

TTM I.D.I.O.T for Feb 2014

**It's February and time to present another victim in our series of 'In
Depth Interview Or Two'.**

**So let's jump right in with our Valentine for this year
TM2552.**

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

John Murratti

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

62 in a month. Rapidly approaching the iconic (Beatles-wise) 64

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

Rock&Roll, Blues, Folk

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

As I get older I find I'm playing and listening to more blues and folk. But...I still enjoy blasting Stones, Beatles, Who, etc through the speakers. Not giving up the ghost just yet

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

Tough question. I have to say that my best talent has always been a willingness to learn something new, musically. I will listen to just about anything in the hopes of picking up something new.

Q6 That's a good answer John but I'm trying to find out if you play an instrument or sing?

I'm pretty critical of my voice, not usually happy with what I record. However, I'm approaching a year since quitting smoking, and I think maybe there's a little improvement in that regard. It just seems to be easier to hit the notes I want to hit. At least now when I record, I don't hear the heavy breathing on the track.

As for an instrument, the guitar is a constant companion. Just bought a new acoustic and I'm in the process of learning to be friends with it! I started playing when I was about 13 years old. My father bought me my first electric and my first 12 string. He had a friend who played guitar and mandolin who started giving me lessons. His nickname was Nicky Knott. He was a fabulously outgoing, incredibly fun person who was known to "invite" himself onto the stage of whatever nightclub he happened to be at (in particular, a number of them in Atlantic City) and just take over the club. What better person to learn from, right? The first piece I remember him having me learn was

Volga Boatman. God, I can still hear that bass line. He'd sit in front of me with the Camel cigarette dangling out of his mouth and make me repeat the lessons over and over. And...I learned. I will NEVER forget Nick and what he did for me. At some point he told my father "I can't teach the kid any further, he's gotta move on". And, fortunately, at that point the Beatles exploded on the scene. And from that point on I had new "teachers".

Q.7 Of the talents you have not listed, which would you like to do most?

Sight reading for one. I can read, but it's more of a sit down and run through everything for a bit first. I'd love to be able to do what the great jazz and pop musicians would do as a matter of course back in the '40's, '50's, etc. Just walk into a session and play the sheets in front of you. Guess I still need more practical learning.

Q8. If you were invited to sit in on a jam session and told it was a 12 bar blues in E, would you be able to add anything? Sorry if that sounds patronising, just trying to get to the heart of your music.

Not patronising at all. Sure, if someone asked me to jam with a 12 bar in E I would be very happy, actually someone would probably have to unplug the amp after a few hours to get me to stop! I'm pretty familiar with scales and I like the Minors a lot. Minors always have a sad feel for me and I LOVE sad songs. I'm also constantly playing with open tunings. They just open up such a bigger world. When you're playing in open tunings you just never know where you're going to end up, or what you're going to come up with. In a way, it's like playing guitar for the first time. Love opens.

Q.9 From the list of members you know, which interests you most and why?

Now that's really tough! OK, in no particular order: Dino, for putting out such professional quality work while still stretching his creativity. I've ALWAYS loved Dazz because I think music should have that madness and sense of humor that he always brings. I'm always happy after listening to Dazz. RKen has always been amazingly spot on in his playing, no matter the genre. Very jealous. ComboBob's playing is always great and I just have to appreciate the wit of his band's name. Joe Stone. Man, what can I say? I'm a diehard Beatles fanatic, how could I not love Joe? AG, I love his acoustic meanderings, I remember when he first joined and he's become a major part of our "family". Always followed Gaz's work and I'm real glad he's joined us again. Neil, I firmly believe is a former Kinks member. Whenever I think of surf music now I think of Whitestrat. And PapaG, Smurf, OneTrack, Schprok, HE and Glenn, all people I've learned things from and been inspired to try new things from hearing their work.

Q.10. Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.

That's something I probably need to step up and do more of. I have in the past, but just a small part. The two issues here are first, most of what I hear just seems so good already that I wouldn't be sure if I could bring something worthwhile to the table. And

second, sometimes time constraints become an issue. Sometimes everyone's "offline" lives keep us from playing, and I'd hate to make a commitment and then not be able to fulfill it.

Q11. I'm sure everyone here feels like that John. It shouldn't stop you feeling you could contribute. I'm pretty confident I speak for all members when I say, no one would think you could not bring something to any collaboration you wanted to try. I hope that gives you some inspiration to, at least, think about it next time you feel that life does not get in your way.

Well, that's encouraging. It is something I should get into more. And they ARE great for expanding the comfort zone.

Q.12. Which of your colabs did you enjoy most?

Q13. Since you have not answered this because you feel you have not collaborated yet, are there any colabs on which you would like to comment?

Actually, I did contribute to a collab a few years ago. It was a tribute for a member, but my contribution was pretty small, about eight bars if I remember right.

Q.14. What is your ambition both musically and personally?

I think that would be to grow, both as a musician and a person. And I'm sure that they're both intertwined.

Q15. have you a plan for achieving this?

Hmmm. Well, musically I would think it just entails playing a LOT more often, which is what I've been doing since the new guitar's arrival! Growing as a person, that's a lot more difficult to say. I would think it would be most important to just follow your moral compass.

Q 16. Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?

Nope. TTM is all I need!

Q.17. Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?

Hard to say, because of the quick advances in technology. I mean, we sit at our desks with what amounts to a full recording studio, session musicians, mastering services, production, distribution, advertising, etc. Mind boggling. For a really low price point we have the equivalent of what in the '60's, even '70's, would have been the price of a

medium size house. I really think it's a game-changing time for music. The older methods for producing and distributing music have changed and there's no going back. That comes with it's concerns too. Where would the Beatles, Stones, etc., be if they just started in 2014? Would it all still have happened like it did? Think about it. Would Hendrix have just been a YouTube sensation and then faded away, as others have. I certainly don't know. And as far as playing a role in TTM's development, I think what I and all of us can do is to just do the obvious, keep supporting, keep contributing, and stay a part of the family.

Q18. Do you envisage a new era of 'pop music' development and, if so, how do you see it in, say, 10 years from now?

Ten years from now. Wow. That's a LONG time in this technical era we're in. There would be a sea change of events. You know, Moore's Law? I definitely believe the music business would not remotely resemble what exists now. Means of delivery of product, distribution, promotion, so on, I think will be radically different. One thing I don't see disappearing is live music. That's too fundamental. People will always want to see their artists in person. Sure, there may be new twists (holographic performances are now emerging), but nothing will stop folks from going to a live show. At least I hope not!

Q.19. Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?

Love to see Rkennet!

RK it is. I'm amazed he has not been asked yet?

Same here. I'm happy to see you'll be interviewing him. Talented man there!

Thanks again for your time and thanks for giving us an insight into your music John.