

Desert Island Discs

By Adrian Pulford

When I challenged the Editor/Navigator regarding the absence of this feature from the pages of this august journal I was hoisted on my own petard as he asked me to contribute accordingly. (I've forgotten what petard means but my Dad always used this expression and I continue the tradition in his honour). Anyway, here goes:

Strawberry Fields Forever. This classic Lennon-McCartney single was a Beatles double A-side with Penny Lane so I get two great songs for the price of one don't I? Released in 1967 when I was fifteen during the 'Summer of Love', this was the 'Lennon song' with Penny Lane the 'Macca song'. Recorded at Abbey Road during the Sergeant Pepper sessions it was released prior to the album to placate EMI, keen for a guaranteed number one single. As was Beatles custom the two songs were not included on Sergeant Pepper so as not to 'rip-off' their fans. Can you imagine that today!! Anyway, my favourite track of all time, I have played Strawberry Fields to wind up every DJ session I have ever done.

Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto No.5 in E flat, Op.73. Sorry to be specific but it must be by Daniel Barenboim, Otto Klemperer and the New Philharmonic Orchestra. I have other recordings of the 'Emperor' but this vinyl LP from 1969 is the only one for me. The second movement always brings me to tears when I play this recording but other recordings of the same piece do not have the same effect. Odd but true. My father and grandfather informed my appreciation of Beethoven and it just grows as I grow older. Surely the world's greatest composer?

Comfortably Numb. I bought 'Arnold Layne' half-each with my brother in 1967 so we were always big Pink Floyd fans. 'The Wall' came out in 1979 and produced Floyd's first number one single "Another Brick In The Wall (Part 2)" but my desert-island track from the album is "Comfortably Numb". Memorably, we took our father to see "The Wall" played live at Earls Court and during the first half they built a massive wall between the band and the audience. In the second half, a door opened in the wall thirty feet above us and David Gilmour played the towering guitar solo from this track whilst we sat below with our mouths open. Awesome then, and essential now.

Cuddle Up. The Beach Boys, along with the Beatles and the Bee Gees were etched onto my 1960's school satchel in undying allegiance and history has proved me sage I think. This track is from the Carl and the Passions "So Tough" album released in 1972 during an unhappy time in the convoluted history of the Beach Boys. Carl Wilson de facto leader of the band in Brian Wilson's drug-addled, mentally unstable absence somehow produced this wonderful song from the debris. Still utterly brilliant.

God Only Knows. Arguably one of the best songs ever written, with great intro, wonderful vocals and economical, brilliant lyrics – perfect. I cannot imagine being on a desert island without this joyous record. It is a love song of course, but you may not know that Brian Wilson wrote it for himself to sing but sacrificed the lead vocal to his brother Carl and to me that is particularly moving. He and Bruce Johnston provided backing vocals.

There She Goes. The La's released their eponymous album to little critical acclaim in 1990 and "There She Goes" had been previously released in 1988 without anyone noticing. Written by Lee Mavers the song, re mixed for the album by Steve Lilywhite, gained momentum through movie sound track use and is now rightly acknowledged for the influential indie icon that it is. Oh, and it's not about heroin, apparently. Just a great song and a must-have in my DI playlist.

Quelqu'un m'a dit. (Someone Told Me) The title track from Carla Bruni's debut 2003 album is one of my guilty pleasures. I mean, we can't let Nicolas Sarkozy have all the fun can we? If You Go Away. Written by Jacques Brel as 'Ne me quitte pas' Dusty Springfield's cover is my desert-island choice. Dusty's great vocals in English (as translated by Rod McKuen) are interjected by one chorus prettily spoken/sung in French. Lovely.

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Mr Jones. Counting Crows – one of the best live bands I have ever seen (and yes I've seen Pink Floyd three times, Rolling Stones and The Who etc, etc) and this track from 'New Amsterdam: Live At Heineken Music Hall' sums up just how great this band is, especially live. Adam Duritz for President!

Waiting In The Weeds. It's not easy this, because I love so much music I really had to think hard about my last choice. But this song will cover my need to take the Eagles talents with me on that island and although it's off their latest album "Long Road Out Of Eden" it summons up everything that's great about this legendary group of talented musicians. I won't get tired of listening to it I am sure, not for twenty years or so anyway.

I get to choose a book don't I? Well it would have to be George Orwell's **Nineteen Eighty-Four** as it would remind me of everything I have left behind in Britain 2008 and would not be missing. "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength". In 1948 Orwell wrote this book as a warning, it's a shame that current western world leaders are using it as an instruction manual. A little bit of politics there for you, sorry.

Letter to Jim Bass (Councillor for Sywell, Ecton & Mears Ashby)

Mr Bass

After recently moving to the village of Ecton, I was the victim of having my car window smashed on Sunday night where it was parked on the High Street. It follows on from my friend having his stereo stolen from his vehicle on the Thursday before Easter. I am a little concerned by the amount of vandalism of this kind that appears to be happening within the village, especially when locals I spoke to all seemed to have a similar tale of their own. 'Welcome to Ecton' was what most of them said. This is worrying.

I reported the incident to the police who of course said that there is little that they can do with no witnesses CCTV in the village. I understand this on this occasion, but what concerns me more is that it could happen again. I am on a modest income and I cannot afford £60 for a new window every time some cretin decides to break mine for a laugh. I just hope that you can reassure myself and my family by telling me how you are tackling this kind of incident. I cannot afford to pay a job tax on top of all my other bills, and £60 every couple of months is no laughing matter. I would like these kind of people to be caught and forced to pay for these crimes in both time and money. The crime rates reported in this month's Ecton magazine compare poorly with the other villages in the area. There was at least one other car window smashed on Sunday also, as the man from Autoglass told me he was off to fix another one after mine. There may even have been more, as I saw an Autoglass van drive up from Church View as I was tidying the remnants of my window into a bucket.

What do you expect me to do if it happens again this weekend, cough up another £60? How many times will this kind of instance have to happen before action is taken? If it's a common occurrence why is it still happening?

Many thanks, I enjoyed reading your column in the local magazine.

Kind regards,

Paul Glanfield