



Welcome to our new readers. We would love to hear from you.

This month from lockdown..... Dave has written a review of the new live album and we also see what a few of our readers think about it. The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. Having received my copy, I agree with everything they say. Such a great sound. A great job done by Christian with the mixing and mastering, and by Sven who, because of the current circumstances, found himself single handedly taking all the orders and sending them out. Reader, Tony Dawson-Hill found some interesting pages in a German magazine and, last week, Russ did an interview for a French website, run by Claude Scebat...see the link below. Finally, Dave's Cover Quest is from Roberto Alagna, something a little different.

Russ's official Facebook page, looked after by Carole, just needs a few more "likes" to get to 5000. If you are on Facebook and you haven't liked it yet, why not pop over there and give it a click.

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

Russ has come back to Book Of Love and a very appropriate track. I have tried centering the lyrics again. This is looking ok to me but, if your device is messing them up, apologies. I have found that turning my phone to landscape helps.

Best wishes

Sue

THIS MONTH FROM RUSS

Hi, How is your lock down going? At the moment the studio is a life saver for me - but before that, I go for for my morning run, that takes about half an hour, then I go in to the studio. I call it a life saver - [not literally you understand]...because while I'm in the studio I don't think of anything else.

I come in the house at 1.00pm. and watch the news while I have lunch, then in the afternoon I usually read a book....[Great, when the weather is as sunny as it's been this past month] - The book I finished a few days ago was, 'The Final Days of EMI [selling the pig]' I go back in to the studio again in the afternoon but not until I've had another run. I don't think of myself as a running fanatic, I just need the endorphin rush that running gives....When I have that morning run, I'm set up for the day....it's the 'good vibe' chemical.

I've recently spent some time listening to song ideas from the last four years - they're often very basic, just a few instruments and a few words and humming..... I've been pleasantly surprised, it's a case of new day new mood, I think.

It's brilliant getting to know new people on Facebook. There are quite a few that I've known for many years..... David Courtney is an old friend who sent a message. We wrote a song together, called 'Healing Hands' and Dave posted online and dedicated it to the NHS. Dave added quite a few photographs of Doctors and Nurses and posted them along with the song, it's had a good reaction. I do miss going out for Indian and Italian meals every week...also, the staff are my friends, strange that I don't have their phone numbers.

Well, we've been locked down for over a month, so, we know what we need to do, not just for the NHS, but for the population .

*Lots of Love,
Russ xx*

BOOK OF LOVE

Russ: *"I haven't included an item from 'Book of Love' for a long time, so, I want to add the lyrics to one of the songs - 'JUST LIKE ME'. First of all I want to say what it's about....At this time of Covid 19 and knowing this is a world wide pandemic, and how we feel an affinity with the rest of the people on the planet. We look different, we speak different languages, however, we have so much in common. We all want to feel loved, we fall in love and fall out of love. One moment we're laughing, next, we're crying, we're angry then we're sad. Boys play with guns, girls play with dolls, it appears to be universal. I felt I needed to write this...."*

'JUST LIKE ME'

*I met a girl from China
She became a friend
When I learned to understand her
There was much to comprehend
I sympathized with her stories
She laughed at my jokes
So many things about that time
Her memory evokes*

*I Said.... Just Like me you get angry
Like me you get mad
Like me you're happy
Then you're a little sad
We could blow smoke rings
From the same cigarette
We could write a song
Maybe a little duet*

*She said.... Eyes that are shut
They will never see
If you want the fruit
You gotta shake the tree
Everyone in the world's
Playing blind mans buff
Just Like Me*

You're looking for love

Then I met a man from Africa

Dakar Senegal

Apart from the color of his skin

He was like a man I knew from Montreal

I said, do you get scared? - so do I,

Think there's nothing there? - so do I

And then he said.....

Have you ever faked love? - Me too,

Give not enough - I do,

Do you get state your case? Well, so do I,

Then close your mind to the reply

Have you said there's no God,

Then prayed at night?

