



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

Welcome to our new readers. Please feel free to contribute to this newsletter any time.

Lots in the newsletter this month and the special news is that we have a COMPETITION! (Thank you Ian!) I hope there will be lots of entries, even if it takes me all month to sort them out!

It was great to get some letters for the newsletter. I get a number of emails after each newsletter goes out. If you would like your comments to go into the newsletter as a "Letter", please make it clear which bit you would like to be in by highlighting, printing in a different colour or just telling me that you would like that part to be included. But, please keep your emails to me coming in. I won't make the things you write public unless you say it is ok.

Thanks to all those who have contributed, in some way, to this newsletter.

Sue

THIS MONTH....

Russ: *"Two weeks ago I'd finished mixing the final songs for 'It's Good To Be Here' - After agonizing, I decided to remix them, because I thought they could do with more low end in the kicks*

and basses. It sounds a simple job, until you realise, once the bass comes up other sounds have to be altered and in the end it can take a time to get where you want to be, sound- wise. I'm now just living with the alterations for a day or two before we send them out.

Sunday before last I was guest on Sue Marchant's BBC radio show. It was good fun and she is well 'clued up' - I think they say in Rock circles....We talked about my career in music, going back to childhood..then the first professional days with Adam Faith and The Roulettes, Unit Four, Argent and finally my Writing and solo years. It gets a little emotional sometimes, when you talk about people who have been great friends who are no longer here....so many...That was part of the inspiration for 'Time Machine' - [The first song I wrote for the album] - "We'll meet again, Don't know where, Don't know when" - "Build it they will come" - Bob Henrit was on Sue's show last year, talking about his book...He said....You'll like Sue, "She's a real Rock Chick" - Anyway, I love enthusiasts, and she's one! - What a lovely girl she is.

I took my friend Peter Ross to Abbey Road studios - [as a birthday present] - I first recorded there in the early sixties and have made so many albums there, but it has such an amazing atmosphere... The people have been very clever to leave the studios much the same.

My son Christian and his music partner Lavvy flew to Denmark last weekend to perform at the Danish DJ Awards.....Sada Vidoo received two awards. Christian, Sada and I wrote and produced her album eighteen months ago and it's been well received. Christian was buzzing when he came home....Their Friday Fox Records is beginning to make waves...they deserve it!

We'll must get back in to the studio and Lower some basses.....Lots of Love!! xxx "

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Russ: "Sometimes I suppose we get those moments when we think, 'What I do in this world can't make much difference' - Then I heard someone say, 'It might not seem important what you do, but it's important that you do it" - Interesting....

So, remember....If you think you're too small to make a difference, then you've never been to bed with a Mosquito!

As it's election month, it makes me think, why does political power attract so many weird people - I'm not talking about David C., Ed M. etc....I mean the Hitlers, The Sadam Husseins, The Idi Amins, Stalin, Gadafi, so many of them...It doesn't appear to attract Spiritual, enlightened people...Maybe that would make a difference in the world."

INTERVIEW WITH SUE MARCHANT

If you missed Russ's interview with Sue Marchant on BBC Radio Cambridge on 26th April, or just want to hear it again, here is a link to

listen again. It was a very entertaining interview; well worth a listen if you missed it when it went out live. It was going so well, it went on a lot longer than was originally planned. It includes several tracks including two of the new ones and a live acoustic version of It's My Life that is quite something!! The interview starts at about 30 minutes in and lasts for approximately 90 minutes...on and off.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001d7sb>

Listen again is available for 30 days from the date of the broadcast so don't leave it too late!

See attachments for photos of Russ in Sue's studio. (Photos by Sue Marchant and UMU Music.)

NEW ALBUM

Many of you have been eagerly waiting for Russ's new album so I am sure you will know that it is now available from UMU Music. Pop over to <http://www.umumusic.com/> and register if you haven't already done so. Once you have subscribed you will be able to download the first three tracks. The next three will be available very soon...by the time you read this you might already be able to download them. The final three tracks are due to be released in July. Once you have subscribed you will receive other Russ goodies.

In this 20 minute interview Russ did recently for Classic Rock, he talks about UMU Music towards the end.

<http://www.classicrockpodcast.com/media/RussBallardFinal.mp3>

COMPETITION!!

It's competition time!!!! Something new for the newsletter...we thought we would have a competition with a great prize for the loyal readers of this newsletter.

The question is...

How many of the songs that Russ has written have been published?

The entry closest to the right answer will win a subscription to UMU Music with thanks to Peter Ross for donating such a generous prize.

Entries must be received by 31st May. Send your entry to this newsletter email address with your name. russ.b.news@hotmail.co.uk

If you listened to Russ's interview with Sue Marchant you will have heard some figures mentioned. Ignore those...they will send you along the wrong path! Use your own judgement.

DANISH DJ AWARDS

On 30th April, Christian and Lavvy of Friday Fox, travelled to Copenhagen to perform with Sada Vidoo at the Danish DJ Awards in front of an audience of 6000. This was a televised event. After a red carpet experience they backed Sada as she performed "Love is a Battlefield" from her album, "A Story With No End", produced by Christian, Russ and Sada herself.

