



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

First, many apologies to Russ and everyone reading this for the delay in getting it out. I have had no internet access for nearly a week. Blame EE!!

After I sent out the extra mail about last Saturday's gig at the O2, several readers replied saying they already had tickets. I detected quite some excitement about the fact that Russ would be guesting with Ritchie Blackmore and Rainbow. Even more excitement after the event.

We have had a lot of new readers sign up in the last month, partly I think, thanks to Joy putting the address up on Russ's FB page. (If you don't visit the page regularly, why not go and have a look at it.) Welcome to all. We have a story from one of our new readers, Jilly. Many of our 'old' established readers have sent in their stories in the past. Anyone is welcome to contribute in that way or in any way Russ related. Even if you just want to have a say about something, I will put it in under 'Letters'.

Sue

THIS MONTH

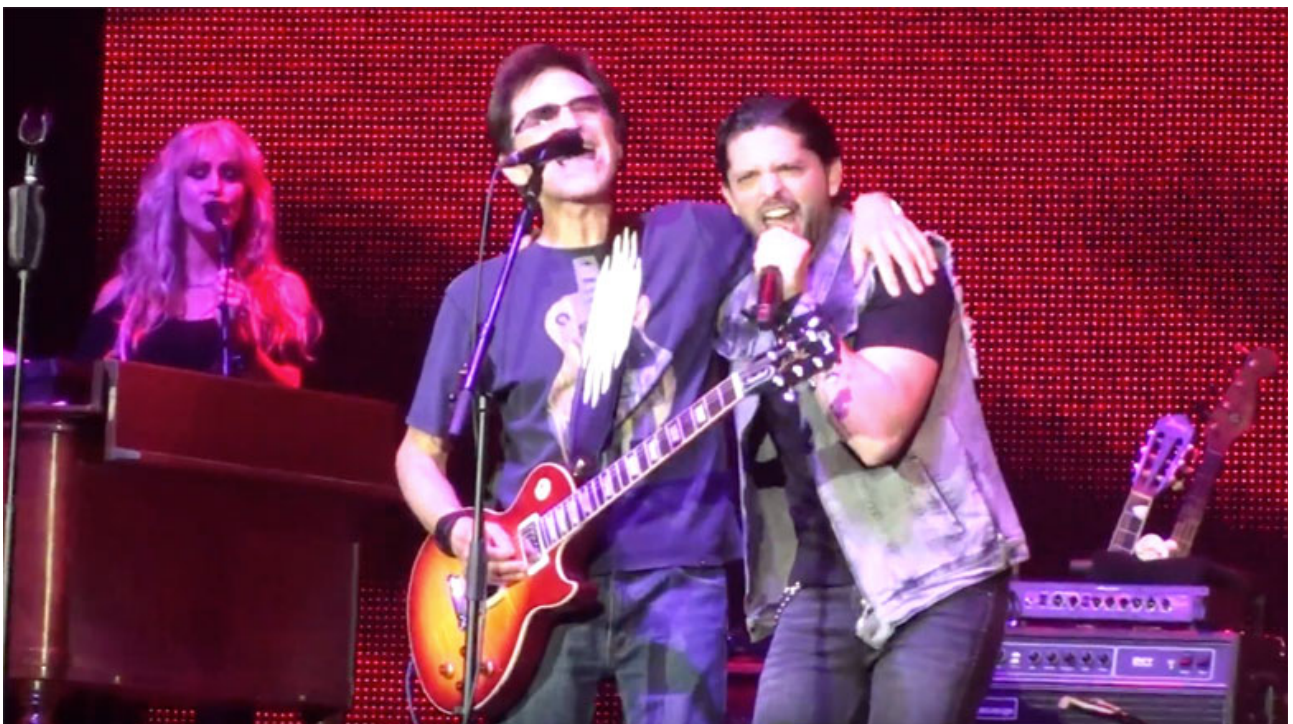
Russ: *"Ritchie Blackmore asked if I'd like to be his guest with Rainbow at the O2. We met at the sound check and had a chat about Adam Faith, Joe Meek and the old days...he also asked for a song for Blackmore's Night. He said, "We start Since You Been Gone with the middle section and sing the chorus to the end". It was only short but good fun. I want to thank people who were there for their messages.*