I have, I do, and again I might

Do you get so angry you can't understand?

You do, I do, so does everything other man

In France, or Spain, or Timbuktu

What's inside of him is inside of you

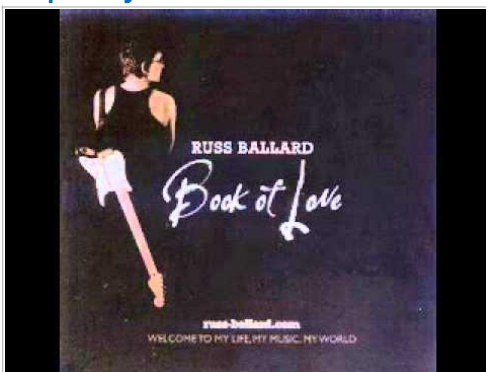
And inside of me? is in every other,

Whoever you are, you're my mother

My father, my sister, my brother.....

JUST LIKE ME etc.....

<https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko>



[Russ Ballard - Just Like Me](https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko)

From Russ's Book Of Love album

[youtu.be](https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko)

DAVE'S REVIEW - LIVE ALBUM

An unexpected pleasure

Ever heard the saying “You wait all day for a bus, then two come along at the same time”? Well this is a bit like what we have here. Only a few weeks ago we received the long-awaited CD release of **Its Good to be Here**, the first new material from **Russ Ballard** since **Book of Love** in 2007. Now, out of the blue, newsletter readers have another new CD to add to their collection.



Russ Ballard – Book of Love Tour 2007 – Russ Ballard Ltd RBL 2020-02

Many of us had secured tickets for one or more of the upcoming 2020 **It's Good to be Here Tour** dates across Europe and the UK, which would have been at the halfway point as I write. I don't need to explain the circumstances that caused their postponement, but it appears that there is an unexpected silver lining that has emerged from this very dark cloud. The much talked about live concert recording of one of Russ's appearances in Germany has at last been lovingly

mixed and mastered by Russ's son **Christian Ballard** and been made available as a limited-edition CD release. As stated in the title, the show was recorded in 2007 on the **Book of Love Tour** in Germany.

Hot on the heels of **Its Good to be Here**, the new live CD features a sleeve design from the extremely talented **Sven Kramer**. When producing his sleeve artwork, and logos, Sven can do no wrong. The CD is beautifully presented in digipack format with a gatefold sleeve. The photograph used on the front of the sleeve comes from another of Russ's most loyal supporters, **Roland Herzog**. Roland is a walking encyclopaedia on the life and works of **Russell Ballard** and I daresay would make a formidable opponent on television's **Mastermind** with this as his chosen speciality subject.

The band line-up in 2007 consisted of **Russ** on guitar and keyboards, **Chris Winter** on guitar, **Steve Smith** on keyboards, **Chris Childs** of **Thunder** on bass and last but most certainly not least, long-time friend and musical associate **Bob Henrit** on drums. The CD, which I believe is a limited run of 300, was produced for sale at the cancelled gigs, but has now been made available online via www.russballardmusic.com on a first come first served basis. Anyone wishing to order a copy should do so as soon as possible as they have been selling fast.

The setlist consists of 17 songs, all of them familiar to the majority of fans. The songs from the EMI America releases in the 1980s are particularly popular in Germany, so it's no surprise to see four songs featured from this era; **The Fire Still Burns**, **Dream On**, **I Can't Hear You No More** and **Voices**. Driven along by **Bob Henrit**, they never sounded better. These two EMI albums, **Russ Ballard** and **The Fire Still Burns**, contain a wealth of strong numbers so it must have been quite a challenge deciding what to include and what to leave out. Naturally, the hit single **Voices** had to feature, and **Steve Smith** reproduces the synthesizer opening to perfection and the enthusiastic audience can be heard singing on the chorus. Having to select 17 songs from nine solo albums, plus the tally of hits written for other people, again must have been difficult. The shortlist featured **So You Win Again**, the chart topper recorded by **Hot Chocolate**, a short burst of **You Can Do Magic (America)**, **I Know There's Something Going On (Frida)** featuring a bass solo from **Chris Childs** and **New York Groove (Hello and Ace Frehely)**. Three songs feature from the **Barnet Dogs** album; the opener **Rene Didn't Do It** and the second and final encore **It's Too Late**, whilst **On the**

Rebound with some nice vocal arrangements, is placed towards the end of the show.

