

Jeremy Harry Harris always wanted to be a musician. However, when he was younger his parents said he needed a job with prospects. He joined the army, but at 21-years-old, he had an accident during a parachute jump.

My parachute failed to open correctly during a 330 metre descent. I fell to the ground too fast. I came down and hit my head and damaged my eye. Then followed two and a half years of rehabilitation.

Jeremy Harry Harris - Singer



Jeremy turned to his music and singing after losing his sight in one eye

The accident meant Jeremy lost his sight in his right eye. Rather than dwell on what he'd lost, he felt this as a sign to throw his energy into something else. That meant returning to his first love of music and singing.

Music video goes global

Fast forward twenty-two years and Jeremy is now an accomplished musician and singer, touring America and South America several times over. Now at the age of 44 he's an award winner - securing a film festival award for his music video 'Shout Down the Silence.'



Jeremy has toured globally as a singer and musician

“You could say music became my therapy. My instrument of choice is the guitar and drums but in recent years I've moved across to singing,” he explains.

Jeremy's first band '*Stone Circle*' was very popular in Cuba and gathered a huge following there. He also formed an INXS tribute band called '*New Sensation*' touring throughout Australia. While he never met Michael Hutchence he has been lucky enough to meet and perform for Sir Bob Geldof at his request.

A self-confessed showman, Jeremy says he loves being a lead vocalist.

“I try to draw upon influences such as Freddie Mercury, as I like to captivate the audience. Live performance is unique, and provides such an adrenalin buzz.”

Jeremy Harry Harris - Singer

Track filmed by the (railway) tracks

And captivate he does. His latest video 'Shout down the Silence' has led to an accolade, securing the *Best Music Video Award* at the [Tagore International Film Festival](#) in Bengal. Filmed at the old Midland Railway Yard, the video features none other than VisAbility's Youth Support Officer Ryan Honschooten and film producer Peter Renzullo. Jeremy included, all three are either blind or have some form of vision loss.

“On set we called ourselves the 'Three Blind Mice' and while I'm aware of our disabilities, no one else did. There's a clip in the video where Ryan is knocked over by Jordan Azor (the lead actor) running into him. The main actor didn't realise Ryan is blind and Ryan was unaware he was in the direct line of being struck. It ended up being very authentic.”

Peter owns [Scudley Records](#) where Jeremy recorded his latest album. 'Kings of Time'. He'd met Ryan though the local Gosnells radio station [Heritage FM](#).

'Shout Down the Silence', is a song for current times as Jeremy is keen to explain.

“It's about being disconnected and is apt after all we've been through with COVID-19. It's not a political song. We're all online and digitally in-tune with each other, but we are a nation which isn't connecting to each other. We've lost empathy, we need to stamp out issues such as child poverty, homelessness and military arms spending.”

The 'Shout Down the Silence' video has already had 2,500 views online. It has been entered into several film festivals and is getting wider circulation on a global scale. The protest scene took one full day to complete with a weeks' worth of editing in a studio.

“If I think back to 1998, I would never imagine myself in this place. Everything happens for a reason.”

Ryan is our Youth Support Officer at VisAbility and is part a team committed to providing support to younger people with services which fall under [Therapy for Children and Youth](#). If you'd like to find out more of what's available, get in contact with us today.