



(Header by Sven Kramer)

A big welcome to our new readers.

Lots to read again this month. Dave's article covers an important part of Russ's history, the Radio One In Concert programme that featured the Russ Ballard Band. I wonder how many of our readers heard the programme at the time.

As promised, Russ is continuing with his Book Of Love story this month. I know this means a lot to many of you and it is so interesting to know what was in Russ's mind as he wrote it.

Were you at the Childline Rocks Concert at Indigo2 in 2008? I was, Dave was, and I know a few more of our readers were. And we were all strangers then! If you were there, Dave's "cover" will bring back some memories.

Can you help Sven out with the website? Scroll down and see his request.

Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

Russ: *"Allo All! It's getting closer to 2020 when "It's Good To Be Here" will be released, followed by tours....European and also the UK. The European shows are now on sale, the UK gigs are yet to be confirmed.*

As with almost every album and/or tour, there's almost always a Record Company and a PR (Public Relations) Company. P.R. are the people who get the artist on to Radio, TV, Newspapers etc....This past couple of weeks BMG, the company supporting my album, had an Artist & Songwriter party to which I was invited. When I arrived there were twenty or so people queuing outside but to alleviate the boredom, there were two pretty ladies offering Champagne from trays (Oh, it's the only way to queue). Inside 'Laylow' (The Party Venue) I saw quite a few people I knew, and Janet Anderson, (The Vice President of BMG Publishing) introduced me to Don Felder from The Eagles. He appeared to be laid back and said that he was doing something for BMG (I know not what). Then just behind Don I spied Steve Hogarth, Singer with Marillion. I can call Steve a friend even though I only got to know him over two days in August, when he and I were guests artists on The Trevor Horn tour...Steve and I shared a dressing room at The Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and The Royal Festival Hall in London. It's strange how two people can almost instantaneously become friends when there's no ego involved.

A week or so ago, I had two people from BMG and four from 'Absolute' at my house to talk about plans for "It's Good To Be Here". We discussed radio and which songs would suit rock radio and which will be good for softer shows....Oh, it's just like old times...Then last week I was invited to Abbey Road studios to talk about The Beatles Abbey Road album with the North American radio station Serious XM. When I arrived I spied other old friends in the foyer, Roger Greenaway, Gary Brooker and Muff Winwood, who were waiting to participate - Quite moving, actually... Where do the years go?"

EUROPEAN TOUR

Since we put out the information about Russ's European tour, both with our "Extra" mailing and on the Facebook page, there has been a great deal of interest and excitement. If you are intending to go to one of the shows in Germany, Belgium, Austria or Amsterdam, it might be a good idea to buy your

tickets sooner rather than later. Don't be caught out like all those poor people in Portugal. 😞 Get your tickets here....

<https://onstage-promotion.reservix.de/events?q=Russ+Ballard>

Sven has put together the tour promo video. Have a look....

<https://youtu.be/rsepRhgHgrI>



[Russ Ballard -Good To Be Here - Europe Tour 2020-](https://youtu.be/rsepRhgHgrI)

Tourplan: 13.03. DE-Rüsselsheim 14.03. BE-Verviers 16.03. DE-Bremen 18.03. DE-Göttingen 19.03. DE-Wuppertal 21.03. DE-Obernburg am Main 22.03. DE-München 24....
[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/rsepRhgHgrI)

FACEBOOK/WEBSITE

You can see the details of the tour (plus what people think about it) on Russ's Official Facebook page or on his website. Please give the FB page a 'like' if you haven't already done so. The website is certainly worth visiting as Sven has recently been busy updating it. Let us know what you think.

<https://www.facebook.com/RussBallardMusicOfficial>

<https://russballardmusic.com>

YOUR PHOTOS

A request from Sven. He would like to add more photos to the website. Do you have any photos of Russ taken at gigs during the 70s? They can be from the Argent days or solo gigs and Sven is particularly interested in photos from the 1976 tour, which are rare. You must have taken the photos yourself to avoid copyright problems and you must be happy, of course, for them to be made public. Sven would also like photos of Russ taken at gigs in the 80s and 90s. You can send the photos to Sven here at this email address,

russ.b.news@hotmail.co.uk

BOOK OF LOVE (Cont.)

