

like “Sara Smile” and “Rich Girl,” 1976’s *Bigger Than Both of Us* made the duo superstars. Over the next decade, they released six Number One singles from a string of multi-platinum albums (including *Voices* and *Big Bam Boom*). By 1987, the R.I.A.A. recognized Daryl Hall & John Oates as the number-one selling duo in music history, a title they hold to this day.

While Daryl Hall & John Oates stormed the charts, Hall built a simultaneous solo career. With Robert Fripp as producer, he recorded *Sacred Songs* in 1977 (released 1980). By the late ’80s, both Hall and Oates had focused on solo projects, collaborating with each other intermittently. Hall released three more solo albums before reigniting his partnership with Oates, with whom he released four albums between 1997 and 2006.

In 2007, Hall started *Live From Daryl’s House*, a monthly web series that features Hall hosting jam sessions/intimate performances with acclaimed guest musicians in his own home. Guests of the popular, award-winning series have included Nick Lowe, Ray Manzarek, Sharon Jones and Todd Rundgren.

“*Live From Daryl’s House* changed my life,” Hall said. “I think it revolutionized music, too, because what it shows is real, not manufactured.”

In addition to the ever-growing web series and continued appreciation for Daryl Hall & John Oates (recipients of BMI’s Icon Award in 2008), Hall continues to write and record, releasing his latest solo album, *Laughing Down Crying*, in late 2011. “The most rewarding thing to me is meeting new people and never knowing what’s going to happen,” Hall said. “It’s the unknown that excites me.”

Todd Rundgren

Todd Harry Rundgren, born June 22, 1948 in Philadelphia, began playing guitar as a teenager, starting his career as a recording artist before he hit 20. Upon leaving the band Woody’s Truck Stop, Rundgren formed Nazz in 1967. The psychedelic garage rock quartet found some success, releasing three albums between 1968 and 1971 and scoring minor hits with “Open My Eyes,” included on the landmark *Nuggets* compilation, and “Hello It’s Me,” which became one of Rundgren’s most enduring songs after he rerecorded it as a solo artist.

Rundgren released his first solo album, *Runt*, in 1970. Dissatisfied with the way the Nazz albums were recorded, Rundgren resolved to learn the art of producing himself. A production deal with Albert Grossman quickly followed, with Rundgren helming projects for Janis Joplin, the Band, Patti Smith and many more in the ensuing years.

His skills as a producer soon found their way into his solo work when he produced, sang all the vocal parts and played all the instruments (for three of the four sides) on what is widely recognized as his masterpiece:

1972’s *Something/Anything?*. The seminal album has become the touchstone of the power pop genre. Rundgren’s success continued throughout the rest of the decade and into the next, when he produced key albums for New York Dolls, Grand Funk Railroad, Meat Loaf, Daryl Hall & John Oates and more.

The resourcefulness that led Rundgren to become his own producer manifested itself in other areas as well. By the mid-’90s, Rundgren was experimenting with interactive CD-ROM, new video technology and had started one of the first online music subscription services, a decade before it became the norm. In addition to a steady stream of solo albums, production work and touring, Rundgren has toured with Ringo Starr, led the re-formed Cars and lectured at universities. *STATE*, his most recent album and 24th overall solo album, was released in April.

Of recording his own album, Rundgren told *Elmore*: “It’s always fun, especially when I’m picking up new ideas, exploring what people are doing and what people are listening to. Research—trying to figure out the lay of the land before you ever start anything—is probably the most fun part.”

What are you listening to right now?

Daryl Hall: I don’t listen to other bands. I sucked up enough of that years ago, on the Philly Streets, absorbing everything and making my own versions. I listen to music for information.

TR: I’ll tell you what’s on my Rhapsody. This Heat, Bon Iver, Skrillex, and Oskar Sala—I just discovered him, one of the original electronic musicians.

What was the first record you ever bought?

DH: I was ten or 11 and I got Ike and Tina Turner’s “A Fool In Love.”

TR: A 69-cent cut-out album in the local mall. I bought it because I wanted to own a record. It was a weird compilation called *Bopping* with probably eight different artists on it, doing all different genres of what at the time passed as rock ‘n’ roll or be-bop.

Where do you buy your music?

TR: Mostly Rhapsody and YouTube. I discover it on YouTube and consume it on Rhapsody. I’m buying a ser-

