

TTM I.D.I.O.T of The Month for Jan 2014

Last month our friend Frankenxstein gave us a nod towards another member we have not heard that much about. But, after you read this interview, I'm sure you're going to want to know more about

JOE STONE

Q.1 What is your real name or the name you would like to be called?

A. Joseph Stone (never had a middle name) I prefer to be called Joe.

Q.2 What is your age group? 20 - 30. 30 - 40. 40 - 50. 50 - 60. Over 60.

A. Just turned 64

Q.3 Can you list your top 3 music genres?

A. Beatles, Rock & Roll, 60's

Q.4 Of the three, which do you associate with mostly?

A. Beatles

Q.5 What is your talent? Don't be modest.

A. I have always been very musically inclined and able to play almost any instrument and I knew at an early age that I was a singer. I was among the first to imitate the Beatles, especially McCartney. It just came naturally to me, so I'm not sure that's a talent. I think it's a gift in return for me loving music so much. What I think I do best is write songs.

Q.6. A couple of intriguing things here Joe. How did you know you were a singer and at what age and did the sixties influence you musically or was it just natural? Please be a little explicit.

A. As early as I can remember I was singing songs that my mom played on her record player. One that comes to mind was Pat Boone's "Love Letters in the Sand." I could imitate him pretty good. I also knew when someone couldn't sing, like my brother and others. My dad and mom were both good singers and they recorded me when I was about 5yrs old singing "I Believe." I just knew I was a singer. I was playing piano and saxophone and guitar and anything I could get my hands on by the time 1960 came along. I was 10 or 11 then, listening and singing along with Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, the Four Seasons, Beach Boys and anything on the radio. When I heard the Beatles in 1964, I was in the 8th grade and immediately started playing their songs. I knew what I was hearing! I became primarily a guitarist and started coming out of my shell as a singer. I was quite shy then. In my

freshman year in 1964, I started a band and played in some nightclubs with an ABC card (alcoholic beverage control) I was underage of course. No one was, or could play Beatles songs like me. In high school, I was a city champion gymnast and also on the varsity football team but music was my first love. I decided that I could either be a pro athlete or musician. I thought I couldn't play sports my entire life but could be a musician so chose that path. In 1968 I graduated and instead of going to West Point where I had been nominated, I went instead to Mauna Olu College on the island of Maui, Hawaii. Wow Wee.

Q.7 Did you join any bands in the 60s/70s and were any of them later to be famous?

A. In the mid 70's I moved to California to be close to Dark Horse Records (George Harrison's label). I was writing songs and recording as well as performing in clubs wherever I went. I was starting to make some connections in the music industry but also needed to pay bills so I was playing cover tunes. (people couldn't dance to Beatles songs). DISCO came along and I hated it. That's when Beatlemania came about. I never cared much for being part of a Broadway production as I was more interested in sounding like the Beatles. I could care less if we looked like them. Anyway I was ready for a change and some good money so I shaved my beard and cut my hair and I did have a good resemblance to McCartney. That lasted a while and then I got a call from this big shot producer in Hollywood who produced Three Dog Night, Steppenwolf, the Grass Roots, Iron Butterfly and many other groups. He convinced me to leave Beatlemania and put together a show that would tour the planet. He didn't have to twist my arm too much. I had full control and I put together the best Beatles sound-a-like band in the world and called it Beatle Fever. My Lennon was a Beatlemania reject cause he didn't "Look" enough like him. Anyway we hit the road with a multi-million dollar rear screen projection and sound system playing universities, fair grounds, auditoriums and dinner theaters through the US and Canada. I was treated like a star in those days. We played the main showrooms in Vegas, Tahoe and Reno. In 1979 they booked us in Japan and New Zealand. I turned it down to be with my wife and birth of my son. It was quite an experience but I am a family man and life on the road (7 mos of the year) was not for me.

Q.8 Of the talents you have not listed, which would you like to do most? .

A. I would like to write songs that bring enjoyment to others; record and share them. My greatest joy comes from performing them to an appreciative audience.

Q. 9 Can you tell us how you experience writing a song. Does it start with an idea, a phrase or a musical rif. What?

A. Most of the time I just pick up a guitar and start messing around with chords, humming along until some melody comes from God knows where. It takes a lot longer to set lyrics to the song. Seldom do they come together. Once in a while I will have an inspiration as to what to sing about and work out the words and music at the same time. I'm doing that more often now. Otherwise I end up with

a bunch of melodies that need words. I have a hard time knowing what to sing about.

Q. 10 Would you put your songwriting into any genre and, if so, which and why?

A. I used to think I would write songs that the Beatles would like. Everyone used to say “That sounds like the Beatles.” (some still say that) I guess that’s my genre. I believe however that I have developed my own style somewhat now or at least I like to think so.

Q.11 From the list of members you know, which interests you most and why?

A. That’s hard to answer. I know a few members and like something different from each of them. I would like to get to know the others better. Each member has a passion for music and so each one is of interest to me.

Q.12 Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.

A. Yea, Joom emailed me and asked if I’d be interested. He must’ve caught me at a good time cause I said sure. I really like the song he wrote that I sang and Dino added a guitar track to it. A while ago I wrote a Christmas song and posted it on the KAE forum. Smurf surprised me by adding an awesome drum track to it. I also added a verse to a tribute song for Old Goat with some other members too.

Q. 13 When you say ‘caught at a good time’ do you mean you are a busy person or need inspiration to think about joining a colab. If it’s inspiration...what inspires you most?

A. What I meant by that was I have so many unfinished songs that I am neglecting and need to finish and record and feel I should devote my time and energy on them. I guess it’s a guilt trip I put on myself. But I must say, I truly enjoyed any colab I have done and will do more from time to time. I guess I was lazy and looking for an excuse not to work on my songs when I was asked to colab.

Q.14 Which of your colabs did you enjoy most?

A. Smurf’s surprising me with his drum track.

Q.15 Have you a favourite mix (Could be one of your own.)

A. I can’t think of one off hand. I’m almost never satisfied with mine. I love the sound of acoustic guitars in stereo like on “My Sweet Lord”

Q. 16 So, if someone was to come up with a good lyric and a ‘tune in mind’, would you consider helping with a vocal and maybe some guitar work ?

A. Most definitely, if the time is right.

Q.17 What is your ambition both musically and personally?

A. To write songs that make others feel the way I do when I hear a song I love.

Q. 18 Is it possible to maybe try and explain how you do feel when you hear a song like that. Can you name some known songs that do that to you?

A. That's an excellent question I don't believe I've ever been asked. I can remember vividly listening to Fat's Domino's "My Blue Heaven" with my ear pressed against the speaker of my mom's record player (mono of course). I was about 4 yrs old. It was something I could not get enough of and listened over and over again. I guess the pleasure sensation part of my brain (endorphins) was stimulated much like what I would think an addict must feel with his fix. Good thing it was music for me! "I Want to Hold Your Hand" does it for me every time.

Q 19 Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?

A. I hang out with the "Harmony Guys" (Harmony guitars)
I also frequent the "Hofner Hounds" the "Gibson" (acoustic) and the "gmhCafe"

Q.20 Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?

A. I would see it as a place where some good lasting friendships were built.

Q.21 Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?

A. I haven't been around long enough to know who hasn't been chosen. I looked at the archives and there are a lot of names already there. I guess the one who's been here the longest without being asked.

What an interesting interview Joe and thanks for sharing some of your life and emotions with us. I know our members and readers will enjoy this one. Thank you.