I realized a long time ago how songs mean more to people than music and words. I know that when I hear songs from my childhood I often feel an emotional 'charge' and I'm transported back to 'Yesterday, When I Was Young', [as Charles Aznavour said], and being a songwriter, I'm extremely pleased that people will still buy those old songs they know and love from their past. This past three weeks two of my old songs have gone back in to the national chart via albums by Kiss and Elkie Brooks. With Kiss, they have an album at number eighteen, called, 'Kiss World' and they've included 'God Gave Rock and Roll To You', A song I wrote in 1973 - Also, Elkie has released a greatest hits, which includes a song I wrote and produced, 'No More The Fool', I wrote that in 1985....Oh!, the power of music. I saw her on BBC TV, she's wearing well."

RAINBOW AT O2

Here, from Planet Rock, is a review of Rainbow's performance at the O2 with guest appearance by Russ on Saturday 17th June 2017. The video link is in the middle of the article.

<http://www.planetrock.com/news/rock-news/watch-ritchie-blackmores-rainbow-perform-since-youve-been-gone-with-russ-ballard/>



[WATCH: Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow perform 'Since You've Been Gone' with Russ Ballard](#)

www.planetrock.com

Russ Ballard guest performed with Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow at Stone Free Festival in London on Saturday night (17th June).

INTERVIEW

On 15th June, Russ did an interview with Alan Stevens for his radio show, **The Media Coach**. This is a 25 minute show that has gone online every Friday morning for the last eleven years. It features advice on media and speaking, as well as interviews and music. Guests have included Midge Ure, Richie Furay, Simon Kirke (Free, Bad Company) and The Chuckle Brothers! The audience is 50,000 weekly iTunes downloads.

Here is the link to Russ's interview (about 8 minutes):

<https://soundcloud.com/alan-stevens-2/russ-ballard>

Here is the link to the whole show with a track from Russ:

<http://mediacoach.libsyn.com/the-media-coach-16th-june-2017>

[The Media Coach Radio Show : The Media Coach 16th June 2017](#)

mediacoach.libsyn.com

The Media Coach Radio Show

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

In Tokyo, May 2014



(Photo by Yumi)

QUESTION

In autumn last year, a new compilation of all Hello albums in Europe and Japan was published ("Hello – The Albums"). It contains four CDs with all their single hits and previously unreleased material.

Moreover, a little booklet tells the story of Hello from the very beginning. Of course I know that Russ was responsible for NYG, Star Studded Sham and Let it Rock (a number 24 in Germany exactly 40 years ago), but I was somehow astounded to read that Russ already in 1971 – the guys just became 15 years old and Russ was 25(!) – composed their first professional recording "Can't let you go" and their debut single "You move me"/"Ask your Mama", released in April 1972.

Obviously, Russ was exposed to Hello's manager David Blaylock. However, why did Russ write the songs for Hello? Was he a friend of David? Were Russ' compositions a kind of remittance work?

Markus

Russ: "My brother Roy told me about a young group he'd seen, he said they were great. At that time, Dave Blaylock was often around...he'd been a roadie for the The Zombies and he was looking for a group to manage. We both liked the group; they played well and looked good. I think I was trying to write Punk before punk. Dave achieved a recording contract with Bell Records and they had quite a few hits.

