**PLAYLIST SUMMARY**

Ronettes – Be My Baby
ALBUM: *Presenting the Fabulous Ronettes featuring Veronica*, 1964
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSPpbOGnFgk

Leon Russell – A Song for You
ALBUM: Leon Russell, 1970
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37dw2r45Xzg

Glen Campbell – Caroline No
ALBUM: Pet Sounds (Beach Boys), 1966
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w7ZeSIC6K0

Glen Campbell – Gentle on my Mind
ALBUM: Gentle on my Mind, 1967
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VecunpIqlg0

Jimi Hendrix w/Buddy and Stacy – Shotgun
(ALBUM: Junior Walker - Shotgun) Buddy & Stacy perform as cover on Night Train TV show, 1965
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSwZcHDgw4Q

Jimi Hendrix– Little Wing
ALBUM: Bold as Love, 1967
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzmLdI\_VC9s

Ambrosia – How Can You Love Me
ALBUM: Road Island, 1982
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3MYB1bg0qY

Bruce Hornsby – The Way It Is
ALBUM: Road Island, 1982
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlRQjzltaMQ

George Harrison – Art of Dying
ALBUM: All things Must Pass, 1970
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmo8L7NlURQ

Phil Collins – Take Me Home
ALBUM: No Jacket Required, 1985
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRY1NG1P\_kw

Leon Russel, Joe Cocker – Feelin’ Alright
ALBUM: Mad Dogs and Englishmen – Filmore East 1970
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJMzuGVQRyc

**INTRO:**

Brecker Brothers – Dig a little Deeper
ALBUM: Back to Back, 1976
edited intro track

Thanks for joining us on BigEradio.com. I am your curator, Michael Kryton, and on this edition of open mic, we will explore session musicians who went from the background to the limelight in a musical story I call “From Sessions to Stardom”. What I’m going to do is play one cut the selected artist participated on as a session musician, and then the second cut when they hit stardom. So let’s get after it.

**PLAYLIST CUT 1:**

Ronettes – Be My Baby
ALBUM: *Presenting the Fabulous Ronettes featuring Veronica*, 1964
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSPpbOGnFgk

We start with a look at a couple of the over 60 musicians who were a part of one of the most famous collection of session players better known as the Wrecking Crew.The Wrecking Crew was a loose collective of session musicians based in Los Angeles who appeared in thousands of studio recordings in the 1960s and 1970s, including several hundred Top 40 hits. These session players were not publicly recognized in their era, but were viewed with reverence by industry insiders. They are now considered one of the most successful and prolific session recording units in music history.

The roster included musicians like bassist Joe Osborne, drummer Hal Blaine, guitarist Glen Campbell, piano player, Leon Russell, percussionist Sonny Bono, and the list goes on.

So let’s kick things off with Leon Russell. Russel started his career in 1956 at the age of 14 in Tulsa and became a part of the development of the Tulsa sound. Before becoming a solo artist, Leon Russell was a regular member of the Wrecking Crew and played on a raft of songs including the Ronettes' "Be My Baby", which was recorded in 1963 at Gold Star Studios Hollywood. It was released as a single in August 1963 and later placed on their 1964 debut LP --- *Presenting the Fabulous Ronettes featuring Veronica*.

So here is Leon Russell, banging out the chords on the piano in what many considered one of the best songs of the 60s, the Ronette’s, Be My Baby.
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From 1964, the Ronettes and Be My Baby featuring a young Leon Russell in the mix.

**PLAYLIST CUT 2:**

Leon Russell – A Song for You
ALBUM: Leon Russell, 1970
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37dw2r45Xzg

Russell’s solo career was launched in 1965 with his first solo single, "Everybody's Talking 'Bout the Young", for Dot Records in 1965. By 1969, he was working with George Harrison and others but his first first commercial success as a songwriter came when Joe Cocker recorded the song "Delta Lady" for his 1969 album, Joe Cocker! The album, co-produced and arranged by Russell, reached number 11 on the Billboard 200. But that’s not the song I want to play.

During the Mad Dogs and Englishmen tour, Shelter Records released his 1970 solo album, Leon Russell, which included the first recording of "A Song for You". It became one of his best-known songs, with versions released by more than 40 different artists, including the Carpenters, Ray Charles, Peggy Lee, Willie Nelson, Helen Reddy,  --- it’s a long list.

This is a live version performed in 1971. Leon Russell and A Song for You.
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A beautiful song. A Song for You from Leon Russell to be found on his solo album from 1970, Leon Russell. Let’s take a look at one more member of the Wrecking Crew, a guitarist who became a legend, Glen Campbell.

**PLAYLIST CUT 3:**

Glen Campbell – Caroline No
ALBUM: Pet Sounds (Beach Boys), 1966
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7w7ZeSIC6K0

Before he made it to the limelight, Campbell played countless sessions. His guitar (and sometimes other instruments and vocals) is embedded on hundreds of recordings by everyone from Ricky Nelson (“Hello, Mary Lou”) to Frank Sinatra (“Strangers in the Night”), as well as Phil Spector’s productions, numerous Beach Boys sessions (including Pet Sounds) and much more. So, what to pick, what to pick. So I picked the Beach Boys. Campbell actually plays on five songs from Pet Sounds. Campbell even toured with the Beach Boys, filling in for an ailing Brian Wilson. He spent four months on the road with the band before Bruce Johnston took over. So, here is Glen Campbell playing a 12-string electric guitar with the Beach Boys on the 1966 album Pet Sounds in a moody song called Caroline, No.

