



(Header by Sven Kramer)

Welcome to this month's new readers, from several different countries. Please join in! We would love to hear from you.

Not long to go now before Russ appears with Trevor Horn. There are links for tickets below.

Just in case you haven't got round to finding the Estoril videos on YouTube, I have found one for you. A big favourite and thanks to Ian for the video.

After a couple of months' break while we had all the "Experience" and Estoril pieces, Dave is back working his magic on the cover stories. Scroll down to the end and you will find Russ's friend from Portugal, Vania and her band, with a very beautiful song written by Russ and Chris Winter. Dave's 'history' article is about the song, I Surrender. So many covers of it! We have included six video previews with some very different versions but look for several other links in amongst them. For the most different version, have a listen to Sue Ellen.

And, guess who Russ has been meeting up with....read on!

Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

"Christian sent 'It's Good To Be Here' to be mastered, which I'm glad to say, it now is. However, three weeks ago, while listening to song ideas from last year that I recorded on my phone, there was one chorus I particularly liked, (just piano & voice). Believe it or not, I decided to finish

the song and record it. Ian Ramage from BMG (my label) phoned to say he wanted to send the album to other countries, for them to plan the release. I asked if I could add the new song...he said, "If you like it that much, you should put it on the album." Christian said it sounds like a James Bond theme song. If they want to use it, I could always change the words and put it on the next album. 🎵😄"

"I met Nile Rodgers and his manager, Merck Mercuriadis, at Abbey Road studios last month. My good friends, Peter and Tom Ross were there also. We all sat together in the downstairs restaurant and talked music - it's great when enthusiasts get together and discuss their passions, it's very uplifting.

Nile said, "I saw you in New York, in 1970, with Argent, at the Fillmore", then asked, "Who else was playing?" I said, "The Moody Blues and Lee Michaels". Nile smiled, "Yeah, Lee Michaels played rock organ". He was right, and the loudest organ player I'd ever heard, but Lee was great.

Merck has been around a while and is a Music Manager/Publisher and appeared to be involved in certain songs of mine that had been covered by other bands and artists, including "Riding With The Angels", a song that I wrote for my Barnet Dogs album. Iron Maiden singer Bruce Dickinson recorded the song and as Merck was involved with Bruce at the time, he had the whole story. It's interesting to hear how one of your songs gets to be recorded.



It was a nice hour...Nile left to go an appointment, then we said our goodbyes and Peter and Tom kindly dropped me home...

Oh, this music business is better than work...Peace and Love, Russ x"

RUSS WITH TREVOR HORN

Russ will be guesting with the Trevor Horn Band at two venues during his summer UK tour. Russ will be joining Trevor's band to perform two of his own songs at the following shows.

27th July 2019 Main Auditorium, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

28th July 2019 Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London



At the Royal Festival Hall, the support will be Matt Cardle.

If you fancy going along for some summer fun, tickets are available here:

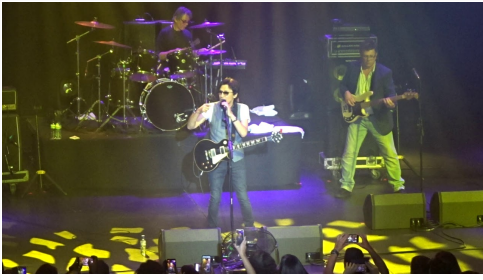
Glasgow: https://www.songkick.com/concerts/37565819-trevor-horn-at-main-auditorium-glasgow-royal-concert-hall?utm_source=34412&utm_medium=partner

London: <https://www.songkick.com/concerts/37476599-trevor-horn-at-royal-festival-hall-southbank-centre>

BACK TO ESTORIL

Another little taste of Estoril and what a great show it was. This is a big favourite in Portugal and everywhere else.

<https://youtu.be/GGUy4N7plbA>



[Russ Ballard "Dream On" live in Estoril, Portugal. 25/5/2019](#)
[youtu.be](#)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

"Speaking of guitars, what's your favorite sounding guitar with original pick ups? Personally, I feel the soft blues from a Gibson and a more rock feeling from a fender. It's like a choice of 2 well aged wines. Do you feel the pick ups sets the mood for your writing?"

Russ: *"There are lots of good guitars around and brilliant pick ups - For Rock guitar, 'Les Paul' guitars and 'Humbucker' pick up are great for edge and distortion - in fact when I had the "Holey Fender" designed in 1969, I had a Humbucker put on that guitar. Fender Strats are great for cutting through a track, also, the top end of Fenders, Tele's and Strat's are probably the best. When I write, it's usually on piano....although recently I've been coming up with ideas on guitars."*

RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

By Dave Williams

I Surrender....

