Subject: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 03:07:39 GMT
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After just hearing a talk sjow about what being manly is whichis not worth discussing (the author pointed to Rumsfeld asone of his good examples) the subject of male vocalists deserves as much attention as we've devoted to women.As contemporary performers, I know few of the Buster Poindextervariety of lounge singers that are about today.But I do have some favorite male vocalists each for differentreasons.The best vocalist in Popular Music is Ray Benson of Asleep AtThe Wheel. I don't mean Country and Western popular music, I mean _all_ popular music regardless of category. This is notto compare singers for their pyrotechnic ability, how loud or howlong or even how high or how low they can sing. The best meansquality of sound, resonance, delivery hey, what else is there?In concert Benson always says (and I can't do this with type on the screen) that what he does is Western musicor "(little small voice 'country') and WESTERN music," shoutingit out. The Ray Benson sound is not forced in any way. And the factthat I like Western Swing and swing music in general may havesomething to do with it. Especially good is Ray Benson on"House of Blue Lights" which I think was originally doneby the Mills Brothers. Randy Travers, George Straight and therest of the nasal crowd doing Country music are too embarrassingto listen to.So Ray Benson is the Popular Music vocalist with which to compareothers.In jazz, there's a lot more to choose from. Like Georgie Fameamongst others.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 16:49:43 GMT
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Ray Benson of Asleep At The Wheel. O'Kay. The best Pop singer; Male Vocalist Catagory? Thats a stretch. I have most of AATW albums; nice stuff; I'd rather listen to the original Bill Monroe versions though; I find they get a little strident at times.The names you mention; I don't see them as country artists; they are pop singers who as you say sing in a nasal whine. The original reason for that sound from country artists is that they needed to be heard over the fiddles and consequently they projected their voices by tightening their pharengeal muscles.Who's Geaorgie Fame?BTW; on AudioKarma the guys have started a CD collection trade thread. They all rip CD's composed of their favorite songs then trade them amongst each other in order to educate themselves about the music the members like.Man; is that a great idea or what?

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 17:40:48 GMT
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I think I said Ray Benson is the best voice in pop music.He doesn't fall into the same category of

the jazz singersand the riffs and runs they can do.I was pretty much introduced to Georgie Fame late in lifefrom the jazz show. I maybe had heard the name on andoff over time but never heard the work. He does a duet withJon Hendricks on Hendrick's lyric of "Little Pony" from the Count Basie book that I never get tired of. Then there's"Cool Cat Blues" which sounds like a tune Mose Allison would dobut I never heard it over 40 years from Mose Allison. Withoutp2p I would know nothing of that Little Pony track.There's one low note in the scant info I have on Georgie Fameand the Blue Flames: he put out some kind of recording with Van Morrison. Van Morrison is a bigger embarrassment to the music industry than Mick Jagger. Well maybe it's a tie.Yes the compilation thing is a great idea but why don't theytorrent these collections as ISO's so everyone can enjoy them?Or pod cast?

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 17:49:35 GMT
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Probably too much work; they just want to share the things they like amongst themselves I think. It's a great way to learn new music though.I have to say; you, in musical terms I mean, definately march to your own drum. Thats great; you like what you like.But how can Van or Mick be embarrasments to music? What specifically would dictate that? I mean if we actually came up with an Embarrasment to Music thread it would be pretty long but I don't see it containing Mick Jagger. You may not like his voice but he never claimed to be Pavarotti. I like his early renderings of good blues tunes. He is one of the very few white guys who can do that well. Wild Horses? Thats a great tune. Lots of them.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 18:38:13 GMT
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I took a peek at those lists you mentioned and how the compsare going around.I was trying to put a handle on this as far as, you know,taste goes and the first thing that came to mind wasRay Davies tune called "Predictable."There is a lot of tunage in the world but I doubt that thosehave heard much of it. Looks like they are re-collecting thingsthey heard on the AM radio.There was one reference on there to Maurice Jarre which wassort of interesting. I wonder if they know who Kinky Friedmanis? Or Claude Thornhill or David Benford.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 20:23:37 GMT
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I know what you mean; probably most of the music people listen to mirrors radio fare; that whole cognitive thing has entire libraries of books written about it. How exposure defines taste etc.But you have to sift the wheat from the chaff; and as you say you will find gemms in the dust.Do you happen to know that french philosopher who has written extensively on music and popular culture? I would like to re-investigate his books but I can't remmember his name.I like the whole concept that as an audiophile; the exposure to better music enables one to appreciate and define better equipment.They should know who Friedman is; he's running for office down there in Texas; local congressional representative I think.We should whip some David Peel and The Lower East Side on them.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Wed, 22 Mar 2006 21:46:24 GMT
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Why does the name David Peel remind of some dj from Radio Caroline?I'm not knowing the band you mention.Freidman has a career as a well-known mystery writer these days...a long way from recording tunes like "Ride 'Em Jewboy".Far as cognition goes, I doubt that that has much to do withanything. Record companies put things in your ears and that'syour life.If the world seems like a big place as far as music goes, juststhink of what I call second tier or more popularly 'alternativemusic.' There's a whole second tier of comparable quality stuffthat never makes it beyond promotional college airplay.if I were to make one of these sampler cd's, the firstthing I would put on it is Blue Plate Special with two ofthe recordings: " A Night Out" and "Message From Paul Drake". A night out begins with a guy with no plans entering a bar and seeing an old girl friend who is performing on a catwalk with"tatoos [that} spelled the names of the men left in the dirt."There's nothing like that in mundane pop music in imagery, styleor lack of political correctness. The song does not have a happy ending either."Message From Paul Drake" is about the detective from Perry Mason and how he is the actual unsung hero of the show.These are not materials I ever broadcast. I heard some college kidsdo it long after I left the studio. Then I went out and bought the stuff where I could find it. It's not the 'me-too' music that showsyour connections with pop culture. But here again it's the fact thatI remember these things that keeps them alive.
Blue Plate Special (deal of the day)