Naturally the two **Argent** hits are included. **Hold Your Head Up** features first with **God Gave Rock and Roll to You**, complete with an opening verse sung by **Russ** in German, bringing the regular part of the set to a close. Needless to say, this triggered requests for an encore, the band duly obliging with the song that should have propelled **Russ** to solo fame in 1976. Instead it became a hit later on for **Rainbow**. **Since You Been Gone** originally featured on the 1976 album **Winning**, but the arrangement **Russ** now uses is understandably closer to the more widely known rockier **Rainbow** version with the addition of some guitar jiggery in the introduction. Irish Dancing anyone?

But this was the **Book of Love Tour**, so inevitably some songs from **Russ's** milestone album of the same name feature. Again, choices had to be made and three songs made the final pick: **It's My Life (Stand in my Shoes)**, **Crazy World** and **Like Father Like Son**.

Whilst nothing can quite compete with seeing **Russ** performing in the flesh, this CD arrives at exactly the right time to compensate for cancelled dates and the world in lockdown. In time, we will come out of the other side of this, tinged with great sadness for friends, relatives and health workers we've lost along the way. Questions will be asked. Lessons will be learned. Life will go on. We don't yet know what that life might be like, but hopefully those postponed gigs will be re-scheduled and we can let our hair down and party!

YOUR LIVE ALBUM COMMENTS



Jilly Clark: The DVD has just arrived and I am listening now and thank you, the usual smile is on my face when I hear songs by Russ especially when I was seeing him live - all the songs are so different yet all are great - totally love the music - it sounds so brilliant. Hopefully one day we will be able to listen to live music in venues again.

Diane Lear: I've been listening non-stop since I received this CD...Great Live CD with brilliant set!! Love all the tracks...Awesome CD 🤘🎸🎵❤️❤️

Michael Stone: I just wanted to let you know I received my copy of the CD and mention Sven for doing a fantastic job under extremely difficult circumstances. He deserves our sincere thanks.

Greg Zimmermann: I got my live CD a few days ago – and what a killer CD it is! Russ is on fire, and so is his band! Amazing versions of amazing songs! I was at the show in Augsburg in 2007.

Michele Turner: Sven did an amazing job sending out the CDs I received mine really quickly. I have been playing the Live CD quite a lot since I received it and love every song, it just seems to get better and better each time I play it! What an amazing talent Russ is.

As I am writing this there are still a few CDs left. For a little taster have a look on Russ's Facebook page. Be sure you get the official page here <https://www.facebook.com/RussBallardMusicOfficial> Sven has put together a short compilation video and it is on the page post for 5th May. Unfortunately, Outlook won't let me put this video here in the newsletter.

RUSS'S DISCOGRAPHY (Attachments)

Tony Dawson Hill has kindly sent us some pages from a German magazine that is dedicated to the discographies of British and German artists, including Russ, and includes world wide releases. The best way I could include them here was by adding them as attachments. They might be in reverse order. They might not be very clear to read but, if you look at them on a PC on full screen, they are much clearer and readable. An interesting find. Many thanks, Tony.

