BJF Newsletter No 14, August 2023

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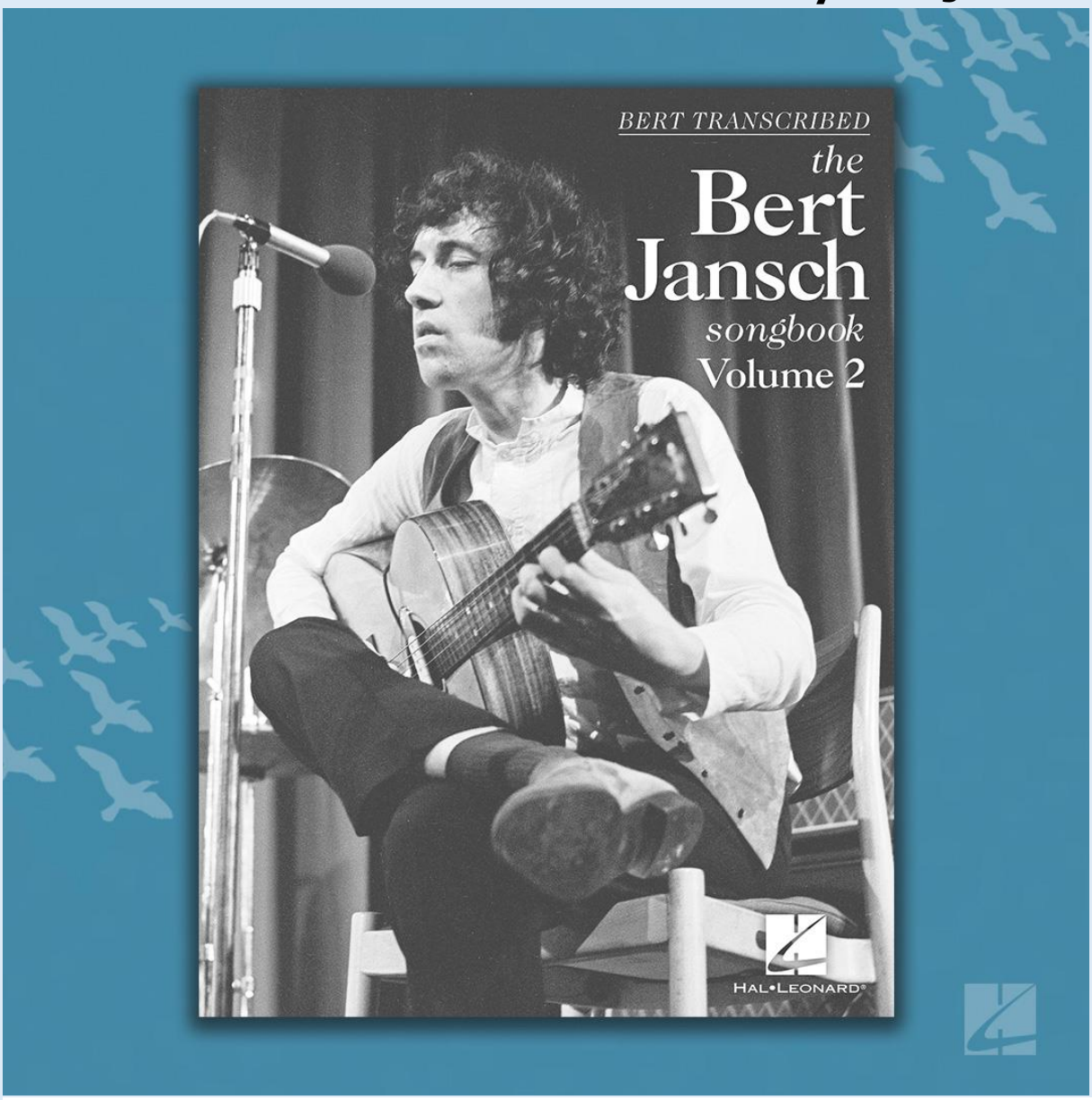
Bert Transcribed Volume 2 – out today 25 August 2003



Bert Transcribed — The Bert Jansch Songbook, Volume 2 is published by Hal Leonard. You can get volume 2 on Musicroom & Amazon

Bert Transcribed Volume 2, with a further 30 of Bert's iconic songs, has arrived on the shelves. It has been several years in preparation by a crack international team of transcribers working with BJF Head of Transcriptions **Jon Riley**. They have

meticulously played through, listened to recordings and watched videos; comparing and contrasting all possibilities until they were sure they had the 'optimum' transcription. Special for Volume 2, Jon discovered a friend, Mel James, who had worked with Bert in the late 1980s and early '90s in trying to capture his music in written form. Even though the software at the time was very limited – it gave Jon and the team an insight into what Bert really wanted to achieve. So, we can safely say this is book the closest one can possibly get to having Bert's music accurately transcribed.

