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Not Fade Away

Fondly remembered this month...

HUGH MASEKELA

Jazz trumpeter and songwriter (1939–2018)

IN April 1985, Nelson Mandela managed to smuggle a letter out of Cape Town's Pollsmoor Prison to Hugh Masekela, wishing him a happy birthday and the best of luck with his recording projects. Masekela responded by writing the brassy, exuberant "Bring Him Back Home", with a vocal choir that imagined Mandela as a free man, walking the streets of Soweto. Despite being banned by the South African regime, the song was adopted as an international anthem of the anti-apartheid movement when it appeared on Masekela's 1987 album, *Tomorrow*. When Mandela was finally granted his freedom three years later, coinciding with the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress, it was often played during state visits and appearances.

Masekela's music had been synonymous with the anti-apartheid struggle for some time. "Mace And Grenades", "Stimela (Coal Train)" and "Soweto Blues" were among his most potent songs of protest, the latter (sung by his ex-wife Mariam Makeba) a bitter response to the student massacre that followed the 1976 Soweto uprising.

The trumpeter, who'd been inspired to take up the instrument in his teens after watching Kirk Douglas' portrayal of Bix Beiderbecke in *Young Man With A Horn*, had lived in exile from South Africa since 1960. He left first for London, securing a place at the Guildhall School Of Music, before



Hugh Masekela, anti-apartheid figurehead, in New York August 20, 1968

moving to New York to study classical trumpet.

Masekela enjoyed a minor jazz-pop hit with Jimmy Webb's "Up, Up And Away" in 1967, but struck big when "Grazing In The Grass" made the top of the US charts a year later. By then, his profile had already been raised by guest recordings with The Byrds and an appearance at the Monterey Pop Festival. In the latter half of the 1980s he and other

South African artists were part of Paul Simon's *Graceland* tour. Having returned to his homeland in 1990, after an absence of three decades, Masekela continued to perform until last year, when he underwent treatment for prostate cancer. South African president Jacob Zuma declared that his "contribution to the struggle for liberation will never be forgotten".

DOLORES O'RIORDAN

Cranberries singer (1971–2018)

One of Dolores O'Riordan's first tasks after answering an ad to become lead singer of The Cranberries was to rewrite the lyrics of a song by guitarist Noel Hogan. 1993's "Linger", a wistful paean to lost love, duly became a sizeable transatlantic hit, followed up by

minor successes like "Zombie" (1974) and "Salvation" (1996). O'Riordan, who died suddenly while in London for a recording session, made seven albums with the band, as well as two under her own name.

RAY THOMAS
Moody Blues founder (1941–2018)

Ray Thomas's signature moment with The Moody Blues came in 1967, gilding "Nights In White Satin" with its evocative flute solo. He'd formed the group three years earlier with Mike Pinder, with whom he'd played in El Riot & The Rebels and The Krew Cats. A gifted songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Thomas's compositions with the Moodies include "Twilight Time", "Eternity Road" and the Timothy Leary tribute "Legend Of A Mind". He quit the band in 2002.

JIM RODFORD
Argent, Kinks and Zombies bassist (1941–2018)

Rod Argent's first choice of bassist for The Zombies was his cousin, Jim Rodford, who turned down the offer owing to his involvement with another St Albans band, The Bluetones. The pair eventually got together to form Argent in 1969, with Rodford a mainstay of the lineup until they split seven years later. In 1978 he joined The Kinks, serving for 18 years until their demise. Rodford finally became a member of the reunited Zombies in 2004.

FRANCE GALL
French pop singer (1947–2018)

French yé-yé singer France Gall was only 16 when she scored her

first hit, "Don't Be So Stupid", in early 1964. Her major breakthrough arrived a year later, when the Serge Gainsbourg-penned "Wax Doll, Rag Doll" (aka "Poupée De Cire, Poupée De Son") won her the Eurovision Song Contest and became an international hit. Gall went on to release over two dozen albums, including 1987's million-selling *Babacar*, written and produced by her husband, Michel Berger.

EDWIN HAWKINS
Gospel singer and choirmaster (1943–2018)

The Northern California State Youth Choir, co-founded by Edwin Hawkins, recorded its debut LP, *Let Us Go Into The House Of The Lord*, on a two-track machine in 1967, aiming to sell 500 copies. But their rousing arrangement of "Oh Happy Day",

"FAST" EDDIE CLARKE

Motörhead guitarist (1950–2018)

GUITARIST Eddie Clarke was all but done with the music business by early 1976, having played in a string of bands with very little success. Taking up a job repainting a houseboat in Battersea, he met drummer Phil Taylor, who suggested he audition for the group that Taylor had recently joined: Motörhead. Clarke made an instant impression on his prospective new employers. Lemmy Kilmister knocked on his door one afternoon, handed him a leather jacket and bullet belt and said, "You're in!" Replacing outgoing guitar player Larry Wallis, Clarke was integral to the classic Motörhead lineup, taking his "Fast" nickname after a particularly fierce gig in Manchester. He stayed put for reputation-stamping albums like *Overkill*, *Bomber*, *Ace Of Spades* and *No Sleep 'Til Hammersmith*. "After we got Eddie and Phil in, I knew we had something special," Kilmister declared in *Lemmy: The Definitive Biography*. "That was an excellent band from day one."