From the 1966 Beach Boys album, Pet Sounds, that’s ‘Caroline No’ with Glen Campbell on 12-string electric guitar.

**PLAYLIST CUT 4:**

Glen Campbell – Gentle on my Mind
ALBUM: Gentle on my Mind, 1967
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VecunpIqlg0

Campbell went on to a career spanning five decades releasing 64 albums, selling over 45 million records worldwide, including twelve gold albums, four platinum albums, and one double-platinum album. And he accumulated countless Grammies, que’lle surprise. It was difficult to choose one song from his career, but many reviewers end on this one in their lists.

"Gentle on My Mind" tops those lists like BMI's Top 100 Songs of the Century. It swept the Grammys in 1967, winning Best Country & Western Solo Vocal Performance (Male), Best Country & Western Recording, Best Country & Western Song and Best Folk Performance. It has received over 5 million plays on the radio. Plus, legendary musicians such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash and others have covered the song, totaling at over 300 covers by different artists. From the 1967 album by the same name, this is Glen Campbell with Gentle on my Mind.

Mr. Glen Campbell, who delivered so many incredible songs like ‘Gentle on my Mind’, released on the album by the same name in 1967. Thank you for joining me for open mic on BigEradio.com. I’m Michael Kryton. Please check out the schedule of shows as well the archives of past shows. There’s all kinds or variety and something for everyone. You can also reach out to me on my open mic facebook page at #bigeradioopenmic. Comments are always welcome.

So, let’s switch from acoustic to electric as we continue to follow artists who went from Sessions to Stardom.

**PLAYLIST CUT 5:**

Jimi Hendrix w/Buddy and Stacy – Shotgun
(ALBUM: Junior Walker - Shotgun) Buddy & Stacy perform as cover on Night Train TV show, 1965
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSwZcHDgw4Q

A former paratrooper whose honourable medical discharge exempted him from service in the Vietnam War, Jimi Hendrix spent the early 1960s working as a freelance musician for a variety of groups and artists, both famous and obscure. Hendrix began playing gigs on the Chitlin' Circuit, which was a collection of performance venues throughout the eastern, southern, and upper Midwest areas of the United States that provided commercial and cultural acceptance for African American musicians, comedians, and other entertainers during the era of racial segregation in the United States from the 30s to the 60s. During that time, Hendrix played with artists like Wilson Pickett, Slim Harpo, Sam Cooke, and Ike & Tina Turner.

Finding a meaningful recorded track of Jimi playing in those days was almost impossible, but I stumbled upon Hendrix performing with the duo **Buddy and Stacy** on the late night Nashville TV show, Night Train. In the video, you see him in the background with a small afro and wielding his left-handed guitar. It’s only towards the end of the performance where you hear a bit more of Jimi.

So this is Buddy and Stacy covering Junior Walker’s Shotgun on Nashville’s Channel 5 TV show Night Train in 1965 with Jimmy Hendrix in the background.

That’s Buddy and Stacy covering Junior Walker’s Shotgun on a Night Train tv performance in 1965 with Jimi Hendrix in the mix.

**PLAYLIST CUT 6:**

Jimi Hendrix– Little Wing
ALBUM: Bold as Love, 1967
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzmLdI\_VC9s

Chas Chandler, the original bassist with the animals, had left the group and was interested in managing and producing other artists. Chandler saw Hendrix play in  Greenwich Village, New York City. He liked what he saw and eventually took Hendrix to London where he connected with Noel Redding and Mitch Mitchell. The Experience, as they became known, was born and the rest is musical history.

Hendrix's music has received a number of Hall of Fame Grammy awards, starting with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992, followed by two Grammys in 1999 for his albums Are You Experienced and Electric Ladyland. Axis: Bold as Love received a Grammy in 2006. In 2000, he received a Hall of Fame Grammy award for his original composition, "Purple Haze", and in 2001, for his recording of Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower". Hendrix's rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was honored with a Grammy in 2009.

Having grown up with Hendrix as a young musician, there are many tunes I enjoyed, some I struggled with in the garage bands I played with as a teenager. But the song I picked represents, to me, an amazing example of the scope of his artistry. Little Wing, a fairly short piece, is off the 1967 album Bold as Love. This is Hendrix.

Jimi Hendrix and Little Wing from Bold as Love.