Reviewers of Volume 1, published five years ago, said:

'This book is, without a doubt, the best I have ever seen. Thorough, organized and beautiful... it is easy to see that a lot of thought and love went into its creation. Thank-you very much.'

'Every level is catered for, some really simple some more challenging. Great book 10/10 excellent.'

'Oh god I love Bert Jansch's music so much and the folks over at the Bert Jansch Foundation have done a wonderful job transcribing this. Everything about this book is just awesome.'

'A truly great transcription benefitting befitting a truly great musician. Well done all involved and can't wait for volume II!'

I am sure Volume 2 will more than fulfil expectations. It has thirty more songs to get your teeth into, your fingers around, and enjoy. Volumes 1 and 2 are published exclusively by Hal Leonard and are available to purchase here: **Musicroom** & **Amazon**

As with Volume 1, this book has a comprehensive introduction giving insight into Jansch's unique sound. with its copious notes, quotes and photos, this covers every aspect of Bert's ground-breaking style and technique. It includes guitar tab, standard notation, chord symbols, guitar chord boxes, melody line and lyrics. The songs are prefaced by extensive background notes and there is performance analysis for every song.

The Songs included in Bert Transcribed Volume 2

Alphabetical list with the album they are from, the year they came out, and the page number. We hope you like our choices for Vol 2.

Ask Your Daddy Thirteen Down, 1980 123

Carnival Toy Balloon, 1998 144

Come Back Baby Nicola, 1967 58

Courting Blues Bert Jansch, 1965 20

Daybreak A Rare Conundrum, 1977 113

Downunder Crimson Moon, 2000 155

Go Your Way My Love Nicola, 1967 66

High Days The Black Swan, 2006 159

I Am Lonely Birthday Blues, 1969 78
It Don't Bother Me It Don't Bother Me, 1965 35
The January Man Moonshine, 1973 106
Kingfisher Avocet, 1979 118
Love Is Teasing (12-string version) Nicola, 1967 72
Love Is Teasing (6-string version) Nicola, 1967 75
M'Lady Nancy Rosemary Lane, 1971 92
Morning Brings Peace of Mind When the Circus Comes to Town, 1995 140
My Pocket's Empty (Empty Pocket Blues) The Black Swan, 2006 164
No Exit Bert and John, 1966 44
Oh How your Love Is Strong Bert Jansch, 1965 26
The Old Triangle The Black Swan, 2006 170
One for Jo L.A. Turnaround, 1974 110
The Road Tae Dundee The Ornament Tree, 1990 134
Rosemary Lane Rosemary Lane, 1971 98
Tell Me What Is True Love Rosemary Lane, 1971 101
The Time Has Come Bert and John, 1966 52
Toy Balloon Toy Balloon, 1998 150
Veronica (The Casbah) Bert Jansch, 1965 30
The Wheel It Don't Bother Me, 1965 40
Wild Mountain Thyme Heartbreak/Live at McCabe's, 1982 128
Wishing Well Birthday Blues, 1969 81
A Woman Like You Birthday Blues, 1969 86

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'BJF Bert Transcribed' YouTube Playlist – with Jon Riley

If you would like some help working your way through the songs in Bert Transcribed Volume 2 (or indeed Volume 1) go to the BJF Bert Transcribed YouTube playlist, where Jon Riley, our BJF Head of the Transcriptions, will be uploading demos and tutorials on some of the tunes in the books. If you have any particular queries or requests, contact Jon by leaving a comment on the playlist. He will try to help. See it here: BJF Bert Transcribed Playlist

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Online Workshops later in the year.

We plan to run some online and live in-person workshops on some of the songs in Volume 2 in the coming months. Let us know if you would be interested in joining by emailing info@bertjanschfoundation.org.

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Bert's 80th Birthday Concert, 4 November

To celebrate 80 years of Bert and his music, at would have been his 80th birthday in November, Eat Your Own Ears and Earth Recordings with The Bert Jansch Foundation are presenting an **80th Birthday concert** at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre on Saturday 4 November 2023.

