

One ringie dingie...Trembling Bells *Abandoned Love* A CD review by Doug Smith

The late 1960s/early 70s was the high watermark era for legendary British folk/rock bands like Steeleye Span, Pentangle, and Fairport Convention. The latter's *Liege and Lief* is considered in many quarters to be one of the classic LPs of the era in that genre.

Fast forward three plus decades and there are still many bands plying their trade out of that same template. One such is Trembling Bells, a Glasgow-based quartet that came on the scene in the late 2000s. TB's debut, *Carbeth* (which presumably has nothing to do with Liz in an auto) came out in 2009 to many positive reviews as an entry in the folk/rock tradition.

Just a year later saw the sophomore effort, *Abandoned Love*, which continues in the same vein as its predecessor. The music mixes and matches Medieval, country, folk, orchestra, and classic rock elements any way TB sees fit.



Many of these types of groups feature a prominent female vocalist. Multi-instrumentalist Lavinia Blackwall fills the bill here; and has the powerful crystalline soprano to soar into Judy Collins/Annie Haslam territory at will. She often pairs off with the much less dramatic reedy voice of drummer/group mastermind Alex Neilson. If not quite the silk vs. sandpaper of, say, Nancy Sinatra/Lee Hazelwood, it does still make for quite a contrast.

As one can infer from the album title, it probably would not be in Delilah's library (you know, the radio queen of sappy love songs). It turns out that Blackwall and Neilson used to be a couple; and some of the material was borne out of their relationship. One Amazon customer reviewer wrote that, to him, this was the best album concerning love, loss, and redemption since *Rumours*.



As mentioned above, all the disparate musical elements (which include Mike Hastings' acid folk guitar, Simon Shaw's bass, flute lines and Penny Lane-esque brass) ebb and flow, come and go. Many of them are present in the opener, "Adieu, England", but they just don't seem to mesh all that well. The orchestration is kept to a minimum in "Love Made an Outlaw of my Heart", where TB comes close to a full-blown rock out. The elements blend together immaculately on the rollickin' closer "You are on the Bottom (and the Bottle's on my Mind)". What a picture perfect example of the British version of a country hoedown.

Summary: A solid effort that pays homage to the best of the English folk/rock tradition, but without any hard and fast rules (one reviewer wrote that on this release Neilson displays more loose-limbed and freestyle drumming than Terry Cox ever did with the Pentangle) and a definite sense of humor. Rating: 7.

For additional information:
<http://www.folkradio.co.uk/2010/04/trembling-bells-abandoned-love/>

<http://www.anydecentmusic.com/review/1739/Abandoned-Love.aspx>

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KEY NOTES

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DECEMBER 2010
ISSUE #182
Inside...
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♪- Member Remembered
♪- Christmas Gift Ideas
♪- British Folk CD Review

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

It is appropriate to thank the 2010 Officer Team for their hard work. In an all volunteer-run organization, it is not possible to accomplish the many things on our agenda, and organize a show every month without the continued efforts of many different people. So, whether it was a small one-time job, or a continued monthly commitment, *thanks for another great year!*

We also are delinquent in thanking past president **Jack Supplee** for his continued effort to coordinate **Pennsylvania Music Expo** classified ad placements in weekly newspapers throughout Central and Eastern Pennsylvania. He does this month in and month out assuring that we reach that segment of potential attendees with show information. **Jack** also works on getting monthly calendar listings in many of the larger daily papers.

With that being said, the club is still in need of volunteer help with two more positions...

WEBSITE LINKS COORDINATOR: As you are probably painfully aware, the links section on the KRC website is very stale and near dormant, with many links not even functioning anymore. If you enjoy visiting various music-related web-sites and want to take on this task, please give it serious consideration.

INTERNET CALENDAR/SOCIAL MARKETING COORDINATOR: Publicity of our shows and special guests is vital to our continued success. In addition, to traditional promotion (radio/TV/print) we try to market our show via non traditional methods. This includes radio, TV and print internet calendars, along with music and CD/record show publications, Craig's List, Twitter, Linked In, etc. Help is needed to get the word to the list we have built up.

BOTH POSITIONS do not require your attendance at every show, however they do require computer/internet navigation proficiency. If interested, contact me at bdshaw@lunginfo.org or 717-843-3050.

Happy Holidays

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HOW TO REACH US...

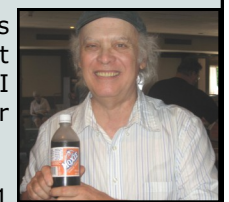
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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Where has the year gone? It's something to sit back and see that 2010 has passed by so quickly. I trust its been a good record year for all with lots of good finds!



