



**BIG
COUNTRY**



BARROWLAND
BALLROOM

31 • 12 • 83

EARLY DAYS

"THE MUSIC IS UNASHAMEDLY EMOTIONAL, MAGNIFICENTLY CONTAGIOUS FREQUENTLY STIRRING AND OCCASIONALLY RAPTUREOUS, ITS FAR TOO GOOD TO WASTE ON THE FICKLE FASHION FOLLOWING OF THE BIZ'S UPPER ECHELONS"

GARRY BUSHELL - REVIEWING BIG COUNTRY'S FIRST EVER GIG AT THE MEMBERSHIP CLUB JUNE 1982.

"YOU ONLY HAVE TO THINK OF THE NAME AND THE IMAGERY FLOWS GENEROUSLY TO MIND."

CAROL CLERK - MELODY MAKER OCTOBER 1982.

"THEY'RE SO ALIVE, THERE'S A WONDERFUL FLOW TO THIS BAND WHO'LL SOON BE SETTING STANDARDS FOR THE 80'S."

TIM SOMMERS - SOUNDS SEPTEMBER 1982.

"IN ORDER TO ATTRACT A FOLLOWING THIS BAND SHOULD PLAY EXCLUSIVELY TO DUTCH BARS AND OUTLYING FARMING COMMUNITIES"

MELODY MAKER GIG REVIEW SEPT 1982.

HARVEST HOME

"HARVEST HOME IS A BEACON OF INSPIRATION TO DISPIRITED POP FANS EVERYWHERE... THE MOUTH-FULL-OF-BOBSTOPPER VOCALS AND THE STRIDENT UPPER REGISTER LEAD GUITAR DO BATTLE TO THE FATUOUS BRITTLE END".

REVIEWED BY GAVIN MARTIN-N.M.E. 16 OCTOBER 1982.

"I'VE ALWAYS HAD A REALLY SHARP AND TOUGH SOUND. THE SCOTTISH FEEL TO HARVEST HOME IS DUE TO THE SOUND OF THE GUITAR RATHER THAN THE TUNE."

STUART TALKING TO 'GUITAR HEROES' DECEMBER 1982.

"BIG COUNTRY TAKE YOUR HEARTSTRINGS AND SHAKE THEM ITS LIKE A FESTIVAL WHEN THEY PLAY. AS SOON AS HARVEST HOME INTRO ERUPTS THE GIG BECOMES A MEETING OF EMOTIONS, A COMPLETE COMMUNICATION THAT ENRAPTURES EVERYBODY."

MELODY MAKER OCTOBER 1982.



IN A BIG COUNTRY AND THE CROSSING TOUR

"FUNNY ISN'T IT, HERE WE ARE IN 1983 AND SUDDENLY THIS KIND OF ROCKY GUITAR POP SOUNDS REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT... THE SOUND ISN'T QUITE AS CATCHY AS 'FIELDS OF FIRE' BUT THE OLD BASPIPES GUITAR IS STILL BLOWING AWAY ACROSS THE GLENS."

NO 1 MAY 21 1983.

"THE MIDDLE SECTION IS EXCELLENT BUILDING UP GLORIOUSLY AND THUNDERING DRUMS AND WICKED GUITARS."

MELODY MAKER MAY 26 1983.

"THIS IS MARCHING MUSIC, WITH FIERCE INDEPENDENCE: SO YOU CAN POGO OR JIG AND NOBODY CARES. THE BEST SONGS HERE ARE DYNAMIC AND FUN AND... THEIR COMBINED ENERGY AND RESTRAINT IS IRRESISTIBLE"

PENNY KILEY MELODY MAKER 25 JUNE 1983.

BIG COUNTRY

THE ALBUM AND THE CROSSING THE FALL TOUR

"THE CROSSING IS A ROUSING VISION FRUSTRATED IN ITS SEARCH FOR APPLAUSE FOR HONESTY AND HIS WISH TO RID HIMSELF OF POP'S IMPURITIES - ITS A PITY HE FAILED."

STEVE SUTHERLAND MELODY MAKER 30 JUNE 83.

TREVOR DANN SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 31 JULY 83

"STUART ADAMSON'S CHECKED-SHIRT BRIGADE HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO A MAGICAL FORMULA OF CLASSIC SONGS."