Participating will be amazing artists including **Bernard Butler**, **Brigid Mae Power** & **Steve Gunn**, **Pentangle's Jacqui McShee** with **Mike Piggott & Kevin Dempsey**, **James Yorkston** & **Ranjana Ghatak**, **Kathryn Williams**, **Martin Simpson & Louis Campbell**, @**Sam Lee** and **Sarathy Korwar**.

Robert Plant with his band Saving Grace, will participate once more. Considered one of the greatest rock vocalists since his early days with Led Zeppelin, Robert has been a faithful admirer of Bert and his music for decades. He joined fellow artists in December 2013 to perform at the **Bert Jansch tribute** at the **Royal Festival Hall** commemorating what would have been Bert's 70th birthday. He performed for Bert again in **2016** with his band the Sensational Space Shifters at the Bert Inspired concerts in the **Celtic Connections** where he sang 'Poison'.

Robert said about Bert: 'Bert's beautiful work has always been an important accompaniment to my life and times. His melding of styles and his influence have been enormous and longstanding.' On Robert's recent album with Alison Krauss, *Raise the Roof*, he has included a cover of Bert's 'It Don't Bother Me' and also 'Go Your Way' which Bert co-wrote with Anne Briggs. Robert's post about 'Poison' with a picture of Bert Jansch on his Facebook page has produced a flurry of response. Thanks Robert, we at the Bert Jansch Foundation treasure that you care so much about Bert and his music.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Royal Festival Hall on 4 November.

Tickets are on sale from: https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/.../80th-birthday...

Also, keep your eyes and ears peeled to hear about an event at Rough Trade East, celebrating Bert's actual birthday on Friday 3 November.

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Bert Jansch Wallpaper rolls for sale

To celebrate the 80th birthday of Bert Jansch BJF has created some exclusive 'Wallpaper' consisting of a compilation or photos, album covers, tickets and posters all about Bert Jansch throughout his career (see below). The size of this is: width 62cms wide and the Height 130cm. it won't exactly cover a wall – but it would look grand on the back of a door for instance. We are offering just ten of these rolls at £50 each to the first comers. Contact info@bertjanschfoundation.org with the subject Wallpaper please. Make your payment on the donate button on the Bert Jansch Foundation Facebook page:
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BERT JANSCH
BERT JANSCH
GUITAR HERO
BERT JANSCH
GARY DAVIS
BERT JANSCH
BERT JANSCH

'For Bert Jansch: Around the World in 80 Plays':

The amazing 5-year journey of five guitars concludes. In this Newsletter, we reveal of the travels of the 'Johnny' Guitar.

Five of Bert's favourite type of Yamaha Guitar have been travelling around the world for the last five years from artist to artist. Each artist has spoken of their admiration for Bert and how his music has shaped their own musicality and even changed their lives. Each artist has played a piece of music meaningful to them. Sometimes it is their interpretation of one of Bert's pieces, and some have played an original composition that they feel is inspired by Bert.

It all started on Bert's 75th birthday, at a party hosted by Yamaha in Soho in December 2018. And now for his 80th in November 2023 all the guitars are coming home.

The 'Johnny' Guitar was so named for Johnny Marr, who is photographed (above) playing with Bert, on Bert's sofa in Kilburn.

80 plays website

The dedicated website for 80 plays is a font of endless discovery and enjoyment as you watch and listen to what all these amazing artists ranging from 17 to over 70 years old, have come up with, and the sometimes-surprising things that they say about Bert. What is special for the Foundation to see is the number of young players, some only teenagers, hooked and inspired by the music of Bert Jansch. To see and hear them click here: https://80plays.bertjanschfoundation.org/

The Journey of the 'Johnny' Guitar

Jonny Marr initiated the whole project and passed the guitar on to his friend Bernard Butler who brought it to the launch party. It was taken home by young Louis de Beaumont and it hung around in London for a while, being enthusiastically played by him and his mates Gabriel Kazz and Ben Murphie. It then passed into the hands of rising star Dariush Kanani (left). Dariush, is one of the Bert Jansch Foundation's 'Featured Artists'. He has rapidly risen to become BJF Head of Workshops. Dariush has also been appointed as a revered tutor on the Renbourn residential workshops and this Autumn will be a tourmate of distinguished guitarist Clive Carroll.

