



rock's  
back  
pages

the archive  
of music  
journalism

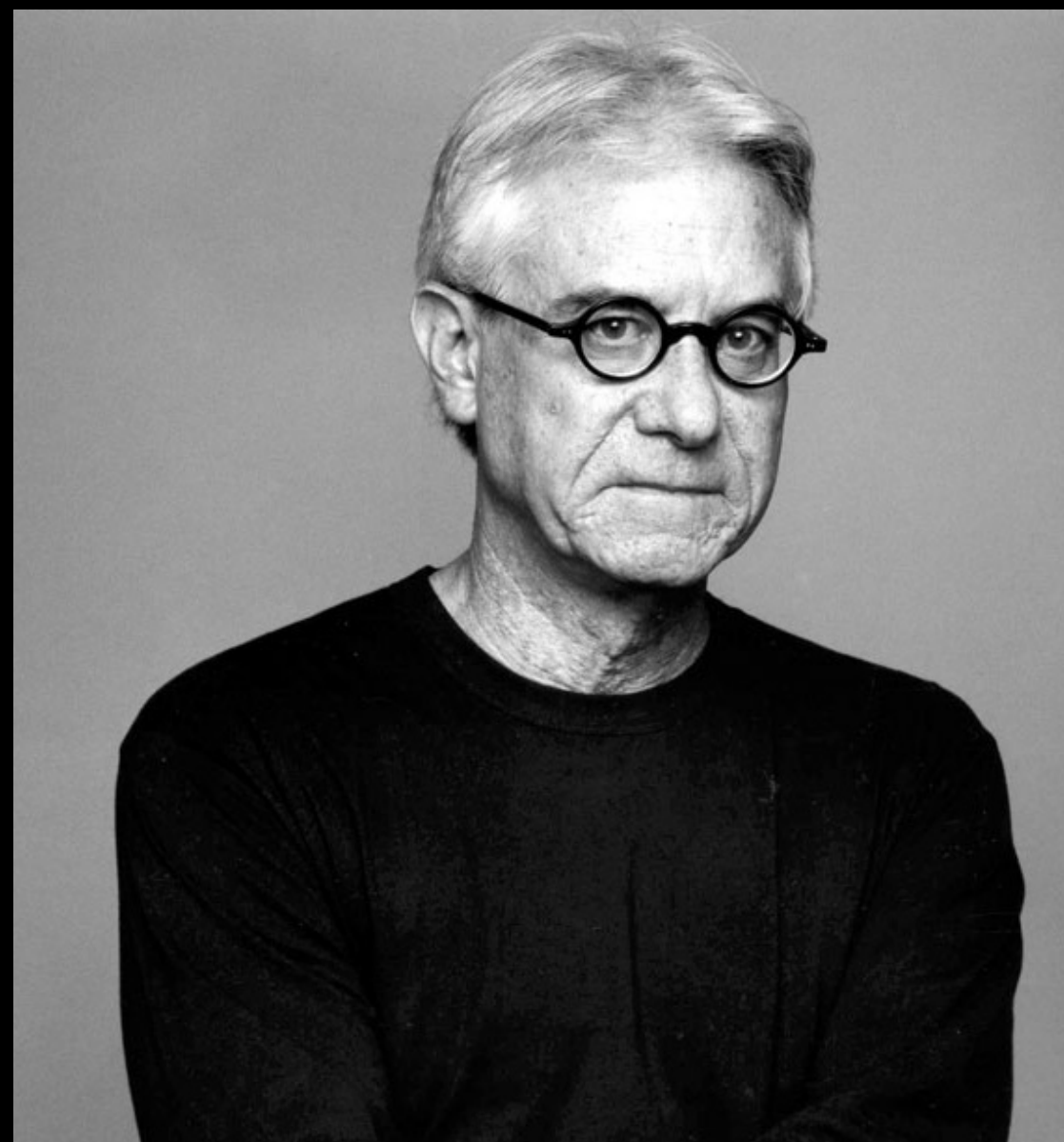
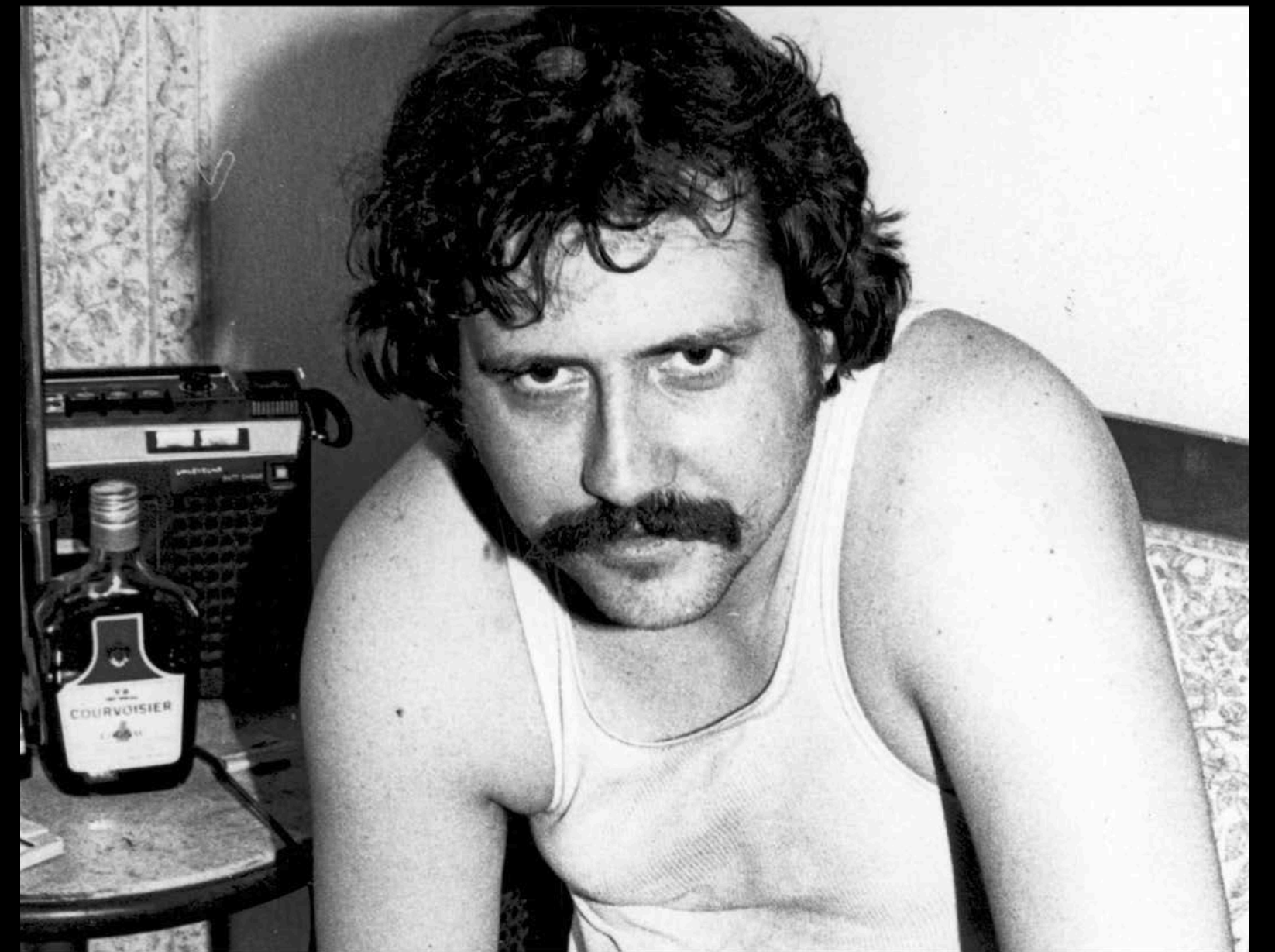
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[rocksbackpages.com](http://rocksbackpages.com)



