



(New header by Sven)

July 2026

A big welcome to our new readers. And thank you to Sven Kramer for our beautiful new header.

As a follow up to Dave's Six Of The Best articles, Liam Wilson reminded me that he had written an article for the newsletter in 2021 about his favourite Russ tracks. Liam covers his favourite Argent tracks and Russ solo tracks. I am including Liam's article again this month to follow on from Dave's favourites, which, this month, is about dance versions. How lucky are we to have people like Dave and Liam who write such brilliant articles. Are there any more of you out there?

We have more UK gigs to add to the list for next year for Russ's "He Can Do Magic Tour".

Also some good news from Frontiers if you haven't bought "Songs From The Warehouse" yet or if the vinyl was a bit too expensive.

More good news from Fugitive.

Once again Markus brings us news of radio play for Russ in Germany. Thank you to Paul, Mark, Liam, Markus and, of course, Dave for their contributions this month.

Sue

THIS MONTH - RUSS'S DIARY

My diary going back to the first week of June...

As you might know, I spend a lot of time in the studio writing and recording. I have some songs recorded and ready for a new album which I hope will be released sometime next year. A month or so ago I decided to spend some hours looking at the studio hard drive to see how many unfinished songs were on there from the last couple of years, and if there were any that would pass the time test...that's the period since writing and now, and how time has treated them and if there are any I thought might be worth up-dating - I'm pleased to say, there are four of five really good ideas that I overlooked. It's strange how easy it is to miss good ideas, mainly because, in the original process of writing and recording, I'd heard them too much over two or three days of listening and basically wanted to start something new....I'm pleased to say, I have some older songs that I will be working on, improving on the older ideas and releasing them as new....I can't wait....

I've been playing more guitar at home getting ready for the shows that I'll be playing, starting at 'Trading Boundaries' in August, together with my Fab band Marc Rapson, PJ Phillips, John Miller and Paul Bond.

RUSS - LIFE STORIES

I'm continuing my biography from late March 1970, we [Argent] had already played shows in New York , Pennsylvania, Detroit and Chicago....I'm picking up from a couple of shows in Chicago...

CHICAGO, end of March.... In the venues we were playing, we always had support from CBS people, CBS was the record company , [COLUMBIA RECORDS]. The people from the company were there to help us with the day to day things on the road, things like booking into hotels, introducing us to promoters, paying for meals on the road...We were not yet familiar with touring in America, as it was our first tour.

We had just finished three days playing a club in Chicago, in the mid west now, our itinerary was taking us further west - To San Francisco, where we were to play five nights at Fillmore West, the sister venue, to where we'd played three weeks before in New York. Usually we'd fly to the shows if they were further than two/three hundred miles, however, on this occasion, our CBS friends

suggested we should travel by train...they all agreed the train from mid west to far west was a once in a lifetime experience....so, who were we to argue with that. We had three days off and the journey by train [2500 miles] would take two and a half days. We left Chicago in a blizzard, it was freezing, windy and ice cold. We had two and a half tons of musical equipment. I'd only seen these kind of coaches in American films like 'Some Like It Hot'. Our great friend and tour Manager, Fred, joined a poker school in the observation car. Fred made friends very easily being the archetypal cheeky cockney.

Bob Henrit and I shared a sleeper coach. We travelled across The Arizona Desert, still it was snowing heavily. I recall going to bed at night and waking up in the morning and we were still traveling across the same desert, then it occurred to me just how vast America is....It was an exciting trip. We stopped at Cheyenne Wyoming. We slowed down as we approached The Rockies. Gradually the weather changed, snow - filled sky suddenly turned blue. We travelled higher and higher. All around there were forests...the sun started to shine brightly. In the space of thirty six hours, we'd traveled from winter to summer. The train pulled in to Oakland and we walked from the station into the warmth of the Californian sunshine. We stayed at The Golden Gate Holiday Inn", from where we prepared to play our next four shows at The 'Fillmore West'. However, before the gigs we had a couple of days and nights to look around San Francisco,...it was great! I would say very English in feel. We went to 'Fishermans Wharf' - travelled on a cable car, all the things tourists have to do.....