Our shows will continue through 2011 at the Continental Inn. We've enjoyed decent growth in recent years since we've moved there, due to its prime location along US 30. Our thanks to Rodney Gleiberman and his staff for their coordination efforts each month for the **Pennsylvania Music Expo!**

With 2011 just around the corner, I am going to ask once again for volunteers to help with club operations. There are two positions available, (see details in **Derek Shaw's** column to the left). It only requires as much time as you are able to give, whether it is a few hours a week or a few hours a month.

Don't forget to pick up a stack of the 2011 show schedules so you can pass them along to others. (Full page, half page and rack card sizes are available.) The more we can get the word out about our shows, the more successful they will be for everyone.

Stay Tuned!
Dave Schmidt
2010 KRC President
NRCMusings@aol.com

THE JORDAN BROTHERS

JOE LEW FRANK BOB

With a career that spanned from 1954 to 1985 the Frackville Brother's musical adventure evolved into a phenomenal forty-two recordings on fifteen different labels. They appeared with host Dick Clark on "American Bandstand" and were featured on Jerry Blavat's WFIL "Discophonic T.V. Scene". Statewide performances included "The Coal Region's" local dance halls, Willow Lake, Lakeside Ballroom, and The Alley. Some of their greatest hits included "Heart" and "Beach Party". Their biggest hit "Gimme Some Lovin'" came in 1966.

The Jordan Brothers were a Northeast Pennsylvania phenomenon with a career that spanned 32 years. In October, the Frackville natives were honored with a plaque unveiling in their hometown. The plaque now adorns the municipal and community center, Center and Oak streets. See complete details on page 3.

KRC in 2011

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

THE CONTINENTAL INN

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!
ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 3:30PM,
(DURING THE MONTH THERE IS NO **KEY-NOTES**) PLAN TO BE THERE.

KRC member **Roy Jackson**, of Willow Street, passed away unexpectedly at his home October 6th of natural causes.



Born May 16, 1943 in Lancaster, **Roy** married Louise on April 11, 1963. He worked for Armstrong World Industries for over 30 years, retiring in 1993. **Roy** went on to work for Lancaster Toyota for over 13 years.

Music was a real passion in **Roy's** life, with rock-a-billy his favorite type and Elvis his favorite artist.

He also enjoyed listening to Soul Music. **Roy** started collecting will still in high school. **Roy** was a regular **Pennsylvania Music Expo** attendee since the early days at the Columbia Market House.

The KRC extends our condolences to Louise and the rest of his family.



KRC MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Buying a club membership for the music collector spouse, cousin, uncle, grandparent, co-worker or friend makes an excellent stocking stuffer gift for the holidays. For a nominal \$15 a year, someone you know can enjoy (or continue to enjoy) a membership in one of the world's largest organizations for music collectors. Membership provides six issues of the **KEY-NOTES**, the official club newsletter, 12 issues of **KEY-NOTES** update, a monthly cyberspace update and show reminder via e-mail, and **Recollections Magazine** (2011 plans include an edition). This is in addition to discounts on price guides, chart information books and special music and book offers that appear in **KEY-NOTES** from time to time. Members who attend the show can enjoy member prices on record sleeves and other hobby supplies along with complimentary copies of Goldmine music publication (when available.)

Selected music retailers in South Central Pennsylvania offer a cash register discount to card holding KRC members (an up-to-date list of participating retailers is available from Club Secretary, **Erna Reinhart**). If that's not enough, some record/CD shows throughout the Mid-Atlantic region offer discounts to attend their show with a current KRC membership card. What are you waiting for? Sign up your entire neighborhood today! Gift memberships may be obtained by contacting: **Erna Reinhart**, 1616 Robert Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, or call: 717-314-5009 or e-mail: beatlechas@comcast.net

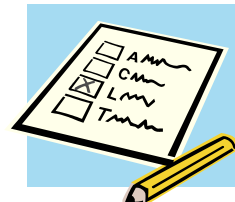
DON'T LOSE IT THIS YEAR!

Your 2011 KRC membership renewal notice is included in this issue of **KEY-NOTES**. It should be returned quickly so it doesn't get mixed in with monthly and holiday bills. By renewing your membership early, you will be assured of a listing in the 2011 Membership Directory. You also won't miss out on any special offers that appear in many issues of **KEY-NOTES**.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Also included in this issue is a ballot for selecting your 2011 club officer team. To vote, you must be a member for the upcoming year. Please fill out the top part of the form first (Renewal Application), then complete your ballot. Time flies, so don't procrastinate.



FRACKVILLE HONORS FORTUNATE SONS... "THE JORDAN BROTHERS"

By Eddie Collins

On October 10th, Frackville, PA formally honored the accomplishments and achievements of their hometown boys, The Jordan Brothers. Ceremonies were held to unveil a bronze plaque, presented by the Frackville Downtown Revitalization Committee.

