

# Tracks of my Years

## Clive Titcombe



One of my first musical memories is hearing my mother play Moonlight Sonata on her well-polished piano and this is still one of my favourite pieces today

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4591dCHe\\_sE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4591dCHe_sE)



I had a brother and two sisters all older than me, so I had lots of other musical influences. This next track (Johnny Kidd and the Pirates – Shakin' All Over) I particularly remember reverberating around the house on many occasions. This came out in 1959 and I think it has not aged at all.

<https://youtu.be/3OvkGTFJZX8>

Part of village life was singing in the local church choir and the high spot of the year was the atmospheric candlelit Midnight Mass at Christmas. After the service we would walk the chilly mile back home and enjoy thick onion soup to warm us up before bed. An advent hymn I enjoyed singing was 'O Come, O Come Emanuel'. This clip is sung in Latin which in my opinion sounds even better as the hymn is said to come from Gregorian chant hundreds of years ago. <https://youtu.be/q5fH7xJ9OfA>

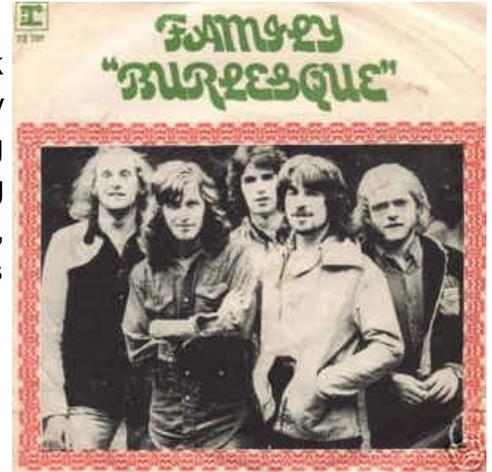




Do you remember the first radio you bought with your own money? Mine was a Dansette Richmond about 5x3 inches with really tinny sound not at all improved by the white plastic single earpiece provided for listening under the bedclothes! A whole new world beckoned! Radio Luxemburg 208 and Tony Prince playing tracks such as Galveston by Glen Campbell and this one; Folsom Prison Blues by Johnny Cash.

<https://youtu.be/wG0fS4DoGUc>

First records can sometimes cause embarrassment but I think mine has stood the test of time! 'Burlesque' by Family was my considered choice at a time when Chicory Tip were singing about 'Son of the Father' and Middle of the Road were riding high with 'Soley, Soley'. T Rex were good with 'Jeepster', though. I saw Roger Chapman at a retro event just a few years ago and this still sounded good. <https://youtu.be/23VdAJuEU1Y>



I have been a Status Quo fan since 'Down the Dustpipe' in 1970 and have been lucky enough to see them on quite a few occasions. The great thing about a Quo concert is that they always devote time to their back catalogue, so you always got a chance to hear those good old numbers. I well remember strutting my stuff in the Students' Union in 1973 to the sound of 'Caroline' with hair down to my shoulders, wearing big boots and a

'double denim' Falmers brushed denim suit with 9 inch flares. I still wonder what happened to the blonde I was with... Ho hum! Now I realise there might be a few out there who think that Status Quo have difficulty stringing together more than three chords so I thought you might enjoy this one, 'A Year' from the 'Piledriver' album released in 1972. <https://youtu.be/OAp7nF3gpyl>

Talking of contentious issues dare I mention cover versions? An advantage of the internet and YouTube is that you can find many different versions of the same song and occasionally you can find better versions. For instance, I think that the Quo offering of 'Roadhouse Blues' (from the album mentioned above) is far superior to the Doors even if Jim Morrison did compose it! Another example is 'I Heard It Through the Grapevine' by Marvin Gaye which in itself is very good but surpassed I think by Creedence Clearwater Revival. Attached is a version of the Stones 'Gimme Shelter'



by a young lady from Nottingham called Natalie Duncan which I think is fairly close to perfection.

<https://youtu.be/wMTToiphhqEQ>

I am not even sure what genre this next piece is and I don't particularly care as I have always resisted pigeon-holing music. I know what I like! This is Massive Attack featuring Terry Callier with 'Live With Me'. Terry was a soul, folk and jazz singer and a songwriter guitarist. Have a listen, it's just great!

<https://youtu.be/t3tMCASpvns>



I think if I had to choose just one last concert it would have to be these guys – the Eagles. I have never seen them but they have seemed to have formed the soundtrack of my life to date. The clip I have chosen is an album track gem called 'A Long Road Out of Eden'. The sound quality is awful but it is worth the effort. Pour a glass of something nice and enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/xYcxFjppUw>

I have always admired the ability and nerve that some people have to get up and perform, whether it be with an instrument or just the voice, in groups or singly, in the street, pub, theatre or concert hall. I appreciate the hours spent in practice to hone and polish their art. This last piece is just one man with his daughter and a guitar. It's actually Andrea & Virginia Bocelli singing 'Hallelujah' at Teatro Regio di Parma, December 2020.

<https://youtu.be/iliqxyluMJk>