TO BE CONTINUED....I'll tell all about The Famous Fillmore West shows, and the legendary promoter Bill GRAHAM.

COMING UP... NEXT

There are still some tickets left for Trading Boundaries on 7th August. Not long to go.

Tickets here. <https://www.tradingboundaries.com/russ-ballard.html>

Home / Russ Ballard

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RUSS
BALLARD

COMING UP....IN SEPTEMBER

Its hard to start thinking about September yet but Russ and Robert are back together for their songs and stories show in Barnoldswick on 19th and 20th September. I saw this show in Dunmow - twice! Not that this one will be exactly the same. It will be a lot of fun. There are just a few standing tickets left for the Sunday matinee...11 when I looked.

Tickets: <https://www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com/russ-ballard-and-robert-hart>

MATINEE

PETER BARTON
MANAGEMENT PRESENTS

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—AND—

ROBERT HART BAD
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September Special*



**SUNDAY MATINEE
20 SEPTEMBER
2026**

BARNOLDSWICK
**MUSIC
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CENTRE

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TICKETS £32.50 + BOOKING FEE

DOORS 12.30PM



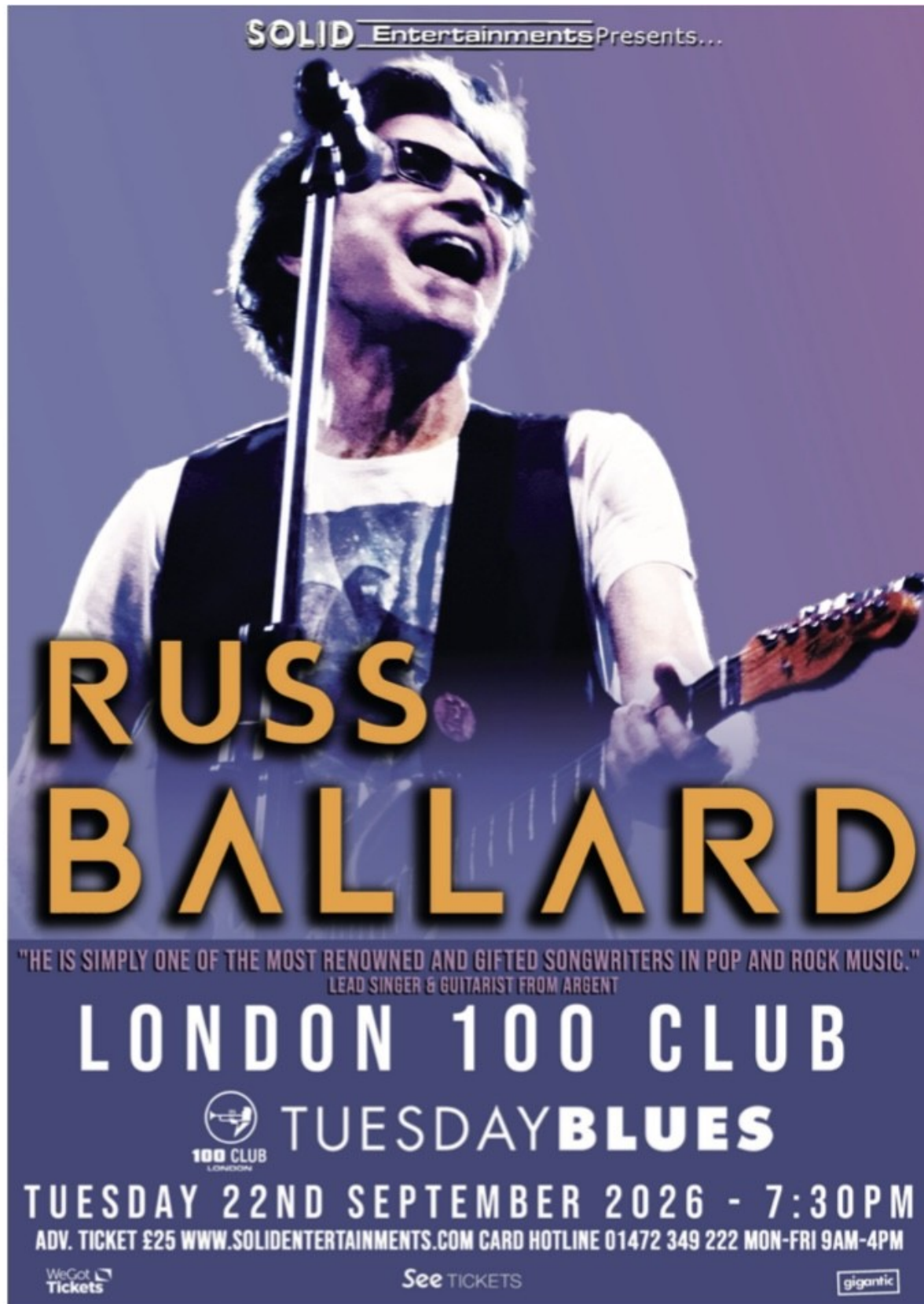
BUY TICKETS ONLINE www.barnoldswickmusicandartscentre.com