# *background: writers*

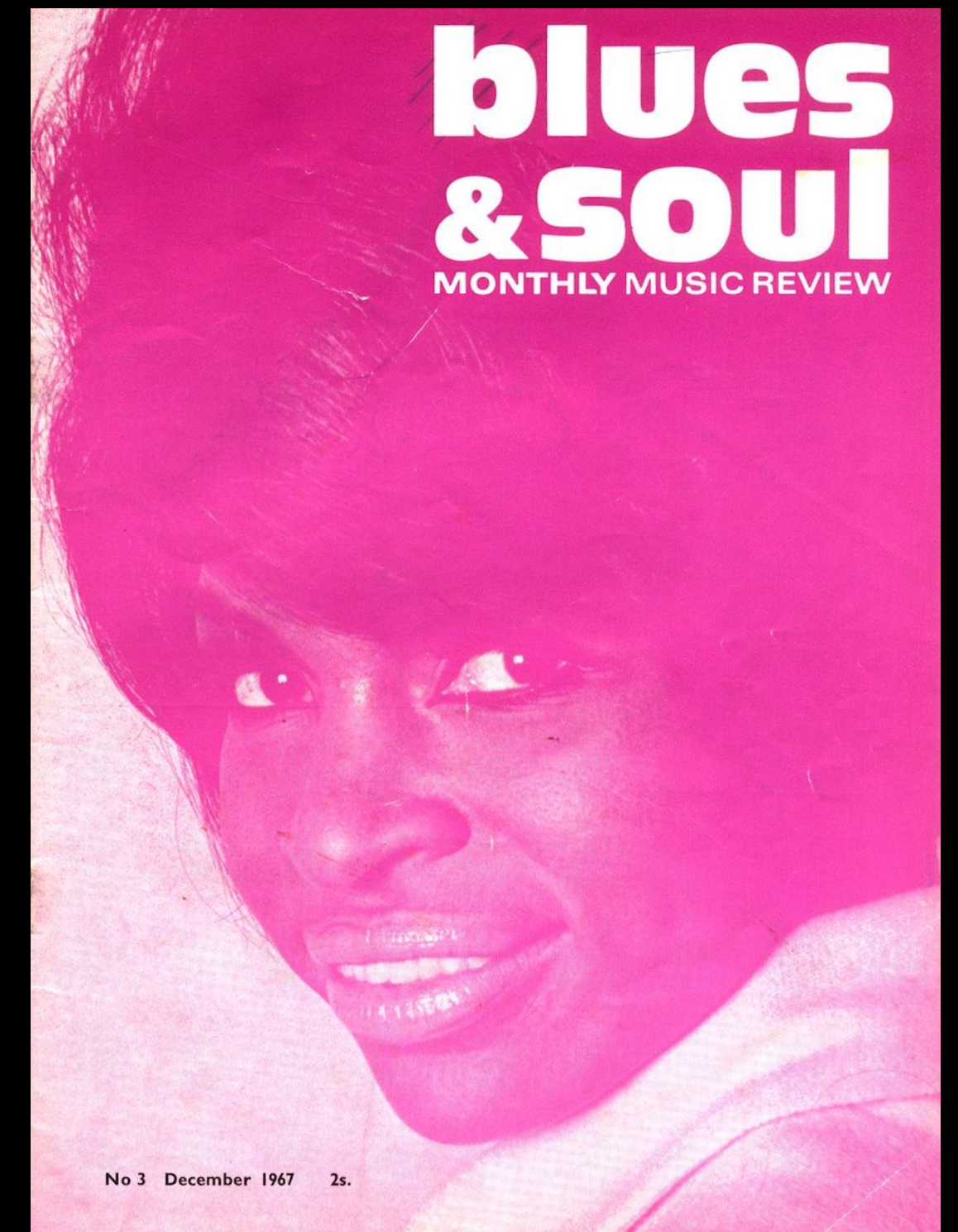
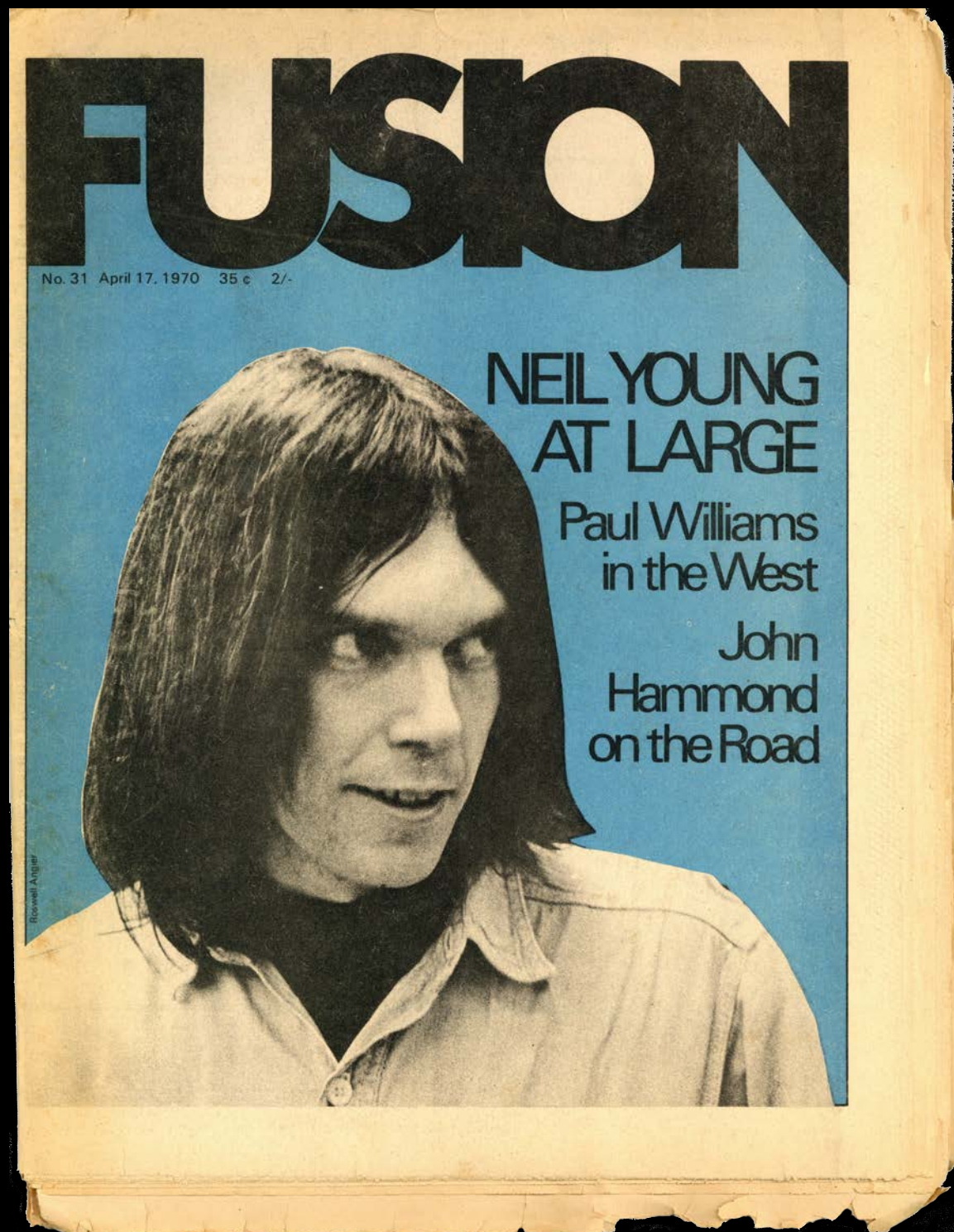
Rock's Backpages features the work of many of the world's best-known music journalists past and present, including **Lester Bangs**, **Richard Goldstein**, **Vivien Goldman**, **Nick Kent**, **Michael Lydon**, **Greil Marcus** and **Penny Valentine**.