The 'Johnny's next step was to hop over the North Sea to appear on a Folk Radio show on Belgium's No 1 Radio Station, hosted by Ronald Verhaegen. It was played by Frank van der Linden and Neeka. (left)

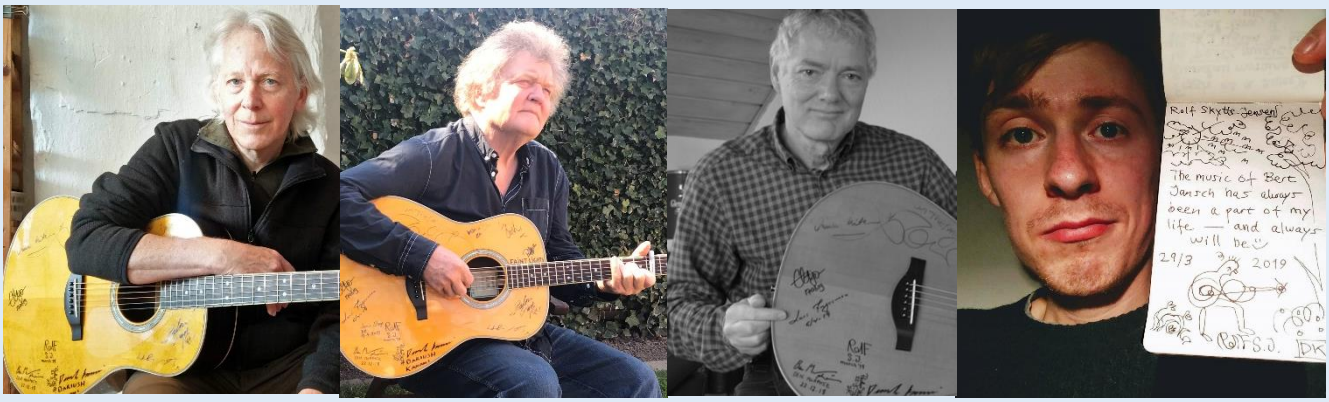
Johnny then crossed to Holland to Faint lights, in Delft, a group who had written a special song for Bert when he passed away (right).

It was then given a through play by Eltjo Haselhoff (below), in Eindhoven before travelling north to Denmark.

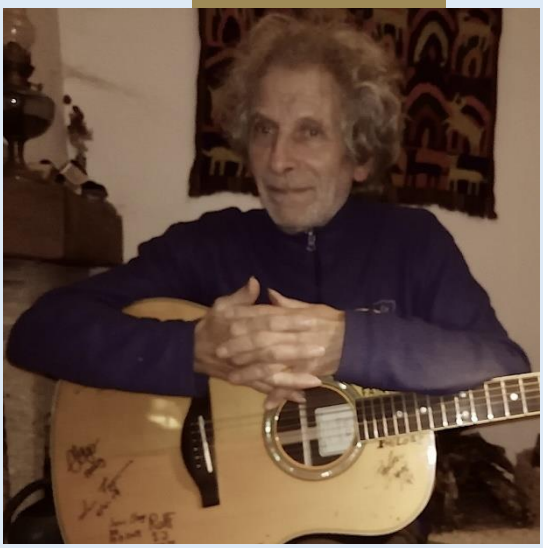
‘Jonny’ Goes to Denmark

Bert had made several tours to, and a big impression in Denmark. The words that the Danes, Peder and Rolf Skytte as well as Jens Stage and Lars Ingesman have used to describe Bert’s influence on them are truly poetic. ‘All was expression – and always a human vibration’.

Below we see Peder Skytte, Jens Stage, Lars Ingesman and Rolf Skytte Jensen.



‘Johnny’ then goes to France



The famous Pierre Lebras in France, known for his ‘old Picker’ YouTube channel, is a respected portrayer of Bert’s music. He was persuaded to take a turn in what he called ‘The Chain Gang’ of Bert admirers. He played four of his favourite Bert / Bert & John pieces for his video: *Springtime Promises/Soho/Of Love & Lullaby/Sylvie*. These he intersperses with sips of wine and amusing stories of his visits to London in the 60s to hang out around the Folkie venues. Pierre then passed the guitar on to his friends Philippe Rouquie and Didier Begon. The late Pascal Froissart also had a turn.

All was going swimmingly until March 2020, when everything in the world came to a standstill. The guitars were also locked down – but somehow the artists made the most of having the Yamaha TransAcoustic stuck with them. We have several lockdown recordings from all the guitars. In France the lucky keeper of the Johnny Guitar in lockdown was Johnson Hogg.

