

**Jackey Coyle's Wordy-Gurdy on Helen Jennings' *Roots of Rhythm*,  
PBSFM, 9.45 am on the 1st Wednesday of the month**

**PLAYLISTS 2008**

*26 November 2008*

Roger Taylor and I previewed the return of 'Wordy-Gurdy' to *Roots of Rhythm* after my 18-month hiatus.

We riffed on Andy Baylor's new CD *Blues is Poetry*. After initially hearing the album, Rog and I had rattled through our collection and chosen four tracks that linked in one way or another. We looked for stuff that was evoked for us by Andy's gorgeous, fat, dirty, shuddering guitar on the album. We went for songs that shared the wonderful spaces between the notes.

CDs: Andy Baylor, 'Caress Me Baby', from *Blues is Poetry*; Jimmy Reed, 'You'n that Sack', from *The Vee Jay Years Disc 3*; Junior Kimbrough, 'I Cried Last Night', from *Oxford American Southern Music CD 2006*; John Lee Hooker, 'Serve Me Right to Suffer', from *The Boogie Man*; Kerri Simpson, 'I Ain Your Fool', from *Maybe by Midnight*; Andy Baylor, 'Blues is Poetry', from *Blues is Poetry*.

Blues is Poetry launched last night at the Spiegeltent.

The players: from the album, Pete Beulke, bass; Denis Close, percussion; Ian Kitney, drums. Guests, Ric Dempster on steel and harmonica; Sam Lemann, guitar; Aurora Kirk, vocals.

Best shoes: Andy's two-toners; best tie: Ric's half-mast number

Wordy-Gurdy returns to *Roots of Rhythm* on January 21 2009 and continues on the third Wednesday of the month at 9.30am.

*6 August 2008*

A few days in Melbourne and the bigger and more East-West than ever Art Fair. Our ochre works looked soft and lush at the Gallery Gab Pizzi stand and it was satisfying to see how friends' work had evolved over the years.

Magazine The mandatory Cinema Nova Monday night, with bookshops and Italian, yielded a treasure: the music issue of US magazine *The Believer*, July August 2008. The four-colour drawings and heavy, matte stock stand out among the gloss, and the toothy Irma Thomas cover graphic is a knockout. The style of Haruki Murakami's short stories, which riff like a jazz jam, fits perfectly into the magazine – stories are long, reviews don't have to be timely and the pages are ad-free. A story can cover dog-pound field recordings (Christopher DiLaurenti), Irma Thomas settling into her new home post-Katrina (T Cooper), the history of dentistry in music (Paul Collins), or musings on subjects rescued from being too esoterically yawn-worthy by great writing.

CD The premise of Ross Simonini, compiler of the CD inside, is, in the current climate of musical 'borrowing', to separate the 'other' nature of the moniker 'world' music by labelling musicians MABELS (Musicians of

American, British, or [Western] European Lineage) or ANABELS (Artists Not of American, British, or [Western] European Lineage), and matching up the two song for song. That's just for starters.

Murakami's three short essays on jazz feature Thelonius Monk, Stan Getz and Billie Holiday. We chose Holiday as a chance to contrast her early singing with the later work that he calls 'somehow broken'. His take, in brief, is that with age he was able to gain 'forgiveness' through this music.

*The Believer* applies a postmodern 'tude, but seems to be too passionate to be postmodern. Maybe postpostmodern? With the kind of far-ranging connections that stretch across the history and genres of recorded music, it's jam-packed with treats and surprises.

Book *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*, Haruki Murakami (Harvill Secker)

CD Tartit, 'Ansari', *The Believer Music Issue* (The Believer, originally recorded for BMI)

LPs Billie Holiday, 'When You're Smiling', *The Billie Holiday Story Vol I* (CBS); Billie Holiday, 'Don't Explain', *Easy to Remember* (Saga)

## Playlists 2007

9 May 2007

It's not goodbye, it's au revoir.

For the last 'Wordy-Gurdy' on *Roots of Rhythm* for the time being, we featured Texas-based singer-songwriter Patty Griffin's new record, *Children Running Through*.

CDs: Patty Griffin, 'Heavenly Day', *Children Running Through* (ATO/Shock); Joe Henry, 'Cold Enough to Cross', *Scar* (Mammoth), featuring Brad Mehldau, piano. This linked with the Brad Mehldau feature 'The Wordy Gurdy Man', thanks to Stephen Coyle for finding this! Read it on [www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=23188](http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=23188); Patty Griffin, 'Trapeze' & 'Getting Ready', *Children*; Jim Jensen & the Hawaiian Hotshots, 'Hula Blues', *Everyone Needs an Island* (Cumquat). For Jim, a great teacher and humble genius; Patty Griffin, 'Up to the Mountain (MLK Song)', *Children*; And how could we leave without a Chuck E Weiss? The man who attracted the most calls and inspired countless plays on other programs outtroed with 'No Hep Cats' from *Old Souls & Wolf Tickets* (Ryko).

4 April 2007

The blues that left town... and took a wrong turn down the right road.