On hand for the ceremonies were master of ceremonies Paul Klevis, book author Max Furek, who chronicled the band's legacy and **Eddie Collins** regional musician, radio personality and noted Jordan historian. Following the dedication, Furek entertained the audience with an in-depth audio/visual presentation of The Jordan Brothers. Father Jim Drucker (former WARM-AM radio personality, Scranton) and Ron Krumbly of WXLV-FM, (Schnecksville, PA) provided commentary on this Northeast PA group phenomenon with a 32 year career.

Beginning as a Halloween spoof in 1954 and billed as The Four Jordans: Frank (vocals/sax), Joe (vocals/accordion) and Bob (drums) and father Angelo (upright bass), soon found themselves *Ted Mack's Amateur Hour* in October 1956. By 1958 they waxed their first 45 "Send Me Your Picture"/"Oh Lolly" releasing it on their own Jordan label. Pottsville Disc-jockey Len Graham shopped the single to all major labels, finally being picked up by Jamie Records. This resulted in a four year contract and five singles under the Jamie banner.

In 1963 fifteen year old brother Lewie joined in on guitar/vocals and their recordings continued on many major and independent labels (Cameo, Cheltenham, Ruby, Vim, Mer-Bri, Phillips, SSS, Golden Chariot, Turbo, in addition to their own labels Jordan, JBP and Hurrah). They also had releases internationally in Canada, England and Mexico on the London, Phillips and Reo labels.

The brothers Jordan, were Schuylkill County's first regional act to attain national success. They toured on Dick Clark's 1959 "Caravan Of Stars" and in 1961 on "Alan Freed's Rock & Roll Show". Television credits include three "American Bandstand" appearances, Jerry Blavat's "Discophononic Scene", "Summertime at the Pier" with Ed Hurst, "The Hy Lit Show" and many more.

Regionally, The Jordan Brothers were innovators and trendsetters in music and fashion. Like chameleons, they transformed from the 1960's 'teen idol'/'british invasion'/'psychedelic' eras through the 'new wave' sounds of the 1980's, the Jordan's introduced their fans to all of it! At their local shows they were a unique 'cover' band...as **Phil Schwartz** puts it, "in many cases the Jordan Brothers live versions were better than the records of the original artists".

In 1966, at the height of "Jordanmania", the band was signed to Philips Records. Producers Billy Carl (Carlucci) and Joe Venneri, while on a road trip to the UK, found the song "Gimme Some Lovin'" in a stack of records given to them. Recorded by an 'unknown' Spencer Davis Group and released in April 1966 on the Fontana label (TF-762) in the U.K., it was this version The Jordan Brothers used as a template for their release in

October 1966, receiving immediate airplay in many major markets, including Pittsburgh, Chicago and New York. Reports were the 'Jordan' single was selling rapidly, with a reported 80,000 in Boston alone!

Apparently, the Spencer Davis Group was launching an assault to capture the American market by 'reworking' their initial UK release and in November 1966 a 'new' version of "Gimme Some Lovin'" (United Artists 50108) was riding the top 40 charts alongside "The Jordan Brothers".

Unforseen was a competition of radio programmers playing both records! Label execs at Phillips guaranteed to back "The Jordan Brothers" record with maximum promotion...however, the band would have to drop their six-night-a-week schedule of local engagements in support of the record. With their livelihood on the line, families at home and a loyal fan base at stake, they opted not to tour nationally. Phillips in return, backed off the Jordan's single - which 'bubbled under' Billboard's Hot 100 at #126 on January 28, 1967, while the Spencer Davis Group climbed to #7 by February, 1967. (Note: on a WRKO-FM Boston, music survey dated 1/26/67 The Jordan Brothers were at #1, moving up from #3 the previous week.)



Enjoying the Moment: Taking a break from the October celebration to recognize the pride of Frackville (from l to r): **Eddie Collins**, Jordan historian; Lew, Joe and Frank Jordan and Max Furek, author of "The Jordan Brothers: A Musical Biography of Rock's Fortunate Sons."

The Jordan's would continue recording and performing for the next twenty years, with long running stays at Willow Lake and The Alley in Schuylkill Haven and Wednesdays at Hugo's, in Reading. In 1985 they released their final swan song, ironically called "Let's Call It A Day". On New Years Eve 1986, the The Jordan Brothers played their last notes, finalizing a long running musical journey for Frackville PA's most fortunate sons.

Eddie Collins' complete discography of The Jordan Brothers can be found in the book, "The Jordan Brothers: A Musical Biography of Rock's Fortunate Sons," by Maxim W. Furek, ©1986. For a comprehensive source for the band's recordings, listen to: Today's Yesterday's a 26 track CD of their most remembered singles and b-sides.



HAPPY B-DAY PHILLY STYLE



KRC Show Flyer designer, **Mark Wyatt** recently celebrated his birthday while he was at work. **Mark** is the sound man for all the Philly sports venues. The tech crew surprised him with this greeting at the Wells Fargo Center and an attack by 76'ers mascot, *Hip Hop* in his booth!



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