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 23 Mar 2006 00:13:20 GMT
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Related items on e-bay= Gary Null; the health food guy??O'Kay here's my CDLegend Of A mindThe Western LandsWarm Beer, Cold WomenThe Wind Cries maryLong RedBallad Of Frankie Lee and Judas PriestTopanga WindowsForty-Four BluesDust My BroomMy Favorite

ThingsOne For MY BabyDavid Peel was a street poet on the lower east side of Manhattan who used to throw together bands made up of whoever was around that day and record on the street.Cognition is how we percieve stimulus.Whats your CD?

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Thu, 23 Mar 2006 03:58:50 GMT
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Wasn't Dave peel, it was John Peel.Look what I found: a history of ofshore radio with sound clips too: [see link]Far as a cd goes, does it have to be things I have that canactually be recorded or just fantasy stuff I'd do like"Johnny Pissoff meets The Red Angel"?OK, I'll do a few that I can actually whip out (as Zappawould say)The above 2 by blue Plate special (I'm surprised you didn'torder that item from the link-- it's 75 cents plus shipping)Switch Blade 327 -BSOBoplicity (Les Double Six A' Paris (first album)Born To Run (not by the Boss, by Big Daddy)All About Rosie (George Russell an arranger for Stan Kenton)Time And Love (title track- Jackie Cain and Roy Kral)Skokian-- Brave Combo -- No Sad FacesCool Cat Blues-- Georgie Fame... I'm on the spot here... have to pick a female vocalistor 2 yet... Sigh No More Ladies (from the Shakespeare collection of Cleo Laine and John Dankworth)Let's Do It -- Joan Jett from the Tank Girl SoundtrackMiss Thing -- Lavay Smith (had the priviledge of seeing Smith live)The Hut Sut Song -- Five By Design (even beats out some Hilo's)Lady In Red -- The HiLosOne cd worth of stuff is really hard to do. There's no ska in there either.No Dave Alvin... it just goes on. But the track that hasto go in there is "Death In The Morning" from "UnSung Stories"and kind of good to put it last as well.
Offfshore radio

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Thu, 23 Mar 2006 15:05:01 GMT
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Thats a nice link; interesting. There used to be a pirate radio guy in Levittown who popped in and out of the airwaves. It was pretty funny because we would actually see guys in cars triangulating trying to find his location. The John Peel you have there is a different guy. David Peel was an itinerant musician and most definately not British. I have the Lavay Album Miss Thing bought on your recommendation. It's very good; she has a nice tone and a very natural voice that somehow reminds me of Bette Midler's voice. The band is real tight and not redundant. I need to spend more time with that group.I'd like to try your Gearge Russell; I am a Stan Kenton Fan but it is hard to find good recordings that are not either fillers or poorly recorded.I whipped up my CD off the top of my head. No thought just what I would have liked to hear at that moment. Thats why I didn't bother to list particulars. Jackie And Roy; I like their presentation; whats good for an introduction?I just picked up an Erskine Hawkins disc; nice sharp arrangements.Let me funnel through the link. I still don't see the Georgie Fame. And Of course Dave Alvin is a favorite; Abilene. Good Story

songs; like Townes Van Zandt. Hugely under-rated.Oh; for .75c you're right, I am just lazy.Was it you who provided the link for Steve Post archived radio shows?