Russ: *"Last month I said I'd tell you why my album 'Book of Love' took so long - I think it was five years.*

I'd already finished the album (after three years), then I had the idea to make each song segue in to the next,

so, there would be continuous music, from beginning to end. Also, I thought I found some new lyrical ideas which, to me, dove tailed beautifully.

I also had some great audio tape of Jiddu Krishnamurti discussing aspects of life. In the talk he said, "You must be a light to yourself - and to be a light, you must accept no other light, however great that light might be".

I thought that was just the words I needed to include in a song I had called "Book of Love". Then I thought I had a great start to the story...I would be on a psychiatrist couch, being put in to regression. (Well! doesn't this happen to everyone?).

Anyway, the psychiatrist says to me "Go to sleep. Tell me what you remember " then repeats "Go to sleep".

Then from this beginning I could go anywhere...(I hope you're still with me, reading this).

I wanted to set the album up by asking people (in song), Do you know what you're looking for when you're looking for love?

And do you know when you've found it? And is that love anyway? - Because countless couples have fallen 'in love' just to fall out again...So the song that starts me on my journey is....

'LOVE WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS'

BEFORE YOU OPEN UP THE DOOR,
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
SOMEONE'S ARMS TO HAVE AROUND YOU,
OR A STAGE, A BATTLEGROUND,
WHERE YOU PLAY OUT YOUR WILDEST FANTASIES,
OR IS IT DEEPER, YOU FEAR THE REAPER,

SO YOU LOOK FOR SOMETHING, CALL IT  LOVE, AND INVENT THE FATHER UP
ABOVE,

I WANT TO KNOW,
ARE YOU A BELIEVER?
YOU'LL HAVE LOVE

STILL YOU'LL LEAVE HER,
COS, LOVE WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS,
IF I KNEW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW
IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME SOMEHOW,

BUT LOVE WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS,
WE CHOOSE ONE ABOVE ANOTHER,
WHAT TURNS A FRIEND
IN TO A LOVER?
CHEMISTRY OR ATTRACTION,
YOUR BODY CALLING OUT FOR ACTION,
OR IS IT NOT THAT AT ALL,
ARE YOU JUST ANSWERING A CALL?
THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, YOU MUST KNOW MORE,
ABOUT WHAT WAITS BEHIND THAT THAT DOOR
COS LOVE WORKS IN STRANGE WAYS

Copyright Russ Ballard

Well, this is the beginning of the journey....Each song gets in to another aspect - you could say each song a signpost on the journey....I'll continue with the Book of Love next month

Love as Ever 🎵🎵🎸👍xxx Russ

<https://youtu.be/ETrTO7O5nzQ>



[Russ Ballard - Love Works In Strange Ways](https://youtu.be/ETrTO7O5nzQ)

From Russ's Book Of Love album
[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/ETrTO7O5nzQ)

RUSS'S MUSIC HISTORY

By Dave Williams

Live...On My Radio - Russ Ballard In Concert 1976



Saturday 5th June 1976

18.30 : In Concert

247m MW. Also on VHF

The Russ Ballard Band / Upp

Introduced by ALAN BLACK Producer JEFF GRIFFIN

It's **Saturday evening, 5th June 1976**, my transistor radio is tuned to 247 metres medium wave, my tape recorder is set up and ready to roll and **Paul Gambaccini** is playing his final record **Love Hangover** by **Diana Ross**. Normally I'd be quite content to listen to this Tamla Motown classic. Not now though. I was willing the song to come to a rapid end. Soon enough the record faded out and was followed by an announcement from **Alan Black** along the lines of "*You are listening to Radio One. We now cross over to the Paris Theatre in London for this week's **Radio One In Concert**. Tonight, we will be bringing you the **Russ Ballard Band**, but before that, please welcome **Upp***". The next 25 minutes featured a performance by the British rock-jazz fusion band much heralded by **Jeff Beck**. Their closing song was **Never Gonna Turn My Back On You** taken from their second LP **This Way Upp**. At just over 8 minutes long, it certainly kept **Russ Ballard** fans in suspense.