In 1979, former Deep Purple guitarist **Ritchie Blackmore** took Russ Ballard's **Since You Been Gone**, recorded it with his band **Rainbow**, and turned it into the massive hit that it had always threatened and deserved to be. Taken from their fourth album, **Down to Earth**, it was a landmark recording for Rainbow, as it marked a change in musical direction towards a more commercial sound. This didn't go down well with legendary drummer **Cozy Powell**, who subsequently chose to leave the band. The song reached No.6 in the UK charts and gained similar success across the globe. The follow-up single **All Night Long**, penned by Blackmore and fellow ex Deep Purple bass player **Roger Glover**, maintained this success and actually went one place higher in the UK charts reaching No.5. Both songs featured the singer **Graham Bonnet**.

By the time the next album **Difficult to Cure** was released in 1981, Bonnet had followed Powell through the exit door. But not before he'd started work on some of the songs, one of which was **I Surrender**, another Russ Ballard tune. Blackmore drafted in **Joe Lynn Turner** as Bonnet's

replacement, who then sang over Bonnet's previously recorded parts, having to elevate his voice beyond his normal range to do so. **I Surrender** was released as a single and peaked at No.3 in the UK charts thus becoming the band's highest placed chart success.



left to right; Rainbow, Stratovarius, At Vance, Sue Ellen, Concerto Moon.

It comes as no surprise that Rainbow's version isn't the only one. In 2001 cleverly named Finnish rock band **Stratovarius** released a version on their **Intermission** album. The arrangement is very similar to Rainbow's. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5xdHKajrTs>



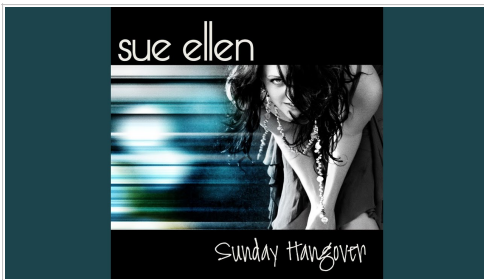
[Stratovarius - I Surrender \(English - Español\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5xdHKajrTs)

<http://www.lyricstranslated.webege.com> Album - Intermission Year - Año - 2001 Timo Tolkki - Guitar - Guitarra Timo Kotipelto - Vocals - Voz Jari Kainulainen - Bass ... www.youtube.com

A year later, German rockers **At Vance** included the song as a bonus track on their album **Only Human**. It features some great backing vocals that in my opinion give it a slight edge over the Stratovarius version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mythwCk5j54>

For a very different interpretation listen to **Sue Ellen**. No, not the long-suffering wife of J R Ewing the fictitious Texan oil magnate. **Tove Lo**, to use her real name, hails from Sweden where she has recorded many hits. Her name appeared in the UK tabloids recently when she called on Britain to allow people to go 'topless anywhere'. Clearly, she is not accustomed to the Great British Summer weather! **I Surrender** can be found on her album **Sunday Hangover** alongside many other interesting covers. I really like this version, which is so laid back and adventurous. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOQ3Lm9DIN4>



I Surrender

Provided to YouTube by Ingrooves I Surrender · Sue Ellen Sunday Hangover Auto-generated by YouTube.

www.youtube.com

Concerto Moon, a Japanese 'neoclassical metal' band, provide a Christmas-like intro, before launching into another traditional rock version. The track features on a free bonus disc provided with the **After the Double Cross** album and the song lacks punch. I took the trouble to listen to some of their regular self-penned songs and the quality and sound was much better. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVpCIKHLfsg>

Back to Finland again, and this time a 1981 version by **Markku Aro**, sung in his native language. Titled **Ensi Kertaa**, this translates to 'First Time' in English. I guess the proper translation **Minä antautua** presented too much of a challenge to fit the song. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zie4jptH5I4>



left to right; Markku Aro, The Disco Boys, Catch the rainbow, Head East, and Millenium

They say variety is the spice of life, so here's another version that is a twist on the original. A house version no less. **The Disco Boys** are a German house music DJ and production duo from Hamburg. Formed in 1995, they perform a mixture of disco classics and modern house songs. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=BgDjToyf7QI

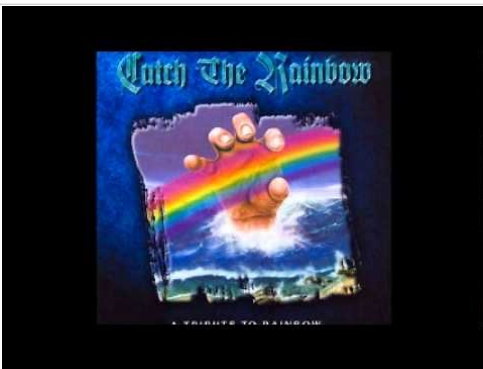


[The Disco Boys - I Surrender \(Official Music Video HD\)](#)

I surrender to your heart BABE do anything that you want me to do please be tender I'm in your hands girl this is a feeling I never knew you know I tried to make it on my own that's not the way ...

