



(Banner by Sven Kramer)

This newsletter is put together on a PC. Recently, when I was trying to make something work for a future news letter using a combination of PC, phone and iPad, I realised that it can look different on different devices. To get the full benefit, you might like to read it on a PC.

Russ had a very successful set at the Fairport's Cropredy Festival, guesting with Trevor Horn's band, which included Lol Creme. The band rehearsed 'Since You Been Gone' and 'God Gave RnR To You' just to back Russ on this occasion. We have a video of the whole set below.

This month we continue with Dave Williams series on Russ's music history with an article about his part in Roger Daltrey's album, Ride a Rock Horse.

During the 'summer', Russ gave an interview to the Hustle, a US podcast. Joy has already put a link to this on the official Facebook page. It is a long interview so, as we have the Cropredy video, which is also long, we will include the Hustle interview next time.

Did anyone see the John McEnroe ads for Eurosport's US Open launch? Great background music! Here is one of them.

Sue

<https://youtu.be/srY5hHjGKro>

	<u>US OPEN 2017</u>
	<u>Eurosport launch spot</u>
	<u>youtu.be</u>
	Eurosport's US Open 2017 launch campaign

THIS MONTH

Russ:

"Cropredy,

I was guest of The Trevor Horn Band when they played The Cropredy Festival in Oxfordshire. I rehearsed with the band a few days before at Music Bank in London....Needless to say, being Trevor Horn's musicians, they had rehearsed my songs [Since You Been Gone and God Gave Rock and Roll to you] to what I thought was perfection. I hadn't heard of Cropredy, although, the Festival has been going for years. On the day my friends Peter and Tom Ross came and and picked me up, Tom drove to Oxfordshire. It was a beautiful day and when we arrived we could hear the crowd were already cheering the first group, I admit, I don't know who they were, but it was a fabulous atmosphere. We made our way to the portacabins, - [which were our dressing rooms for the day]- and chatted to Trevor and the guys, who it seemed had been there for some time....It was decided I should take the stage after the fifth song....I changed in to stage clothes just before the band took the stage, then I watched the opening of Trevor's set and went to the dressing room to pick up the guitar...I stood on the stage and watched the third and fourth song, then Trevor introduced me....It was a funny introduction, he gave a history of the groups I'd been in since I was thirteen....Buster Meikle and The Daybreak's...Rick Nicholl and The Rebels. Adam Faith and The Roulettes, Unit Four plus two and Argent.... The crowd were great, they sang along and looked very happy....It's those moments when you realize why you wanted to be in a band all those years ago....Magic! I just want to say Trevor's Band are all brilliant musicians and singers, also the staff and roadies he has are great people and they made it so easy..."

CROPREDY VIDEO

Here is Russ's entire set at the Cropredy Festival in Oxfordshire on Thursday 10th August 2017. This was recorded by someone from the big screen, which gives some good close ups.

<https://youtu.be/BbGFsEZJaZc>

[Fairport Cropredy](#)

[trevor horn 2017](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Fairport Conventions 50th
Happy Birthday, long may you
continue and me :)

LETTERS

Great newsletter! To read about the key changes „Since You Been Gone“ goes through is hilarious, and all too familiar!

I love Dave's assessment of Russ' first solo album. Perhaps you could pass this information on to him: For a heavier interpretation of "Kicks", try Savoy Brown. They recorded the song for their "Make Me Sweat" album in 1987. I think they re-titled it "Just For Kicks".

Greg Zimmermann

I always look forward to receiving my Newsletter but last month was extra special. I did really enjoy Dave Williams review of Russ's first solo album which was so well written. Sadly this is a recording I have never heard (was a bit out of circulation at the time of its issue) but reading about each track brought the music alive and with very detailed and interesting information about the lyrics with Russ playing all the instruments and writing so many new songs it was certainly an eye-opener for me. I had known Russ in the "Roulettes" days and then had sort of lost touch but on reading about each track on this album, with more and more interest, I came to realise that here was an unending talent not only in songwriting but in musicianship as well. I am sure there are many Russ fans who enjoyed Dave's first foray into reviewing an

album and I hope that he will continue to give us more interesting information on other recordings. When I had finally finished reading everything I realised how glad I was that Dave had chosen to buy this album with his pocket money. More please.

