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03

## James Morrison

More Rugby songs from the singer-songwriter

### What shaped the sound of your new album?

Michael Jackson influenced the way that I attack the words in song vocally.

### If you could revisit any of your albums, what would you change?

I'd re-record my first album and make it more ragged and way faster.

### With whom would you like to make a split 7"?

Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

### Do you recall when you first heard one of your songs on vinyl?

It was two months ago – *Undiscovered*.

### What record made you want to go pro?

Stevie Wonder *Songs In The Key Of Life* and *Innervisions*.

### Was anyone in your family a musician?

My mum used to play in a band.

### Did you ever write songs 'under the influence'?

Pretty much the whole of my first album.

### Who would you like to cover one of your songs?

Toots & The Maytals, Is There Anybody Home.

### What backstage incident makes you laugh most?

Once, at *Musikladen* in Germany, it was so hot that, between encores, I threw up. I went back onstage and struggled to finish without spewing.

### Do you own a record that may surprise fans?

Champagne's *How Bout Us*, Carl Carlton's *She's A Bad Mama Jama*. Cheese, but good cheese. **Is there a myth about you that you'd like to set straight?** That I can't take a joke... I can take a fucking joke, alright!

James Morrison *You're Stranger Than You Know*, with Joss Stone, is on *Stanley Park*, 8 March.



## Ed Wynne of Ozric Tentacles

Another trip with the hirsute prog/psych guitarist

### What movie could your solo set soundtrack?

The movie that I imagine in my mind is impossible to make in this dimension. We'd need to look in all directions at the same time.

### If you could re-visit any of your albums, what would you change?

Catalogue tracks could be revamped without the tape hiss.

### Do you recall when you first heard one of your songs on vinyl?

I remember the *Pungent Effulgent* test-pressings arriving in the post. We spent an hour gazing at the grooves glistening their rainbows at us.

### What was your first record?

T. Rex's *Metal Guru*.

### What record made you want to go pro?

Kraan's album, *Wiederhoren*, was a life-changer.

### Did you ever write songs 'under the influence'?

[Laughs] Did I ever not?! We made *Erpland* in Wales during the mushroom season and I got

handed a cup of tea in the studio. Six hilarious, extremely colourful hours later, I pushed 'Play' on the 24-track and we wrote *Tidal Convergence*.

### Have you ever collected anyone?

Steely Dan.

### Would you change any of your artwork, given the chance?

*Paper Monkeys*. I did it myself, but I prefer our sleeves to look more organic and otherworldly.

### What backstage incident makes you laugh most?

We arrived at a gig in Oxford to find two raw Brussels sprouts and a bar of soap in the rider. I don't think they



liked vegetarian hippies much! **Which question do you wish people would stop asking?** If I'd consider putting lyrics to my tracks? It's just not the way that my musical mind works.

Ed Wynne *Shimmer Into Nature* is on *Kscope*, 1 March.

## Noel Hogan of The Cranberries

Irish indie-rockers' guitarist on their final studio set

### What movie could your curtain call soundtrack?

*The Place Beyond The Pines*.

### If you could re-visit any of your albums, what would you change?

I'd re-record *To The Faithfull Departed*. We were worn out from touring, writing and recording.

### Have you done anything that fans may not know about?

So much that I can't remember them all.

### With whom would you like to make a split 7"?

The Smiths.

### What was your favourite record shop when you started out?

Virgin Megastore, Dublin.

### What was your first record?

We'd save for six months, get a bus from Limerick, then spend everything we had on vinyl in a few hours.

### What was your first record?

Michael Jackson *Thriller* LP.

### What's the last album that you bought?

The Beatles' *White Album*.

### What record made you want to go pro?

The Smiths *Strangeways, Here We Come*.

### What would you ask your music hero?

Paul McCartney. It'd be a whole day of questions.

### Who's taken music forward in the last decade?

The Strokes.

### Who would you like to cover one of your songs?

Dolores [O'Riordan] and I used to busk Sinead O'Connor songs, so Sinead.

### Which of your songs is the most personally meaningful to you?

The Glory.

### Of all the people that you've worked with, who taught you the most?

Stephen Street.

### Which question do you wish people would stop asking?

Will the band continue? No.

### Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?

To score a movie soundtrack LP.

### What record made you want to go pro?

The Cranberries *In The End* is on *BMG*.



## Reese Wynans of Double Trouble

The Stevie Ray Vaughan keyboardist, and friends

### What movie could your solo debut soundtrack?

My first album after 50 years as a sideman? *Tender Mercies*.

### Who would you like to produce?

Derek Trucks and Susan Tedeschi, Mike Farris, Warren Haynes, and Jimmy Hall.

### What was your first record?

Jerry Lee Lewis, *Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On*.

### What's the last album that you bought?

Dave Matthews *Band Come Tomorrow* LP.

### What record made you want to go pro?

The Rascals. The sound of the B3 [organ].

### Was anyone in your family a musician?

My grandmother played piano in church; my father, piano and organ at home.

### What would you ask your music heroes?

The Rolling Stones. Can I sit in with you and play a couple of songs?

### Who's taken music forward in the last decade?

Joe Bonamassa, Gary Clark Jr,

Doyle Bramhall II.

### Have you ever collected anyone?

Oscar Peterson, Jimmy Smith, Muddy Waters, Jerry Lee Lewis, Nat 'King' Cole, Hans Zimmer.

### Which of your songs is the most personally meaningful?

Sweet Release – inspirational, plain gospel.

### Of all the people that you've worked with, who taught you the most?

Dickie Betts, Duane Allman, Buddy Guy, Joe Bonamassa, Lee Roy Parnell, Mike Henderson and, mostly, Stevie Ray Vaughan, on how to build a solo.

