



(Header by Sven)

## October 2024

A big welcome to all our new readers. Most of you are now receiving the newsletter from the new email address. I just have a few more to move over. I will be keeping the Hotmail/Outlook email address going, so you can contact me on either [news@russballardmusic.com](mailto:news@russballardmusic.com) or [russ.b.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:russ.b.news@hotmail.co.uk). I can access Outlook on my phone but need to be on my laptop for the new one so you might get a quicker response on Outlook. Moving the contacts over has reminded me of all the different countries where our readers live. I know we have readers in (in no particular order) England, Scotland, Wales, (I don't know of anyone from Northern Ireland), Ireland, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Ukraine, Luxembourg, France, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. It is amazing how far Russ's popularity spreads. If you are from any other country, please let me know and I will add it next month.

Thank you to new reader, Ian Margan, for introducing himself to us. I would love to have more reader profiles so I would be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to tell us who they are and how they found Russ etc. All the newsletter old timers have done this before, but years ago. You don't have to be a new reader. Thanks also to Ronnie for his question.

Back in July, our friend, Ian Street, was lucky enough to acquire an original Reel to Reel tape from Abbey Road studios dated 15th November 1985. The label indicated that it held some of Russ's recordings. Ian had it investigated and he tells us about it below.

There is lots for you to listen to this month with two long podcasts. Then scroll right down for a slightly unusual cover from Dave.

Sue

## THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

*This past month I've been reviewing some songs that I started some months ago - I was so pleasantly surprised how good they sounded, I decided to finish them, overdubbing what was needed - some guitars and other bits. I intend to add these songs to my album of new songs that will be released within the next few months....You may or may not know, that I also have an album of some of my older songs that will be released...probably at the same time. They're tunes I wrote and recorded throughout my career ....some just as demos (potential songs for me that were recorded and became hits for other artists.)*

*I'll let you know next month when the CD's will be released - I'm still talking with my prospective Record Company, I'll let you know who they are next month.*

*In between heavy negotiations with record people and lawyers I've been getting vaccinated...I had a vaccination three weeks ago, I can't remember what it was for 😊 and I have another, I'm sure it's a Covid Jab, on the 16th of this month (Oct). I know some people don't believe in them - I'm sure they work for me 🙄*  
*I wish everyone Peace & Love, Russ ❤️*

## RUSS - LIFE STORIES

*Hi Friends.....I'm continuing my biog from summer 1964 - we, Adam Faith and The Roulettes, are on our way to Margate, where we will play in a Summer season for three months....This journey, to Margate, is like no other we'd ever done...as we're cruising by ship, from London to Margate, stopping along the*

*way to drop off comedian Norman Vaughan and his family....Norman is playing for three months at a theatre in Southend, in a show very similar to our own....*

*I must say, I cringed when we landed at Southend. As we said our goodbyes to the Vaughan family, they were greeted by a squealing public, a posse of photographers and a brass band playing, "Happy Days are Here Again" [Something at the time I didn't completely agree with] - Norman greeted people smilingly, who knows what he really felt inside. His family looked embarrassed. "Oh dear", is this what we have waiting for us in Margate. After another hour and a half Margate came into view.....As we came closer my fears were realised. On the port we could see our reception committee....Mums, Dads, and kids, mostly locals, shouting remarks and a few day trippers [The season wouldn't start for another two weeks].....As we stepped out on to the quay, the band struck up with, "There's No Business Like Show Business". I thought 'You can say that again'. The band headed the half mile walk to The Winter Gardens, with the cast in the middle, and the public walking both sides and also bringing up the rear. I could hear snotty nosed kids shouting remarks like, "Adam you're a Homo"....and they made themselves known to the dancers, "Show us ya tits" - Oh yes, I thought, there really is no business like show business.*

*I'll tell you about the show next month.....Lots of Love, Russ xxx*

## **VOICES OF RUSS BALLARD PODCAST**

We had part 1 of Paul Shortino's podcast in the August newsletter. Ian put out part 2 just after the last newsletter went out so here it is now. Paul is a very entertaining artist. <https://russballardmusic.com/podcast>



## PODCAST 2

Russ did this podcast in August with Greg Shanks of the Tending The Pale Bloom podcast. Russ is talking about his career right from the beginning.

<https://youtu.be/W8XfsdWH8Qc?si=Zq18IA8DGwvrzvYR>

## ARTICLE

From Ian Street

**This is a "Reel" update (see what I did there?)**

I thought I would update everyone with the findings and progress relating to the original reel to reel tape from Abbey Road Studios (circa 1985) that came into my possession.

You may recall it mentions "Your Time Is Gonna Come" and "Voices" on the front of the box (see pic). These tracks are of course from two albums, "Russ Ballard" and "The Fire Still Burns".