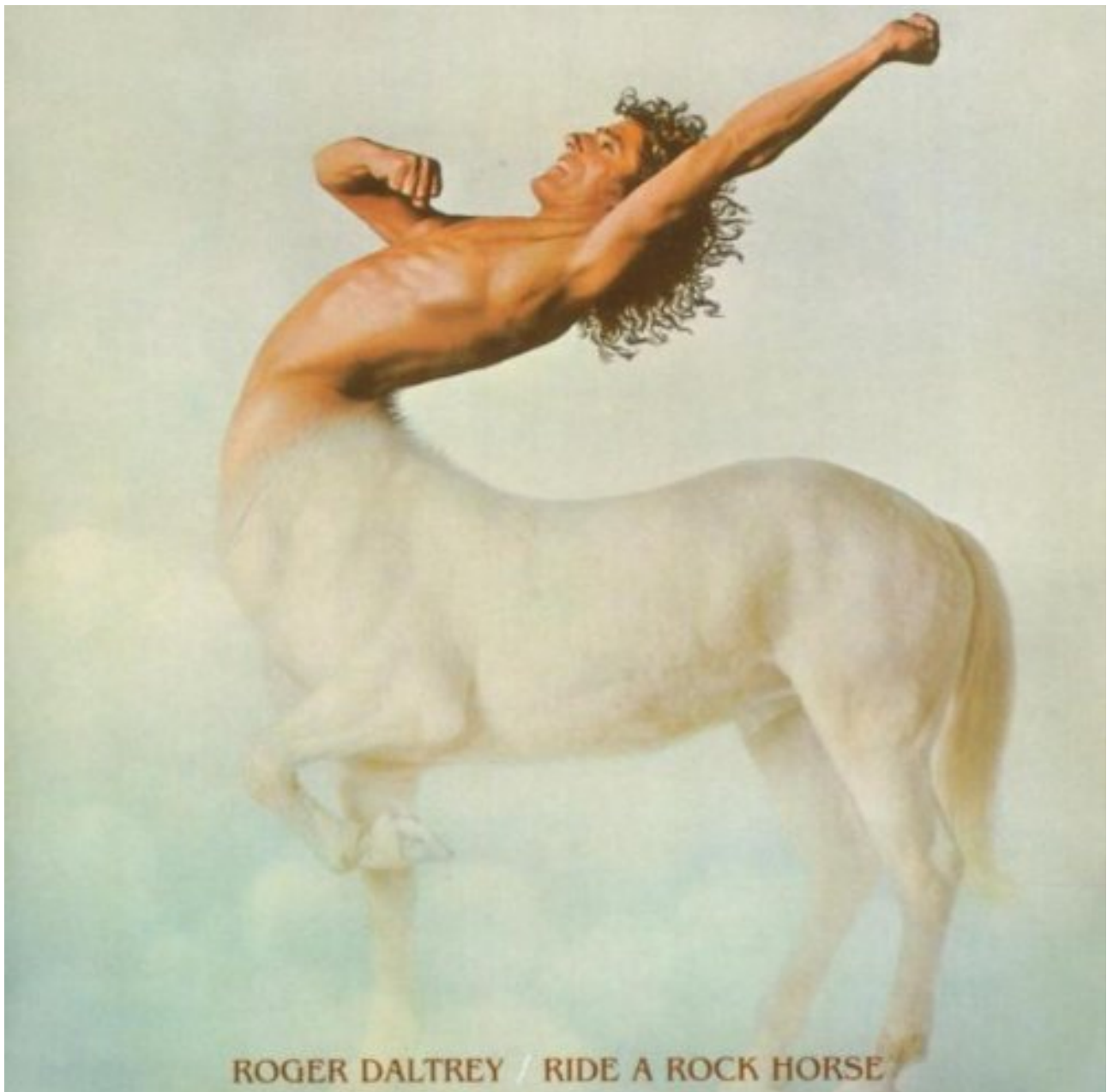
Jan Lynton-Peeling

RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

By Dave Williams

For the benefit of those subscribers who are less familiar with Russ' back catalogue, in the last newsletter we started a new feature looking back at Russ's solo career. Last month we re-visited his debut eponymous album. This, along with the single Fly Away, was well received by press and fans alike. For those who might be interested, the album has been released on CD and is still widely available, alongside 'preloved' copies of the original vinyl album from the usual retail websites!

It would be just over a year before the arrival of the next album "Winning". This turned out to be a very significant release indeed. More on this next time, but in the interim period Russ was involved with another equally important venture as he stepped into the world of production.



Roger Daltrey – Ride a Rock Horse (1975) Polydor Records 2442 135

Russ along with ex Roulettes and Argent drummer Robert Henrit, first worked with The Who's lead vocalist Roger Daltrey as a session musician on the latter's first solo album, Daltrey released in 1973. This album introduced Leo Sayer as a songwriter and featured the hit single "Giving It All Away", which reached No5 in the UK charts. For those who haven't seen it, there is a clip of Roger 'performing' the single with Russ and Bob on Top of the Pops on You Tube. Well worth a look if you haven't seen it.

By the time Daltrey came to record a follow up album, Leo Sayer's solo career had taken off, so a new producer needed to be found. Russ was offered the role and accepted. In addition to producing the album, *Ride a Rock Horse*, Russ provided three of his own compositions. The first of these, **Come and Get Your Love**, was the opening track and

was also made available as a single in May 1975. A very strong song, inexplicably, it failed to chart. This was a little alarming when you take into consideration that the chart topper at that time was Whispering Grass by Windsor Davies & Don Estelle. Then again Vienna by Ultravox was held off the No.1 spot by Shaddap Your Face by Joe Dolce Music Theatre, which really did raise a few eyebrows. The curse of the novelty singles. Come and Get Your Love remains a great song and thankfully it fared slightly better in the US, where it reached No.68 in the US Billboard Hot 100. It was later recorded by the Pointer Sisters. If you are fortunate enough to catch one of Russ Ballard's solo gigs it's sure to feature in his set.

The other two songs contributed by Russ were **Near to Surrender** and **Proud**. I particularly like the latter and I later discovered that it was one of the earliest songs in Argent's live set, though it never made it to vinyl.

(Roger Daltrey - Proud <https://youtu.be/x5X7rfRbhvk>)

Besides writing the three songs, Russ also played guitar and keyboards on the album. Yet it was his role as Producer that earned him the greatest credit, not to mention a music industry award. Russ drew a great performance from his assembly of session men on songs provided by the likes of Philip Goodhand-Tait, Rufus Thomas and Paul Korda. The album reached No.14 in the UK album charts and No.28 in the US. A nice addition to the Russ Ballard CV.

RECORDED BY OTHERS

'Kicks' is from Russ's first self-titled album as reviewed by Dave last month. As found by Greg, here is the version recorded by Savoy Brown as 'Just For Kicks'....the 'heavier' interpretation Dave thought would suit the song. Savoy Brown are an English blues rock band, formed in London in 1965. Their success was mostly in the US. They are still touring.

<https://youtu.be/soOSdhJiJgA>

Savoy Brown - Just For Kicks youtu.be
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