



Award winning Scottish singer songwriter **Dean Owens** - new album, *Sinner's Shrine* (recorded in Tucson with desert rock icons **Calexico**) – released **18 Feb 2022**



a hands across the water meeting of great songs and minds - Donald Shaw (Celtic Connections)

one of my favourite artists - Bob Harris, BBC

UK ACT OF THE YEAR – Americana UK Readers Poll 2021

After nearly 2 years of pandemic induced lockdown and isolation, award winning Scottish singer songwriter Dean Owens is over the moon to finally announce the release of his highly anticipated *Sinner's Shrine* album, recorded with musicians from iconic desert noir Latin rockers **Calexico** at WaveLab Studio in Tucson (in Jan 2020). The album is a joint release by London's **Eel Pie Records** and **Continental Record Services** (Netherlands) on **18 Feb 2022**.

Sinner's Shrine is 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 – as Dean surrenders to the intoxicating sounds of the US desert states. It's apparent from the opening song, *Arizona*, which positively bristles with the horn section duelling with guitar along with keening pedal steel, as Owens sets out his vision of a territory defined by a border, by barbed wire, by bustling barrios and wild panoramic desert spaces, a territory which has long captured his heart.

There's the sensual Cumbia influenced *Land Of The Hummingbird* which has Owens duetting with Gaby Moreno and the Tex-Mex trails of *We Need Us* with its Farfisa organ swirls, Joey Burns' guttural guitar and sweeping mariachi horns. On *The Barbed Wire's Still Weeping*, Owens harnesses the full power of Calexico to unleash an epic and portentous song, while *La Lomita* also finds Calexico in full sway, the song as bustling and busy as a Mexican street market as Owens reflects on places of sanctuary and border walls. Themes of love and lust, sinners and saints, the displaced, the wanderers and the border ghosts run through the album (Owens' 8th (official) solo release) like the desert sands.

The first single will be *After The Rain*, released 4th Feb, an old song revisited. It's fitting that it was recorded in the land of photographer Ansel Adams, as it was one of his prints which originally inspired Owens to write the song. A gentle love song with a sense of hope for the future that resonates in 2022.

Joey Burns (Calexico): *"There's something to be said for chance meetings of musicians when they travel, and the story behind Sinner's Shrine goes deep into the heart of what happens when there is openness in both sides to share and connect. One of the standout moments for me working on this album was finding out how well Dean's and my vocal blended. It reminded me that the world is small and that our link through music, regardless of our background, highlights the fact that we are all more closely related and that these bonds are still good medicine for these times"*

In addition to members of Calexico, special guests on the album include **Grant-Lee Phillips** (Grant Lee Buffalo/*Gilmore Girls*) and Grammy nominated Guatemalan singer songwriter **Gaby Moreno**. Mostly self penned (and produced) there are a couple of co-writes, with Gabriel Sullivan (XIXA/Giant Sand)) and Nels Andrews. While still rooted in Dean's signature sound, distinctive voice, and gift for economic storytelling, each song sees him pushing the boundaries, adding desert noir and Latin notes to his musical palette.

A prelude to *Sinner's Shrine* – ***The Desert Trilogy EPs*** - was released throughout 2021, attracting glowing reviews across genres, and whetting appetites for the full album. Sadly, the album's launch at Glasgow's prestigious **Celtic Connections** has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions impacting the festival's plans, but new live dates will be announced soon, from March.

NOTE: The vinyl release has been caught up in the global vinyl shortage and will follow in May 2022.

Dean: *"To see Sinner's Shrine finally getting its release into the world is a very special moment for me. Working with the guys from Calexico on this record in Tucson was a magical time, a time before lockdown and the pandemic. We recorded it out in the land of the Sonoran Desert and it almost feels like it's been buried in the sand for the past eighteen months or so. It's time now to brush away that sand and share with everyone"*.

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s etc, please contact **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email info@scarybiscuits.com) or Chris Hewlett PR chris@chrishewlett.com tel 0845 601 2833

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EEL PIE RECORDS



ARTIST: **Dean Owens**
TITLE: **Sinner's Shrine**
CATALOGUE No: CD: **EPRCD004**
VINYL: **EPRLP004**
RELEASE DATE: CD and Digital **18 Feb 2022**
Vinyl - May 2022 (TBC)

TRACK LISTING

1. **Arizona** (3:31)
2. **The Hopeless Ghosts** (feat Grant-Lee Phillips) (03:49)
3. **New Mexico** (03:14)
4. **Compañera** (03:30)
5. **Here Comes Paul Newman** (01:31)
6. **The Barbed Wire's Still Weeping** (03:41)
7. **La Lomita** (04:56)
8. **Land Of The Hummingbird** (feat Gaby Moreno) (03:58)
9. **We Need Us** (03:42)
10. **Summer In Your Eyes** (03:43)
11. **After The Rain** (03:45)

MUSICIANS

The Tucson Core

Dean Owens

singing, whistling, nylon string guitar, Nashville high strung guitar

Joey Burns

upright bass, electric guitar, bass guitar, accordion, piano, vibes, backing vocals