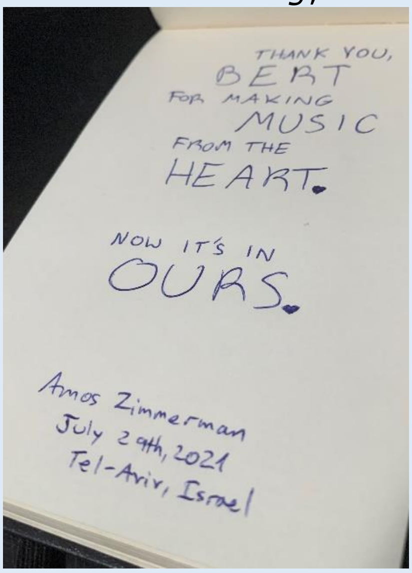
Fittingly, Johnson took the guitar to be photographed with him at the Jules Verne Museum. (Verne who of course wrote ‘Around the World in 80 Days’).

Having ample time with the guitar, Johnson Hogg gives a fabulous rendition of Chambertin (not the only one on the journey mind you) and also of *Blackwaterside*, (one of several on the journey) also *Back Home* and *M'Lady Nancy* – all immensely pleasing and watchable on his page here: Johnson Hogg on 80 Plays

The 'Johnny' goes to Italy and Israel

When the guitar finally moved on, in November 2020 it went to Italy to a young student Luca Barbaglia, nominated by somebody in America.

From Milan it was shipped to Beer Sheva in Israel to the wonderful Nir Melman who had been playing and teaching Bert's material for several years. Here on our #ForBertJansch YouTube channel, Nir plays *Rosemary Lane* and *Birdsong*, from the Rosemary Lane Album. Nir and several others (including Pierre most emphatically) say that this is their favourite Bert Jansch album. Nir on For Bert Jansch



The guitar then went to Tel Aviv to Amos Zimmerman who played his own composition, *Rabbit Hole* and Bert's *Oh How Your Love is Strong*. He poignantly wrote in the travel diary that accompanies each guitar: 'Thank you Bert for making Music from the Heart – Now it is in Ours'.

From Israel, the guitar went back to Luca in Italy who wanted to re-record his song and also get his father Mario to play on it for the journey. Before doing so, Luca lent the guitar to Buck Curren in Bergamo to record a song. And before it came back to Luca in Milan two other Italians, Andrea Valeri from Tuscany (who at 18 had won the title of 'Prince of the Acoustic Guitar'), and Komil Wysocki from Parma (originally from Poland) had rushed up to Bergamo one weekend and each took it out for a day and played on it. Komil took it to a beautiful lakeside location to play his Bert inspired piece: 'Jolly Cricket'. You can see him here on the YouTube channel Komil and Jolly Cricket by the Lakeside.

The 'Johnny' guitar is still with Luca in Milan, awaiting a passage home soon.

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The other 4 guitars have had equally glittering and interesting journeys which we will feature in future Newsletters. The '**Graham Guitar,** so named for Graham Coxon, who took it to California, has been up and down the West Coast of the USA and over to New York where it was played by David Bowie's MD Gerry Leonard, who did a marvellous mashup of Bert's *Anjie* and David's *My Jeanie.* David Nigel Lloyd, who managed its journey in The States handed it
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back to me at Highgate Cemetery, by Bert and Loren's Grave, playing a tune softly on it for them. The **'Wildcard Guitar'** came back to Adam Jansch at the Bert Jansch Studio in Frome. It has been to Ireland and Scotland and right down to the tip of Cornwall. It spent last summer touring Folk Festivals in the West Country with Reg Meuross, gathering signatures from Pete Townshend and Maddy Prior. The **'Pilgrim Guitar'** started off at Paul Weller's Black Barn Studios in Surrey with Steve Pilgrim and Bert's old mate Danny Thompson and has travelled up via Harwich, and Derbyshire and spent quite a lot of time in Glasgow**.** The **'Beth Guitar'** is still in Beth Orton's hands, ready for her to do her song and hand it back to Karen.

We hope to announce a homecoming party to which all artists who have been on the journey will be welcome.

Bandcamp Album: For Bert Jansch

A selection of artists featured on the 80 plays project have been asked to contribute a piece to a first compilation album to be released in autumn on Bandcamp. Nore information from info@bertjanschfoundation.org.

Join the BJF Newsletter Mailing list.

For more news of activity, publications and workshops, please ensure you are on the mailing list and please forward to any others who might be interested so they can sign up at info@bertjanschfoundation.org.

You can also see what is happening on the Bert Jansch Foundation website www.bertjanschfoundation.org and also on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/bertjanschfoundation

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Compiled by
Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, August 2023

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