

Dropping Pebbles

Brian David Stevens

A song can be about anything, and a single song can be about (can mean) many different things to many different people. They are little bits of magic in that respect. They travel in infinite possible directions, to innumerable locations, whether a song itself has been heard by millions, or else more modestly received. Yet songs almost always originate from a single source - a person, or a small group of people. These are the people who drop the pebble into the lake. Sometimes they hang around to watch the ripples, and sometimes they don't. In this photo essay, and in the accompanying notes describing 'how we first met, on the warmest day', you can decide for yourself whether thoughts of 'peace or war, or the sins of industry, or the discontents of fame, or of obscurity' can be discerned. If you don't know some of the songs these people have lobbed into the lake, maybe you will choose to seek them out, and perhaps enable the songs to travel just a little further from the source. That's what they do.

Billy Childish

I spent a great day with Billy at his home in Chatham, Kent. He was the perfect host. It was one of those occasions when you feel you are in the company of a true polymath, albeit a dyslexic one with a fondness for garage bands and plastic Italian guitars.

Vic Goddard

Vic's band The Subway Sect out punked everybody by donning grey v-necked jumpers from Marks and Spencer rather than cheesecloth, bondage shirts and swastikas from McClaren's 'Sex'. A very British songwriter and probably the country's most famous postman.

Mark Wood

Mark Wood sings in the band Readers Wives (the misspelling a tribute to Slade). He also DJ's at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern at a night called Duckie. He is the most popular man in London.





Jim Reid

The singer of the Jesus and Mary Chain. I wanted these to look very American, hot, sun-drenched, shot in the desert at Joshua Tree, Gram Parson's ghost in the background, Easy Riding.... We didn't have the budget so we shot it on a fire escape by the bins at the rear of a cinema in Islington.

Lawrence

Enough has been written about 'mad' Lawrence, a true English eccentric, but the image of Lawrence should not overshadow his music. If you don't know his old band Felt go look them up. Now. 'Primitive Painters' is a good place to start.



Michael Head

Once I had a mixtape which somebody had made for me that was pretty much stuck in the tape player of the car. Long since separated from the hand written inlay card I never knew who the last track was by, which was annoying as it became a favourite. About 7 years later at a party someone put HMS Fable by Shack on and there it was.... Thanks Michael.

Jeff Tweedy

One of those ten minute hotel shoots, I like it though, it's quiet and still, it's thoughtful. The magazine didn't use it.

The Jesus and Mary Chain

When I was 17 I did a pencil drawing of the Jesus and Mary Chain for my art A level. When I was older I did their press pictures. Always been a huge fan.

Memory Band (Stephen Cracknell)

The Memory Band is wonderful, a musical map needing to be explored and discovered. I love working with Stephen, it's a rare joy.

Brian David Stevens is a photographer based in London. He has work in The National Portrait Gallery and in the National Museums Of Scotland. Brian's work has been published worldwide. His favourite colour is gold.

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