INTERVIEW ON "ROCK N REVIEWS" WEBSITE

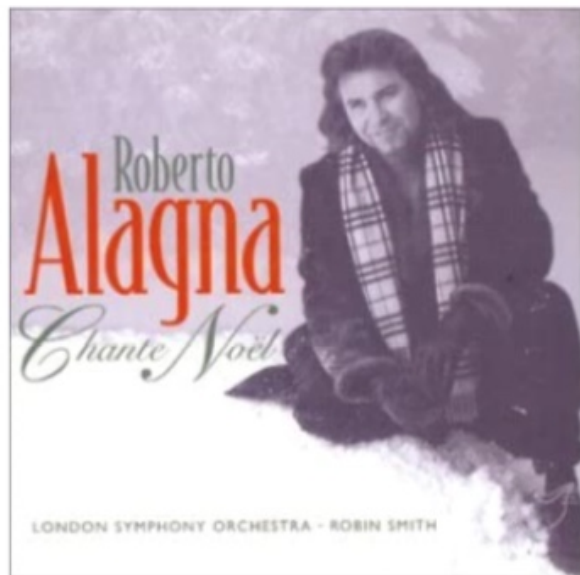
<https://www.rocknreviews.net/Interview/Russ-Ballard/Interview.html>

My name is Claude, I am french. My website is called Rock'n'Reviews. I write articles in french www.rocknreviews.fr and in english www.rocknreviews.net . I do interviews (Russ Ballard, Ron Thal, Adrian Vandenberg, Ron Young, Richie Sambora, Mike Tramp, James Kottak, Robert Tepper, Kane Roberts...), I write albums reviews, sometimes book reviews, and live reports. I am based in Caen, Normandy, France. I created my website because I love rock'n'roll of course and I wanted to ask questions to musicians that I couldn't read on rock magazines. And I realized that musicians had very interesting things to say apart from music.

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. So far in the series we've trotted across the globe from north to south and east to west and featured covers of **Russ Ballard** songs in a number of different musical styles and genres. This month is no exception as we totally ignore lockdown and head to France for a slice of opera.

No.22



The Love of a Child by Roberto Alagna

French Tenor **Roberto Alagna** was born near Paris in June 1963. As a shy teenager he used to earn tips by busking in the French capital. But his true passion was opera music and he virtually trained himself by persistently listening to recordings of the great opera singers. Some years later, **Luciano Pavarotti** was carrying out a book signing session in a store in Paris. **Roberto** pushed his way through the crowd and asked the world-famous tenor for an audition. He was rewarded with an invitation to compete in the 1988 **Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition**, which he won. He went on to make his professional debut as Alfredo Germont in **La Traviata** with the **Glyndebourne** touring company. He has subsequently performed in a string of operas, as well as recording many albums.

In the year 2000, **Roberto** recorded a Christmas album aptly titled **Chante Noël**. Amid the traditional Christmas songs and carols is a less familiar but no less impressive song co-written by **Russ Ballard** and **Chris Winter** called **The Love of a Child**. It maybe the wrong time of year to feature a Christmas song in the newsletter but it's a nice relaxing piece that can be played at any time of the year, particularly at a time when the coronavirus is keeping families apart. **Roberto** is accompanied by the voices of **Miriam Stockley** and **Lance Ellington** in

addition to the two writers themselves. Here is a link to the song. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57YTaDU84sQ>



[Roberto Alagna - "For the love of a child" - Christmas Song](#)

This song was written expressly for "The Christmas Album" which Alagna recorded in 2000. Composed by Russ Ballard & Chris Winter with vocals by Lance Ellington, Russ Ballard, Chris Winter, and Miriam Stockley.