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M'CULLOUGH'S | 18-22 RAINHALL ROAD | BARNOLDSWICK | LANCS | BB18 5AF

Also in September and just a couple of days later on Tuesday the 22nd, Russ and his band are back at the 100 Club in London.

Tickets: <https://www.seetickets.com/event/russ-ballard/100-club/3624738>



SOLID Entertainments Presents...

RUSS BALLARD

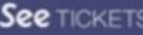
"HE IS SIMPLY ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED AND GIFTED SONGWRITERS IN POP AND ROCK MUSIC."
LEAD SINGER & GUITARIST FROM ARGENT

LONDON 100 CLUB

 **TUESDAY BLUES**

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2026 - 7:30PM

ADV. TICKET £25 WWW.SOLIDENTERTAINMENTS.COM CARD HOTLINE 01472 349 222 MON-FRI 9AM-4PM

WeGot Tickets  

COMING UP - NEXT YEAR

RUSS BALLARD AND HIS ALL STAR BAND - "HE CAN DO MAGIC TOUR"

Thursday 14th January - The Robin, Wolverhampton. We don't have a ticket link for this yet. Watch their website,

Friday 15th January - Wiltshire. No details yet as the venue haven't advertised so far.

Thursday 21st January - Huntingdon Hall, Worcester. Russ returns! See some of you there!

Tickets: <https://purchase.worcestertheatres.co.uk/ChooseSeats/207801>

Saturday 23rd January - Wrecking Ball, Hull.

Tickets: <https://wreckingballstore.co.uk/event/russ-ballard/>

Sunday 24th January, Russ is headlining on Sunday evening at UK Blues, Rhythm & Rock at The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool. This is a 3 day festival and, as far as I can see, tickets are only available for all 3 days.

Ticket link: <https://www.solidentertainments.com/blues/uk/tickets.html>

Friday 12th February - Acapela, Cardiff.

Tickets: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/acapelastudios/2311670>

Sunday 14th February - Exeter. No further details yet.

FRONTIERS - SONGS FROM THE WAREHOUSE/THE HITS REWIRED VINYL

Frontiers, Russ's record company, are having a "Christmas in July" promotion across their shop. This includes Russ's vinyl album at £16 and, as it is a double album with 26 amazing tracks, this is a real bargain. Also the double CD is on sale for £14. This is for July only. Be quick! <https://frontiers.shop/pages/christmas-in-july>

FUGITIVE

You might recall that Russ spent a lot of time working with Liverpool rock band Fugitive, resulting in some Russ/Fugitive songs on their last album. They have been working together again with a new single for Fugitive coming up. Michael Angel has put out video taster of their single on their Facebook page.

Unfortunately, I can't put a video file into the newsletter because it would be too big for an email. You can see it on Russ's Facebook page or Fugitive's Facebook page. You can use the links below from Mike.