### What fact about you may surprise fans?

I like to play Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert almost every day.

### Reese Wynans

Sweet Release, featuring Chris Layton, Tommy Shannon (*Double Trouble*), Sam Moore (*Sam & Dave*), Jack Pearson (*Allman Brothers*), Warren Haynes (*Gov't Mule*), Jimmy Hall (*Wet Willie*), Joe Bonamassa, Vince Gill, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Keb' Mo', is on *Provogue*, 1 March.



# TALKING HEADS



The stars discuss matters musical and personal on the couch with *RC*'s resident shrink, Dr Tim

## Alexi Laiho of Children Of Bodom

The melodic death metal singer/guitarist casts another spell

### What movie could your new set soundtrack?

*A Nightmare On Elm Street* or *Friday The 13th*.

### Is there anything still unissued?

Pre-Children, T.O.L.K. did a demo tape – early 90s Helsinki prog; pretty fucking phenomenal. I wish that I could get hold of one.

### With whom would you like to make a split 7"?

Hypocrisy. We were supposed to do one but it didn't happen. We need to get it done!

### Who would you like to remix?

I hope Sebastian [Bach]'s not going to get mad, but I'd remix *Skid Row* *Slave To The Grind*.

### What was your favourite record shop when you started out?

Spinefarm – three stores in Helsinki.

### What was your first record?

Alice Cooper *Hey Stupid*.

### What's the last album that you bought?

Body Count *Bloodstock*.

### What record made

### you want to go pro?

Dire Straits' *Brothers In Arms*.

### Have you kept studio notebooks?

I always keep them.

### What would you ask your music hero?

Zakk Wylde. What's the meaning of life?!

### Who would you like to cover one of your songs?

Wednesday 13, playing *Hate Crew Deathroll*.

### Of all the people that you've worked with, who taught you the most?

Our producer, Mikko Karmila. He doesn't mince his words!

### Have you ever collected anyone?

Impaled Nazarene, Dissection, and weird, obscure Nordic black death metal.

### What's your most prized item?

Impaled Nazarene's *Ugra-Karma*, with original sleeve.

Children Of Bodom *Hexed* is on *Nuclear Blast*, 8 March, and they play *Bloodstock Festival*, 9 August.



## Lee Fields

The Kool soulman expresses himself once more

### What movie could your latest offering soundtrack?

*The Matrix*, as there is no new thing under the sun.

### Have you done anything that fans may not know about?

I play 'James Parker' in an indie movie this summer.

### Who would you like to remix?

Magoo.

### Where were you when you first heard one of your songs on vinyl?

In Brooklyn, on Radio BLS, 1973. I was so excited.

### What was your favourite record shop then?

Birdel's, Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, and Bobby Robinson, 121st Street.

### What was your first record?

James Brown *Live At The Apollo*.

### What's the last album that you bought?

Sly & The Family Stone *The Essential*.

### What made you want to go pro?

The Beatles singing *A Hard Day's Night* on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

### Was anyone in your family a musician?

My dad was a musician and my nephew was a gospel musician.

### What would you ask your music hero?

Quincy Jones. How you doing?

### Who's taken music forward in the last decade?

Mark Ronson.

### Have you ever collected anyone?

James Brown, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, OV Wright.

### Which of your songs is the most personally meaningful?

Let's Talk It Over.

### Of all the people that you've worked with, who taught you the most?

Wilson Pickett, Curtis Pope, and Solomon Burke – who told me to treat music as a business.

### Dying peacefully on your deathbed, what would you like to hear?

Sam Cooke's *The Hem Of His Garment*. Beautiful.

### Lee Fields

*It Rains Love* is on *Big Crown*, 5 April.



Photos: (Ed Wynne) Matt Brown; (Reese Wynans) Eif Roope

## Lou Rhodes of Lamb

The electro-duo singer hops by on another trip

### Was anyone in your family a musician?

My mum was a folk singer and I remember, aged three, sitting on the stairs listening to her band rehearse in the living-room.

### Did you ever write songs 'under the influence'?

Songs have arisen out of substance-induced states, the most recent example being the line, "Woken by a square of blue sky, all of life in my hips," from *One Hand Clapping*, which came from an ayahuasca trip.

### Which of your songs is the most personally meaningful?

Right now, *Imperial Measures* is the

most resonant. It was written after a powerful conversation that triggered an 'enlightenment experience'. Waking up after that, I sat on a roof, cried rivers of tears, and the lyrics streamed out.

### Have you kept studio notebooks?

Piles of paper with scribbled and crossed-out lyrics. I wish I was more organised.

### What would you ask your music hero?

Sufjan Stevens – about his writing process. I'd love to get inside his head.

### Of all the people you've worked with, who taught you the most?

Our master producer, Andy Barlow.

He's the brother that I never had and continues to push me out of my comfort zone in ways that both infuriate and enliven me to a ridiculous degree. He quite literally drives me up the wall at times, but I love him.

### What backstage incident makes you laugh most?

A few of us got terrible food poisoning in Germany before a show. I threw up in a bin, then stepped onstage as if everything was fine. I was so dizzy that I barely knew where I was.

### Do you plan a book?

Yes. I'm working on a number of storylines before deciding which to follow up. I'm excited and daunted by the idea of writing a novel of 100,000 words.

### Is there a myth about you that you'd like to set straight?

That I'm some kind of ethereal, angelic type. I'm far from either. More an earthy, socially inept weirdo with a dark sense of humour.

### Dying peacefully on your deathbed, what would you like to hear?

Ravel's *Pavane For A Dead Princess*, played on piano by my son, Reuben. I've already told him that's the plan and he's up for it!

### Lamb

*The Secret Of Letting Go LP*, CD, cassette, are on *Cooking Vinyl*, 26 April.

