

Dana Cooper Bio

Cooper's lifelong passion and devotion to music began at age 2 in Kansas City. His father, George, was a huge influence. One of Dana's earliest memories is of his father taking him to the Calico Cat, popping a coin in the jukebox and listening to Dana sing along with **Hank Williams** and **Ernest Tubb**.

At age 20, Dana moved to LA and signed a record deal with **Elektra Records**, where he recorded his first album with members of "The Section" (**Russ Kunkel** and **Leleand Sklar**) as well as other luminary players such as **Jim Horn**, **Al Perkins**, **Jim Gordon**, **Joe Osborne**, and **Lee Holdridge**. This album still wins accolades today and was recently re-issued on the Warner/Japan label.

After several years in California and a year recording in Seattle, Cooper moved to Texas, where he wrote and performed with **Shake Russell**. They released several independent albums and one album for **Southcoast/MCA**.

Dana formed his own experimental bands, **DC3** and **Nuclear Family**, and released his first solo project, "**Complicated Stuff**." In 1988, he moved to Nashville to pursue his songwriting career, collaborating with other songwriters:

Tom Kimmel	Sally Barris
Don Henry	Pat Alger
Hal Ketchum	Kim Carnes
Josh Leo	Pierce Pettis
Kim Richey	Allen Shamblin

His years as a troubadour are measured by his impressive 28 albums and collection of accolades:

- **In the Spirit of Folk Award** from Folk Alliance International (2015)
- **Heritage Musician Award** from The Pilgrim Center for the Arts in Kansas City (2014)
- Veteran Recurring Performer at **Kerrville Folk Festival**
- **Best Male Songwriter Award**, Indie Acoustic Project, for Made of Mud (2005).
- **Best Record Award, The Tennessean**, for Harry Truman Built a Road (2002)
- **Nashville Music Award Nomination, Best Pop Album**, for Miracle Mile (1997)

Cooper's songs have been recorded by artists such as bluegrass singer **Claire Lynch**, Irish vocalist **Maura O'Connell**, Nashville songbird **Jonell Mosser**, as well as songwriters **Pierce Pettis** and **Susan Werner**. His incredible catalogue and musical sensibilities have led to endorsements from **AirPlay Direct** and **Elixir Strings**.

On his upcoming CD, "**I Can Face the Truth**," Cooper faces hard truths head on with humor and heartfelt expression. Joining forces with co-producer and multi-instrumentalist Dave Coleman, the two enlisted some of the best songwriters, singers, and musicians from the US and Ireland. Collaborators in the studio include **Tom Kimmel**, **Kim Richey**, **Jonell Mosser**, **Maura O'Connell**, **Brother Paul Brown**, **David Starr**, and **Gillian Tuite**. Expect "**I Can Face the Truth**" to be released early in 2022 with an expansive CD release tour to follow.