# background: publications

The archive draws on a wide range of publications, from *Crawdaddy* and *Mojo Navigator* in the mid-1960s to *Echoes* and *Stylus* in the 2000s.





# *background: artists*

Rock's Backpages contains over 50,000 articles about artists from **Aaliyah** to **ZZ Top**, including **Aretha Franklin**, **The Beatles**, **Beyoncé**, **David Bowie**, **Jay-Z**, **Madonna**, **Bob Marley**, **Patti Smith**, **Prince** and **The Rolling Stones**.





# *content: articles*

The articles are **full text** and **primary-source**.

The archive can be searched by **artist, date, genre, publication, piece type, subject** and **keyword**.

There are **interviews, reviews, essays, obituaries** and more.

Enter search text:

To search for precise terms or phrases, it is advisable to place quote marks at either end of the phrase.

Published between:  
 and

About:

Written by:

Published in:

Piece type:

In format:

Order by:



# *content: audio interviews*

The archive contains over 800 **audio interviews**, which can be streamed or downloaded as mp3s.



These come **direct** from authors' own recorded tapes and we frequently have the subsequently written article in the archive.



# using the archive library page

Search for an **artist**, **writer** or **publication**

- using the dropdown menus,
- browsing a **full A-Z list**, or
- using the global quick search.



## Welcome to the library

- Search all 50,000+ articles using *Quick Search* or the drop-down menus below, clicking on article titles to read them.
- Individual subscribers will be asked for *username and password* (unless already entered). All other articles are then available for reading.
- All content on the site is the property of Backpages and protected by **copyright laws**.

