

**Shoot Out the Lights?**

Yeah, *Shoot Out the Lights. Amnesia*. I love those albums.

**You kinda already hit on this, but I noticed here in your bio that you shared a bill with Richard Thompson.**

Yeah.

**What are some thoughts on him?**

[laughing] I--I think Richard is pretty brilliant, y'know. I like his stuff a lot. I particularly liked to see him play his stuff solo; I think it makes him stretch out a little bit more, and also it's not something that you get to hear very often so it's a real treat. The show we did was at a very big theatre in London and I was very nervous, so in terms of my own performance I didn't feel real centred in it, but when I finished I could sit back and watch what Richard was doing. It was quite brilliant. I have a lot of respect for him. I wouldn't say his new album *Rumor and Sigh* is one of my favourites, but it's probably the one that will do the best for him in a long time.

**Who are some vocalists you admire?**

[long pause] Oh, I just got an early, early Frank Sinatra album called *In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning* and I love it, I love the way he sings. Maybe more contemporary, I like the way Stevie Ray Vaughn sings a lot. Actually, I listened to a Colin James song on the radio the other day, and I was quite blown away by the way he sang it. Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James--I could go on and on.

**I've been thinking about a few guys who are musically related to you in some way or another, and I was just going to rhyme a few off and you can talk about them and say if they were an influence on you or whatever.**

Sure.

**Okay... Paul Simon.**

Yeah. Paul Simon was an influence when I first started really picking up the guitar and learning. There's a point where you try to pick up a whole repertoire of stuff to be playing at lounges and stuff and I learned a lot of his songs. I was learning his picking style and chords--he's a very complex guitarist, a real underrated guitarist. I picked up his way of finger picking and his use of voicings and stuff like that.

**Bob Dylan.**

Yeah, well actually, just before I phoned you up, I got the Bootleg Series boxed set and I've been listening to that. I think I've been influenced by him in several

different ways. I mean there's the obvious: you sit down, you listen to a Bob Dylan record, and you go, "God, how does he write these songs?!". Some of them are so good, they're just so good. I love the tune "It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry." It's just a brilliant song. But I've never sat down and learned a whole chunk of Bob Dylan material. I think I could sing you probably three of his songs and that's it. But you can be influenced by Bob Dylan directly or you can be influenced by all the other people

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who have been influenced by Bob Dylan. I'm sure John Martin was influenced by Bob Dylan. I'm sure Richard Thompson was. And Paul Simon. If you're interested in songwriting, you just have to go to Bob Dylan. He's someone who amalgamated and created a lot of new things, there's no doubt.

**This one's pretty far out, but I was wondering if there was any Van Morrison in there?**

Yeah, that's a lesser one, but it's certainly someone I admire. I saw him in Dublin at Christmas while I was over in Ireland. I've learned some of his material, but it's only been recently, like in the last year, that I started really going back and listening and appreciat-