John Convertino

drums, percussion, thunder drum

Jacob Valenzuela

all trumpets; backing vocals (track 6)

Sergio Mendoza

piano, accordion, percussion (tracks 7, 8, 10); backing vocals (track 6)

with

Tom Hagerman

strings (tracks 4, 6, 9), accordion (track 2)

Paul Niehaus

pedal steel (tracks 1, 2, 5, 6, 11)

Naïm Amor

electric guitar (tracks 7, 8, 9)

Antonio Pró

guitarron (track 4)

Craig Schumacher

Farfisa (track 11)

Thomas Collison

organ (track 11)

Special guests:

Grant-Lee Phillips

harmony vocal on *The Hopeless Ghosts*

Gaby Moreno

duet vocal on *Land Of The Hummingbird*

STUDIO CREDITS

Recorded and mixed by Craig Schumacher at WaveLab Recording Studios, Tucson, Arizona. Additional home recordings - Gaby's vocals (New York), Grant-Lee's vocals (Nashville), Naïm's guitar (Tucson), Paul's pedal steel (Nashville), Tom Hagerman's strings and accordion (Denver), Thomas Collison's organ (London). Additional bullet mic (Dean) recording by Garry Boyle at The Slate Room Studio, Scotland.

Mastered by JJ Golden at Golden Mastering, Ventura, CA

All tracks produced by Dean Owens, except *La Lomita* – produced by Joey Burns and Dean Owens.

All songs written by Dean Owens, except *Land Of The Hummingbird* (by Dean Owens and Gabriel Sullivan), *Arizona*, *Summer In Your Eyes* (by Dean Owens and Nels Andrews).

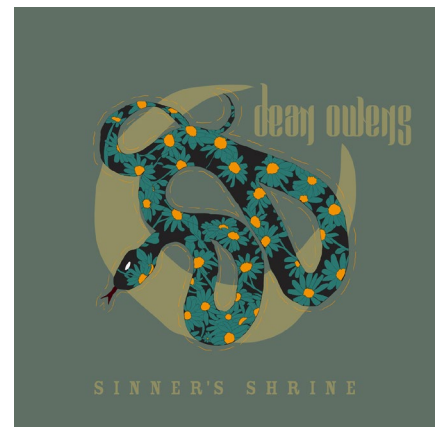
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Sleeve design by James Morrison, illustrations by Luisa Carmela Casasanta

Dean Owens
Sinner's Shrine

18 Feb 2022
Eel Pie Records/
Continental Record
Services



Dean's Song Notes

1. Arizona

I was struggling a bit with the lyrics until I visited the Sinner's Shrine in Tucson. My friend Nels Andrews then helped me knock it into shape. Nels lives in California, but is originally from New Mexico, so he understands the whole Southwestern vibe, and what I was trying to achieve.

2. The Hopeless Ghosts

Inspired by the late, great Townes Van Zandt. When asked why his songs were so sad he replied that he had a few that weren't sad, that were just hopeless, about hopeless situations. I was over the moon that my friend Grant-Lee Phillips offered to sing on it with me.

3. New Mexico

A song that first appeared on my lo-fi debut solo record, *The Droma Tapes*. I always thought of the original as the black and white version, and now it's had the technicolour treatment.

4. Compañera

The imagery in this song was very much inspired by visiting the Sinner's Shrine, and by trips to Italy with my wife. I love beautiful old churches and places of worship. There's a peace in these places. A special moment during the recording was when Joey invited his old friend Tony Pró, from Mariachi Luz de Luna, to play the guitarron.

5. Here Comes Paul Newman

Inspired by one of my favourite films – *Hud* (starring Paul Newman). I was also thinking about the great Spaghetti Western soundtracks of Ennio Morricone.

6. The Barbed Wire's Still Weeping

I'd been reading a lot of books dealing with the subject of the US/Mexico border, migrants and immigration. Books by the likes of Luis Alberto Urrea, and Francisco Cantú, about desperate people in desperate situations, looking for a better life.

7. La Lomita

Inspired by the story of a small chapel, La Lomita. One of the oldest in the US and a place of refuge, right on the border, it was in danger of being demolished to make way for Trump's wall. Joey took the lead on this. He knew exactly what I was aiming for and it was so much fun letting Sergio Mendoza loose with his box of tricks.

8. Land Of The Hummingbird

A little work of fiction that I wrote with Gabriel Sullivan (XIXA/Giant Sand). It was amazing having Gaby Moreno sing in Spanish on the recording. She has such a beautiful voice.

9. We Need Us

A simple call for us all to try a little harder to do our bit and protect our beautiful planet for future generations. Because when it's gone, it's gone.

10. Summer In Your Eyes

Another song I'd been wrestling with for a few years. I knew where I wanted to get with it, but not how to get there. Again, my friend Nels Andrews helped me with the words.

11. After The Rain

One of my oldest songs, originally known as *Shine Like The Road After The Rain*, inspired by an Ansel Adams photograph. I was strumming away on my nylon string guitar one day and started singing it. It felt right again. New and fresh. I made a demo and sent it to Joey. He got right back to me and said 'you have to record this one'. I'm so glad we did.