### Quick search

[Advanced search](#)

### Search by ARTIST

Artists A-B

Artists C-D

Artists E-J

Artists K-N

Artists O-R

Artists S-T

Artists U-Z

Artists by number

Click for the [full A-Z list of artists](#)

### Search by AUDIO INTERVIEW

Audio Interviews

### Search by WRITER

Writers

Click for the [full A-Z list of writers](#)

### Search by SUBJECTS & GENRES

### New for Subscribers

#### AUDIO INTERVIEW

Martin Aston hears about new album *Change of Season* and ex-manager Tommy Mottola from **Daryl Hall and John Oates** (*Rock's Backpages audio*, 1990)

See all [audio interviews](#)

#### FEATURES AND INTERVIEWS

Maureen Cleave meets Liverpool's "gear girl" **Cilla Black** (*The Evening Standard*, 1963)

Richard Green catches up with **Spencer Davis** (*Record Mirror*, 1965)

Mike Oberman has a chat with **Janis Joplin** (*Evening Star, The* (Washington DC), 1968)

Valerie Mabbs interviews **the Hollies' Allan Clarke** (*Record Mirror*, 1970)

From sessions to solo albums: Keith Altham talks to **Ry Cooder** (*New Musical Express*, 1972)

Pete Makowski hears a litany of complaints from **Steve Harley** (*Sounds*, 1974)

Tom Vickers ventures into the heart of **Parliament-Funkadelic** (*Rolling Stone*, 1976)

Mark Bliesener meets **Little Feat's Paul Barrere** (*Rocket*, 1978)



## The Beatles



500 articles

### Free articles

#### **What Causes Beatlemania?**

Report by Eden, *KRLA Beat*, 9 October 1965

*YOU'VE SEEN it hundreds of times before — in mob scenes at airports, in screaming crowds of fans at concerts, even in one's and two's ...*

#### **The Beatles: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**

Review by Charles Shaar Murray, *Q*, July 1987

*AND ONCE THE tumult and the shouting have died, and life returns to something resembling normality... Sgt. Pepper remains a central pillar of the mythology ...*

### Audio interviews

#### **Paul McCartney (2003)**

Interview by Johnny Black, *Rock's Backpages audio*, 14 March 2003

*A long, free-flowing conversation, during which Paul talks about Phil Spector and Let It Be, on his relationship with Yoko and the "whose name first" saga, and the deaths of John Lennon and George Harrison, plus much more.*

File format: mp3; file size: 75.8mb, total interview length: 1h 22' 44" sound quality: \*\*\*\*

# *using the archive artist pages*

Each **artist** has their own page,  
with an image of the artist or  
one of their albums.

For popular artists, there are usually a  
few free articles, followed by any audio  
interviews and then a full list of articles.

Sort articles by date, by writer or by  
most recently added to find out what's  
new since your last visit to RBP.



## Caroline Boucher

Caroline Boucher has been the deputy editor of *Observer Food Monthly* and *Observer Woman*. Trained on a local paper in Kent, her career in the music press happened solely thanks to David Hughes, who'd left the *Kent Messenger* to join *Disc and Music Echo* and found her a job there. She left in the early '70s to work as an in-house PR for Elton John at Rocket Records (replacing Penny Valentine, who became head of A&R) and left in 1976 to have children. She is married to music business lawyer Robert Lee (of 'Virginia Plain' fame).



Beefheart talks to Caroline Boucher

### Caroline on the RBP podcast

61 articles

### List of articles in the library

By date | [By artist](#) | [Most recently added](#)

### The Beatles, George Harrison: Beatle Wife Pattie Sets Up Shop...

Interview by Caroline Boucher, *Disc and Music Echo*, 3 August 1968

*PATTIE BOYD*, a regular customer of the Chelsea Antique Market, changed sides of the counter last week when she opened her own stall there. ...

### Bonzo Dog Band: Urban Spacemen DO Exist! The Mad, Mad Mad World Of The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band

Interview by Caroline Boucher, *Disc and Music Echo*, 30 November 1968

# *using the archive writer pages*

Each **writer** has their own page, featuring a short biography and links to their online presence where available.