At long last, **Alan Black** announced "*Now it's my pleasure to introduce to you a fine musician whose songs have been recorded by the cream of the music industry, both in this country and in the States. Recently he's formed a new band and shortly he'll be taking them off to America. I'm very pleased that he could take the time out to join us tonight. Would you join me in welcoming please, the **Russ Ballard Band***". Generous applause accompanied the introduction of the first number, **Danger Zone (Pt I)** from the debut solo album. The opening bars required a quick adjustment of sound levels on the sound mixer, but the band quickly found their stride, with harmony vocals sounding particularly impressive. As the audience applauded, the band launched straight into **Born on Halloween**, sounding like the recorded version with a nicely rec-constructed ending. Alan Black commented "***Russ Ballard** opening the set there with two numbers.*"

***Danger Zone** was from the first solo album, and that was quickly followed by **Born on Halloween**, a number from the current Epic album, **Winning**. We'll be hearing quite a few numbers from that album on the programme tonight, including this next song. It's a song that **Russ** was moved to write after watching a television documentary on the tragic history of a girl drug addict, and this is very simply called **A Song for Gail**". I had a feeling that **Russ** played electric piano on this song, but the guitar solo is clearly **Russ** and there is a second guitar strumming chords in the background. Interestingly, the little piano sequence used on the album version was tagged on at the end, possibly using a tape machine.*

***Winning**, came next, bringing precise drumming accompanied by a nice flowing bass line. Alan Black stepped in again. "**Winning**, and **Russ Ballard** certainly is. **Winning** is the title track from Russ's new album. But now I'd like you to cast your minds back a little bit to Russ's days with **Argent**, because here's one of the many successful songs he wrote for Argent, **It's Only Money**". As expected, this was the Part 2 version featured on **In Deep**. This brought extra cheers no doubt due to the song being more familiar to many of the audience.*

Get Your Love**, written for **Roger Daltrey** followed. For me, this was the highlight of the show. Following generous applause, Russ addressed the audience. "*I'd like to introduce you to the boys in the band. This is our 3rd gig. We've done one in London, one in St Albans and tonight and it's nice that you're so warm and made us feel at home. It's great. I'd like to introduce you to the guys. On the keyboards would you put your hands together please for **Wally Wilson**. On the guitar we've got **Bill Roberts**. On drums, **Al Wickett**, and on bass **Tony Lester**". Russ then performed **I Don't Believe in Miracles** on electric piano. Alan Black re-appeared to inform us that "*And that's a song Russ did for **Colin Blunstone**, **I Don't Believe in Miracles** bringing tonight's show almost to a close. The programme was produced by Jeff Griffin, sound balance by Chris Lycett and leaping about (?) by Mike Engles, and now we go back for one final number from the **Russ Ballard Band**". **She's a Hurricane** was performed. The clock hadn't quite run down, so **Russ** launched straight into **Weekend** from the **Winning** album. Russ had just launched into the guitar solo when the song faded out as the programme reached its end.

I did manage to record the show, using a very basic cassette recorder. Younger readers may need to google that! Naturally the sound quality suffers from bits of radio interference, tape hiss, and a few buzzes and howls of feedback from the show itself. However, it remains listenable, even after 43 years. Hats off to other

members of this 1976 line-up. They served Russ well and I hope to discuss them further soon.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

One of my favourite Russ songs was co-written with Rod Argent and appeared on the 2001 pre era new Zombies album entitled "***Out of The Shadows***". The song was the 2nd track on the album, "***A Girl Like That***". Colin Blunstone does such an emotional delivery of this song, which makes it so special, and I just hope that it does not get lost forever in the musical.archives.

So my question to Russ is.....what is the story behind the genesis of this beautiful song "***A Girl Like That***". If I'm not mistaken, it seems to be the only apparent direct collaboration ever, in terms of actual songwriting, between Russ and Rod?

Russ: *"The song, 'A Girl Like That' came about when Rod and I were asked to contribute songs for a film. (Still Crazy) - We were separately sent scripts. Rod phoned and suggested we write something together. I remember we wrote a song that would have been a great opener, however, they didn't use it. I wrote another on my own called 'What Might Have Been' which Jimmy Nail sang in the film....Rod suggested we finish a song that he'd started, 'A Girl Like That'. To be honest, it was ninety percent Rod's."*

Jimmy Nail, What Might Have Been <https://youtu.be/MVJzJlMTdgY>

LETTERS

Russ, the ten guineas (£10.50) your father "reluctantly" spent on your first-ever guitar, must be the best investment that he, or anyone, has ever made within the music industry in Great Britain - ever!! The purchase he made in buying you that first guitar has led to so very many iconic hits with various bands and solo singers, near and far. Write and perform on, Russ.