We veered off with *Beyond Mississippi* (Shock/Manteca/Union Square Music), a 2002 2CD UK compilation as our road map. Following on from *Beyond Nashville – the Twisted Heart of Country Music* (2001), which was tied in with a London Barbican exhibition, this album comments: 'From international icons to the intentionally weird, most artists have sooner or later, sung the blues – but it's what they do with them that matters.'

From Jessie Mae Hemphill to Tom Waits, Van Morrison to Little Axe, Chuck Berry to the Bonzo Dog Band... a Brit slant on what's down this road.

Little Axe, 'All Night Party'; Cassandra Wilson, 'Strange Fruit'; Sonny Terry feat Woody Guthrie, 'Rain Crow Bill'; Paul Pena, 'Kalgyraa Moan'; Jessie Mae Hemphill, 'Loving in the Moonlight'; Tom Waits, 'Filipino Box Spring Hog'; George 'Bongo Joe' Coleman, 'Eloise'

Book: *Strange Fruit*, David Margolick, Running Press, 2000

7 March 2007

### ALLIGATOR SPECIAL

Alligator Records is home to some of the world's premier blues and roots rock talent, and is regarded as the world's top contemporary blues record label.

Over two hours we explored the Alligator catalogue, with stories from Helen's days as Treble Clef Promotions, and lots of Alligator CD giveaways.

Book: All Music Guide to the Blues, AMG

CD: Featuring *35x35 – 35 Songs, 35 Years of Genuine Houserockin' Music*, Alligator Records two-disc set, 2006: Hound Dog Taylor & the House Rockers, 'She's Gone', from the first Alligator LP, cut in just two nights when Bruce Iglauer, a 23-year-old blues fan, used his meagre savings to record his favourite band in 1971. 'Still one of the greatest slide guitar albums' AMG. The image is from our own 1975 Alexis Korner release of this classic LP; Big Walter Horton with Carey Bell, *35x35*, 'Have a good time' Carey & Lurrie Bell, 'Wrapped up in Love', from the album *Second Nature*, 2004; Professor Longhair, 'In the Wee Wee Hours' with Dr John on guitar (his original instrument) from the album *Crawfish Fiesta*, 1980; Katie Webster, 25th Anniversary CD, 'Hard Lovin' Mama' from the album *No Foolin'*, 1991; Katie Webster & Lonnie Brooks, 'Lonely Lonely Nights', *Crucial Texas Blues*; Lonnie Brooks, 'Voodoo Daddy' debut Alligator album from *Bayou Lightning*, 1979; Buddy Guy, 'Are You Losing Your Mind' from *Stone Crazy*; Buddy Guy & Junior Wells, medley: 'Baby What You Want Me To Do/That's Alright', 1991; Koko Taylor 'I Got what It Takes' title track from her debut Alligator album, 1975; Albert Collins, Alligator's first non-Chicago artist, 'Honey Hush (Talking Woman Blues)', *Ice pickin'*, 1978; Saffire the Uppity Blues Women, 'Wild Women don't Have the Blues', 1990

Gigs: Michelle Kiba from Santa Cruz, California teaches ukulele and hula dancing in the San Francisco and Santa Cruz areas as well as performing concerts.

7 February 2007

Aah, February, the month of love...and florists paying off their mortgages. How many great love songs can you fit in a half-hour? We kicked off our first 'Wordy-Gurdy' segment for 2007 finding that out (we got seven). And next week's *Roots of Rhythm* actually falls on the Day That Shall Not Be Named, so it's your turn to request the ones that got away. In keeping with *RoR*, naturally

we're going for minimum bosom-swelling vocals, maximum rootsy soul and a modicum of whimsy.

CDs: Bakelite Radio, 'Thoughts about Roxanne', Volume II (Head): this reprieves the great John Mayall song on the *Turning Point* album; Tom Morrell & The Time-Warp Tophands, 'I Gotta Have My Baby Back', *Smoke a Little of This* (WR Records) The great steel guitarist Tom Morrell left this world last Tuesday, suffering from emphysema. He was 68. From his series of western swing and jazz with the Time-Warp Tophands, called *How the West Was Swung*, our love song's a Floyd Tillman compo sung by Lanny Long, from the ironically named *Vol 6*. The 15th volume, *Relaxin'*, is due this month. Hear samples from the series at [www.westernswing.net/morrell](http://www.westernswing.net/morrell); Irma Thomas, 'Ruler of My Heart', *Saturday Night Fish Fry* (Soul Jazz Records) The gorgeous 1963 version that spawned the Otis Redding hit 'Pain in My Heart'; Alex Burns, 'Blue Hawaiian Moonlight', *Twilight Blues* (Black Market Music).

Tish Hinijosa, 'Esperate (Wait for Me)', *Texans Live from Mountain Stage* (Blue Plate Music). Mexican/American singer in a gorgeous live bilingual performance; Kerri Simpson, 'Temperature', *Sun Gonna Shine* (Belmore Music)

A great singer makes a great love song. And who better to put the heat up?; James Andrews, 'Got Me a New Love Thing', *Satchmo of the Ghetto* (Nyno). New Orleans trumpeter/vocalist with guests Allen Toussaint and Dr John to funkify a Toussaint song that's so N.O. it's like bein' there.