

## Music Review (part 2). Jeff Branch



For those of you who stuck out the first review I did I have some more suggestions.

Just a bit of background to my music likes. When I was a child ,maybe aged 8/9/10 & onward I worked for a 'dealer' who had a Antique/Junk shop. He used to send me to the local jumble sales, & as a kid I got away with jumping the queues . He told me what to look for, elaborate picture frames for one , I could pick up for 6d. As I would get 2 bob each for them I had plenty of sweet money. Anyway while there I was always drawn to the old 78 ' records. I didn't really care what it was ,as long as it was playable. So I did have lots of classical music and I have to say some strange stuff ,Albert Whelan (a whistler). Hey !! Who cares ,it plays.

From that point my genres of music jumps around. Had a big stint of liking the Beatles. Then when I joined an art studio, & they had a record player we used All day. I liked Al Jolson, Judy Garland, Jeanette Macdonald & that sort of thing. As the years have past I have got into some even older stuff, Flannagan & Allen & some of the big band sounds . Over the years I often discover past artists, Anthony Newley I discovered around 30 years ago & still often listen to his albums. Within the past 10 years I found Johnnie Ray an interesting singer.

So, in the first stint I missed out a comparison for those who like a classical voice. You have to listen to Hayley Westenra, a kiwi with an album called 'Pure' & that's the perfect title for her voice. There is lovely Maori music & you must listen to Never say goodbye. The other interesting band I first saw in Florida is Harpeth Rising , 3 young ladies from music college, a violinist, a cellist & a banjo player.

For anyone who is an Elton John fan, did you realise his biggest influence was Leon Russell. Just before Leon died they made an album together. But in recent years Leon made some very laid back lovely music. Album 'On a distant Shore' is superb. This Masquerade & A song for you being the highlights. ( He wrote these two & many artistes have done covers).I know this is not new music but you may find it worth a listen.

Through the seventies I was a big fan of Bowie when he produced at least 5 iconic albums, but for me his diversity & change was not for the better. At the time Bowie revived a band that were going to quit, giving them a song called All the young dudes, and with which they had a big hit with. The band being Mott The Hoople. I have followed their lead singer ever since Ian Hunter & to my delight the band has got back together for several re unions which I have been able to go to.

I have over the years always liked Sinatra, Nat King Cole ,Sammy Davis & Matt Munro.

I am going to suggest some newer Country singers if that is your thing.. Diana Jones. .Casey Chambers are interesting. I have seen Diana Jones at small venues 4 times .

For Folky lovers, Laura Marling is a popular singer . And Beth Orton also had a nice voice.(not totally sure she is trad folk).

During the nineties I latched on to a band with a quirky female lead singer, The Cranberries , still a band I listen to. Sadly their lead singer died the year before last , just after I saw them at the London Palladium. Best tracks.. Ridiculous thoughts, Zombie & No Need to Argue.

Anyway I won't bore you anymore ,& although I have lots more I will finish there .



Elton John



Leon Russell