EMI RECORDING STUDIOS, 3 ABBEY RD., LONDON, NWS 9AY. Tel: 01-286 1161

Client:		
Artist: <u>Russ Ballard</u>		
Studio	Engineer: <u>Mike JARAFF</u>	Date: <u>15th Nov '85</u>
Matrix No	Job No	Tape Length

1) <u>Tones</u>	
2) <u>TIME / YOUR TIME IS GONNA COME</u> <u>nk</u> Acc gtr entry should be whole <u>3rd</u> Bass drum beat could be (in 3)	TRACKS 1 > Check + Bkwd 2 > GTR 3 Check throughout 4
3) <u>TIME / YOUR TIME IS GONNA COME</u> <u>Sample of Bkwd GTR/KRS</u>	TRACKS 1 > GTR/KRS 2 3 4
4) <u>VOICES (EFFECT/FILLS/SUSTAINED KEYSOARDS)</u>	TRACKS 1 > Keyboards 2
5) <u>VOICES (AS ABOVE BUT WITHOUT SUSTAINED KEYSOARDS)</u>	3 DRUMS 4

TONES at START  
1kHz, 5kHz, 10kHz and 60Hz 100Hz  
All at OVU  
(OVU = 320 nWb/m)  
Frequencies of tones approximate Ref. 12961A

This copy by	Location	Date	Tape
Playback	<u>4-TRACK 1/2" NAB Non-Dancey</u>		

Ref. No. 11731

Well, I sent the tapes to the FX Group in London following a recommendation from my friend Sean Macreavy. (Sean was instrumental in unearthing a lot of gems from many 10cc tapes in recent years and faithfully restores them). The guys there have retrieved many gems on behalf of many high profile musicians recently...none of whom Sean will let me mention sadly.....

The tape was baked (yes baked in an oven) for a minimum of three days before they managed to restore and retrieve the contents in the following formats.. (time for all us nurds to get excited)....

HD BWF Transfer 24 bit 96 kHz  
(WAV FILES)  
MP3 Ref Mixes (for everyday use)

So what was on there I hear you ask.....

### ***Time/Your time is Gonna Come -***

Disappointingly, it appears to be a clock ticking for a few minutes (like the beginning on the track). I'm told it's likely to be a library sound source that was probably edited for use on "The Fire Still Burns". It comes to a crescendo just like on the record at the beginning when Russ's voice kicks in...

So not too much to report on this one sadly. 😞

However..... 😊

### ***Voices-***

On the tape there were a number of "stems", (different elements of the original recording) namely in this case, sound effects, drums and keyboards. (No vocals are on the tapes).

I therefore sent them to Russ's old friend Derik Timms who very kindly offered to mix it for me....in other words putting all the stems together so it sounds like the original song or at least a backing track.

So, the moment of truth ....I sat down with some very nice B & W speakers, pressed play and cranked up the volume.....Oh....My....Word..... 😲

Firstly, the quality is fabulous, the transfer from the reel to reel tape sounds like it was recorded yesterday .....it starts with the keyboard sound effects similar to that at the beginning of the song (but a little different) and then breaks into the



drums. And the drummer is amazing.....Derik himself was blown away and we debated who it might be.

So who is the drummer? None other than the legendary Simon Philips (Toto and many more).

It's mesmerising to listen to and as the song progresses, the keyboards come in and it becomes a totally different version to the original version....especially towards the end. The keyboard player is David Sancious (Bruce Springsteen, Eric Clapton, Santana), the Bass Player is Mo Foster (Phil Collins, Ringo Starr, Jeff Beck and many more). The producer is Mike Jarrat (sadly no longer with us) who Russ tells me was amazing. Unbelievable stuff.

So....I sent it to Russ who listened to it in his studio.....his response? "fascinating".....and confirmed the aforementioned musicians. He was impressed with the quality of what he was hearing but mentioned that he couldn't use it

commercially due to copyright and ownership rules. 🙄

He has however, given permission for me to share it...so here it is.....better with headphones if you can but do give it a listen.

<https://youtu.be/LqpBKUC9sh0?si=nXEh7JNGfMeUsNR->

Don't look back, Look straight ahead .....

Ian Street



## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

### From Ronnie

Two new records on their way from Russ sounds great!

It got me wondering, could you ask Russ sometime the story, if there is one, behind the making of Stakes and Chips LP by The Roulettes? Whose idea was it given Adam's management (Eve Taylor) seemed to not wish to promote the band on its own? Was Adam the driving force perhaps?

While for the most part it was a compilation of singles (both sides) it included A Taste of Honey.