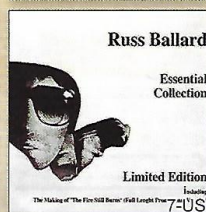
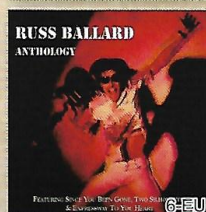
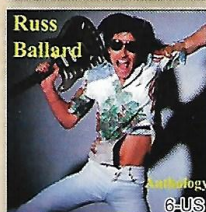
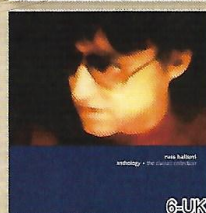
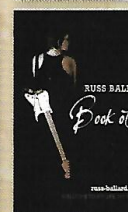
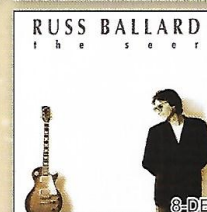
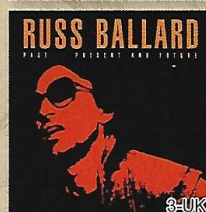
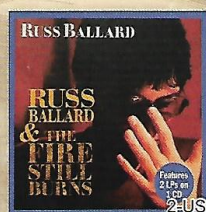
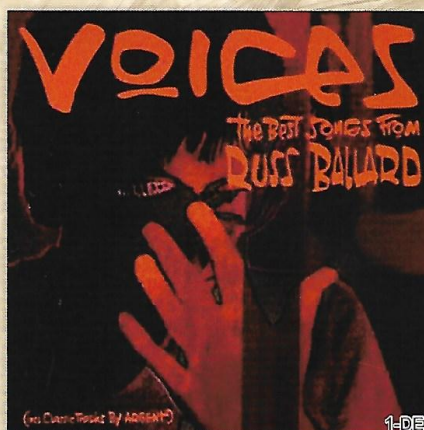
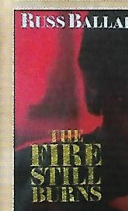
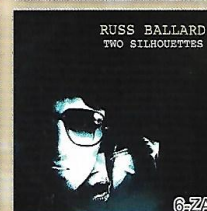
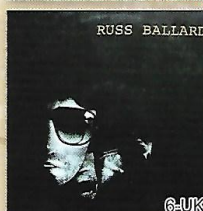
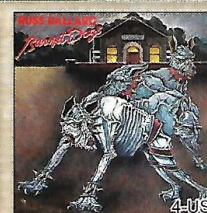
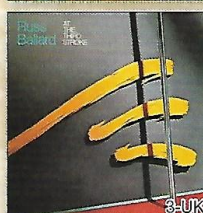
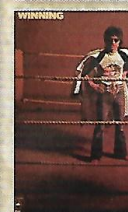
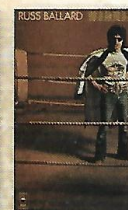
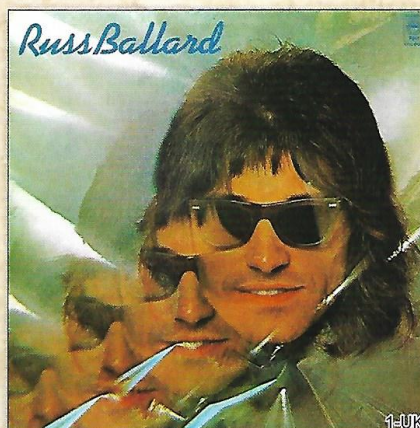
[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57YTaDU84sQ)

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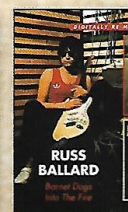
^A = Russ Ballard & The Barnet Dogs

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|------|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 1974 | [1] | Russ Ballard | UK/NL: Epic S EPC 80341
US: Epic KE 33252
JP: Epic ECPM-110
Limited Edition RI JP: Epic EICP-1389 |
| 1976 | [2] | Winning | UK/NL: Epic EPC 69210
US: Epic PE 34093
Limited Edition RI JP: Epic EICP-1390 |
| 1978 | [3] | At The Third Stroke | UK/NL: Epic EPC 82629
US: Epic JE 35035
JP: Epic 25-3P-13 |
| 1980 | [4] | Barnet Dogs | US: Epic JE 36186
EU: Epic 83867
JP: Epic 25-3P-223 |
| 1980 | [5] | Into The Fire ^A | US: Epic NJE 36993
UK/NL: Epic S EPC 84806
RI JP: Epic EICP-1393 |
| 1984 | [6] | Russ Ballard | UK/EU: EMI EJ 2401331
US: EMI ST-17108
ZA: EMI ST 7171081
RI JP: Air Mail Archive AIRAC-1665 |
| 1985 | [7] | The Fire Still Burns | UK/EU: EMI EJ 2403671
US: EMI ST-17162
Blaues Vinyl CO: Capitol 111018
RI JP: Air Mail Archive AIRAC-1666 |
| 1993 | [8] | The Seer | DE: Intercord INT 145.193
CD (Bonus-Tracks) DE: Intercord INT 145.193 |
| 2006 | [9] | Book Of Love | US: Phoenix PMG SC 06-02-03-1 |



