

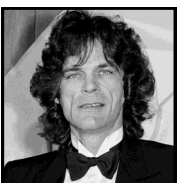


While technology and its application to recorded music has held a great fascination for me since my early teens, one important thing I feel I have never lost sight of over my now many decades is that such technology should always be at the service of art. And who creates that art? Musicians, of course. And so for this issue of Key Notes, where it is time to pay tribute and give thanks to the many fine musicians who, sadly, are no longer with us, that I'd like to take a break from my usual tech-leaning format and give over the bulk of my column space to those remembrances.

Music is, like other art forms, one that resonates differently with different listeners. Some lucky souls are gifted with the ability to birth truly memorable creations, with music or lyrics that don't only entertain, but reach deeper levels of emotional connection or thoughtfulness. That being said, I think it's well to remember that even those artists who may "only" entertain, that such is of great value also. Our lives as humans in this modern era, as in eras before, are often stressful and challenging, and any music that reaches you and lifts your mood or engages your mind in a positive way is worthy of respect. In one clever turn of phrase from a musician who, fortunately, is still with us, I often feel as if I'm "riding shotgun down the avalanche." When I do, I recall the words of one who passed many years ago, which were, "No eternal reward will forgive us for wasting the dawn."

Thank You For the Music (Cont. from page 2)

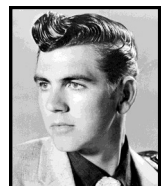
May 25th: Rusty Warren, 91, COPD and other ailments. Warren's bawdy comedy was tame by today's profanity-laced standards, it was considered so outrageous for its time — especially coming from a woman — that she was effectively banned from TV and radio. Between 1959 - 1977, she recorded 15 comedy albums, (including "Songs for Sinners," "Rusty Bounces Back," "Rusty in Orbit" and "Sin-Sational.") Seven became gold records, with sales of more than 500,000 each. Her 1960 album, "Knockers Up!" was on Billboard's charts for more than three years and sold an estimated 4 million copies. Because of the album's subject matter, they were called "party records" and were considered too vulgar to be played on the radio. At the height of her fame, she was making \$30,000 a week in Las Vegas; **29th: B.J. Thomas**, 78, lung cancer. After a stint with the Triumphs, Thomas



released a cover of Hank Williams' "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" in 1966. He'd go on to have hits with "Mama," "The Eyes of a New York Woman," "I Just Can't Help Believing" and the Top Five original recording of "Hooked on a Feeling." Later Thomas' enjoyed success on adult contemporary and Christian music charts, earning him five Grammy Awards and two Gospel Music Association Dove awards. In 1988 with Dusty Springfield the duet recorded "As Long As We Got Each Other," the theme from TV's, Growing Pains.

June 27th: Johnny Solinger, 55, Skid Row lead singer, liver failure. Skid Row started in 1986 with Solinger replacing original lead singer Sebastian Bach in 1999.

July 4th: Sanford Clark, 85, rockabilly and country artist, complications from COVID 19. "The Fool" reached #7 on the Billboard Top 100 (later recorded by Elvis and The Animals.) He had several other songs with minor success before he left the music business to work in construction, though he occasionally recorded in later decades on his own label, Desert Sun Records.



14th: Jeff La Bar, 58, guitarist for glam metal band, Cinderella, **ncg**. LaBar joined the band shortly before they signed with Mercury Records, playing on all four of their studio albums with the last in 1994. The band continued to tour until 2017. LaBar also joined band-mate Eric Brittingham in side project, Naked Beggars - who released two LPs - and his own solo album 'One For The Road' came out in 2014; **16th: Biz Markie**, 57, rapper, complications from diabetes. Known as "The Clown Prince of Hip Hop," Markie born Marcel Hall, began rapping in NYC clubs when he met hip hop producer Marley Marl in 1985. That meeting led to Markie working as a human beatbox with artists MC Shan and Roxanne Shanté. Markie expanded his career to include acting, appearing including "Men in Black II" a narrator on the adult puppet show "Crank Yankers," and on the children's series "Yo Gabba Gabba!"



August 7th: Dennis "Dee Tee" Thomas, 70, co-founder of Kool and the Gang, **ncg**. Founded in 1964 as the Jazziacs, they fused jazz, soul and funk. Thomas was the group's stylist, making sure they "always looked fresh." Kool and the Gang was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018; **20th: Tom T. Hall**, 85, self-inflicted gunshot. "The Storyteller" was known for writing hits for others, like "Harper Valley PTA," recorded by Jeannie C. Riley in 1968. "I Like Beer," was a top 10 hit in 1975. "I Love" was later used in a popular Coors commercial. His songs were recorded by Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Miranda Lambert, Alan Jackson, George Jones, Waylon Jennings and Bobby Bare, among many others. A Grand Ole Opry member since 1971, Hall was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008 and became a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2019.