DEBORAH STEELS TIME OUT 24.7.83.

"THE SPIRIT AND DETERMINATION STRUCK LIKE MOLTEN TEARDROPS THIS - THE EMOTIONAL TERRAIN OF SELF-RESOLVE AND PRIDE - IS THE LAND OF BIG COUNTRY. TIME AND PASSION WAIT FOR NO MAN. I ADMIT IT, I'M HOOKED"

JOHNNY WALLER SOUNDS 19.7.83.

BIG COUNTRY ARE ONE OF THE FEW REALLY CONVINCING GUITAR GROUPS IN BRITAIN TODAY. THEY HAVE STAKED OUT A CLEAR PATH AND WE'RE NOT ADMIRABLY GUIDED BY INTUITION RATHER THAN THE EXPECTATIONS OTHERS HAVE OF THEM EITHER AS A CHART BAND OR THE INHERITORS OF ROCKISM'S RANCID HERITAGE. BIG COUNTRY DO NOT SHOULDER. THEY POSITIVELY BURN... FIRE.

ADRIAN THRILLS FOR NME REVIEWING HAMERSMITH ODEON CONCERT SEPT 1983.



FIELDS OF FIRE AND THE EARLY GIGS.

"FIELDS OF FIRE TOOK ABOUT 20 MINUTES TO WRITE, I LIKE TO KEEP IDEAS FRESH AND SPONTANEOUS. I'M NOT A PERSON WHO LIKES TO SPEND FOUR DAYS TO WRITE FOUR LINES... WE DON'T COPY ANYBODY IS FOLLOWING, LOOKING BACK OVER OUR SHOULDERS TO SEE IF ANYBODY IS FOLLOWING, WE'RE MAKING MUSIC TO MOVE MOUNTAINS BY AND MELT THE SNOW IN YOUR HEART"

STUART ADAMSON RECORD MIRROR MARCH 5 1983.

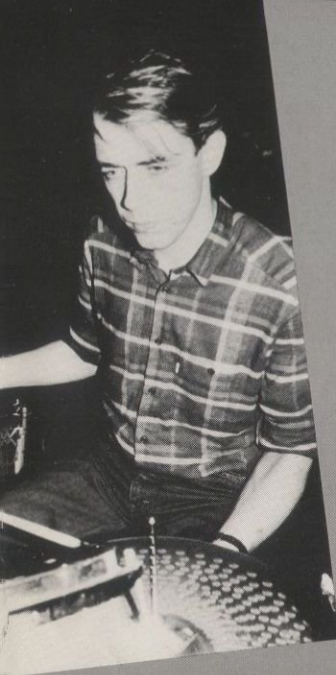
"BIG COUNTRY COME OUT REELING, PUNCH-DRUNK BUT PROUD WITH A ROUSING CONCOCTION OF SKIDSIAN BLUSTER AND THE Z CARS THEME ITS A CUTE IDEA BUT REALLY A RETROGRADE STEP."

MELODY MAKER 5 MARCH 1983.

"THEIR LIVE SOUND CAN BE REMARKABLY TIGHT, THEIR INSTRUMENTS SIMPLY IMMACULATELY PLAYED, THEIR SENSE OF AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION SIMPLY SUPERS AND ADAMSON'S VOICE AT ITS BEST CAN OPEN UP ANY HEART."

FRANK WORRALL, MELODY REVIEWING MANCHESTER HACIENDA GIG APRIL 1983.





SECOND THOUGHTS comprise Mike Cotton and Paddy O'Toole. They started out busking the capital's streets to pay the rent, and apart from finding it fun, it gave them an outlet for the backlog of songs that they had amassed since leaving the Jags in 1980.

In mid 1983 they supported Big Country on tour before returning to a string of pub, club and railway station gigs in London, and in August a tape of their songs found its way to August Darnell who promptly added them to his mammoth Kid Creole and the Coconuts 'Lifeboats' tour. They then went straight back on the road as guest of Shakin' Stevens in October.

Second Thoughts herald a return to a direct, economical and healthy communication in music.