I, of course, bought it back then and still have it. But here in Scotland no real insert was supplied at time of delivery. But it was kinda rare anyway but worth a lot more sales than it got.

Thank You

Ronnie

Russ: *"The only story (as far as I know,) is, someone from the management said, "Time to make an album". Studio time was booked, we recorded some songs by other artists that we performed live i.e. "This Little Girl " & "Shake". We decided to turn that into an instrumental (we liked Lonnie Mack and I believe he would have performed it in that way). "Taste of Honey " was a popular tune at that time and I played it a lot on the piano, so we added that . As we'd already had singles released, EMI included them. Mod and Pete were writing, as Bob and I were, so, that turned into an album."*

## READER PROFILE

Good afternoon.

I thought I would introduce myself.

I am Ian Margan, I live in Reading and have been a fan of Russ since I was 18 (I am now 70!)

Even my granddaughters are fans!

I remember speaking to Russ in the early 70s around the time all together now was hitting the streets.

The gigs were at Woodford Community Centre. What was remarkable was the energy and drive from Russ.

Remarkable, cool, and memorable gigs.

I have remained a lifelong fan, I remember the excitement of playing the first solo album by Russ.

Has Russ considered playing any future gigs, for example, at the half Moon Putney or the Eel pie club in Twickenham?  
I am sure they would be packed to capacity.

Kind regards  
Ian Margan

## VIDEO OF THE MONTH

A member of Voices of Russ Ballard Facebook group found this video and shared it on the group last month. At this time, Russ was writing bits and pieces of music for Channel 5 in the UK. He was asked to write a short piece to introduce the cricket and he wrote this, The Time Is Now, with Christian. Some people in the YouTube comments are asking for the longer version of the song but this is it. In my opinion a big shame. This is a great song.

[https://youtu.be/iBIPOB5V5aE?si=O3o17AW\\_7qV\\_rQ-r](https://youtu.be/iBIPOB5V5aE?si=O3o17AW_7qV_rQ-r)

## DAVE'S COVER QUEST

This month's featured Russ Ballard song dates back to the time when he had made the decision to leave Argent and embark on a solo career. At the time, three guys going under the name of **New World**, had changed label and were looking to reestablish themselves in the singles charts. This song was written as a tribute to the famous Bertram Mills's Circus clown Coco, real name Nicolai Poliakoff.

**No.74**





## **I'm a Clown** *by New World*

The New World Trio was founded in Brisbane, Queensland in 1965, by **John 'Fuzzy' Lee**, born in Surrey, UK, **Mel Noonan** and **Robert Elford**. In 1968, three briefly became four when Glaswegian **John Kane** joined the group, though they became a 3-piece again when Elford left the line-up.

Early in the 1970s, songwriters **Nicky Chinn** and **Mike Chapman** took the band to Europe, where record label owner **Mickie Most** signed them to RAK Records. The group secured an appearance in the UK talent show Opportunity Knocks, where they performed **Rose Garden**, winning the competition. The song was subsequently released as their first single for RAK, reaching No.15 on the UK Singles Chart in 1971, although most people will be more familiar with country singer **Lynn Anderson's** 1970 version, which was an international number one hit single. Controversy followed however, when it was discovered that the Opportunity Knocks result was fixed. Lee, Kane and Noonan were tried at the Old Bailey in 1973 with offences under the Forgery Act, for participating in a plot involving students at the West Wickham Teacher Training College in Kent to send bogus votes to the TV show. After pleading guilty to the minor charge of "uttering a forged postcard", the band was acquitted of all allegations and continued with their careers.

New World's biggest hit was a version of **Tom-Tom Turnaround**, which at one point was selling 20,000 copies per week. This was followed by **Kara, Kara**, which was a hit in the UK and Germany, and featured Suzie Quatro on bass guitar. They had a fourth hit in the UK with **Sister Jane**, but their next release, **Living Next Door to Alice**, was a flop, though later it became a worldwide hit for **Smokie** in 1976.

The group switched labels to EMI, and in 1974 released three singles, two of which were written by **Russ Ballard**. The first was **Do It Again**, previously featured as a Cover Quest single. The second was this month's featured song **I'm a Clown**. Like its predecessor, the single failed to chart, as did the Ballard produced **Sweet Dreams**, a **Don Gibson** composition. An LP followed in 1975, titled **Yesterday's Gone**. Russ produced the title track, written by Kane, Lee and Noonan, as well as contributing one of his own songs, **Remember**, which opened Side One of the LP. Again, the singles taken from the album failed to re-ignite their chart career, and these would prove to be the group's final releases.

Noonan went into music production in the UK, while Kane and Lee returned to Australia, the former became a political author, and the latter pursued various commercial interests in the recreational and leisure industry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQTCU3o7IME>