In case you can't access Facebook, this is what Mike has said in a couple of posts...

News coming soon on [Fugitive](#) 's next single release 'Sweet Oblivion'. Exciting times ahead with this collaboration with British Music Legend [Russ Ballard](#). Just wait until you see what we have planned to launch this one... it's a bit epic! x



AMAZING NEWS FLASH about our next single release / video launch incl a sneak peak of the track...

We're BEYOND EXCITED to announce that the full video will be launched at [Stonedead](#)

[Festival](#) so if you are there for the Friday Night Party, come and join us in the Arena for the showcase event and to celebrate with us!??

The track will be going out to Radio DJ's next week, so get in touch if you want including in the radio roll out - cheers. x

FROM DAVE

SIX OF THE BEST – PART FOUR (Interesting Dance interpretations of Russ Ballard Songs)

In Part Four, I decided to explore some of the most interesting dance mixes of Russ Ballard songs that are scattered across YouTube. These mixes are worth examining because they often involve a considerable amount of creative input from the producer, giving the original track a fresh twist. In some cases, the original song remains largely intact, while in others the producer has taken only snippets of the source material and built something entirely new around them. I was never a fan of remixes until I began to appreciate just how much creativity and skill can go into this type of work. Naturally these are subjective. Some you might like, some you might hate.

I know there's something going on by Franky Tunes feat Jason McKnight & Big Daddi

Released in 2013, Franky Tunes' interpretation of *I Know There's Something Going On* is a high-energy Hands Up anthem that transforms Russ Ballard's classic composition into a contemporary dancefloor filler. Featuring vocals from Jason McKnight and rap contributions from Big Daddi, the track combines pounding four-on-the-floor beats, uplifting synths and infectious hooks while remaining faithful to the unforgettable chorus. Available in several mixes, including the energetic Dancefloor Kingz Remix and Big Room Mixx, it demonstrates how Russ's songwriting continues to inspire modern electronic producers, more than three decades after the song first became a worldwide hit through Frida.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_iRTmQCpil

New York Groove by PDP Remixing

New York Groove has always possessed an irresistible dancefloor beat, making it one of Russ's most frequently reworked songs. PDP Remixing gives the classic a fresh makeover, replacing the glam-rock swagger with a modern dance groove while retaining the song's infectious hook. Rather than simply extending the original, this remix introduces contemporary beats and polished production, demonstrating just how timeless Russ Ballard's songwriting remains. More than fifty years after it was first written, *New York Groove* still feels perfectly at home in a club setting—a testament to the enduring appeal and adaptability of one of his finest compositions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc0gBjjsMOQ>

(Crack It) Something Going On by Bomfunk MC's

The Frida hit again, but with a different treatment. This is possibly one of the boldest reinventions of a Russ Ballard composition. *(Crack It) Something Going On* takes the memorable chorus from Frida's hit and transports it into the world of early-2000s electronic dance music. Bomfunk MC's, based in Finland, combine hip-hop, breakbeat and techno influences with Jessica Folcker's powerful vocal, creating a track that feels both familiar and fresh. Rather than simply remixing Frida's original hit, the song reimagines it with rap verses, contemporary production and a club rhythm, proving just how adaptable Russ Ballard's songwriting can be. Released in 2002, it became a European chart success and introduced one of Russ's best-known songs to an entirely new generation of dance music fans.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSqDIWI_Ew

Since You've Been Gone by Master Blaster

German dance outfit Master Blaster took Russ's rock classic and gave it a full Eurodance makeover, proving just how adaptable the song is. Released in 2006, their version replaces guitars with driving electronic beats, soaring synths and infectious hooks, while retaining the instantly recognisable chorus that has made the song a favourite for generations. The single was accompanied by several remixes, including standout versions by Discoblaster and The Disco Boys, each bringing its own club flavour to the track. It's a fine example of how a great Russ Ballard composition can cross musical boundaries and sound completely at home on the dancefloor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVvUDnLba0>

Trouble With Boys by Loreta (Synchronic Minds Mix)

When I had the idea to do a **Six of the Best** "dance" versions, this was the song that inspired it.