Clarke was ousted in 1982, unhappy with Lemmy's decision to record a Tammy Wynette cover with the Plasmatics' Wendy O Williams, which he felt harmed Motörhead's credibility. He swiftly went on to form Fastway, with ex-UFO bassist Pete Way, issuing a self-titled debut the following year. A sleeker hard-rock variant on Motörhead, the band's chief market was America, their success only hampered by Clarke's problems with alcohol, which involved a spell in rehab at the turn of the '90s. He also issued a couple of solo albums, the most recent being 2014's *Make My Day: Back To Blues*, featuring Shakatak keyboardist Bill Sharpe.



Ace of rapid-fire riffage: Eddie Clarke circa 1980

an old gospel hymn, was picked up by local radio and became a huge global hit two years later, billed as The Edwin Hawkins Singers. In 1970, they also appeared on Melanie's "Lay Down (Candles In The Rain)".

ROBERT MANN
Violinist and composer (1920–2018)

The distinction of being the first violinist at Manhattan's prestigious Juilliard School fell to Robert Mann, who'd given up on his dream to become a forest ranger by joining the Portland Youth Philharmonic as a teenager. Composer-conductor Mann founded the Juilliard String Quartet in 1946. He continued until his retirement 51 years later, leaving behind a legacy of more than 100 albums and three Grammy wins. In 2014, Mann was the documentary subject of *Speak The Music*.

STEVE "GRIZZLY" NISBETT
Steel Pulse drummer (1948–2018)

Caribbean émigré Steve Nisbett spent his teenage years as drummer and percussionist with a slew of soul bands around his adopted hometown of Birmingham. This formative background fed directly into his involvement with Steel Pulse, whom he joined in 1977. "I created my own identity, my own style, my own drum patterns," he

explained. "I didn't play a typical reggae beat." Better known as "Grizzly", Nisbett remained in situ until 2001, when ill health forced him to retire.

DAVE HOLLAND
Rock/metal drummer (1948–2018)

Dave Holland first tasted success as drummer with Pinkerton's Assorted Colours, when "Mirror Mirror" made the UK Top 10 in 1966. Two years later he joined Finders Keepers, who soon morphed into Trapeze. Despite the loss of prize asset Glenn Hughes to Deep Purple, Holland stayed until 1979, after which he began a decade-long stint in Judas Priest. In 2004 he was given an eight-year prison sentence for attempted rape and indecent assault against a 17-year-old man.

CHRISTSANGARIDES
Rock producer (1956–2018)

Former Royal Academy of Music trumpeter Chris Tsangarides made his studio debut as engineer on Judas Priest's *Sad Wings Of Destiny* in 1976. He then worked with Japan and Brand X, before securing his first job as producer with Gary Moore for 1978's *Back On The Streets*. Tsangarides went on to produce Thin Lizzy, Black Sabbath, Anvil, Bruce Dickinson, The Sisters Of Mercy, Killing Joke and more.

He also founded Ecology Room Studios in Kent.

GAVIN DABLITZ
Space-rock traveller (Unknown–2018)

Here And Now's Keith Bailey replaced Twink with roadie Gavin Allardyce in late 1976. As Gavin Da Blitz, he became the space-rock collective's synth player and occasional vocalist, making his debut on their Planet Gong collaboration, *Live Floating Anarchy 1977*. He then featured on several Here & Now albums, the last of which was 1986's *Been & Gone*. Bailey called Allardyce, who has died from a brain tumour, "the funniest, most loving, supportive guy I've ever known".

ECHO HELSTROM CASEY
Bob Dylan's high school girlfriend (1942–2018)

In his 2004 memoir, *Chronicles: Volume One*, Bob Dylan recalls of his high school girlfriend Echo Helstrom: "Everyone said she looked like Brigitte Bardot, and she did." The couple were together for a year in Hibbing, Minnesota, during the late '50s, at which time Helstrom's family introduced Dylan to the music of Jimmie Rodgers and "old 78s". Helstrom is generally considered to be the inspiration for

"Girl From The North Country" and, possibly, "Hazel".

TONY CALDER
Pops/vengali and producer (1943–2018)

Impressed with his marketing savvy at Decca, Brian Epstein hired Tony Calder to promote The Beatles' 1962 debut single, "Love Me Do". Within a year Calder had hooked up with Andrew Loog Oldham to form a PR company, Image, whose clients included The Rolling Stones. He and Oldham co-founded Immediate Records in 1965, following Calder's brief tenure as Marianne Faithfull's producer. Post-Immediate, he worked with the Bay City Rollers and Black Sabbath, before managing Eddy Grant.

TERRY EVANS
Blues singer and songwriter (1937–2018)

Terry Evans made his reputation long before the release of his 1994 solo debut, *Blues For Thought*. The Mississippi singer-guitarist had moved to LA in the '60s, during which time his songs were cut by Louis Jordan and Pops Staples. His working partnership with fellow vocalist Bobby King led him to Ry Cooder, with whom he served on various albums, spanning 1976's *Chicken Skin Music* and *Pull Up Some Dust And Sit Down* in 2011.



Dolores O'Riordan in Paris, January 18, 2012