www.youtube.com

German tribute band **Catch the Rainbow** was formed by **Henjo Richter** of **Gamma Ray** and **Helloween's Uli Kusch** in 1996. Joined by a host of musicians from other big-name bands, they recorded 11 Rainbow songs for a CD released in 1999. **I Surrender** features **Metalium's Henne Basse** on vocals. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtQDFyP8HJg>



[I Surrender - Catch The Rainbow \(1999\)](#)

Song from the album "A Tribute To Rainbow" release in 1999 by the band 'Catch The Rainbow'. Originally release by the band 'Rainbow' from the album "Difficult To Cure ...

www.youtube.com

US rockers **Millenium** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIVwD7IG_1U tackled the song as did **Zinny Power Vox** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APoBQ-zoSgQ>



[Millenium - I Surrender \(Rainbow cover\)](#)

Rainbow cover

www.youtube.com

Even now, the list continues to grow, but there's a story to be told, which I've saved until the end. **I Surrender** is associated with **Ritchie Blackmore** and **Rainbow**, but the question is, should it have been? Originally the rights to record it as a single were given to UK metal band **Praying Mantis** by

Island Publishing. Three other acts were trying to get hold of it; **Hot Chocolate, Head East** and **Rainbow.** Like Rainbow, both Head East and Hot Chocolate had already had major chart success with Russ Ballard songs, so it was hardly surprising that they were considering more.

Praying Mantis had recorded the backing track and were just adding vocals when they received a phone call instructing them to stop as Rainbow had already recorded it. Praying Mantis were not pleased and vented their feelings in a song called **Cheated**, which provided some consolation by reaching No.69 in the UK singles chart. They considered Rainbow's version quite mediocre, citing Head East's version as the only commercially available version that did the song justice. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDLMPRhlzGO>



HEAD EAST: I SURRENDER

Dan Odum: Lead Vocals Tony Gross: Guitar
Mark Boatman: Bass Roger Boyd: Keyboards
Steve Huston: Drums -uploaded in HD at
<http://www.TunesToTube.com>
www.youtube.com

So, there we have it. A dozen versions of I Surrender. Is it Russ's most covered song? No. Not even close

DAVE'S COVER QUEST

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. Following the big event in Lisbon recently, we keep the Portugal theme going with this month's offering:

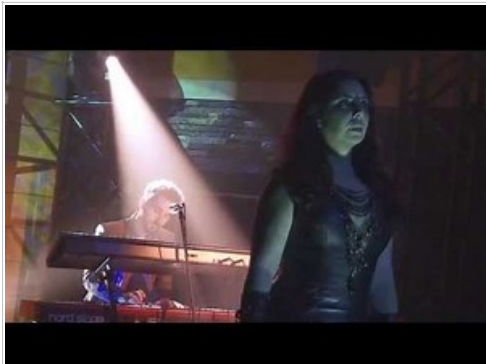
No.11



Where The River Meets The Sea by White Pearl

White Pearl is a melodic rock band from Portugal. They were formed in 2011 by **Vania Marotti**, lead vocalist and producer, and a lady that needs no introduction to regular newsletter readers. Vania lived in England for many years, studying at West Thames College, which forms part of Kingston University that specialises in Performing Arts. During this period, Vania met and worked with **Russ Ballard** and **Chris Winter**, writing and arranging songs that were intended for an album.

Taking the basic arrangements back to Lisbon, she completed an album of material with the help of her fellow **White Pearl** band members. Signed to Sony Music Entertainment in her home country, Russ and Chris's song **Where The River Meets The Sea** was chosen for release as a single in June 2013. A video was filmed to accompany the song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THAYnARt-dE>



[White Pearl - "Where The River Meets The Sea" \(Official\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THAYnARt-dE)

White Pearl - Where The River Meets The Sea
Single de apresentação do álbum "Rising"
http://bit.ly/iTunes_WhitePearl © Sony Music
Entertainment Portugal 2013
www.youtube.com

Sadly, as often happens in the music industry, **White Pearl's** 2-year contract with Sony was not renewed when it expired, and the proposed album was never fully released. Despite this setback, which left her feeling badly let down by some of the team she worked with, Vania remains fully driven, no doubt encouraged and supported by **Russ**, with whom she maintains a strong friendship.

Also worth checking out is this clip of **Vania** joining **Russ** on stage in Lisbon at Campo Pequeno Arena in 2009, where together they performed a medley consisting of **So You Win Again, You Can Do Magic** and **I Know There's Something Going On**.

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-Lkry-SF01&hsimp=yhs-SF01&hspart=Lkry&p=vania+marotti#id=1&vid=065b42b475671caad15ffab22efa4109&action=click>

Another video on You Tube that demonstrates **Vania's** vocal prowess is **Budika's Hungry Essence**. I particularly like the video, even though it does make me feel like I've indulged in a few too many beers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzUuaOKjMUc>



[Budika - Hungry Essence \(Vania Marotti - voice/lyrics ; Gabriel Veloso \(ElektrodiziaK\)- music\)](#)

Thank you Vania!

www.youtube.com