

Nick Heyward

Biography

Born in Beckenham, Heyward spent his early years in and around south London. He attended Kelsey Park School for Boys where he studied art and photography. He left school at 16 to work as a commercial artist.

Heyward and school friends Graham Jones and Les Nemes, the core of Haircut 100, started bands together as far back as 1977. The band signed with Arista Records in 1981 and had four UK Top 10 singles between 1981-82. Their debut album, *Pelican West* (1982), written by Heyward, reached No. 2. It was Certified Platinum by the British Phonographic Industry and Heyward was nominated for an Ivor Novello Award for Most Performed Song for "Love Plus One" in 1982.

Work on the band's second album commenced in October 1982 but, in January 1983, a statement was issued confirming that Heyward had left the band and percussionist Marc Fox had taken over on vocals. At the time of the announcement, Heyward told *Smash Hits* magazine that he had been contemplating going solo for a while and had already recorded some tracks with session musicians. However, many years later, Heyward stated that he had been struggling with stress and depression at the time after a year of constant work and pressure which led to him being, in effect, sacked by the other members of the band.

Heyward's solo career took off in March 1983 with the single "Whistle Down The Wind", which reached No. 13 in the UK Singles Chart. Two further Top 20 hits followed: "Take That Situation" (#11) and "Blue Hat for a Blue Day" (#14). His debut solo album, *North of a Miracle*, was released in October 1983 and peaked at No. 10 in the UK. Three follow-up singles to the album, "Love All Day", "Warning Sign" and "Laura", were all UK Top 40 hits.

Postcards From Home, Heyward's second solo album, was released in 1986 and featured the hit singles "Over the Weekend" and "Goodbye Yesterday". By 1988, he had moved to Warner Bros. Records and released his third album, *I Love You Avenue*, which included the hit single "You're My World".

Heyward's 1993 album, *From Monday to Sunday*, on Epic Records, featured a more classic rock style and brought him his first hits of the 1990s. The first single, "Kite", reached No. 44 in the UK Singles Charts and No. 4 in *Billboard* magazine's Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart. Over the next two years, he toured regularly, particularly in the US, where he played alongside bands like *Belly*, *The Lemonheads*, *Mazzy Star* and *Therapy?*.

In more recent times, Heyward has released two independent albums. *The Mermaid and the Lighthouse Keeper*, full of gentle singer-songwriter pop written and recorded with singer India Dupre, and *Open Sesame Seed*, a pop/poetry concept album written by Heyward with narration by actor Greg Ellis.

As of early 2016, Heyward is mixing and mastering his latest solo album, recorded with his son, Oliver, in Henley-on-Thames and also with *From Monday to Sunday* recording engineer, Ian Shaw, in Key West, Florida.

The album will be released in late 2016 and a promotion tour is being booked for late spring 2017.