



(Header by Sven)

## April 2023

A big welcome to all our new readers. Please join in and contribute. Send me your favourite Russ lyric or tell us which songs you would like to hear at a gig.

How do you like our new header? Sven has been busy again and produced this beauty for us. You will see something similar on Russ's Facebook page. Thank you, Sven.

Russ is going sailing this month....a rocking gig on a Swedish cruise! It sounds like fun!

Sven and Ian have given us a great podcast this month, link below, and I have also included the podcast that came out last month on the day I sent the newsletter out.

**Russ has some very big news for us this month!!!** Read on.

Sue

## **BIG NEWS!**

Russ: I am happy to tell you all that I have signed with a new publisher, Primary Wave, and I will be sharing my publishing with them. This means it will be easier to get my new music out. I get on well with the people at Primary Wave and look forward to working with them. The future looks good.



## **THIS MONTH FROM RUSS**

This past month has been quite hectic for me. No one has pressured me to do anything....in fact, I was delighted, because it was mostly about music. I did mention that I'd written a couple of songs with Julie Maguire and David Young.....David is lead guitar player and Julie, - [also known as The Duchess], is the singer in a band called 'Space Elevator'. Initially, I intended to be involved in a couple of songs, however, I felt our relationship was so relaxed and inspiring, I was happy that David was bringing me more ideas every few days which has kept me involved....To date I think we have five songs together - a couple are finished. I did see a video of the group and I was very impressed with Julie's performances, stage craft and singing and David is an amazing musician. I'll keep you updated on our developments together.

I mentioned some months ago, Christian and I worked on some songs with John Gualas. Well I'm pleased to say, one of the songs, "Always it's You" has been released in The Philippines and E. Asia and is doing well play wise.

<https://youtu.be/IkAtgovtfMw>

I've also been rehearsing with my band for a show taking place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 21st April. The venue is a ship, and the show is called 'Rocknytt', a 24 hour Rock party....We fly out from Heathrow on Thursday 20th. play the show on Friday. Should be fun....I'll let you know about the show, next month. Have a great Spring - Lots of Love, Russ xx

## **RUSS - LIFE STORIES**

'Allo, One and all.....I hope life is treating you OK! - I finished last month's biog telling you that when we , - [Adam Faith and The Roulettes] - after finishing a show for the British army in Germany...Hamburg to be exact ....the officer looking after us, asked if there was anything we'd like to do while we were there? Adam, [usually a joker] said, "Yes, we'd like to drive a tank" - Our officer, [Cameron] replied, "Everybody?" We said "Yeah". So, the next day, Cameron drove the Roulettes, Pete Thorpe, Bob Henrit John Rogers and Myself out of Hamburg City to a huge forest where, in normal times, the British troops were trained ...however, this day certainly wasn't a normal day....not with a group of hooligan musicians being let loose to drive a tank....Oh dear....Our friend Cameron might end up in the cooler. Anyway, as we turned off the road in to the forest, I couldn't believe what was in front of us.....Five Challenger Tanks and on each side of each tank, a soldier from the tank regiment, each with his hands behind his back and his legs astride, waiting for our arrival. After introductions, off we went, boys with toys....Adam in the first tank, then each Roulette driving a British army tank. Now! if Cameron had only known the psyche of the average rock musician he'd have known , Tank and Guitar player just don't mix and for guitar player you can substitute, Drummer or Singer. After giving us the lowdown on accelerator, clutch and break and how easy it is to burn them out, our soldier told us that each new clutch cost 75000 pounds and that was in 1963].

Off we went, five hooligans, each driving a state of the art 'killing machine' owned by the British army. Tel was first off and we all followed in line behind

across very hilly terrain. In truth, it felt scary - I found it hard to see out of this window, which was more like a small Tv monitor. I recall one of the two soldiers in with Bob say, "Go easy on the clutch, you'll burn it out!" Bob wasn't doing too bad, considering he didn't have a driver's licence, or had ever driven a car....[it's just as well Keith Moon wasn't our drummer].