See attachments for photos of Christian and the audience and Sada performing with the boys behind her.

ARTWORK

We have been enjoying Sven Kramer's fantastic artwork in the newsletter for some time now. Sven has put together all the banners, posters etc that he has done to promote Russ in one place on his website, krameronline. Have a look here. You will be surprised at how many there are.

http://krameronline.eu/russballardartwork_en.html

ADAM FAITH BOOK

If, like me and a few others I know, you go back with Russ as far as the times of The Roulettes, you might be interested in this new book written about Adam Faith's life. "Big Time: The Life of Adam Faith" by David Stafford and Caroline Stafford, published April 2015 by Omnibus Press. The authors have a very entertaining style and it is an enjoyable read. Here is a link to a clip of David Stafford talking about the book. It is available from the usual places. (See attachments for photo.)

<https://youtu.be/srXtyLfmeh8>

TOP TWELVE SONGS

In the March newsletter, in answer to a question, Russ gave his top 12 songs and said it was difficult to pick 12 and it would be easier to pick 50. Well, he has sent us another 12.

Russ: *My Other Top Twelve....*

'The Next Girl' - The Black Keys.... https://youtu.be/x_PrT25o8Vs

'Video Games' - Lana del Rey...

'Ironic' - Alanis Morissette...

'Iris' - Goo Goo Dolls.... <https://youtu.be/NdYWuo9OFAw>

'The Thrill Has Gone' - BB King....

'Teardrops' - Womack and Womack

'Run' - Snow Patrol....

Mahlers 3rd Symphony....

'Walking The Strings' - Chet Atkins....

'Friday On My Mind' - Easy Beats...

'Someone Like You' - Adele....

'Rumble' - Link Ray. <https://youtu.be/fHEmDLQKrrk>

LETTERS

Dear Sue,

I love the fact that Russ answered my questions last time! The part I didn't get though was: "I didn't play at all on Winning"??

Surely, there must be some mistake, as he most certainly played guitar on that album.

Best wishes
Greg

Hi Sue,

I'd have to argue with Russ's point in the last newsletter, about "At The Third Stroke" being "a bit soft." For me it's a classic, timeless album that still sounds great today. Not everything needs to be "RAWK," and "Treat Her Right" kind of proves my point, don't you think?

It does have that LA feel about it, but "soft rock" didn't do REO Speedforeigner any harm, did it?

The best album Toto never made! It all boils down to personal taste though, doesn't it?

Kind regards,
Brian

Russ: *"Thanks for the question - Actually, I wouldn't have recorded those songs if I didn't like them. The big problem seemed to me, they shouldn't have been on the same album - I think having different styles made The Third Stroke lack continuity... 'Dancer', 'I'm a Scorpio' 'Helpless' - I think they work together - Probably, 'Treat her right' 'Judgement Day' and 'What does it take', for me, would have worked on another album.... Anyway Brian, it's good of you to make me feel better about making it."*

YOUR QUESTIONS

I have a question for the newsletter. It's about the Seer. If I look at the CD info it says to all tracks: drums by Russ/Chris. But it doesn't specify who plays it on which track. That always has intrigued me. There are tracks where I find the drums being played with more power and gest than on others..so would be nice to know if that is Mr Ballard or Mr Winter.

Russ: *"The drumming on The Seer.....I recorded that at home and the drums were programmed, sometimes by me, sometimes by Chris, so, is's hard to recall everything, although, I remember, I had a good loop for 'Vibrate, which I did on my own. Songs that we started together 'Barenaked' and 'The Healer'*

and 'These are the times', I think Chris did those....Chris's brother is a professional drummer."

RECORDED BY OTHERS

This song, "Riding With the Angels", was recorded in 1981 by Samson, when Bruce Dickinson was their vocalist. Bruce Dickinson is best known as lead vocalist for heavy metal band Iron Maiden. Here we have a later, 1990, performance by Bruce D in Los Angeles.

<https://youtu.be/7LAAd8vVhIU>

IDEAL SET LIST

From Markus Linten

Attached my favourite list. One thing I'd like to add: My favourite is of course „New York Groove“ – being a child (9 years), it was the first song that really struck me. Alas the single was sold out in my village, so „Star Studded Sham“ became my first record bought. Apart from these songs, I really love Russ's contribution for the Eurovision Song Contest: No dream impossible! It's fantastic and really powerful (I voted for Lindsay).

My favourite ones sung by Russ: Hey Bernadette; The fire still burns (,the making of' is well known in Germany); Voices, On the Rebound and Living without you.

Best wishes from good old Germany,
Markus

Book of Love
Hearts of Fire (Roger Daltrey)
Hey Bernadette
I can't hear you no more
I Know There's Something Going On (Frida)
I Surrender
Living without you
On the Rebound
Near to Surrender (Roger Daltrey)
New York Groove (Hello)
No Dream Impossible (Lindsay Dracass)
No More the Fool (Elkie Brooks)
Since You Been Gone (Rainbow/[Head East](#))
So You Win Again ([Hot Chocolate](#))

Star Studded Sham (Hello)
The Border (America)
Two silhouettes
The Healer
Voices
You Can Do Magic (America)

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