

# For The Love Of Music: The Life And Times Of A West Australian Bluesman

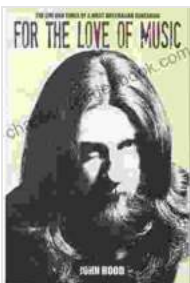
## A Journey Through the Music and Legacy of Ian "Duke" Robinson

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In the annals of Australian blues history, the name Ian "Duke" Robinson looms large as a towering figure. Hailing from Western Australia, Duke etched an indelible mark on the local and international blues scene with his raw talent, heartfelt performances, and unwavering dedication to the genre. This comprehensive article delves into the life and legacy of this bluesman extraordinaire, exploring his humble beginnings, musical journey, and the profound impact he continues to have on the world of music.

### Early Life and Influences

Ian "Duke" Robinson was born in 1946 in the small town of Wagin, Western Australia. From an early age, he immersed himself in the music that would shape his destiny. Influenced by the likes of Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, and Howlin' Wolf, he began playing guitar and developing his unique style.



### For The Love Of Music: The Life and Times of a West Australian Bluesman by Tammy Mitchell

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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## **The Perth Blues Scene**

In the late 1960s, Duke relocated to Perth, the capital of Western Australia, where he became an integral part of the thriving blues scene. He joined forces with renowned blues artists such as Doc Span, Johnny "Catfish" McDonald, and Laurie Stone, and together, they breathed new life into the local music landscape.

## **International Recognition**

Duke's reputation as an exceptional bluesman quickly spread beyond the shores of Australia. In 1978, he was invited to perform at the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, where he shared the stage with legendary musicians like B.B. King and Bob Marley. This performance marked a turning point in his career, solidifying his status as a world-renowned blues artist.

## **The Duke Robinson Band**

In the early 1980s, Duke formed his own band, The Duke Robinson Band, which became one of the most successful blues outfits in Australia. With a lineup that included some of the finest musicians in the country, the band toured extensively, captivating audiences with their energetic performances and heartfelt renditions of classic and original blues songs.

## **Musical Legacy**

Duke Robinson's legacy extends far beyond his own performances. He played a pivotal role in mentoring and nurturing young blues musicians, inspiring a new generation of artists to carry on the tradition. His influence can be heard in the music of countless blues bands across Australia and around the world.

## **Personal Life**

Despite his success in the music industry, Duke Robinson remained a humble and approachable man. He was known for his infectious smile, warm personality, and unwavering commitment to his family and friends. He was also an avid surfer and outdoorsman, finding solace and inspiration in the beauty of Western Australia's natural landscapes.

## **Honors and Awards**

Duke Robinson's contributions to the world of blues music were widely recognized. He received numerous awards and accolades, including the Order of Australia Medal in 2005 for his services to the arts. In 2012, he was inducted into the Western Australian Music Industry Association (WAMIA) Hall of Fame, cementing his status as one of the most influential musicians in the state's history.

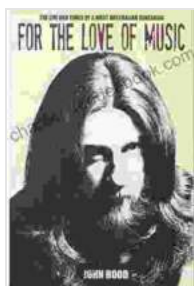
## **Later Years and Passing**

In his later years, Duke Robinson continued to perform and record, sharing his love for the blues with audiences in Australia and abroad. He passed

away peacefully in his home in Perth in 2012, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire and resonate with music lovers around the world.

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Ian "Duke" Robinson was a true giant of the blues, whose music and spirit left an indelible mark on the world. From his humble beginnings in rural Western Australia to his international acclaim, he remained a passionate and dedicated bluesman, sharing his love for the genre with countless listeners. Through his performances, recordings, and mentorship, Duke Robinson helped shape the sound of Australian blues and cemented his place among the greats of the music world. His legacy continues to inspire and influence musicians and music lovers alike, ensuring that the blues will forever thrive in the hearts of those who embrace its timeless power.



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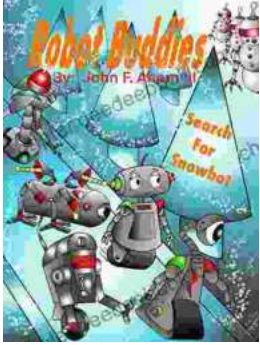
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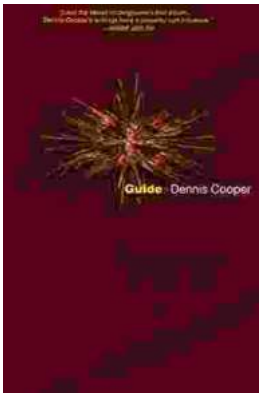
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