

## Album of the week



### Frank Yamma: Countryman

14TH MAY, 2011

The voice grabs you first: a soulful shout of pain and yearning to connect and remember. Some songs are in English, others in Yamma's Pitjantjatjara. His guitar is spare and fluid, and he draws strong, emotive melodies from it. But it's the voice, relating hard tales with honesty and emotion, that makes this a raw, stripped-back classic.

**TIM CUMMING**

FRANK YAMMA'S LOCALLY ACLAIMED NEW ALBUM 'COUNTRYMAN' WAS RELEASED IN THE U.K. IN APRIL AND IS GETTING A LOT OF INTEREST FROM THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA.

'COUNTRYMAN' IS WORLD MUSIC ALBUM OF THE WEEK IN THE UK'S LEADING NEWSPAPER THE INDEPENDENT (14 MAY 2011).

FRANK YAMMA WILL BE PERFORMING LIVE IN EUROPE DURING JUNE AND JULY

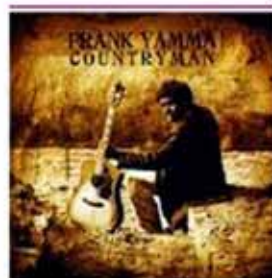
### Frank Yamma: Countryman - review

(Wantok Musik/Proper)

★★★★★

Robin Denselow  
The Guardian, United Kingdom  
29th April 2011

**theguardian**



Frank Yamma  
Countryman  
Wantok Music  
2011

The international success of the soulful singer-songwriter Gurrumul has led to a flurry of interest in the music of the indigenous peoples of Australia. Quite right too, for there are other fine Aboriginal performers, as shown by the Black Arm Band project and now this set by Frank Yamma, the first release on a new label specialising in music from the region. Like those other musicians, he concentrates on the history and problems of his homeland, but does so using western rather than traditional musical styles, even when singing in local languages. There's no reggae or rock (the BAB's specialities) here, but rather a gutsy and often pained set of ballads that veer between folk-pop and country. The sparse backing is provided by his own acoustic and electric guitar work, with the occasional addition of cello, piano or drums, and he's at his best with the emotional Make More Spear, a plea for self-respect and an end to alcohol abuse. He saves many of his best melodies for the non-English-language songs, which include the epic and soulful Pitjantjara and Docker River, which sounds like an intense country weepie. Sadly, no translations are provided.

