



Dean Owens: The Desert Trilogy EPs

A prelude to Dean's upcoming *Sinner's Shrine* album, recorded with musicians from Calexico and special guests

Release dates:

Fri 5 March The Burning Heart – The Desert Trilogy EPs Vol 1
Fri 7 May Sand And Blood - The Desert Trilogy EPs Vol 2
Fri 3 Sep Ghosts - The Desert Trilogy EPs Vol 3



'a hands across the water meeting of great songs and minds' Donald Shaw, Celtic Connections

The Desert Trilogy EPs are the prelude to award winning Scottish singer songwriter Dean Owens' upcoming album, *Sinner's Shrine*, recorded with desert noir icons Calexico at Wavelab Studio, Tucson, just before the pandemic struck, scheduled for Jan 2022 release.

The EPs include a track each from *Sinner's Shrine* plus songs from the album sessions, and songs recorded long distance. Inspired by Dean's love of the great American Southwest - the desert states of California, New Mexico and Arizona - the songs showcase Owens' gift for concise, evocative storytelling, with his searingly soulful voice infused with the dramatic Panavision desert sweep and Latino rock grooves of Calexico, including Joey Burns' guttural guitar, John Convertino's masterful drumming and percussion and Jacob Valenzuela's sparkling mariachi horns. Stories of love and lust, sinners and saints, the displaced, the wanderers and the border ghosts.

The third and final EP is *Ghosts* (3rd Sep) with lead single *The Hopeless Ghosts* (featuring harmony vocals by **Grant-Lee Phillips (*Gilmore Girls* TV show, Grant Lee Buffalo) **out on 27th Aug**. Inspired by a remark by the late, great Townes Van Zandt, *The Hopeless Ghosts* also features on *Sinner's Shine*, and is a brass soaked, atmospheric paen to the displaced and the wanderers. There are standout contributions from **Calexico's Joey Burns** and **John Convertino**, trumpet by **Jacob Valenzuela**, pedal steel by Paul Niehaus and accordion by Tom Hagerman.**

The theme of the road and metaphorical ghosts continues through *Mother Road* (inspired by the now 94 year old Angel Delgadillo whose (now legendary) barber shop still occupies its position on Route 66 (the "mother road")). *Even When I'm Gone* was also recorded at WaveLab, but features Dean in solo, reflective mood, before (fittingly) *The End*, recorded long distance in lockdown (with Convertino, Hagerman and Naim Amor in USA and trumpeter Martin Wenk in Germany), and which has been described as "*the best murder ballad not covered by Johnny Cash!*"

The Desert Trilogy EPs were partly recorded at WaveLab Studios, and partly long distance during various COVID lockdowns, with guest musicians recording from home studios in USA, Germany and Scotland. All of them refusing to be stopped by a global pandemic, with Dean at the helm, driven by the irresistible urge to keep following his desert muse.

The EPs will be released digitally worldwide, and as limited edition CDs through Bandcamp.

Joey Burns and John Convertino, having been an in demand rhythm section for numerous Americana acts, became Calexico in 1995, developing the music over the years into their celebrated trademark "desert noir" sound - a thrilling mix of Latino border rock and Morricone influenced soundscapes. *Years to Burn*, their 2019 collaboration with Iron and Wine, was a worldwide hit, and their non stop global touring was only halted in 2020 because of the pandemic.

The Desert Trilogy EPs and *Sinner's Shrine* are the latest stop on a lifetime's journey - from the post industrial heartlands of Scotland to the untrammelled wide-open vistas of the American Southwest - for troubadour and musical adventurer, Dean Owens, as he surrenders to the intoxicating sounds of the desert states. A chance meeting with Burns when Owens visited Tucson during a US tour in 2019, developed into an invitation to record at the legendary WaveLab Studio, with Joey, John and regular Calexico musicians. And the start of a stunning collaboration.

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s etc, please call Morag Neil on 0771 288 0965 (email info@scarybiscuits.com)

The Hopeless Ghosts on YouTube <https://youtu.be/pFxb7mnhsK>

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Dean Owens: *The Desert Trilogy* EPs

“terrific” Bob Harris (BBC Radio 2)

“wonderfully rich music joining two continents”

Paul Sexton (BBC Radio 2)



EDITORS' NOTES

DATES (2021)

Sun 31 Jan – Dean Owens and Joey Burns, with Martin Wenk and Kevin McGuire
Performing at **Celtic Connections online**

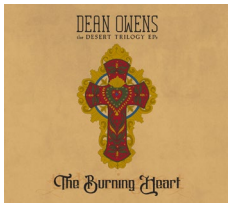


Fri 5 Mar **The Burning Heart – The Desert Trilogy EPs, Vol 1**

Tracklist
New Mexico
Here Comes Paul Newman
Riverline
Tombstone Rose

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<https://soundcloud.com/scary-biscuit/sets/dean-owens-the-burning-heart-desert-trilogy-eps-vol-1/s-EeRviPrhCe7>



Fri 7 May **Sand And Blood - The Desert Trilogy EPs, Vol 2**

Tracklist
Land Of The Hummingbird (ft Gaby Moreno)
Dolina
Ashes And Dust
She Was A Raven

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<https://soundcloud.com/scary-biscuit/sets/dean-owens-sand-and-blood-the-desert-trilogy-vol-2/s-GSMZyaCV1Q5>



Fri 27 Aug **The Hopeless Ghosts** (digital single release)

Fri 3 Sep **Ghosts - The Desert Trilogy EPs, Vol 3**

Tracklist
The Hopeless ghosts (ft Grant-Lee Phillips)
Mother Road
Even When I'm Gone
The End*

*Please note re expletive in *The End* – “bastards” used in the context of the narrator’s description of the posse which is hot on his trail



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<https://soundcloud.com/scary-biscuit/sets/dean-owens-ghosts-the-desert-trilogy-vol-3/s-UNSaQilbJbA>

The Desert Trilogy EPs are available worldwide as digital releases on all the usual platforms, and as very limited edition CDs on Bandcamp. Released on Songboy Records, digital distribution by Eel Pie Records.

Jan 2022 **Sinner’s Shrine** Full vinyl, CD, digital release (joint release by Eel Pie Records (UK) and Continental Record Services (Netherlands))

Online Links

Website www.deanowens.com

Twitter [@deanowens1](https://twitter.com/deanowens1)

Youtube www.youtube.com/deanowens

Bandcamp <https://deanowens.bandcamp.com/>