MITCH GRAINGER

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Mitch Grainger is an Australian-born, Nashville-based singer, guitarist and harmonica player whose music blends the traditions of American blues with the raw energy of Australian rock and roll. Over a career spanning more than three decades, he has performed internationally as a frontman and sideman, while establishing himself as an innovator in amplified harmonica.

Beginning at age fourteen, Grainger played harmonica and guitar in the pubs of Balmain, Sydney, honing his craft alongside early collaborators CW Stoneking and Alex Lloyd. In the late 1980s, AC/DC's Malcolm Young saw Grainger and Lloyd's high school band, The Beefs, at the Bridge Hotel in Rozelle and took them into the studio to record demos. Grainger went on to join The Bondi Cigars, touring extensively throughout Australia and performing at major national blues festivals multiple times before he turned twenty-one.

The Malcolm Young connection led to The Angels' John Brewster, who managed Grainger's band with his sister Kara Grainger, simply called Grainger. Brewster introduced the band to Harry Vanda of The Easybeats, who signed them to Albert Productions. The band was poised for an international breakthrough, travelling to New York for meetings with major record labels in September 2001, only for those plans to unravel in the aftermath of September 11.

Grainger later signed a separate solo deal with Vanda's production house, Flashpoint, leading to the Australian release of his album Love & Demons in 2006.

In 2010, Grainger relocated to Los Angeles, immersing himself in the city's live music scene and further developing his sound as a solo artist. He released the acoustic blues album The Blues in 2015 and continued performing internationally, with appearances across Australia, Scandinavia and the United States, including Folk Alliance International in Kansas City and opening shows for guitarist Tommy Emmanuel across the northeastern US.

In 2017, Grainger turned his attention to invention, developing the patented Dyna-Mic harmonica microphone system, designed to give players greater freedom of movement and control over their amplified sound. Born from his experience as a working musician, the invention has since found its way onto stages around the world, reflecting Grainger's continuing interest in pushing the possibilities of the harmonica.

In 2023, Grainger released Plug It In and Plug It In Acoustic, showcasing both his electric blues-rock and acoustic sides. The releases spent two months at No. 1 on the Australian Blues and Roots Airplay Chart (ABARAC) and reached the top 10 of the UK's Independent Blues Broadcasters Association (IBBA) chart, while the single "Shake It Up" reached No. 1 on Amrap's community radio chart.

Now based in Nashville, Grainger has toured as a member of country star Randy Houser's band since July 2025, playing harmonica and acoustic guitar at major venues across North America. His performances have included the Grand Ole Opry and the Houston Rodeo, where he appeared as part of a concert attended by more than 80,000 fans. His harmonica also features on Houser's late-2025 single "Back in the Bottle," which reached the Top 40 of the Mediabase US country radio chart.

In October 2026, Grainger returns with "Crazy Mama," a high-energy reworking of the J.J. Cale classic that trades the original's laid-back groove for the swagger of Australian pub rock. Recorded live to analogue tape at Doug Messenger's North Hollywood studio and co-produced with James Salter, the track features Grainger on vocals, guitar and harmonica alongside Matty Alger, Spencer Wright and Rosa Pullman. The first of four singles

from his forthcoming Starlight EP, it brings together the musical worlds that have shaped his career — American blues, the spontaneity of live recording, and the no-nonsense rock and roll of his Australian upbringing.

From the pubs of Balmain to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, Grainger has spent more than three decades proving that the blues travels. With Starlight, he continues to bring his distinctly Australian approach to blues and rock and roll to an international audience.

Selected Highlights

- “Crazy Mama” — 30 October 2026: First of four singles from the Starlight EP, recorded live to analogue tape in Los Angeles.
- Randy Houser touring band: Member since July 2025, with performances including the Grand Ole Opry and Houston Rodeo.
- “Back in the Bottle” (2025): Featured harmonica on Randy Houser’s Mediabase country radio Top 40 single.
- Plug It In / Plug It In Acoustic (2023): Two months at No. 1 on ABARAC; UK IBBA Top 10; “Shake It Up” No. 1 on Amrap.
- Australian rock heritage: Early recordings with Malcolm Young; worked with John Brewster and Harry Vanda; signed to Albert Productions.
- Dyna-Mic: Inventor of the patented harmonica microphone system.

Selected Press

“Grainger plays pure acoustic blues with the heart and soul of Robert Johnson… close your eyes, and you can feel the heat and smell the dust of Mississippi.”

— Suzanne Cadgène, Elmore Magazine (USA)

“Plug It In epitomizes everything that we love about the Blues.”

— Stephen Harrison, Blues Matters (UK)

“Plug It In sees him coming back with a bang… the album has a real groove to it…”

— Samuel J Fell, Rhythms Magazine (Australia)

Online

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