



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

Welcome to our new readers. Please feel free to join in.

Great news of two of Russ's songs this month...one released and one about to be. You can pre-order Beki's album and have a listen to Graham Bonnet's new single through the links below .

We have something a little different from Dave this month. Do you remember Mike Read's Pop Quiz on TV in the early 80s? One episode was a bit special and Dave tells us why.

Back in the early 70s Tony Dawson-Hill recorded an Argent session from the radio. Sven has been able to create a link so we can all hear it. If you click on the link it takes you to a 'secret' page on the website. The sound quality is amazing. The session is about 40 minutes long and well worth listening to. If you can help Tony with any information about this session, please send it to me and I will forward it to him.

Sue

THIS MONTH

Russ: *"This past week I listened to a live recording I made in Germany some years ago. I thought it sounded pretty good and I've asked Christian if he'd mix it and I'm pleased to say, he's agreed to do it, so, with a bit of luck it'll be out early next year, My friends, Bob Henrit, Steve Smith, Chris Winter and Chris Childs were in the band, and I thought what great players they are...I never realized how much chatting I did that night. Anyway, I'll 'live with it' and see how I feel when it's mixed... I could always edit some of the rabbiting out.*

I attended TREVOR Horn's party for the opening of his new rehearsal rooms - they're very cool - his band played a set and they were 'hot'.

*Well, whether you're on holiday or not, have a great August and, be with you again in early Autumn...Oh, dear!!
Love, Russ"*

BEKI BRINDLE-SCALA - BLUE FOR YOU

In last month's newsletter we told you about Beki's new album with title track Russ's 'Blue For You'. The pre-sale link is now available. You would get the download and a hard copy CD, or even more if you would like. Have a look.

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/beki-brindle-band-blue-for-you-vol-1-download#/>

[Beki Brindle Band -
Blue For You Vol. 1
download!](https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/beki-brindle-band-blue-for-you-vol-1-download#/)

www.indiegogo.com

Beki Brindle Band 's new album, Blue For You! Money to manufacture, promote & for tour support. | Check out 'Beki Brindle Band - Blue For You Vol. 1 download!' on Indiegogo.



GRAHAM BONNET

A couple of months ago Russ told us that he had written a song, 'Livin' In Suspicion', for Graham Bonnet, which is on Graham Bonnet's brand new album, released on July 13th and is also his new single. The official video for the song was published on 28th July and here it is.

<https://youtu.be/AZ9gC8QUL3I>

[Graham Bonnet Band](https://youtu.be/AZ9gC8QUL3I)
[- "Livin' In](https://youtu.be/AZ9gC8QUL3I)
[Suspicion" \(Official](https://youtu.be/AZ9gC8QUL3I)
[Music Video\)](https://youtu.be/AZ9gC8QUL3I)

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LETTERS

From Gianmaria Framarin

As most people know, and so does Russ as well, <<Voices>> was an incredible hit song in the summer of 1984 in Italy, where I live despite my Scottish roots. He once said to me he remembers about coming to Verona and playing at the Arena, he was part of a typical summer festival that used to be aired on our most important private TV channel almost twice or three times a week. The show was called 'Festivalbar', it featured almost anyone who was doing great at that time, even Madonna and Duran Duran came over here, it was by far the most important summer show on the telly. <<Voices>> was one of the big hits that summer, along with Talk Talk's <<It's My Life>> and <<Such a Shame>>, Wham's <<Wake Me Up...>>, Matt Bianco's <<Sneaking out the Backdoor>>, Billy Idol's <<Eyes without a Face>>, Rod Stewart's <<Infatuation>>, Bruce Springsteen's <<Dancing in the Dark>> and so many others. Needless to say <<Voices>> was my favourite one, I had already got in touch with Russ' work through America's latest albums (<<View from the Ground>> and <<Your Move>>), I wasn't keen on modern new wave or the dance scene at that time, I was more in tune with the seventies, so Russ would always win it. You might want to know that the show was sent all summer long by Berlusconi's <<Canale 5>> network, by far the most important private TV channel (still nowadays), but that was far before he got into politics...

ARGENT CONCERT ON THE BBC

From Tony Dawson-Hill

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.russballardmusic.com%2Fargent.html&h=AT0alj2nfJUnUxmWofg2igGESkzycZINNr0PgjGNWkT3fNtKJ87TDe0t-vzjc4AF0roy90euAP_vmqqRn2CqWesa7OokvIFiZiVJ2DUIA3HdoTNbdSOOdN5JW55Ogtw08q5

The above link is to an Argent session that I recorded from the radio, I think in 1971 as the band are playing tracks from the '71 album Ring of Hands. Each track

is introduced by John Peel and I'm guessing it was recorded for his show Top Gear or was it Sound of the Seventies?

I used to tape lots of live sessions from the radio, usually on a Sunday afternoon, on to a very basic Philip reel to reel tape. I recently discovered all these old tapes and the Philips recorder in my loft. The rubber drive bands on the recorder had all perished but I did find someone locally who could repair it for me. There was some very interesting stuff on those tapes of which the Argent session was one of them.