Lithuanian-born singer Loreta first found fame at the age of five through a television talent competition and was performing before crowds of 20,000 by the age of seven. After moving to London as a teenager, she worked with leading UK songwriters including Russ Ballard and Bruce Woolley, while her distinctive soprano vocals later featured on Grace Jones' song *Storm* from *The Avengers* soundtrack. Although she spent time pursuing photography and painting in Miami and Los Angeles, music remained a constant part of her life. Her collaboration with Russ Ballard on *Trouble with Boys*, for which she contributed lyrics, gained wider exposure when it featured in the *Friends* episode

The One with the Routine (Season 6, Episode 10), accompanying the memorable dance performance by Monica and Ross.

Among the various dance remixes produced for *Trouble with Boys*, the *Synchronic Minds Mixis* perhaps the most ambitious. Running for over nine minutes, it transforms the original pop song into a club-oriented progressive house track, using fragments of Loreta's vocal as the foundation for an entirely new musical landscape. Unlike a conventional extended version, the remix demonstrates the creativity that can go into reinterpreting a song, retaining the spirit of the original while building something quite different around it. Although little information survives about the people behind Synchronic Minds, the mix remains an intriguing example of the late-1990s trend for producers to deconstruct and reinvent pop recordings for the dance floor. Unfortunately, any detailed information on this remix appears to be scarce.

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

Voices by Russ Ballard (The Original Extended BodyAlive Mix)

Finally, one from the man himself. Already one of Russ Ballard's most atmospheric recordings, *Voices* lends itself perfectly to an extended dance treatment. The Original Extended Body Alive Mix respects the mood of the 1984 original while expanding it into a more immersive listening experience, with longer instrumental passages, subtle electronic textures and a stronger rhythmic drive. Rather than overwhelming the song with modern production, the remix takes the haunting melody and Russ's distinctive vocal to centre stage. It's a tasteful reinterpretation that demonstrates why *Voices* remains one of the most dance-friendly tracks in Russ's catalogue and a favourite among fans of synth-pop and electronic rock. Eight minutes of *Voices*...what is there not to like?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT8riWCOxtQ>

YOUR CHOICES

From Paul Ruocco

Dear Sue,

One early track that I absolutely love and still play regularly is **A Song for Gail**. It is a ballad which has so much feeling in the words and the melody is infectious. I would love to hear Russ play this again at one of his gigs and it would be interesting to understand what prompted him to write it.

As for an **Argent** song that is not played very much then it has to be "**Rosie**" for me. My friends daughter is called Rosanna and we have been playing this to her for years!

Best wishes

Paul Ruocco

From Mark Potts

Hi,

Big Argent/Russ fan.

I play loads of old Argent tracks on my radio shows...

Dance In The Smoke, The Fakir, Lothlorien, Aquarius, Time Of The Seasons, I Am The Dance Of Ages, It's Only Money, The Coming of Kohoutek, Thunder and Lightning, and **Music From The Spheres** are all tracks I have played.

Looking forward to seeing Russ and Robert in Barnoldswick in Sept, for the Sunday Matinee and, I think that Jan 24th gig is in Blackpool, where I live...

Cheers!

Mark L. Potts

From Liam Wilson

Ring of Hands, In Deep are my 2 favourite Argent albums.

As a massive Argent fan, since 1972, it is no surprise that my Top 2 favourite Russ compositions appear on both of these albums.

My 3rd favourite Russ composition, post Argent, is *The Fire Still Burns* title track from the album of the same name.

1. WHERE ARE WE GOING WRONG (ARGENT)

<https://youtu.be/3YbCwHn0uxl?si=PYEnBztsxhd6NpFb>

"*Where Are We Going Wrong*" was, by 1971, one of Russ's most powerful compositions for Argent and featured on the band's 2nd album, "*Ring of Hands*". This superb song appeared as the final track on Side 2 and really, it is so good, that perhaps it should have been the opening track on Side 1. *The Ring of Hands* album was reviewed and described by Rolling Stone as "a masterpiece" when it was released. I couldn't agree more.