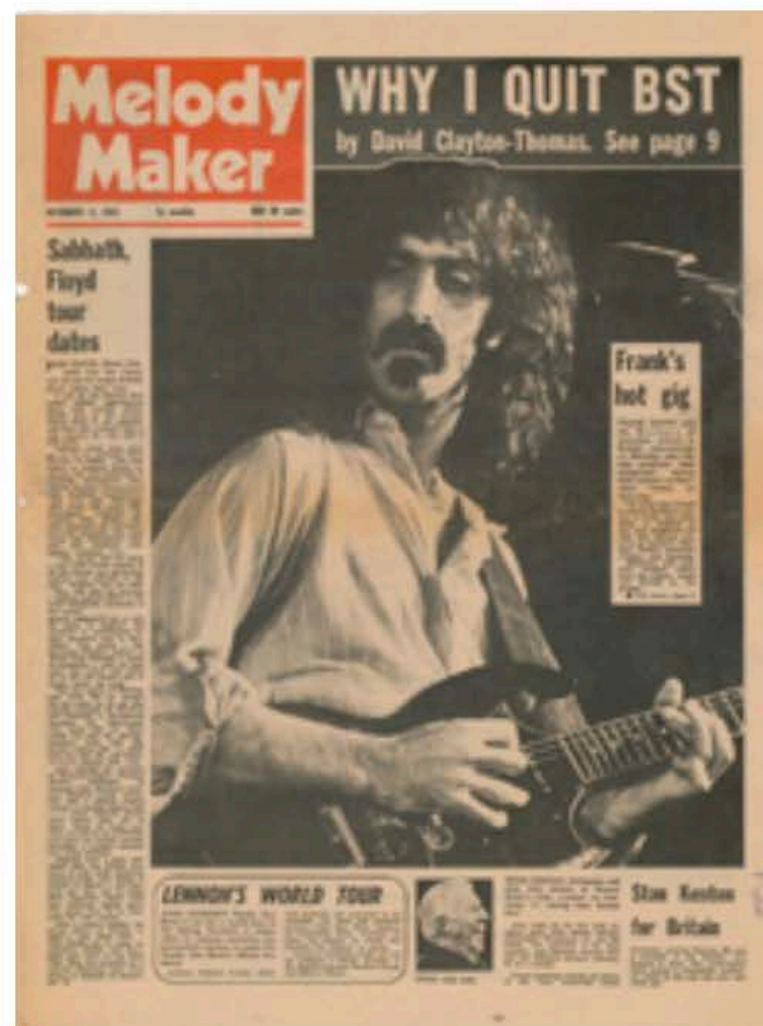
When writers have appeared as guests on our podcast, there will also be a direct link to their episode.

Sort articles by date, by artist or by most recently added to find out what's new since your last visit to RBP.



## Melody Maker

*Melody Maker* was for many years one of the leading UK weekly pop and rock music newspapers. It was founded in 1926, largely as a magazine for dance band musicians, and in the 1950s and 1960s gradually switched its focus from jazz to popular music. A serious decline in sales in the 1990s led to its absorption in 2000 by *New Musical Express*, one of its competitors which shared the same publisher – *IPC Media*.



4,428 articles

List of articles in the library

By date | [By artist](#) | [Most recently added](#)

**Hoagy Carmichael: The 'Old Music Master' says "I've no patience at all with the Narrow Jazz Boys"**

Interview by Max Jones, *Melody Maker*, 14 August 1948

*A first-hand character impression of HOAGY CARMICHAEL ...*

**Lonnie Johnson: They don't listen today unless you play loud says Lonnie Johnson, the blues singer with electric box**

Interview by Max Jones, *Melody Maker*, 5 July 1952

*"HOW LONG have you had that Gibson electric guitar?" I asked Lonnie Johnson when he came round to my flat to hear some of his*

*using the archive  
publication pages*

Each **publication** has its own page, usually with some information and an example image of the cover.

Articles are sourced from national newspapers, magazines, fanzines and websites from all around the world.

Sort articles by date, by writer or by most recently added to find out what's new since your last visit to RBP.



## Subjects and genres featured in the Library

### Subjects

Australasian Music

Backstage: groupies, riders etc.

Cultural studies and theory

Drugs and alcohol

Fans, Record Collecting etc.

Fashion, art, and design

Festivals and events

Films, docs, video, TV and theatre

Instrumentals

Instruments

Journalists, authors and publications

LGBTQ+

Mods

Music and the Internet

Music Business, The

Novelty records

Photography

### Genres

2-Tone

Americana, Alt.Country

AOR

Art Rock and avant-garde

Blues and Rhythm & Blues

Boy Bands

Britpop

Cajun, Zydeco

Chart Pop

Chicano Rock

Christian rock

Comedy

Country, Country Rock and Bluegrass

Dance (Disco, House, Techno, EDM)

Doo Wop and Vocal Groups

Electronica and Synthpop

Emo

# *using the archive subjects & genres*

Browse by **subject** or by **genre**  
to explore the history of music and  
popular culture.

Each subject and genre has its own  
page sorted by date, presenting a  
chronology of a topic.

Most articles will be contemporary to  
the issue in question, providing a  
unique perspective on the past.



# *using the archive advanced search*

Advanced **faceted searching** allows you to drill down into specifics about a given artist, time period or publication.

