

**TTM I.D.I.O.T FOR NOVEMBER 2014**  
**BRI.**

**This month was to have been Jahva but he has yet to join the new forum. We hope he will in the near future and promise to interview him as soon as he does.**

**Meantime, a very interesting newish member who has given us some exemplarily music pieces.**

**We present**  
**Bri.**

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

Brian Fletcher, aka bri

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

Hate to admit it, but I'm in the last lot – Over 60

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

Pop Music (boring, I know), Classical, Heavy rock (if that's what it's called...Led Zep, Deep Purple etc.).

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

No faves really, but if pushed I suppose I'd say (for its playing sake), classical. I like to be presented with challenges, so I practise a lot of Chopin – not that I can play any. I'm not one of those people who like the obscure, boring, tuneless classics. I like music to have a rattling good melody, which I find in the romantic composers – Chopin, Rachmaninoff and a lot of Bach (*he's* not a romantic – more mathematical, but good). But, I *do* like most types of music although, I have to say, a lot of pop, rock, jazz et al I also find boring, but even in rap (which I *really* do not like) I do find the odd thing that appeals. I'm rattling on... 'nuff said.

***Q4a. Don't worry about rattling on Bri. That's what we like. You're the first on these interviews to say you're into the classics. Have you ever recorded any classical music and is it available to listen to?***

Well, I *can* rattle and I think maybe it can get a bit on people's nerves, so apologies there, but thanks for the nice comment, good sir.

The classics. Yes I've done a couple of self-recorded things, nowt wonderful, but they are available to hear. I can post the links to them on the forum. My fave was when I tried to compose a piece of (romantic) classical music myself, a la Chopin/Rachmaninoff, for one

of the old KAE monthly challenges, which was to choose a season of the year and make your entry fit your choice. I did it by putting a few howling wind noises on there. All in all I thought it turned out quite well at the time. It was a theme and one variation, there were supposed to be several, but it almost drove me nuts, so just the one variation was enough. I keep telling myself that I'll finish it one day, but then I remember how I felt. What can I say? No wonder half those old time composers went doo lally – and I only composed for piano and strings. Imagine composing for a full orchestra, with all the instruments playing different things at once. Here I go again, rattling on!!

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

I suppose, sight reading music. When I was a kiddie, I had a Sooty xylophone which I could pick a few tunes out on. So, my dad went to a jumble sale one night and returned with a piano. My mum said, “*That's going on the roof!*” My dad said, “Nope, he (me) can have piano lessons”. How I hated those piano lessons. I was one of those kids who was made to go. It wasn't until I heard the Shadows that I really *heard* music, so I pestered my dad to buy me a guitar – bless him, he did - and learned how to play it, although not as well as a lot of the people on here. I digress. From there I really got back to being interested in the piano. I always say that I never learned anything from my early lessons, but I must have, 'cos I could play things back then that I couldn't even attempt now. Ok, I know it's taken me a while to get around to it, but just thought I'd set the scene. I realise now that those early lessons taught me to read – if not play – music quite well and it *has* stood me in good stead over the years. I've been fortunate enough to work with some very famous people – Barry Ryan, Matt Monro, Danny Williams and others, as well as doing session work both playing and singing on records, although I was put in that fortunate position through sheer luck. Trouble was, it all took place in London and I was terribly homesick, so after about six years it really got to me and so I gave it all up and came back to my home town of Rochdale. (Funny thing is, I now live in Blackpool and I'm not homesick at all – this is now my home). Anyway, I still got work, playing in local clubs, backing the cabaret in those days before it all stopped and all the pubs/clubs closed down... I blame that on the banning of smoking (I never smoked, but didn't mind if other people around me did). Look how many folk it's put out of work. Sorry, I'm getting on my soap box.

***Q5a. You've mentioned Barry Ryan before in that you played in his backing group but what was you're association with Matt Monro and Danny Williams?***

Matt. This wasn't a big thing although...well, it *was* for us. The group I was with were playing in Bahrain for four months, which was extended to six, deep joy. It was way too hot for me. Give me Spiral's land any day. Anyway, a day in advance, we got the news that Matt was arriving from Singapore the next day, en route home and that we were going to be backing him, as he'd been asked to do a three day stopover. No-one had bothered to ask if we could read music or anything. (Maybe they thought it was just something all musicians do). As it happened, we could, but we were frightened to death. I mean, this was someone who was known as our answer to Frank Sinatra and *we* had to back him??? I can honestly say, what a great bloke – and his music? It was a joy to play;

so easy and so effective, the way everything worked with everything else. **MAGIC!!!** He actually stayed for an extra day. During that time we stayed up all night with him, playing snooker and boozing. I got my worst sunburn ever because of him. I got back to our digs at six o'clock one morning, thought "I'll just have ten minutes on the sun lounger on the roof and then turn in." Next thing I knew, it was ten o'clock and I was like a lobster. For the next week or so, if I was standing, I couldn't sit down and if I was sitting, I couldn't get back up, my skin was so tight. Well, eventually we got back home to good old Blighty and, within a week, Matt was appearing in Middleton – halfway between Rochdale, where I lived, and Manchester. Guess who got the job of backing him?