"*Where Are We Going Wrong*" showcases, inter alia, Russ's fantastic guitar playing, a superb Rod Argent piano solo together with a solid and an adrenaline

filled bass & drum rhythm performance, underpinning the entire song, the excitement of which transfers easily to the listener. It's well worthwhile paying close attention to Jim Rodford's undulating winding bass-playing throughout, held together by Bob Henrit's classy drum patterns. Plus, harmonies from Russ, Rod and Jim to die for.

"*Where are we going Wrong*" saw the band gel in 1971 as the ultimate rock and roll unit. It is just an incredible demonstration of band dynamics at play Russ's lyrics, Russ's magnificent guitar playing, the band's harmonies, Jim's bass and Bob's interactive drumming, that classy keyboard solo by Rod in the middle, ... the building up to the song's triumphant finale, via Bob's dramatic drum crescendo, culminating with that final scintillating reverberating guitar and bass chord from Russ and Jim. Did I miss anything?

Seriously, everything that they displayed on this particular track augured well for the future. And it was only 1971. However, I have often wondered whether Russ's lyrics on "*Where Are We Going Wrong*" were a portent of things to come in 1972/3, in terms of Argent's evolving musical direction.

Whatever. Crank up the volume and play it loud! An absolute classic.

2. IT'S ONLY MONEY - PART 1 (ARGENT)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4eecVY4moU>

As an international bank manager, this for me, was always going to be my personal theme tune. They say "a shroud has no pockets". For me, Russ's lyrics perfectly encapsulate these sentiments in Parts 1 & 2 of I.O.M.

Whilst I love both parts of I.O.M, I always thought that this Part 1 version, rather than I.O.M Part 2, should have been the follow- up single to GGR&RTY. To my mind it had more commercial bite and had that " je ne sais quoi" element of mystery and drama to it, especially the thumping bass and electric guitar, bass + Hammond organ beginning. This electrifying and suspenseful introduction immediately grabbed the listeners attention and sucked them right into a wonderful world of rock harmonies at their finest, whilst the band still kept that driving, infectious and thumping rhythm, which was not so prevalent on I.O.M Part 2. Soon after this exciting intro, there followed an amazing musical interplay between Rod's keyboards and Russ's guitar playing. (If Carlsberg did guitar solos, in the middle of infectious rock songs, then Russ Ballard's solo on I.O.M Part 1. would be....)

Suffice to say, in 1973, yet another rock and roll classic from Russ.

3. THE MAKING OF THE FIRE STILL BURNS (RUSS BALLARD - WITH ALAN FREEMAN)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLzVx_xMOM8

There are few pieces of music which bring me to the edge of tears. This is one which does.

Whilst I loved the F.S.B title track, as it originally appeared on the F.S.B album, this "*Making of FSB out-take*" adds so much colour to it. Context is everything and the story behind the making of F.S.B, as narrated by, in my humble opinion, the UK's greatest ever rock DJ, Alan "Fluff" Freeman, takes one on a musically emotive journey from Russ's country studio, via his notebook of lyrics, his creation of the original tune, then heading into the Abbey Road Studios, where he was faced with, inter alia, a technical world of 96 faders and other musical dials. This track takes the listener inside Russ's head on how F.S.B was envisaged, conceived and musically delivered. Listen how electronic cellos, harpsichord, Russ's Gibson Guitar, the effects of digital echo on Russ's voice and his chanting all weave together to form this remarkable piece of music. There are no words to describe how fantastic it was for me to experience the musical journey of F.S.B from embryonic beginning to its coming of age I defy you to listen to this and keep your feet still, and your eyes dry.

Each of the above 3 songs feature prominently in my "**Endorphin Producing Inspirational Songs Playlist**" ...to be played when I'm feeling either fed-up or coping with whatever the headwinds of daily life confront me with. These 3 Russ songs, for me, have the amazing ability to fire me up and get those coping-defences into action. All the more needed, during these challenging times.