For example, one could narrow down a search to

between 1960 and 1970 >

festivals and events >

report >

text >

resulting in festival reports from the 1960s.

The screenshot shows the 'rock's backpage library' website's advanced search page. The page is divided into a left sidebar with navigation links and a main content area for the search form. The sidebar includes sections for 'subscriptions' (institutional, personal), 'archive' (library, free articles, audio interviews, podcast, artists, subjects & genres, publications, writers), and 'info' (about us, contact us, for librarians, licensing, magazine archive, press room). The main content area is titled 'Advanced Search' and features a search text input field, a 'Published between' range selector (1900 to 2023), dropdown menus for 'About' (Any subject/genre), 'Written by' (Any writer), 'Published in' (Any publication), and 'Piece type' (Any type), a dropdown for 'In format' (Any type), and a dropdown for 'Order by' (Relevance). A 'Search' button and a 'back to LIBRARY' link are also present.

**rock's backpage library**

subscriptions  
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audio interviews  
podcast  
artists  
subjects & genres  
publications  
writers

info  
about us  
contact us  
for librarians  
licensing  
magazine archive  
press room

### Advanced Search

Enter search text:

Published between:  
1900 and 2023

About:  
Any subject/genre

Written by:  
Any writer

Published in:  
Any publication

Piece type:  
Any type

In format:  
Any type

Order by:  
Relevance

Search

back to LIBRARY



# our podcast

There are over 150 episodes of the **Rock's Backpages podcast** for you to enjoy, featuring exclusive audio clips and interviews with guests including Neil Tennant, Mary Harron and many more.



Listen on **Apple Podcasts**

Listen on **Google Podcasts**

LISTEN ON **Spotify**



**E12: JENNIFER OTTER BICKERDIKE ON BIG STAR + PREFAB SPROUT**



**E63: NEIL TENNANT ON SMASH HITS + PET SHOP BOYS + ANDY WEATHERALL**



**E105: NELSON GEORGE ON THE DEATH OF R&B + JIMMY JAM AND TERRY LEWIS AUDIO**



**E120: KATE MOSSMAN ON JONI MITCHELL + LOU REED + MORRISSEY & MARR**



# *resources: tech*

- **Institutional access** via IP Registration, Referring URL, Shibboleth and Library Card log-in.
- **Usage statistics** have been upgraded to Counter Compliant Level 5.
- **Auto-citations** in multiple styles including Harvard, MLA, Chicago and APA for easy referencing.
- **Discoverable** via EBSCO Discovery Services and ProQuest Summon.





# *resources: community*

## Instagram

[instagram.com/rocksbackpages](https://www.instagram.com/rocksbackpages)



**facebook**

[facebook.com/groups/rocksbackpages](https://www.facebook.com/groups/rocksbackpages)



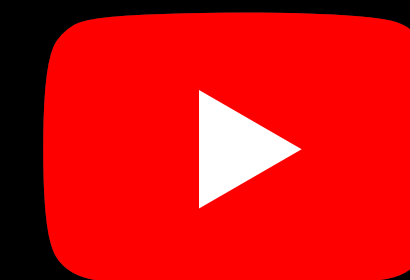
## TikTok

[tiktok.com/@rocks.backpages](https://www.tiktok.com/@rocks.backpages)



## YouTube

[youtube.com/c/rocksbackpages](https://www.youtube.com/c/rocksbackpages)





## *resources: librarians' info*

*rocksbackpages.com*

**the archive of music journalism**

Over 50,000 articles on artists from Aaliyah to ZZ Top, by pop's greatest writers.

access your **account administration**

view your **license agreement**

find out about **access methods**

obtain **promotional materials**

## *resources: press room*

**The Telegraph**

**theguardian**

**Entertainment**  
WEEKLY

find information about **RBP**

read reviews of the site

download **RBP** logos and banners



# *resources: testimonials*

"No student of popular music interested in doing substantive research can afford to be without Rock's Backpages. It's an invaluable tool and above all else a great treasure trove of sophisticated writing."

**Jason King**

*Academic Director, Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music*

"Rock's Backpages is a valuable resource, because it's the only one of its kind. [...] It benefits not only music students and faculty, but those studying and researching journalism, history, English and pop culture."

**Lori Widzinski**

*Head of Multimedia and Music Collections and Services, May 2017*

"This is the best resource we have ever subscribed to. It's had a great impact on our library, especially for younger users — you need this!"

**Jo Guidice**

*Director of Libraries, City of Dallas*

"For the record, let me reiterate that this is an indispensable research tool in the study of popular music. I use it all the time, and assign it regularly to students at all levels."

