

## PERFORMING

My musical initiation began at a time when Legends walked the earth! Rock 'n' Roll had exploded and in its wake came Jimi Hendrix, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Bob Marley. The Beatles and The Stones, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, James Brown, Michael Jackson and the list goes on and on and on – a legendary era in pop music. Like aspiring young musicians today, I would go to concerts and copy my heroes as best I could. The musical instruments of Rock and Soul from Fender and Gibson started appearing on UK shores, it was an exciting time. I was in various bands writing songs and playing guitar, keyboards and bass (not at the same time) and later singing. I would load my '76 Strat and '79 Twin into my van and drive off to make music.

Early gigs were with 'Roots' (an Afro/Funk/Reggae fusion band) around the Brixton and Clapham area of South London - a hot bed of great bands at the time. I went on to form 'Vogue' with colleagues and we released our 12 inch vinyl 'Free To Be Me'. Many gigs around town (including upstairs at Ronnie Scott's) followed. When the band had run its course, I concentrated on song writing and began to study singing seriously, firstly at Goldsmiths College with Roger Marsden. Roger was/is a fantastic teacher and I learned loads – not only about singing but about music in general and particularly the challenges of jazz and Roger's reference was instrumental in me getting accepted at The Guildhall.

After studying Jazz & Rock at The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, I was fortunate to be offered gigs with *Jim Mullen* (guitar) *Dick Morrissey* (sax) and *Mike Carr* (organ). A performance at *Ronnie Scott's* (this time in the main club, downstairs) was something of a debut.

I continued to learn about singing, working with *Kenny Wheeler's Big Band*, the *Radio Two Orchestra* and the *Len Phillips Big Band* (for 20 years) interspersed with various commercial sessions including an appearance on *BBC TV's Eastenders*, and on *Wogan* and *Top of the Pops* as backing singer for *Paul Young*. Next came a CD and tour with *Jan Ponsford's Vocal Chords* (which included *Norma Winstone*) and an album with *Duncan Lamont* for Solo Records. I then went on to record my own album *You Can't Keep A Good Man Down* and later, a piano and voice recording with pianist *Chris Lee* called *Alternative Arrangements*. I played keyboards and sang in my local interdenominational church every Sunday for a couple of years and witnessed the power of music in healing and prayer.

A string of appearances at Ronnie's were to follow. Firstly singing with *Pete Long's Gillespiana* and then supporting *Courtney Pine* with my own band, playing jazzy soul and blues grooves inspired by *BB King*, *Marvin Gaye*, *Al Jarreau* and their like. The *Ronnie Scott's* connection continued with three sell-out performances as singer with *The Len Phillips Big Band*. I went on to set up a *Jazz/Soul/Blues Hammond Organ Trio*, playing guitar and singing.

For many years I was singer and latterly singer and Musical Director for *Bateaux London Cruises*. Of late, my attention has turned to YouTube for teaching and performances whilst continuing to perform 'live' at *The Spice of Life*, *Soho*, *The Palm Tree*, *Mile End* and the usual classic London Venues. When I'm able, I post performances on my YouTube channel.

I am currently putting together some songs by some classic singers, which I perform as a singer/pianist. *TheRaiderOfTheLostArt.com* - <https://www.thesingthing.com/raider/>

Music is obviously a passion of mine, I also enjoy physical activities: walking, cycling, swimming and dancing. I like cooking and enjoy food and wine and it gives me pleasure to spend time trying to capture a good photograph.