That evening we had a night off, so, we decided to take a trip to The Reeperbahn. I thought at that time I was a man of the world; however, I realised I had been very sheltered. This was the winter of 1963. In the next few months England's capital was going to be called, "Swinging London" when the 'beat boom' would explode over the world, but here we were strolling along a street where girls were legally selling sex. I don't know whether I felt the experience exciting or sleazy! I suppose a bit of each. I have often wondered since then....Was it sleazy or was it my conditioning? We were still feeling the hangover of the Victorian era, but girls in magazines are inanimate, these girls on the street are just as sexy and provocative but they actually approach you and tell YOU how good it's going to be, if you just come in to this room, here, and have sex together...for a price of course! The Reeperbahn culture was quite unselfconscious and we were self-conscious! There were several factors that seemed to make the streets sleazy - one, it had a wall at either end, which made it 'secretive' - two - Nine out of ten people were men - three - The smell of urine permeated the air. Still, I found it stimulating. A short distance from the street was a music club that was becoming well known internationally, mainly because a group called The Beatles was telling the world it was where they had developed their sound by playing five hours, seven days a week. As we paid the entrance fee, we could hear a group playing. We opened the door and we were blasted by 'The Undertakers', a group from Liverpool, who were rocking the audience of about 100, although the club probably held 500 on a good night. At first it was quite dark as we entered - the main light coming from the stage. When eyes became acclimatised, they saw faces we knew. In the small crowd and they were looking at us....one face I recognised immediately was Johnny Kidd...the great Johnny, leader of 'The Pirates, who, three years before had made, arguably, the best English rock record, "Shaking All Over". He had been standing at the bar talking to people until he spotted Adam, then he smiled, walked over and he shouted something into Adam's ear, both looked pleased to see each other. They shook hands. Tel turned around suddenly, there was a lull in the music. He sounded, "Lets Smitze" it was one of the many Jewish expressions Tel learned from Evie and Maurice, this one meant, lets go!! It was one of many I would be learning in the years to come....The Loud rock club experience wasn't one of Terry's nights out. There

were lots of girls there and The Star Club seemed to be mostly men as we walked out of the club I looked in to the front window - there was a sign that told us of forth coming attractions....  
To Be Continued....

Well My Friends , I'll come back with some more in a month.....I wish you well....Love, Russ xxx

## PODCAST 1

This month Ian and Sven's podcast for Voices Of Russ Ballard is with our newsletter friend, Michael Angel of Fugitive. Mike tells us about working with Russ and something of his own and Fugitive's stories. Hear tasters of some of the tracks on Fugitive's soon to be released album, Nobody Gets Out Alive, available for pre-order now from [www.fugitiveweb.co.uk/shop](http://www.fugitiveweb.co.uk/shop) . A real rocker!  
<https://russballardmusic.com/podcast>

The podcast cover art is divided into two main sections. The top section has an orange background. On the left, there is a logo for 'THE VOICES OF Russ Ballard' featuring a stylized guitar and the text 'PODCAST' with a microphone icon. On the right, three men (Ian, Sven, and Michael Angel) are sitting on a black bench, wearing 'PODCAST' hoodies. The bottom section has a black background. On the left, a large, stylized image of Michael Angel pointing forward is overlaid with the text 'MICHAEL ANGEL' in large, bold, orange letters. On the right, there is a smaller image of Michael Angel playing a guitar, with the text 'TALKS ABOUT: THE NEW ALBUM' and a downward arrow pointing to the album title 'FUGITIVE' in large, bold, red letters. Below the album title, it says 'NOBODY GETS OUT ALIVE' in smaller white letters. At the bottom right, it says 'BAND HISTORY HIS STORY WORKING WITH RUSS AND SO MUCH MORE' in white letters.



## PODCAST 2

In case you didn't have time to listen last month, here is the link to the podcast Russ did recently with Randy Hulsey of Backstage Pass Radio. Worth a listen.

[https://www.backstagepassradio.com/1628902/12419956?](https://www.backstagepassradio.com/1628902/12419956?fbclid=IwAR0HCouVO7uFE2cB7L2IAmChnkDEf35fFcETG2wg1V7gKb1vysyj60tjHdQ)

[fbclid=IwAR0HCouVO7uFE2cB7L2IAmChnkDEf35fFcETG2wg1V7gKb1vysyj60tjHdQ](https://www.backstagepassradio.com/1628902/12419956?fbclid=IwAR0HCouVO7uFE2cB7L2IAmChnkDEf35fFcETG2wg1V7gKb1vysyj60tjHdQ)

## ROCK CRUISE

Just in case any of you are going on the rock cruise from Stockholm on 21<sup>st</sup> April, here is the time Russ and his band will be on stage.



<https://www.rocknyttcruise.se/en/?cookie-state-change=1681417214865>

## LYRIC OF THE MONTH

If you know Russ, you will know straight away which song these lyrics come from. He really did meet a man in Dakar, Senegal.

"Then I met a man from Africa, Dakar, Senegal

Apart from the colour of his skin he was like a man I knew from Montreal."

Scroll down to the end of the newsletter, where Russ has commented, to see if you were right.

## I SURRENDER - FOUR-WAY SHOOT OUT

>From Dave Williams

A lot of amateur musicians take to the internet to demonstrate their instrumental and vocal skills. These can make for interesting comparisons. In

this new occasional feature, we kick off with four drummers demonstrating their playing skills on Rainbow's Russ Ballard hit I Surrender.