Compilations:

- | | | | |
|------|------|---|---|
| 1994 | [1] | Voices: The Best Songs From Russ Ballard | DE: EMI 7243 8 |
| 1996 | [2] | Russ Ballard / The Fire Still Burns | US: Renaissance RM |
| 1999 | [3] | Past ... Present And Future (2 CD) | Promo UK: Sony X |
| 1999 | [4] | Premium Gold Collection | UK/EU: EMI 7243 5 |
| 2001 | [5] | The Very Best Of | PT: EMI 7243 5 |
| 2002 | [6] | Anthology: The Classics Collection
(Titel RI US/EU: Anthology) | UK: Pilot
RI US: Renaissance F
RI EU: The Store For Music S |
| 2005 | [7] | Essential Collection | Limited Edition US: - Selfreleased |
| 2008 | [8] | Barnet Dogs / Winning | US: Renaissance RI |
| 2013 | [9] | Russ Ballard / Winning / At The Third Stroke (2 CD) | UK: BGM
UK: BGM |
| 2014 | [10] | Barnet Dogs / Into The Fire | UK: BGM |



- 978 [15] **Dancer / Cast The Spirit**
 978 [16] **Dancer / Treat Her Right**
 980 [17] **On The Rebound / Riding With The Angels**
- 980 [18] **Rene Didn't Do It / Feels Like The Real Thing**
 981 [19] **Here Comes The Hurt / Breakdown**
- 981 [20] **Rock'n'Roll Lover / Breakdown**
 981 [21] **Breakdown / Rock'n'Roll Lover^A**
 981 [22] **I Will Be There / Madman^A**
 984 [23] **Two Silhouettes / Living Without You**
- 984 [24] **Two Silhouettes / Playing With Fire**
 984 [25] **I Can't Hear You No More / The Last Time**
 984 [26] **I Can't Hear You No More (Extended Version) // I Can't Hear You No More / The Last Time**
 984 [27] **Voices / Playing With Fire**
 984 [28] **Voices / Living Without You**
- 984 [29] **Voices (Full Length Version) // Voices / In The Night**
 984 [30] **Russ Ballard – A Portrait Of An Artist By Mary Turner // Voices / I Can't Hear You No More^B**
 984 [31] **Russ Ballard – A Portrait Of An Artist // Voices / Two Silhouettes^B**
 984 [32] **Russ Ballard: Voices / Sherry Kean: I Want You Back**
 985 [33] **The Fire Still Burns / Hold On**
- 985 [34] **The Fire Still Burns (Album Version) / Hold On**
 985 [35] **The Fire Still Burns (Album Version) // The Fire Still Burns (Single Version) / Hold On**
 985 [36] **Dream On / The Omen**
 985 [37] **Dream On (Long Version) / The Omen**
 993 [38] **Gary U.S. Bonds: This Little Girl / Russ Ballard: Voices**
 993 [39] **Sheriff: When I'm With You / Russ Ballard: Voices**
 993 [40] **Voices (Single Version) / Living Without You / Hold On / Voices (Full Length Version)**
 993 [41] **Blue For You / Possession / It Takes A Man To Walk Away**
 998 [42] **So You Win Again (Peter's Club Mix-Long) / So You Win Again (Extended Mix) // So You Win Again (Peter's Barbecue Mix) / So You Win Again (Radio Edit)^C**
 998 [43] **So You Win Again (Radio Edit) / So You Win Again (Peter's Radio Cut) / So You Win Again (Peter's Club Mix) / So You Win Again (Mellow Cut) / D.C.**
 006 [44] **It's My Life (Stand In My Shoes) (Album Version) / It's My Life (Stand In My Shoes) (A.C. Edit) / It's My Life (Stand In My Shoes) (The Swivel Heads Mix) / The Road That Has No Turning**

