and he's still going strong, averaging about fifty shows per year, which goes to show that "old Country singers never die, they just ride off into the sunset". Billy's music career is filled with so many highlights that any South African and even International artist would be envious when looking at all his accomplishments. Maybe Billy was always in the right place at the right time, but one thing that cannot be ignored is his talent, imagination and professionalism when it comes to his music. He knew and still knows how to keep his friends, family and fans happy.

Like most Country musicians, Jason's story begins in a small, off-the-beaten-track-town. Originally from Ficksburg in the Free State, Jason began playing guitar at the age of 4 years old when his father bought him his first guitar. He not only mastered the guitar but also went on to learn a variety of other instruments; ranging from drums and piano to trumpet and accordion. Jason went on to spend a few years in the UK, where he practised and honed his skill by playing and singing in various pubs and local venues. He would play at every dive bar, honkey tonk and local pub that would have him.

In 2003 he returned to South Africa and launched his reimagined comeback. He was determined to play and master the art of "New Country". Jason's biggest influence and his gateway into Country music was a Brad Paisley CD he found in a new car. The car's old owners had left the CD in the car when they sold it. It was after listening to the CD that Jason fell in love with Country Music.



Jason has been a quiet but unmistakable talent in this industry ever since. In 2007, the legendary Ray Thomas introduced Jason to Lance James, who was so impressed with his talent that he invited him to participate in the first *Country Legends & Friends* shows (2008 and 2009). Later Juanita du Plessis invited him to be a part of the Kyk Net Country programme, where he had the opportunity to share the stage with the legendary Tommy Dell. Jason visited Nashville, the capital of Country music, in 2010, where he had the privilege to perform with world-renowned Chuck Jones. The main reason for his visit was to meet with as many as possible producers and songwriters. His album, *This is Country Music*, was released in 2012 and his album, *Dirt Road*, has reached the top ten charts in Norway and Ireland, and is doing very well internationally. Jason was personally invited to represent South Africa in New Zealand at the MartonCountry Festival in 2015.

Jason has since become a recognised force in the local Country music scene, and with his clean-cut appearance, excellent guitar picking and ability to project the true feeling of a good Country song, Jason Bradley is bound to become a Country star in his own right!

Two Generations Country promises an evening of great entertainment, suitable for the whole family. Get your tickets for the incredible music experience now at www.itickets.co.za.