



Tracks of my Years



Len St John

Beatles.

She Loves You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S302kF8MJ-I>

When this record was released back in 1963, I was lucky enough to see them perform in their first tour - in the Sunderland Empire, a relatively small theatre. The only way I could hear the song was on a friend's radio or the black and white TV in the house. In time, this record became a worldwide phenomenon, and I became a loyal and devoted fan.



Karl Jenkins.

Palladio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqmbz8W1-tA>

I know exactly when I heard this music for the first time. It was the soundtrack for and advert for De Beers diamond jewellery. The advert did not play the full version of this music and it took a fair number of years for me to find out who composed it and to hear it in its entirety. Since those days I have seen Mr Jenkins conduct more than once, and I was lucky enough to meet him. I made him smile with my comment . "If I may quote ABBA, Thank You For The Music"

Pavarotti.

Nessun Dorma

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWc7vYjgnTs>

I was lucky enough to see this man at Sheffield Arena twice. The second visit was a result of Mr Pavarotti's request as at the end of the first concert, he confessed to missing two notes. I don't think anyone noticed, But the opportunity to see him again was too good to miss. He sang exactly the same pieces in the same order. But when it comes down to it, I don't think that anyone has ever sung it better.



Jimi Hendrix.

All Along the Watchtower

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmGFFJtkDXA>



I saw this man in a small club in South Shields in a room about half the size of the room we use for choir practice. In that club, there was no 'stage entrance' so the trio walked through the fairly small audience. The stage was simply a step up from the room floor and at the end of his performance, he simply stepped down off the stage to sit down on it and talk to anyone who would talk to him. All the while, his hands would continue to play the guitar, un-amped so no sound came out. The music he had played in the concert, mainly Blues -

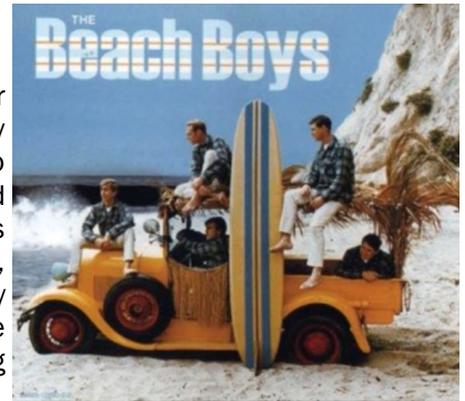
with a bit of rock, was superb.

Beach Boys.

I Get Around

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wREBD2og5iY>

From hearing this American band the first time, I just loved their harmonies and melodies. Every record they made consisted of just happy songs, ideally suited for the American surfing community but just a joy to the rest of us. A unique sound from a unique group. If there was a record at that time that was going to get me on to the dance floor, this was it! One of the guys I knew in the shipyards where I did my apprenticeship, was a keen 'Northern Soul'er and he taught me a few dance moves. Boy do I owe him a debt! To this day, most of the young kids who see me dance cannot work out how the hell I am doing it as both feet are moving at the same time. The girls loved it too!



Cilla Black.

Anyone Who Had A Heart

Cilla was one of the many people who was sent a number of Lennon and McCartney songs as she was a good friend of the Beatles, thanks to their Cavern Club days where she started as a cloak room attendant. It is said that whoever was performing there, she would ask if she could sing something too. This song, to me, is a really sad song and it always brings back memories of not the best times of my life.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUxn6JLwdDY&list=RDZUxn6JLwdDY&start_radio=1

Frank Sinatra.

In The Wee Small Hours

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dyc3Heyl4A8>

I always thought that there are two songs that Mr Sinatra sang which, he almost sings to himself, as if he is on his own. This is one, the other is One For The Road. One of the world's best and most natural singers and a sad loss.



Animals.

House of the Rising Sun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Fy7opKu46c>

A real "Haway The Lads" piece of music and Geordies at their best. I believe that this song was written for a woman to sing but I could be wrong. Just perfection. . Geordies at their best with Alan Price's superb solo in the middle .. and if you watch the video of this on YouTube or whatever, Alan is playing it on a tiny keyboard.

Eddie Floyd.

Knock on Wood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzRs6vCxzC4>

This is my favourite version of this song (there are a few) and this is 'Soul' music at its best for me. I am pretty sure that this version is not the first version of this song that I ever heard but in my humble opinion, nobody has ever done it better





Salvatore Licitra and Marcelo Alvarez

Odissea

I think that I came across this music in a record shop where they had a number of CDs available to listen to on headphones. I stepped through the tracks but stopped when I listened to this one. I bought the CD and I can listen to this track anywhere and at a moments notice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9TGoXQS05A&list=RDS9TGoXQS05A&index=1>