Promo (Maxi) US: Epic AS 429
 NZ: Epic BAC 461881
^AUK: Epic S EPC 8666
 Maxi FR: Rpic 12-8666
 US: Epic 9-50883

AU: Epic ES 439
 UK: Epic EPC 9489
^ANL: Epic EPC 9489
 US: Epic 19-51002

CA: Epic 19-51002
 UK: Epic EPC A1067
 UK: EMI EA 175
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 US: EMI B-8217
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Promo (Maxi) US: EMI PSLP-380

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UK: EMI EA 201

US: EMI B-8275

EU: EMI 1C 006 20 0692 7

Maxi DE: EMI 1C K 060-20 0694 6

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US: Collectables 6092

US: Collectables 6188

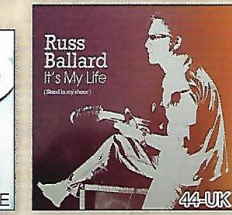
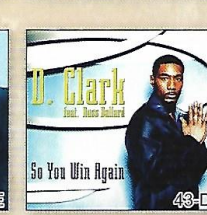
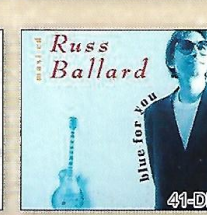
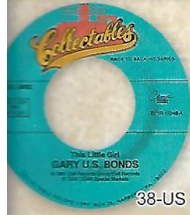
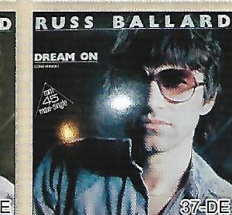
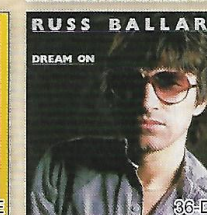
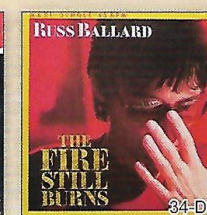
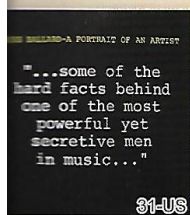
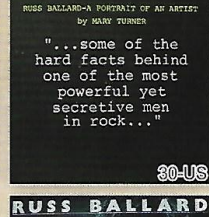
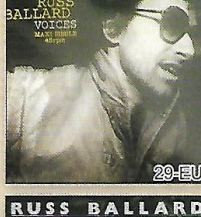
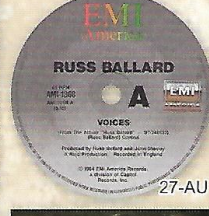
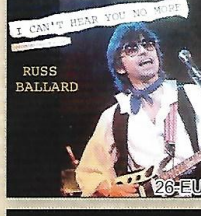
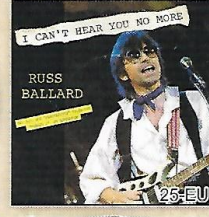
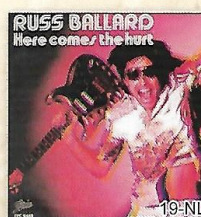
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Maxi DE: Intercord INT 825.367

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RUSS BALLARD



©-Pressetfoto

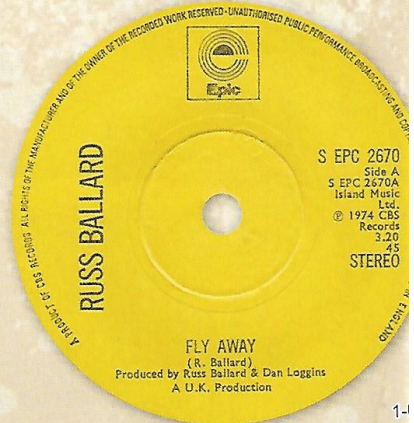
Singles:

