

Sherbet and "Howzat"

"How, how howzat? / You messed about / I caught you out / Howzat!" These words are from Sherbet's greatest single.

For most of the 1970s, the group Sherbet was the King of Pops in Australia. It was the top entertainer on the Australian charts and stages. Only with the appearance of the Skyhooks did Sherbet face serious competition. Between 1971 and 1978 Sherbet released fifteen albums and thirty singles. Among these were Australian pop classics such as "You've got the gun" (1972), "Child's play", "Life" and "Summer love".

Well promoted as a teen-oriented singles band, Sherbet produced polished, popular songs. Teen idolisation gave Sherbet star status. Lead singer Daryl Braithwaite was the most popular male performer at the time. The band was regularly mobbed. In concert, Sherbet was outstanding.

Although sometimes criticised as lightweight, Sherbet was a classic pop band whose success was based on musical ability and hard work, not just clever marketing.

Sherbet remains one of the best selling and most successful Australian bands. It produced original material and enjoyed a string of hits, with an amazing run of sixteen consecutive Top 40 singles between 1971 and 1977. Sherbet holds the honour of being Australia's first band to have an overseas hit with a song written, recorded and produced entirely in Australia—"Howzat" (1976).

Sherbet's decline began during its ill-fated US tour in 1978. The band split the next year. The members regrouped in 1980 as Sherbs and struggled on until 1984, but the public had lost interest. Poor record sales meant the writing was on the wall. They performed a few times in the 1990s for special events.

In 1998 Sherbet was honoured with its own stamp, commemorating the 1976 international success of "Howzat".

Did the words predict its fall from fame? "Now that I found where you're at / It's goodbye / Well howzat? / It's goodbye."

Source: <http://www.milesago.com/Artists/sherbet.htm>