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Thu, 23 Mar 2006 19:10:02 GMT
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Yes that's some quick radio stuff I found. The master, far as I know of archiving radio performers is Tom Konard at aircheckfactory.com. he's been doing that since 1976.Since I don't follow pop music, I really couldn't make anycomment on the titles you posted, except for recognizing someand not others.There's not the really good Jackie and Roy around and hasn'tbeen for many years.George Russell was a guy Bob was playing on the jazz showand it really stood out. Bill Holman does that favorite track on 'What's New?" but I've said quite a bit aboutthat before. Other bands are ones like the Vanguard Jazz orchestrafrom the Village Vanguard. Bob Brookmeyer has become a composition teacher and he has done some things for thatband since Thad Jones and Mel Lewis have passed.I also like the newer bands of John Fedchock, Bob Minzerand Rob McConnell. Maynard Ferguson is still touring tohigh schools and small venues. A rare find of his called"The Waltz" I managed to find in the statewide library collection.That goes through my head on a daily basis for _years_.We've covered the swing and pop scene but we haven't touchedthe classical or ska or folk scene hardly at all.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 02:26:04 GMT
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Well; my definition of pop would include much of the lyrical song interpretations of many of the working jazz or semi-pop jazz people like Brookmeyer and Ferguson; certainly Jackie and Roy. Thad Jones and Mel Lewis cut sides for many pop inspired large band efforts. Thats kind of how I file the high school auditorium jazz circuit. Lionel Hampton and even say Doc Severinson; like what Buddy Riche's orchestra's used to do.You can see if you look at liner notes many of the names in those bigger bands listed on your typical Andy Williams type recordings.Now the jive and swing stuff you like is a little more esoteric regarding radio play and finds a niche somewhere in every large city airway listing of shows. There's one modeled after symphony sid on the college station locally. The real big bands like Les Brown; Artie Shaw; Ellington such as what I listen to I see as a totally different genre than what you describe as such. I see your taste as amore of a very select specific style that maybe can be lumped in with some types of large group music but is not a defining style. At least those you mention so far.I mean is Lawrence Welk or Guy Lombardo considered big band or swing?But back to basics. Ska to me is a name; does it originate with early Bahamian Folk Tunes? I say the influence of Portugese and African rythym might describe where the dividing line that eventually created ska as I know it. Unless you mean contemporary Island and English retro-new wave derivitives. Is that where you see it? My most played world

sounds come from African new beat styles; Obu Addy and Tobando; but Fela Anikapulto Kuti is on the deck about every other day; he's amazing. I love all that township jive going back to King Sunny Ade'.Where is that on the radio? And when you say Folk; is that commercial folk or roots music of various areas and eras?

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 04:51:18 GMT
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I like the New York "rudie" ska-- at least that's what mylimited familiarity is with it.Far as band music, you are right. Back in the 70's I experienced'college band' jazz not really knowing what it was at the time.College Band was supported in the professional community by the likes of Stan Kenton as a way to raise a new generation inthe music. The college style then-- the sort written byHolman, Russell, Dee Barton and the whole school of music thatcame out of the North Texas State Jazz Lab Band and it's imitatorswas a specific movement that took hold in the 70's according theextensive liner notes on a collected cd set of Holman and Russoarrangements for the Kenton orchestra.It was classically influenced rather than being dance music,though Ellington-- once you get past chestnuts like Take The A Trainfind the concert Ellington, who even wrote a piece on the spot for the University Of Wisconsin. Ellington was prodigious and hisserious work of religious, Far East, and other themed suites. These are concert works. Artie Shaw moved into this area as well I believe.Far as Guy Lombardo and Lawrence Welk, Garrison Keillor has taken overthat slot on the radio for the next generation of old farts who wantto slide into some nice _soft_ entertainment.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 15:31:44 GMT
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Actually my point revolved around what a definition of pop music might be. That is where the idea of jazz guys playing the HS/College circuit prompted me to reflect on exactly what these definitions mean.To me pop music is music that is arranged from existing scores or written for some purpose other than artistic expression.For instance would you call Madonna pop music? I don't know; I don't listen to it, but it is apparent to me that she in her own way was a creator.Now back when; Lawrence Welk and Guy Lombardo created dance bands that were specifically designed to have less intensiveness and more accesibility for the purpose of dancing where the music does not intrude on that purpose. So does that make them innovators? Artists?Of course they are less than stellar in those departments; but both leaders hired only the best session guys around. Atie Shaw left the music business with a bad feeling; he felt it had become too commercial and said so in print then refused to play. But he was one good clarinet player.So if an artist is obscure and exists in a niche genre'; but can play well; then what are they?I used to see a lot of the Ska bands at a place called the Funky Fish and also at Downtown. It is really good