1. First, we have internet sensation **Sina Doering** from Germany, well known to newsletter readers, as we previously spotlighted her very popular cover of **Since You Been Gone**. When it comes to drum covers of classic rock songs, Sina sets the bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTnQ5ph4H2M>



*Sina Doering (left) with Rainbow vocalist Joe Lynn Turner*

2. Second, after a false start, we have a version by a **Nagai Val Ichiro**, drummer with the Japanese band **Arc Storm**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02L0XECp62k>



*Nagai Val Ichiro (photo credit [ss-prime.com](http://ss-prime.com))*

Of course, nowadays, we also have electronic drum kits in addition to traditional acoustic kits. Great for amateurs who want to play without annoying the neighbours. Here we have two 'electronic' versions.

3. Russ's music is clearly popular in Japan, as we already know. Here is **Yosuke Ibuki** playing along on his impressive looking Alesis Strike Pro kit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpKAB6nxvol>



*Yosuke Ibuki (photo credit [www.yosukeibuki.com](http://www.yosukeibuki.com))*

4. And finally, we have another female drummer, this time from Malaysia, **Bai Syedalwi**. She needlessly apologises for any mistakes. [https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQjPkJHPBJU)

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*Bai Syedalwi*

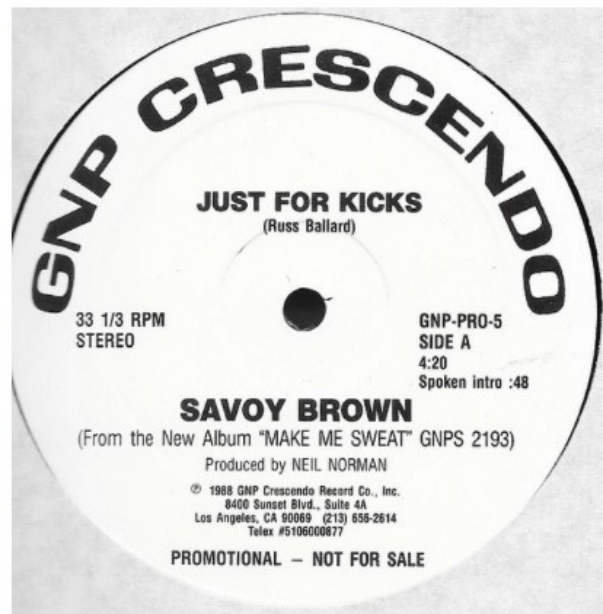
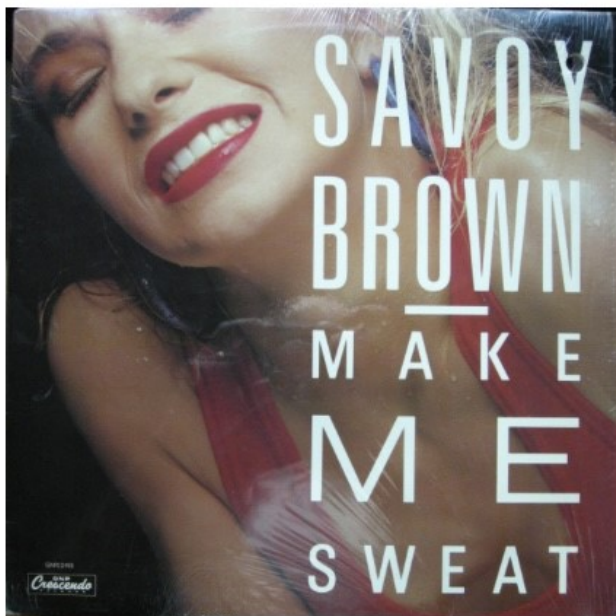


So, there we have it. Four interpretations, but which one do you like best?

## DAVE'S COVER QUEST

This month we feature a cover of a song from Russ Ballard's first solo album, by a group that ran from 1965 to three months ago, December 13th, 2022.

No.56



### Just for Kicks by Savoy Brown

Formed in Battersea, London during the 1960s blues-rock movement, **Savoy Brown** were better known in the United States than the UK. Despite the name, nobody was called Savoy and there was never a Brown. **Kim Simmonds** was the only member who was there at the start and there at the finish, sadly reached at the end of last year when he passed away. To say the band saw a lot of comings and goings would be an understatement. During the life of the band, Kim worked with at least 69 different musicians.

The band released a string of albums between 1967 and 2023, and in 1988 they featured a cover version of Russ Ballard's **Kicks**, appearing on their album **Make Me Sweat**. They doctored the song slightly by lengthening the title and put a few new words in, but they didn't claim a writing credit. Of course not. Who would do such a thing?

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

## LYRIC OF THE MONTH - ANSWER

From one of Russ's most important albums, **Book Of Love**, this month's lyrics are from **Just Like Me**.

<https://youtu.be/VPPaTzwQcko>

**Russ:** Yes...I did meet a man from Africa, Dakar, Senegal...his name was Wally....I met a girl from China too...