**Robert Fink**

*Chair of Music Industry Program, Vice-Chair of the Faculty, August 2016*

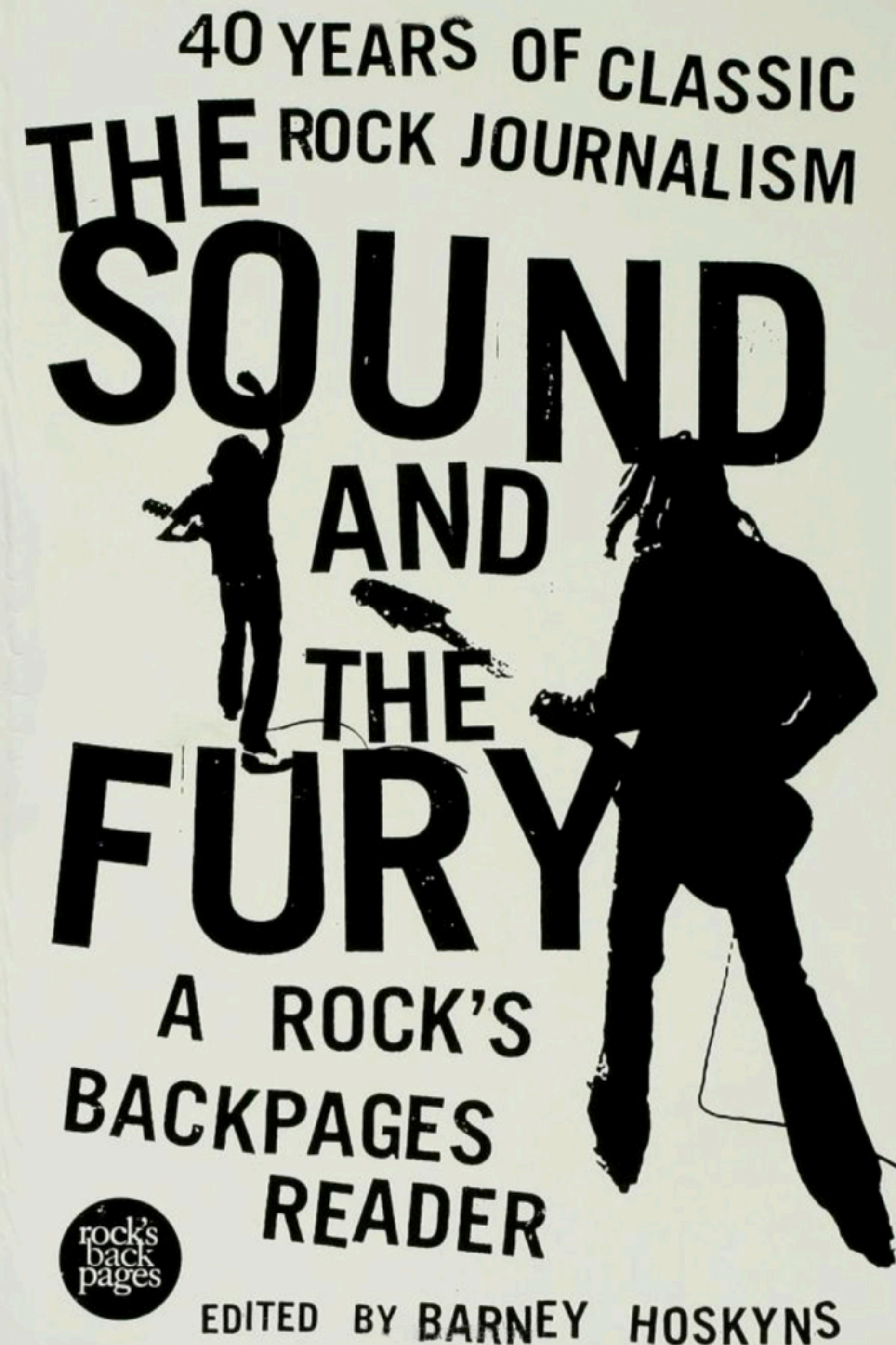


*find out more*

**Rock's Backpages** is available by annual subscription and perpetual access purchase, with pricing based on the size and type of your institution.

Email [info@rocksbackpages.com](mailto:info@rocksbackpages.com) to request a **free trial** (academic institutions only, for the purposes of evaluation).

We offer large discounts for consortia and group purchasing. Multi-year subscription agreements are available.







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