music to hear live; but it deosn't travel well into the home venue. On record it sounds flat. Really is a live art.The Specials come to mind; I like their sound.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 18:43:47 GMT
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And Madness.Plus I had a really good live band expereince at a punk skaevent featuring a band called "Less Than Jake" and some others.These days I go out very little. There quite frankly is nothingto go out for.But my first ska experience was from a radio show thatwas on at Sunday at 12 noon and it sounded great. Good for cleaning house. _That_ program introduced me to the retro swing movement of the late 90's. I would have beenunaware of the new swing at all otherwise.Ska for me is the 'missing link' in the pop music chain. It shouldhave a place in club performance everywhere. But it's only inbig cities where it has had any presence at all.I am old. I am an old fart. There is no place for me in clubs even if I drank or smoked. It's just alien. But still,I would go out to see a ska band in performance again.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 20:06:37 GMT
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Yes we have all peaked and faded. Luckily there is one nice concert venue left available here that kinda caters to an older crowd. The last band I saw there was Dan Hick's and The Hot LIcks. The Hot LIcks have cooled down some but still funky and Dan is a comical fellow.Before that was Hugh Masekela; which BTW was really a phenomenal show.We have tickets for The Roches next.Now how do you mean ska as the missing link? To what; reggea? Ska came from Skiffle Bands doing acoustic island influenced music;no?

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by lon on Fri, 24 Mar 2006 20:37:59 GMT
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For me the _whole problem_ is shows geared toward an _older crowd._I don't think I'm in the older crowd category nor do I haveany interest (I've found) with most acts that blow throughthe local performing arts centers and refurbished opera houses.Missing link migth have been the wrong phrase for ska.There's a local ska festival in the spring at the swanky small college here, lovingly called "the Harvard of the Midwest".So there has been some exposure to the music. I thi k it is _the_ club music, but it never caught on with the club scene.I think I know the reason too

and it's one of those things thatis speculation but based on knockings and things I've heardabout the tavern business.Bars and clubs want to sell as much booze as they can. Certaintypes of music are distractions from that activity if the music (swing and ska in particular) encourages a lot of dancingand less alcohol consumption. This argument went aroundduring the swing movement and I'm pretty sure it applies tothe ska movement and scene as well.Music that is overly _slow_ and _loud_ (country, some techno, theaverage white vocalist like Madonna or Mariah Carey and bar bandsof all stripes) is manufactured toward the end of getting asmuch alc into people as possible. The reason given for not bookingbands that have a lot of audience attention is just this: the saloonkeepers have rejected them for reasons of profit. Hearing thoseover-emotionalized, whining, fake attempts at gospel sound with thathigh pitched squeal you think will never end is bad enough in thesupermarket. In the club, the same stuff is used as that whichan antidote or pain killer is needed. That's what the bar tender isthere for.In the larger and more diverse markets I suppose these musics canfind a venue. But there is a definite lock down of the types of actsbooked or music styles given in all those clubs now owned by Clear Channel and other cretins. It is a manipulation of the patrons in these places that is so offensive to me but not reallyrecognized by the average club-goer.Maybe missing in action is a better way to describe the lack ofvariety such as ska in the club scene. There was or should have beenan entry point for ska from the days of the Specials, Selecter, Madness and the ska variations that have come up since.

Subject: Re: Male vocalists-- New Thread
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 25 Mar 2006 23:48:48 GMT
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Madonna or Mariah Carey selling alchohol. Well two problems I can see with that proposition. One; women don't drink.(Please don't tell me about that girl who keeps up with all the guys; it's rare and far between.) and thats who goes to Madonna Concerts. Second young people don't drink. Sure they buy a couple beers or a few shots but in terms of a bar making money off the liquor; that don't do it. Slow and loud? You mean like pretty much all of the current alternative rock acts?See; when I say older; the older people I mean are older. If they are in a bar it's because they are doing deals or getting really loaded. Not to see music. If there was a swing band playing in a club around here the average age of the patrons would probably reach 50 or better. As far as dancing thats mostly in the latino bars.Here there really isn't much in the way of live music anymore in clubs or anywhere else. If you want to see live you need to go into Manhattan mostly. What people here do in bars is meet other people. The music that sells drinks is the best of whats on the radio now in the jukebox or through the DJ.Bars sell lots of alchohol when there are a lot of girls mixed in with the guys and the average age is around 30; thats the peak. The young ones really don't drink as much as you would think even though it looks it. It's the twenty four to forty crowd that drinks enough to keep a profitable bar going. And they go where the other people like them are. Or it's the local bar in a low tax; low rent location with a good crowd of regulars that show regularly. Thats the bars with names like the Stop Inn or The Barnacle that last forever.As far as country music being loud and slow; can you be more specific?