(Cont. on page 4)

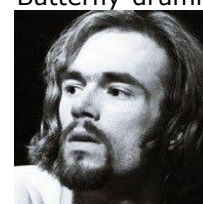
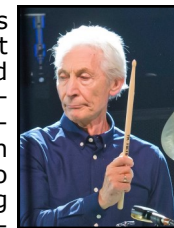


Remaining 2022 show dates: 3/13, 4/10, 5/1, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11

(Provided we are able to host, pending no COVID-19 restrictions)

Thank You For the Music (Cont. from page 3)

24th: Charlie Watts, 80, Rolling Stones drummer, **ncg**. Early on he had interest in jazz, listening to Jelly Roll Morton and Charlie Parker. His band, Blues Incorporated, became a vital part of the development of British rock music. Also in that band was guitarist Brian Jones, who introduced Watts to the fledgling Rolling Stones. The result of that meeting, according to Watts, was "four decades of seeing Mick's bum running around in front of me". Together with Bill Wyman, he provided a counterpoint to the guitars of Richards and Jones and the preening performance of Jagger. Between his regular Stones tours, Watts indulged his love of jazz. Though he always enjoyed drumming with a rock band and loved his work with the Stones, jazz gave him, as he put it, "more freedom to move around"; **29th: Ron Bushy**, 79, Iron Butterfly drummer, esophageal cancer. "'In-A-Gadda-



Da-Vida' was written as a slow country ballad, about 1 1/2 minutes long," Bushy told It's Psychedelic Baby magazine, "I came home late one night and Doug [Ingle] had been drinking a whole gallon of Red Mountain wine. I asked him what he had done, while he has been playing a slow ballad on his Vox keyboard. It was hard to understand him because he was so drunk ... so I wrote it down on a napkin exactly how it sounded phonetically to me: 'In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida.' It was supposed to be 'In the Garden of Eden.'" The track was 17 minutes long with a very shortened radio edit single made in 1968.

September 4th: Rickie Lee Reynolds, 72, COVID-19 then kidney failure and cardiac arrest. Guitarist and founding member of Black Oak Arkansas. With a sound influenced by rock, country, blues and gospel, they achieved success in the '60s and '70s with three gold-certified albums; **20th: Sarah Dash**, 76, founding member of the Bluebelles and LaBelle, **ncg**; Also she worked as a singer, session musician, and sideman for The Rolling Stones, and Keith Richards. Dash's last performance was two days before her death in Atlantic City, NJ. Patti LaBelle called Dash up to the stage for them to sing a song together; **22nd:**



Bob Moore, 89, upright bass player, cancer. An Architect of the Nashville Sound, he played on thousands of recordings, including Elvis's "Return to Sender" and Patsy Cline's "Crazy," Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man" and Loretta Lynn's "Coal Miner's Daughter" as well as the indomitable bass line on Jeannie C. Riley's, "Harper Valley P.T.A." In 1961, he had his own Top 10 single, the Mariachi-flavored instrumental "Mexico"; **23rd: Sue Thompson**, 96, Alzheimer's disease. Known for 1960s songs including "Sad Movies (Make Me Cry)" and "Norman," Thompson sang their lightly funny lyrics in a girlish voice. In later years, she returned to a country sound for minor singles including "Good Old Fashioned Country Love" and "Never Naughty Rosie."



25th: Commander Cody, 77, cancer. Cody whose real name is George Frayne, was leader of Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, enjoying a cult following in the 1970s with such songs as "Hot Rod Lincoln," "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! (That Cigarette)," "Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar" and "Diggy Liggy Lo." Formed in 1967, the band drew upon influences ranging from Western swing to jump blues. Their name was lifted from old movie serials — including a science fiction adventure from the 1950s featuring space fighter Commander Cody; **26th: Alan Lancaster**, 72, English rock bassist (Status Quo, The Party Boys), complications from multiple sclerosis; **28th: Lonnie Smith**, 79, jazz musician, pulmonary fibrosis. A Hammond B3 organist who was a member of the George Benson quartet in the 1960's. He recorded albums with saxophonist Lou Donaldson for Blue Note before being signed as a solo act. He owned the label Pilgrimage, and was named the year's best organist by the Jazz Journalists Association nine times.



October 14th: Regi Hargis, 70, guitar/bass guitar/vocals musician in the group, Brick, **ncg**. They created a successful merger of funk and jazz in the mid-1970s. "Dazz" was their biggest single; **16th: Ron Tutt**, 83, drummer, natural causes. He played concerts and recording sessions for Elvis Presley, the Carpenters, Roy Orbison, Neil Diamond, Gram Parsons, Billy Joel and Jerry Garcia; **21st: Robin McNamara**, 74, musician, singer-songwriter of the one-hit wonder, "Lay a Little Lovin' on Me", **ncg**. In the late 1960's, McNamara relocated to New York City, from Newton, Massachusetts, where he became a cast member of the Broadway musical *Hair*, playing the lead role of Claude from 1969 to 71. In 1969, he was introduced to composer/record producer Jeff Barry, who signed him to his Steed record label; **22nd: Jay Black**, 82, lead singer of Jay and the Americans, pneumonia and dementia. Black, also known as, "The Voice," had previously come from the doo-wop group The Empires. He had previously used David Black as his professional name, but changed his first name to suit the band's existing name. In 2011 Black performed for PBS showcasing his longstanding range at age 72. His final performance was in 2017;



24th: Sonny Osborne, 83, bluegrass musician and banjo player, stroke. One half of the Osborne Brothers duo, he and Bobby formed the duo in 1953, playing for 52 years. Their most popular recording was their 1968, "Rocky Top"; **27th: William Shelby**, 65, funk musician with Dynasty and Lakeside, **ncg**.

November 2nd: Ronnie Wilson, 73, musician with brothers, Charlie and Robert, the 1970's/80 funk group, The Gap Band, stroke. Ronnie handled vocals, trumpet, flugelhorn, piano, synthesizer, percussion and, songwriting. Biggest songs: "Burn Rubber on Me (Why You Wanna Hurt Me)," "Humpin'" and "You Dropped a Bomb on Me."



Legend
ncg = no cause given