

# Talking heads

## Average White Band

Average White Band's **Hamish Stewart's 360**, featuring AWB's **Steve Ferrone, Molly Duncan**, is due via PledgeMusic, and RC asked him what movie it could soundtrack?

"A yet-to-be-scripted spoof of Wayne's World called *Hame's World*, in which Steve, Molly and myself groove in our trusty Robin Reliant to Marvin Gaye's Got To Give It Up."

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

Michael McDonald and I recorded together a few years ago, but it wasn't really singles material. It remains an unreleased album track.

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

The B-side of my first single for Decca with Dream Police, I'll Be Home In About A Day Or So, on a Dansette in our bedsit in Holloway, London.

**What was your first record?**

The Shadows' Guitar Tango.

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

Vince Mendoza, *Nights On Earth*.

Wonderful, complex tunes, featuring John Scofield.

**Was anyone in your family a musician?**

My mother and father met in the same opera company.

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

Gregory Porter or Lalah Hathaway.

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

Enduring Love, about my mother and her life.

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

When's the Average White Band getting back together?

**With whom would you most like to record?**

One of the most thrilling experiences that I've ever had was in Switzerland when Quincy Jones was conducting the orchestra. I'd love to record an album with the Metropole Orchestra Of Amsterdam.



## Shaun Ryder

**Black Grape** *It's Great When You're Straight... Yeah* 2CD/DVD, with 17 bonuses, nine videos, is on Universal, 4 November. RC asked **Shaun Ryder** what else is on the cards? "Myself and Kermit [Leveridge, of Black Grape] are at Youth's studio in Spain from late September for a new album. Lots of testosterone."

**Is there anything unissued in the archive?**

I have an SWR album produced by Sunny Levine that I can't wait to get out, but with the new Black Grape and a Happy Mondays album planned for 2018, I'm not sure when. That's up to Alan McGee.

**Who would you like to remix?**

Johnny mother-fucking Cash. It'd be mind-blowing fucking about with those bass lines, guitar licks and moody tunes.

**What was your favourite record shop**



**when you started out?**

SCAN supermarket, Salford, early 70s. It had a huge record department and jukebox, and I shoved singles under my coat, plus *Hunky Dory*, *Pin Ups* and Rod's *Every Picture Tells A Story*, into the lining of my specially-adapted-to-rob Parker.

**What's the last record that you bought?**

Dean Martin's *Greatest Hits*.

**Was anyone in your family a musician?**

My dad can play anything, though banjo, accordion and double-bass put food on the table.

**What's the oddest place in which you've had inspiration for a song?**

In the middle of a shoot-out between police and yardies in Jamaica. It went off like a firework – the song was Yeah Yeah Brother.

**Which band would you most like to have been in?**

The Beach Boys. Not only would I be dressed really cool with a great haircut, I'd have a fucking amazing singing voice.

## Eric Johnson

**Eric Johnson's EJ** is on Mascot/Provogue, and RC asked him what's the last album that he bought? "Esperanza Spalding's latest."

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

I'd play more of the pieces live in the studio, to capture more of a band feel.

**Is there anything still unissued in the archive?**

Yes, various things.

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

In Austin, Texas, age 15, with the band, Mariani.

**What was your favourite record shop then?**

JR Reed Music and GC Murphy.

**What was your first record?**

The Ventures *In Space*.

**Did you ever write songs under the influence?**

I'm sure I did at some point.

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

Explosions In The Sky.

**What record are you looking for?**

An Erroll Garner live recording from the 50s.

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

Stevie Wonder, doing Austin.

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

Battle We Have Won.

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

Mrs Orville Wyss, my piano teacher, who taught me to develop my ear training.

**What fact about you may surprise your fans?**

I own Broadway musical records.

**With whom would you most like to record?**

Jeff Beck, Stevie Wonder.

**What should your epitaph say?**

Aspirations to heal, messages to reach, to inspire.



## Harvey Mandel

**Harvey Mandel's Snake Pit** is on LP, CD, DL, Tompkins Square, 18 November, and RC asked him what film it could soundtrack?

"Any Nick Cage action movie."

**Have you done anything fans may not know about?**

I once advertised Bozo's Guitars.

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

Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke, because they're top musicians.

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

Driving on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, when Wade In The Water came on KSAN radio.

**What was your favourite record shop when you started?**



Tower Records, San Francisco. **What was your first record?** The Ventures' Walk, Don't Run. **Did you ever write**

**songs under the influence?**

Yeah, I've been smoking weed for 51 years.

**Have you ever collected anyone?**

Django Reinhardt.

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

Sammy Fender, a black musician from Chicago. He took me to Twist City, where I got to hang and play with all the greats.

**What backstage incident makes you laugh most?**

Arm wrestling with Gregg Allman and his crew.

**What fact about you may surprise your fans?**

I like to cut hair.

**Which band would you most like to have been in?**

The Rolling Stones, because they're fun to play with and I would've been a rich bastard!

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

Woodstock, Woodstock, all about Woodstock. I barely remember being there.

**With whom would you most like to record?**

Pat Martino.

**What unfulfilled ambitions do you have?**

I plan to write a book.