



Thanks, as always, to Sven Kramer for making us a lovely Christmas banner.

We have been a little spoilt in the last two months with long accounts in the newsletter. Back to normal now!!

Please send in any Russ stories or photos you have. Any contribution will be welcomed and we would love to hear from you.

Don't forget, on Merseyland Alternative Radio, DJ Paul Jay has a Russ Ballard slot on Sunday evenings at 5pm GMT. Paul plays Russ's tracks, Argent tracks and/or songs written by Russ.

<http://www.mar.me.uk/index2.html>

I would like to wish everyone who is celebrating Christmas, a very happy time and a wonderful, interesting, healthy and memorable new year to you all.

Sue

NEWS

Russ recently did a Q/A interview with Metal Hammer magazine about his association with the band Skindred. *"They asked how I came to write with Skindred - What did I think of them as writers - Will I see them on tour etc...."* It was reported in the newsletter, earlier in the summer, that he worked with them on their new album "Kill the Power". Russ co-wrote the tracks "We Live", "Saturday" and "More Fire". The CD will be released in January 2014 and can be ordered from their website here <http://po.st/PreOrderKTP> or from Amazon.

Negotiations for the Japan concerts are still on-going.

If you enjoyed Bob Henrit's account of the Lisbon concert, you might be interested to know that his autobiography is now out! This covers all the people he has played with over the years including The Roulettes and Argent as well as The Kinks, Unit 4+2, Roger Daltrey, Leo Sayer and many more. I have heard some of Bob's stories and this is a hugely entertaining read. You can order it here. http://www.amazon.co.uk/Banging-Bob-Henrit/dp/0957305834/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1386150323&sr=1-2&keywords=bob+henrit

YOUR QUESTIONS

1) How did your writing partnership with Chris Winter come about?"

Russ: *"I heard some songs written by Chris W. and I thought they were wonderful, so, I phoned him....we became friends and that's how it started."*

Russ and Chris Winter wrote the song, "Hope", which was performed at the opening ceremony of the World Cup 2010.

From Russ: *"It was sad hearing about Nelson Mandela's passing....the song Chris Winter and I wrote is now called 'Mandela's Hope' I feel honoured that he wrote and narrated the middle of our song. Shame we didn't meet him."*

<http://youtu.be/XU1uhmHY-IU>

"Hope" was recorded, a while ago, by EMIN, originally to celebrate 2014 World Peace Day but, on the death of Nelson Mandela, it was rushed out. All proceeds from sales of EMIN's version will go to Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund. You can hear EMIN's version here. <http://youtu.be/QdsmiO4QbFA>

Russ and Chris also wrote the UK's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2001 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The song was performed by Lindsay Dracass and finished 15th out of 23 entries. A brilliant result in today's terms! It reached #32 in the UK singles chart.

<http://youtu.be/a34PmRiL-z4>

2) As it's Christmas, I read a couple of years ago that Russ wrote a Christmas song. Did someone release it because whoever mentioned it said it was a brilliant song?

Russ: *"I did write a song which somehow has been deleted from the drive, however, Chris and I wrote a song for the tenor, Roberto Alagna. The album was released about twelve years ago....our song was called 'The Love of a Child'.*

I feel quite sad about my 'lost song' I thought it was one of the best things I've composed.."

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

Q) What is a Ballard?

A) A "Ballard" is a lesser spotted species that is instantly recognisable by the quality of it's epic song. Whilst it still appears from time to time in mainland Europe, sadly it has rarely been seen in it's native Britain since 1976. Possibly Some Kinda Hurricane prompted it to Fly Away. However, Since it's Been Gone (sorry!), there have been rare spottings in recent times in London, Manchester, Bilston and Leamington, prompting hope amongst those that Believe in Miracles, that this might be The Omen that leads to more appearances in other parts of Britain in the next nesting season. Hopefully things are looking Rosie. It would be a Tragedy if it disappeared from this side of The Border.

FROM RUSS

*"I want to wish everyone a great Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year. I will be spending much of December in the studio....I have quite a bit I'm trying to finish - things I've written with Lynne Jackaman.
Love Russ x"*