I have tried to find some information about this session but with no luck – not even in the John Peel live session archives. There have been Argent at the BBC albums available but none of them have these tracks on them. I would be very grateful if anyone can throw some light on this session.

If anyone is interested there was a couple of Pretty Things live tracks – Spring and Alexander. Again tracks I'd never heard on any Pretty Things BBC sessions albums. I contacted Repertoire records, who issue all the Pretty Things BBC sessions, and they hadn't heard them before. Eroc, Repertoire's remastering man cleaned them up, as he did the Argent session, and I believe they will be put on the September release of The Pretty Things Live At The BBC package.

Russ: *"I remember the show, it was recorded at the BBC Regent Street."*

RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

By Dave Williams

Top of the pops!

A little something extra this month. Readers might recall that Russ held "An evening with..." event in Leicester Square, London early last year. The MC for the evening was former BBC Radio 1 DJ **Mike Read**. Those of us who were around at the start of the 1980s might recall that Mike used to host a Saturday teatime TV programme on BBC1 called **Pop Quiz**. Celebrities from the music world were tested on their general music knowledge with the only prize on offer being self-respect! The fact that you could participate from your own armchair added to the appeal.

Two teams, each made up of three pop stars with one acting as team captain, were required to answer questions both individually and as a team. There was

an element of risk. Get a question wrong and you might lose points. The final part featured a quick-fire round open to all, providing an opportunity for the trailing team to make up lost ground. Think of it as the music equivalent of that other famous BBC quiz "A Question of Sport". The show ran from July 1981 to December 1984 with various specials and one-offs being broadcast since then, the most recent being in January 2017.



6.00 News and Weather.

6.15 Pop Quiz: Radio 1 disc jockey Paul Gambaccini captains one team (Alvin Stardust, Lynsey de Paul), and Russ Ballard captains the other (Chas Hodges of Chas and Dave, and Errol Brown of Hot Chocolate).

The reason for bringing this to the newsletter is that in the very first series, episode 5 was rather special. Aired on August 1st, 1981, our very own **Russ Ballard** captained a team made up of **Errol Brown** from Hot Chocolate and **Chas Hodges**, the non-Dave half of Chas n Dave. Facing them were **Alvin Stardust** and the lovely **Lyndsey de Paul** who were led by their captain **Paul Gambaccini**. Paul is a walking pop music encyclopaedia and would be a formidable opponent for any team. I saw the show, and I recall that his reputation remained intact. Did his team win? Unfortunately, I can't remember. Whilst some of the episodes exist on You Tube, S1 ep5 is sadly not one of them. Russ seems to be much better at remembering things like this, so maybe he can enlighten us?

If you have some time to spare, Simon B Kelly has put together a very interesting website which features details of who appeared on each episode of the show. He If anyone has any old footage, he would welcome any input. Please visit www.simonbkelly.com. His page for this particular show... <http://www.simonbkelly.com/popquiz/?s=1&e=5>

Russ: *"Somebody suggested to the BBC I should appear on Pop Quiz, because I was not bad at pop trivia...I said I'd have a go and the director asked me to find two members for my team. I phoned Roger Daltrey, who said "Oh it sounds a bit dauntin' Don't it" so He was out, so, I contacted my old mate Chas Hodges who*

said, “yeah, I’ll do it” and dear Errol Brown, who agreed to appear. Who the BBC choose to put us against? PAUL Gambaccini , the original human pop encyclopedia. In the end we only lost by five points, which was pretty good. Even taking in to account Paul was writing down the answers for his team (Lynsey De Paul & Alvin Stardust). All good fun. xxx

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

New from Dave Williams

Whilst writing my articles I’ve discovered scores of versions of songs written by Russ, some well-known, others less so. It started to become something of a quest to discover as many songs as possible. There’s lots of material out there and I thought it might be nice to share some of these discoveries with readers. So, let’s kick off this month with:

No.1



I Can Wait by Ola & the Janglers

Ola & The Janglers were a garage band formed in 1962 in Stockholm, Sweden. That was way before the birth of ABBA. The group had numerous hits in their native country including a cover of Let’s Dance by Chris Montez. Lesser known however, was this release in 1967 on the Gazell record label. It was also released in the UK by Decca and the illustration above shows a version on London Records. This must be one of Russ’s earliest songs when he was just finding his feet as a writer, yet it already has that signature Russ sound. Follow the link below to check it out:

<https://youtu.be/HrfUegCozs8>

Russ: "Ola and The Janglers - I remember writing this song, 'I Can Wait' - I was pleased with the verse, although, I recall thinking there might be too much information there. I kept that chord sequence in my head and used it again, ten years later, when I wrote "So You Win Again", which Hot Chocolate recorded...it has the same chord sequence but the melody, although much simpler, followed the same idea. You know what they say, K.I.S.S. Keep it Simple Stupid. I remember doing an interview, probably twenty years ago, when voice in the room said "Hi Russ, I'm Ola" We shook hands, although we didn't speak much, there was too much going on."

[Ola & The Janglers - I Can Wait](#)

youtu.be

Swedish group, this single was released in the UK on Decca in 1967

