MAK AND SHAR

Straight off the bat, they weren't your average X-Factor contestants. The farm boys from Mudgee, NSW, were raised without electricity, running water or sewerage, just so that their mother could afford to buy them instruments and drive them across the country to their shows.

Makirum and Shardyn Fahey-Leigh have clocked up twelve Tamworth Country Music Festivals. At their first, aged just 11 and 13 years old, Mak was so small that he could barely hold a guitar, but that didn't stop the crowd going wild.

Yep, there aren't many kids who could tour arenas with Hugh Jackman in The Boy from Oz, like Shar, who's the oldest brother at 28. Even the youngest, Mak – now 26 – found fame as the kid with the bowl cut in the Macca's ads, before progressing to film, TV and stage roles like his siblings. Mak also joined Shar in the musical Quambadook, about the life of country star John Williamson, and it was this experience that sealed the brothers' love of country music, spurring them to release four independent albums before they'd even hit our screens on The XFactor.

Their harmonious take on country-pop was the surprise hit of the sixth season. Their former band Brothers 3 auditioned with a daring cover of 'Safe & Sound' by Taylor Swift and were voted in by all four judges – Redfoo, Ronan Keating, Natalie Bassingthwaighte and their eventual mentor, Dannii Minogue – before battling on to the grand final in 2014. After an exhilarating battle, Brothers3 placed third. Free from the schedule of TV, they hit the road, touring extensively with "The Lucky One's Tour" before they inked a record deal with Warner Music Australia.

Following their country hit Brothers Never Part, Brothers3 continued their trailblazing work reshaping Australian modern country music with the release of their studio album (of the same name) Brothers Never Part on January 15, 2016. The album placed at #11 on the Aria Charts, as well as #1 on the Country Charts and #2 on the Australian Charts. Brothers3 also announced the 'Brothers Never Part' east coast 32 date tour that kicked off in March, of the same year.

In 2022 Makirum and Shardyn relaunched as Country/Pop duo Mak & Shar, releasing their first single as a duo "Kill Me Softly". Reaching the semi-finals of the International Songwriting Competition, the single was written by Shar about the trials and tribulations of a rocky relationship where lyrics such as 'unconditional in superficial kinds of art' explore a devotion against better judgement, to a fake friend and lover. The duo released their first (self-titled) EP a year later in 2023 which was written and recorded in their hometown of Mudgee at the boy's home studio.

The sibling duo then headed to the Tamworth Country Music Festival where they shot the video clip, and released their first single of 2024 ‘Leap Of Faith’. Playing to thousands of their supporters new and old, the 2024 festival cemented the boy’s love of the Australian country music scene once more and they headed off on Mak & Shar’s first tour simply titled ‘Leap Of Faith Tour’.

Mak & Shar’s latest single (Best Thing) shows off to the world effortless harmonies and skilful musicianship with a connection and mateship that only two brothers can have. Seasoned songwriters and performers, these Australian brothers are looking forward to taking the country by storm and show no signs of slowing down.