**PLAYLIST CUT 7:**

Ambrosia – How Can You Love Me
ALBUM: Road Island, 1982
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3MYB1bg0qY

In 1980, keyboard wizard, Bruce Hornsby and his brother John Hornsby moved to Los Angeles, where they spent three years writing for 20th Century Fox. Hornby also spent time in Los Angeles as a session musician. In 1982, Hornsby joined the band Ambrosia for their last album Road Island and can be seen in the band's video for the album's single "How Can You Love Me". After Ambrosia disbanded, he performed as a member of the touring band for pop star Sheena Easton. Hornsby appears in the music video for Easton's 1984 hit single, Strut. But between those 2 songs, Hornsby has more of a musical presence in Ambrosia’s How Can You Love Me, and here it is.

Bruce Hornsby, tickling the ivories in Ambrosia’s How Can You Love Me from their last album, Road Island.

**PLAYLIST CUT 8:**

Bruce Hornsby – The Way It Is
ALBUM: Road Island, 1982
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlRQjzltaMQ

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Hornsby worked extensively as a producer and sideman, notably producing a comeback album Anything Can Happen for Leon Russell. In 1989 Hornsby co-wrote and played piano on Don Henley's hit "The End of the Innocence", and in 1991 played piano on Bonnie Raitt's hit, "I Can't Make You Love Me".

However, what truly launched Hornsby happened before the aforementioned projects. And it happened with the song "The Way It Is" produced with his band Bruce Hornsby and the Range. It was released in September 1986 as the second single from their debut album by the same name. It topped the charts in the United States, Canada and the Netherlands in 1986, and peaked inside the top twenty in such countries as Australia, Ireland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

So here it is. The Way it Is and Bruce Hornsby.

Still love that tune. The Way It Is, Bruce Hornby’s break out song in 1986. And by the way, for all piano players out there, the music video is a case study of his technique and ability. You’re listening to open mic on the BigEradio.com. We are following musicians from Sessions to Stardom in this edition and we are on the home stretch.

**PLAYLIST CUT 9:**

George Harrison – Art of Dying
ALBUM: All things Must Pass, 1970
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmo8L7NlURQ

Philip David Charles Collins, Phil Collins, is an English drummer, singer, songwriter, record producer, and actor, best known as the drummer/singer of the rock band Genesis and for his solo career. He is also known for his sonic innovations creating dazzling new percussion sounds and textures.

Despite the beginnings of an acting career, Collins never intended to pursue it professionally and gravitated towards music which his father was less enthusiastic about. In 1969, he performed in John Walker's backing band for a European tour. After the tour the players stayed together and became the rock band Hickory. After a series of gigs, the group split in early 1970. By this time, Collins had played in the Cliff Charles Blues Band, auditioned for Vinegar Joe and Manfred Mann Chapter Three, and played percussion at a session for George Harrison's song "Art of Dying" from the album ‘All Thing Must Pass’.

So, this is the pre-Genesis Phil Collins, doing his percussion thing with the legendary George Harrison in the Art of Dying from the 1970 album ‘All Thing Must Pass’.

From 1970, that is the Art of Dying with Phil Collins performing drum duties on George Harrison’s Album, ‘All Things Must Pass’.

**PLAYLIST CUT 10:**

Phil Collins – Take Me Home
ALBUM: No Jacket Required, 1985
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRY1NG1P\_kw

In 1970, Genesis was looking for a new drummer and decided on Phil Collins. It was a relationship that endured for a little over 10 years with a raft of hits and awards. Eventually, Collins started doing his own thing, debuting with Face Value in 1981. His career as a solo artist began to evolve, leading to a Grammy in 1984 as well as an Oscar Nomination for his song “Against All Odds” in 1985.

In terms of his iconic drum riffs, most reviewers will site ‘In the Air Tonight’ from his ’81 album, Face Value. But I decided instead to go with a song from his 1985 album, No Jacket Required, called Take Me Home. It is simply a tour de force when it comes to syncopation as he executes a relentless pattern against a more bridled melody and arrangement. The fact that he can play it and sing at the same time, as he does in so many songs, simply amazes me.

So let’s be amazed with Phil Collins. From No Jacket Required, this is ‘Take Me Home’.

Phil Collins on drums and vocals with Take Me Home from the 85 album, No Jacket Required.

**PLAYLIST CUT 11:**

Leon Russel, Joe Cocker – Feelin’ Alright
ALBUM: Mad Dogs and Englishmen – Filmore East 1970
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJMzuGVQRyc

Well, it is time to take things home on open mic on the BigEradio.com. I’m Michael Kryton. Thanks for sharing your time with me. Be sure to check out our site and you can certainly reach out to me on my open mic facebook page at #bigeradioiopenmic. As always, thanks to BigEradio’s Todd Crawshaw, Mike Braniff and Lily Becker for keeping the music and information churning. The Don Burner Show is up next on BigEradio.com and well worth the listen.

I’m going to bookend this story that has taken us from Sessions to Stardom with the man who started things off. The Mad Dogs and Englishmen Tour produced one of the songs that has always been one of my all-time favorites. And that’s primarily because of the signature riffs delivered by Leon Russell. As a keyboard player, it always gets my juices going. To take us home, here are the two legends together at the Filmore East in 1970, Joe Cocker and Leon Russell with Feelin Alright. Stay safe, safe healthy, and be kind to one another. And we’ll do this again.

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