Danny Williams. Again one of those names that you get scared when you find out you're gonna be playing for him for the week. We (same group) were resident at a club in Blackpool, long since gone, and he turned up for the band call. I was so scared I kept the organ, which I then played – no synths in those days – way down low; so low even I couldn't hear it. He kept saying, "Turn it up, man." Or maybe it was, "Turn it in." I dunno. Again though, his music was really simple to play. It was just the fact of who he was. It turned out to be a great week and he returned several times.

***Q5b. This puts you firmly in the sixties in your youth. Ever had input in the Liverpool scene around that time?***

No, can't say that I did. We played the Beatles and Gerry's stuff, Big Three, Merseybeats etc. like everyone did, but that's about all. I did, however, have the honour to play at the Cavern and what a great sound it was in there. Straight down this long room shaped like a tube. And just to think the Beatles had played there... Brilliant!! Happy days.

(Aside). My wife, years before we met, when she was a little girl, got Paul McCartney's autograph on her arm. Her dad had a café in Manchester and the cellar was doing nowt, so he made it into a club – things weren't as strict back then. One night, a group turned up from Liverpool to play there, before they went on to London next day to make a record. Who were they? Bet you can guess. Jacquie liked Paul (she was only 7 and had no taste – well look, she ended up marrying me) and so she got him to autograph her arm. She always says if she knew then what she knows now, she'd have skinned that part of her arm and kept it.

***Q.6 Of the talents you have not listed, which would you like to do most?***

It's not a talent, but I used to enjoy going for long walks and exploring. Can't do it any more though...bad hip; old age!! I suppose, then, that I'd like to learn to mix properly, so that my finished recordings aren't all over the place, every one of them having different balances (can't be doing with that compression though).

***Q6a. There are one or two experts on TTM who would be very willing and able to instruct on mixing techniques. Would you consider 'on site' classes as it were from any of them?***

Well, yes. Any new skill is indeed always welcome. I think as it stands, I more "get away

with it” than any other description.

***Q.7 From the list of members you know, which interests you most and why?***

I'd have to say Dino and PapaG there. Their music is absolutely stunning in all aspects...I hate them (lol). Ags must also get a very honourable mention. That guitar playing of his...wow; big WOW!!

***Q.8 Have you ever collaborated with another member or members on a recording.***

No. It has been suggested by a couple of people, but always fell through for whatever reason. Truthfully, I'm quite relieved about that 'cos I wouldn't be confident in what I was doing and I'd probably make a mess of their music; wouldn't want to do that. Wouldn't mind doing a bit of singing or harmony though, mebbe.

***Q8a. There you go putting yourself down again. We've heard some of your stuff and I, personally think you should get yourself involved more. How about it?***

Many thanks for those kind words and...yup, OK. I'll try.

***Q.10 Have you a favourite mix from our bandroom? (Could be one of your own.)***

There was one that Dino did. Can't think what it was now, but if he reads this maybe he can enlighten me. It was just him singing an acapella song and it was amazing. No instruments at all. Just his vocal harmonies.

***Interjection: I can enlighten you Bri. It was called [‘I'm Going Home’](#). A piece he can be truly proud of.***

***Q.11 What is your ambition both musically and personally?***

Musically, I think I would like to write just one really good song – either by myself or with my beautiful lady wife – and maybe have some success with it, before I turn my toes up.

Personally, just to be happy and grow old (I'm there anyway) with my lovely lady Jacquie by my side and to see the kids we took under our wing (and the rest of the family) being successful in their life's undertakings. Think possibly I'm a bit old for that last bit though. Jacquie isn't...quite.

***Q11a. So does Jacquie write music, play an instrument, sing etc. If so, do you think she would like to be a member of our site?***

No, but she does help me with the lyrics sometimes, when I seize up, or oftentimes she writes the whole of the lyrics. She also tells me when she thinks something sounds a bit...off. That's not very often of course (haha). Sometimes she comes up with what turn out to be really good ideas. She suggested that I do a Beach Boys medley with a whole

different feel, which I think, in hindsight, turned out ok – although some of the harmonies are a bit...off!! She also has a terrific sense of things sounding the same; things I would never notice. For instance, she noticed that Bach's "Prelude 1" sounded very much like Roy Orbison's "In Dreams" and demanded that I stitch the two of them together. I mean, how the heck do you do that? I couldn't hear what she was hearing in her head, but after a lot of thought it got accomplished. Don't know how. I don't think she feels qualified to be a member of the site though, as she doesn't play anything.

***Q.12 Do you belong to any other indie websites and will you name them?***

I used to belong to a few, but now it's just here and the occasional visit to the old Kristal site and I find it's difficult just keeping up with those.

***Q.13 Where do you see TTM in 5 years time? What role can you play in it's development?***

Hopefully, going from strength to strength. What personal part I can play I don't really know, apart from supporting it by my presence and posting on members' work (and other posts) on occasion.

***Q.14 Who is your next choice for the IDIOT?***

I think I'll have to let you exercise your prerogative there and you pick. All the people I can think of have already been "interrogated," unless you want to do a continuation "This is Your Life" with someone that's already been done?

***Thankyou for an interesting interview Bri. I know our readers will enjoy it also. I'm hoping Jahva joins the forum so I can interview him. It's long overdue.***