PASSIONATE FRIENDS

*'Passionate Friends should stick together
Passionate Friends should break the stranglehold'*

So runs the chorus of this Glasgow band's eponymous second single, a sharp blast of infectious dance-pop that characterises both their outlook and output. Since their formation through the first half of '82, Passionate Friends have been determined to adopt their own approach, devise their own tactics, chart their own course.

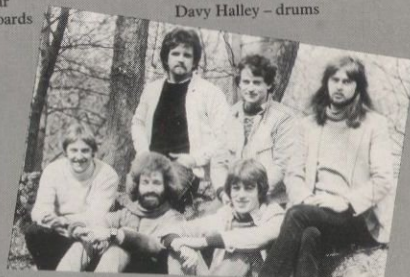
First step was to develop an extensive repertoire of original material, before gigging around Glasgow and its environs, building up a very healthy following in the process. They then formed their own label, Tenement Toons, and released their first single on it, 'Time Bandits'/'What's The Odds', last March.

Radio One soon picked up on the single, which led to its being made available nationally. In June the band were seen and heard live in front of 30,000 people when they appeared as Rod Stewart's guests at his Ibrox Park Show.

Suitably impressed by this performance, top promoter, Harvey Goldsmith offered the group a management contract with his company, AMP Management, at the same time that MCA Records were expressing a keen interest in them. One thing led to another, and before long Passionate Friends had laid down 'Passionate Friends', which is due for release by MCA in October. A national tour is also being planned.

PASSIONATE FRIENDS: John McNeill - lead vocals, guitar
Tommy Watson - guitar
Malky McNeill - keyboards

Michael Quinn - sax
Allan McNeill - bass
Davy Halley - drums



RUN RIG began ten years ago in Skye as a three-piece Scottish dance band, and toured the Highlands on a seasonal basis providing an alternative to the traditional bands on the circuit. These early tours encouraged the songwriting team of Calum and Rory MacDonald to evolve their concept of a band which would retain the style and sentiment of the music they had grown up with in the Western Isles, and present it in a contemporary musical structure.

Run Rig turned professional in 1979, an event which coincided with the release of their second album, 'The Highland Connection' by their own newly formed record company, Ridge Records. The formation of their own record company was a significant step forward for the band, as it allowed a greater degree of control over the final product. As a result 'The Highland Connection' was much more musically ambitious than 'Play Gaelic', and contained both Gaelic and English lyrics. Since then, through extensive touring Run Rig has developed into a tight knit and musically mature group, forging their own style of Gaelic rock music. Their status as one of Scotland's top groups was confirmed in 1981 when they released the album 'Recovery'.

Run Rig have played extensively throughout Scotland, and their unique style has impressed audiences wherever they have played, and built up a considerable following. The music of Run Rig transcends linguistic barriers and with this aim in mind the band intend to extend their audience to England and Europe in 1983.

RUN RIG

Calum MacDonald - Vocals and Percussion
Richard Cherns - Keyboards
Malcolm Jones - Lead Guitar/Bagpipes/Vocals

Rory MacDonald - Bass Guitar/Vocals
Donnie Munro - Lead Vocals/Guitar
Ian Bayne - Drums

DISCOGRAPHY

L.P. 'Play Gaelic'
L.P. 'The Highland Connection'
L.P. 'Recovery'
Single 'Loch Lomond'

Lismor Records NA 105/NC 105
Ridge Records RR 0001
Ridge Records RR 0002
Ridge Records RRS 003

MORE INFORMATION:

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The Big Thankyou Section



Stuart, Bruce, Mark and Tony wish to thank the following for making 1983 a year to remember. . .

Ian, Alan, Carri, Janice, Anne, Jacky, Martin, Sheds, John, Les, Bob, Pete, Joe and all at Entec, John at TBA, Marsha at ATI, all Trinifold, Abtran, Transam, Bob Fisher at Phonogram, and Derek and Chris at ATP. Special thanks for tonight to Andy, Pete and Claire at Harvey Goldsmith's office, Timmy at MCP and Peter at Regular Music.

BIG COUNTRY INFO SERVICE

Martin Somers 15 West Hill Road Putney London SW18 1LL

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current album 'The Crossing'
new single
'WONDERLAND'
coming soon