Mike Nolan.

This is a really uplifting Newsletter this month [Sept]. Dave's piece on music magazines and newspapers especially resonated with me. Every week, between 1972 and 1976, as a spotty teenager, I would go to my local newsagent in Belfast and spent so much time searching for any info on RB and/or Argent. My rule was, if a particular publication had this info, I bought it and inserted the article into my Argent/RB Cuttings album. I have 4 albums, 2 of which are signed by all of the original members of Argent.

Delighted to see review of *Where Are We Going Wrong*, one of my 2 favourite RB songs of all time. It's also one of the times when **Argent really gelled as a band**. Just listen to Jim's bass playing and Bob's drums, never mind Rod's incredible piano solo in the middle. Better than just "awesome". ;-).

Liam Wilson

READER'S STORY

From Mike Nolan

Whilst Googling "Russ Ballard", I stumbled across Russ's website, detailing his astonishing musical history and library. I played along with Buster Meikle and the Daybreakers on a regular basis during 1960 at Cheshunt Boys Club, along with other bands including the Jaguars. There were others, but I forget their names after all this time, unfortunately. The band I was with was called "Barry King and the Crestas". In 1960, I was just 12 years old and I played rhythm guitar and sang, whilst my brother, aged 20, was lead guitar. He played a blonde Hofner Club 60. It made me smile when I read that Russ also used one! When I knew the Daybreakers, Russ was already playing a Strat - cherry red with a maple neck. This was the first one I'd ever seen live. It is great to read Russ's history. It brings back so many memories! I also played with Jim Rodford quite a few times, when our own bass player couldn't do various gigs. That was with a covers band based in St. Albans. Jim was a really nice guy.

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. There's lots of little gems out there and I thought it might be nice to share some of these discoveries with readers. His music knows no bounds and can be found all around the globe. This month we've giving you a real boom bang a bang, all the way from Scotland.

No.15



He's So in Love by Lulu

I've been trying to squeeze this one in for some time, but there's a problem. When I tried to find this song on the internet so I could share it with readers, I've drawn a blank. There are plenty of links to her 1965 song **So in Love**, but that one was written by **Cole Porter**. I also see she released a song called **Can't Hear You No More** in 1964, much too early to be the song that we are more familiar with.

I'm sure nobody needs an introduction to **Lulu**, born **Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie** in Stirlingshire, Scotland in 1948. She's achieved international fame with hits such as **Shout**, **To Sir with Love**, the James Bond film theme **The Man with the Golden Gun**, and of course, her triumphant 1969 Eurovision Song Contest winning song **Boom Bang-a-Bang**. These are just a handful of the hits that she achieved between the 1964 and 1975. As an aside, Lulu performed **To Sir with Love** at the Childline Rocks Concert I attended at London's Indigo2 in 2008.

By the end of the 1970s the hits had dried up and **Lulu** branched out into acting and also became a radio presenter. However, in 1978 **Elton John** signed her to

his **Rocket Record Company**, who's roster included fellow solo singers **Kiki Dee** and **Colin Blunstone**. Only one album was released, **Don't Take Love for Granted**. The last song on Side A is a **Russ Ballard** song **He's So in Love**. Unfortunately, despite my efforts, I've not been able to locate a song file of this tune, so I've no idea what it sounds like. Perhaps one of the newsletter readers might be able to oblige?

Elton contributed a composition for **Lulu's** album, **I Don't Care**, on which **Russ** played guitar and sang backing vocals. Apparently, it was on the US release but in the UK, it was replaced with **I Love to Boogie** which, you'd be forgiven for thinking is the Marc Bolan song of the same name. It isn't.

In lieu of a link to **He's So in Love**, which I've been unable to provide, I've managed to find a clip of **Lulu** performing **To Sir with Love** from the Indigo2 concert. Look carefully. **Thunder** is the backing band but it's the guy on acoustic guitar that you need to look out for! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvIS4I53B00>