4. ESPECIALLY MENTIONED: The entire *Book of Love* album. One of the finest concept albums I have ever heard.

But that is a topic for another day, as I could ramble on forever how much B.O.L has positively influenced my life and my career.

P.S the *Road That Has No Turning* from the *Book of Love* album has also brought tears to my eyes.....big time.

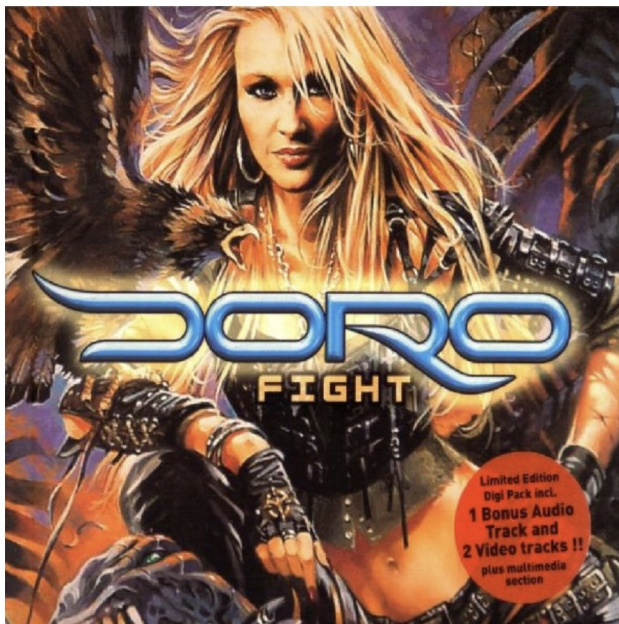
In Russ we trust,
Liam

LETTERS

Hello Sue,
glory days for Russ on German radio: Sunday evening "Winning" was played on MDR Sachsen-Anhalt (a request of mine) and on radio show "Classic Rock" (Bayern1) you could hear Hello's NYG. The radio host really appreciates Russ.

Sunny wishes from Germany
Markus

DAVE'S COVER QUEST



WILD HEART

[R.Ballard / D.Pesch / C.Winter]

You call me a wayward child
Meant to be free, born to be wild
That's the way it's been 'till now

Who do you see before you now
A friend, a lover, an angel or witch
Who you call your love, if you wish
If I was lyin' would I stand here
Like I am naked would I dare

[Chorus]

With all the power of my wild heart
I would break down the walls
That would keep us apart
With all the passion that's in my blood
Sacrifice everything that I got
Just take me, don't break me
Just blame it on my wild heart

I'm building my self-defense
My faith and trust
Not my innocence
And no revenge

You can forever be free
Or you're forever with me

[Chorus]

With all the power of my wild heart
I would break down the walls
That would keep us apart
With all the passion that's in my blood
Sacrifice everything that I got
Just take me, don't break me
Just blame it on my wild heart

With all the power of my wild heart
I would break down the walls
That would keep us apart
With all the passion that's in my blood
Sacrifice everything

With all the power of my wild heart
I would break down the walls
That would keep us apart
With all the passion that's in my blood
Sacrifice everything I got
Just take me, don't break me
Just blame it on my wild heart

10

No.95

Wild Heart by Doro

Born in Düsseldorf in June 1964, Dorothee Pesch, known simply as **Doro**, is a German heavy metal singer who rose to fame in the 1980s as the frontwoman of **Warlock** before launching a solo career. A major figure in metal for over four decades, she maintained success especially in Europe during the 1990s and later regained global popularity as classic heavy metal resurged. Known for her extensive touring, collaborations with other metal artists, and influence on female musicians in the genre, she has released 19 studio albums and remains an active performer, currently based in New York City.

Her 8th studio album, **Fight**, was released in 2002 and features **Wild Heart**, a song co-written by Russ Ballard, Chris Winter and Doro. The album was the first to feature the creative contribution of all the members of her touring band, who played in all the tracks. Chris Winter and Russ are credited with playing keyboards and guitar respectively on their song Wild Heart.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPQoikxAktc&list=RDKPQoikxAktc&start_radio=1