Veröffentlichungen unter:

^A = Russ Ballard & The Barnet Dogs | ^B = Russ Ballard With Mary Turner
^C = D. Clark Featuring Russ Ballard

- 1974 [1] Fly Away / Danger Zone (Part 2)
- 1975 [2] Loose Women / Danger Zone (Part 1)
- 1975 [3] Loose Women / Fly Away
- 1975 [4] You Can Do Voodoo / Danger Zone (Part 2)
- 1975 [5] She's A Hurricane / Fly Away
- 1976 [6] Since You've Been Gone / Venus (Shine Your Light)
- 1976 [7] Just A Dream Away / Weekend
- 1976 [8] Winning / Here I Am

UK: Epic S EPC 2670
UK: Epic S EPC 3122
NL: Epic EPC 3061
US: Epic 8-50085
JP: Epic ECPB-306
UK: Epic S EPC 3925
UK: Epic S EPC 4270
US: Epic S EPC 4441
US: Epic 8-50211



- 1976 [9] The Russ Ballard Story (Part 1) / The Russ Ballard Story (Part 2)

Special Edition (Promo) US: Epic AS 232

- 1976 [10] A Song For Gail (What Have We Got Her Into?) / Venus (Shine Your Light)

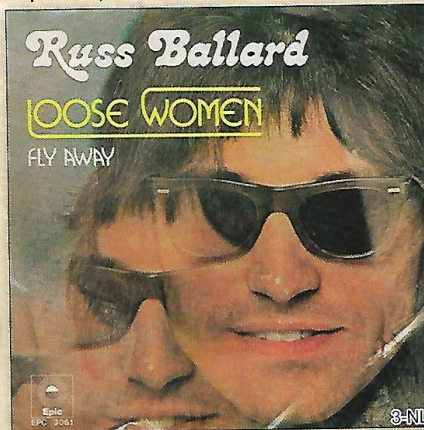
NL: Epic EPC 4185
UK: Epic S EPC 4985
UK/NL: Epic S EPC 6316
US: Epic 8-50542
CA: Epic 8-50609
UK/NL: Epic S EPC 6529

- 1977 [11] Some Kinda Hurricane / You Can Do Voodoo
- 1978 [12] Treat Her Right / What Does It Take

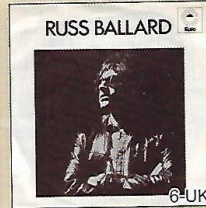
- 1978 [13] What Does It Take / Look At Her Dance
- 1978 [14] I'm A Scorpio / Expressway To Your Heart



2-UK



3-NL



6-UK



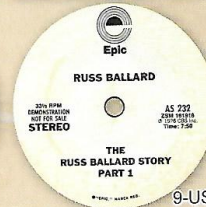
7-



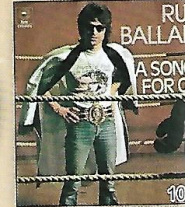
8-UK



8-US



9-US



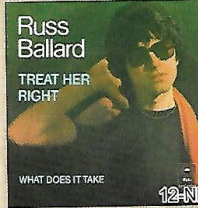
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11-UK



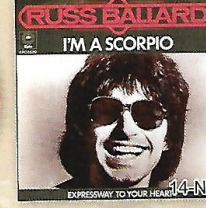
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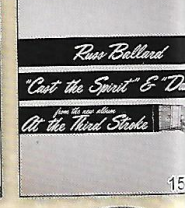
12-NL



14-UK



14-NL



15-



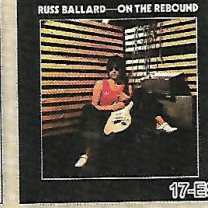
17-UK



17-NL



17-FR



17-ES



18-AU



1-