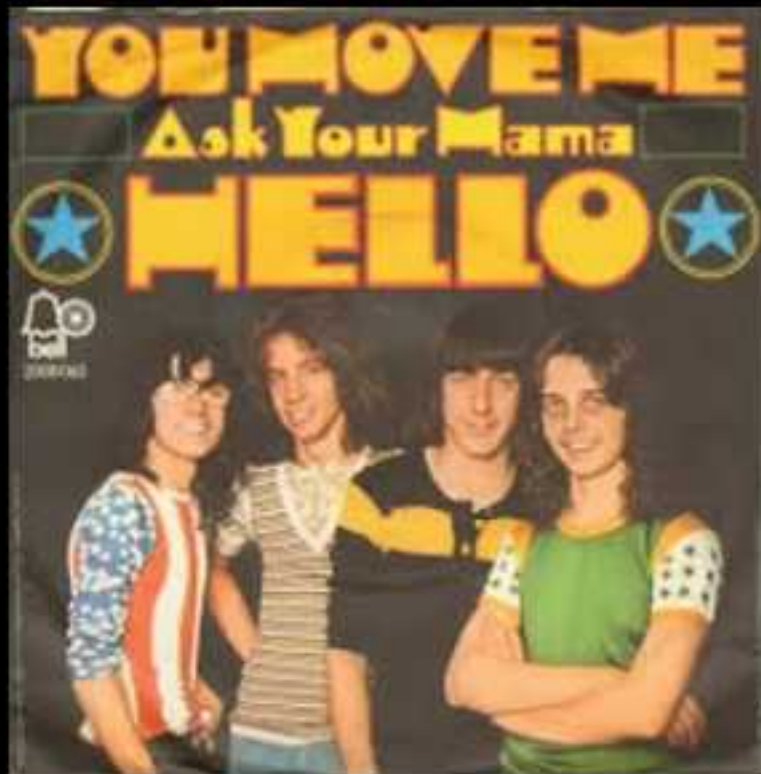
I see Bob Bradbury a bit...he lives near me...

Sadly Dave died three years ago.

Happy Days!"

Hello - You Move me

<https://youtu.be/NTKAtwa-Vq8>



[Hello - You Move Me - 1972](#)

[youtu.be](#)

YOUR STORIES

From Jilly Clark

My friend Jane Jarvis and I used to go to the Roundhouse every Sunday afternoon as there were loads of bands on - mostly we would meet up with friends and chat with the music going on in the background.

However, one time we were chatting as usual with the music playing and suddenly we all stopped talking and said this band sounds great (something that had never happened) - so we moved over to the stage to see what band it was and it was Argent!

From then on my friend and I would look in the music papers - NME and Melody Maker - to see where they were playing.

My favourite location was in Barnet above a pub as this is close to where we live - and still do - Enfield - and it was even better to find out Russ was a local lad from Waltham Cross.

Everyone just stood around at the same level whilst the band performed.

Rod Argent had really long hair and we could not really see his face most of the time but we used to enjoy it when he went into one - and used to shout 'Go Rod Go'

Russ used to wear dark glasses even though the room was dark - we never thought anything of it - he had a lovely smile and his singing voice was so great - 'Time of the Season' was one of my favourites but I never could clap in time.

I have seen Rod performing with the Zombies - which is a nice show and I did mention Russ - and Rod said that he was doing his own thing but may get back now and then - they did at the Kentish Town Forum where I saw the group perform.

My favourite and most memorable occasion has been recently where I went on my own and was invited to sit with two of Russ's friends who were really wonderful and they took me to meet Russ after the show - I cannot believe how overawed I was - especially after all these years.

I know Russ has met thousands of fans but he (and his friends) are such gentlemen and so natural I really do not understand why I was so tongue tied and my mind just went blank - this was at Nell's - he signed an LP for me - and it is one of my proudest moments.

RECORDED BY OTHERS

One of the songs Russ mentioned that has just returned to the album charts, Elkie Brooks with No More The Fool. This was the first track of the Album of the same name, released in 1986. Both album and single reached #5 in the charts in early 1987. The album stayed in the UK Album charts for 23 weeks.

This video is from Top of The Pops, when Elkie had a little help from a friend on keyboards.

https://youtu.be/0Q-Oj_r8FsE



[Elkie Brooks - No More The Fool](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Performing live on Top Of The Pops. Visit Elkie's official website at
www.elkiebrooks.com