

SPOONS



DON'T BLAME ME!

by
ROB PREUSS

When I was five years old, my dad bought a piano so he could play his favourite German songs. It was his music and the theme song from the Banana Splits TV show that inspired me to start taking piano lessons. That was 1971. Music became an important part of my life, and I still remember some of my favourite songs. One of the first pop songs I learned how to play was The Entertainer by Scott Joplin. Because I was only 8, my dad had to help me with some of the notes and when I finally learned it perfectly, I decided to play it for my teacher, however she was mad because she thought I was playing music too advanced for my ability.

In 1975, I went to Germany with my family for the summer, my cousin Robert, who lived in Munich, was a record fanatic and had more records than I had ever seen in my life. He introduced me to all kinds of bands, one of which was Elton John. We'd listen to Elton all the time, and I began to take a strong interest in his style of playing the piano. I decided that when I returned to Canada I would buy some of his sheet music and learn how to play his songs.



While I was gone, my best friend Bobby Hunter had formed a band and after he had heard me playing my Elton John songs, he asked me to join. I was excited, because this was the first time I got to play along with a real drummer. We called the band The Flipside Five. We rehearsed a lot in the drummers basement, however the only show we ever played live was a party for Grade 6 Graduation. After some personal disputes (we were aged 6 - 11) we broke up, and the drummer Mike Saville, and I became a duo, we were called - you guessed it - Rob & Mike. We played everything that was popular at the time, including songs by Abba, Elton John, Queen, Carpenters, Barry Manilow and Hall & Oates. We played quite a few shows around Burlington and Hamilton area. We decided we needed a singer and a guitar player and found Jim Witter. He already knew most of our songs and we did our first show three days later - we were paid a whole \$15.00. The band was called Black Diamond, named after a song by Kiss, our favourite band at the time. We appeared on Tiny Talent Time and Big Al's Talent Showcase. The band broke up in August '78 when I tried to bring my friend Jeff Danna into the group to play rhythm guitar. None of the other band members parents liked this idea and pulled their kids out of the band.

Jeff and I stuck together and learned lots of songs from groups such as Styx, Angel, Toto and Heart. We recruited three other people and formed Galaxy. We spent most of our time in the basement but we played a few shows, including a battle of the bands - we un-



fortunately lost.

While I was in Black Diamond I got my first electric keyboards, an electric piano and a Roland SH-2000 synth (which in fact I used on the Arias & Symphonies album). Not too many people had synths around Burlington, so when Galaxy broke up I began to play with musicians who were older than me.

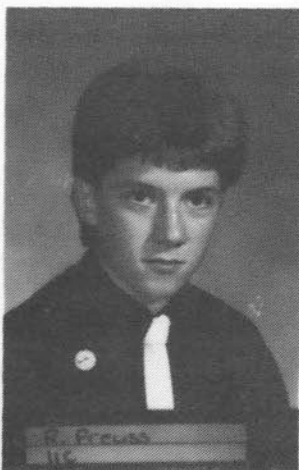
In 1979, I began to take interest in New Wave music, bands such as Gary Newman, Ultravox, Japan and the Boomtown Rats. I became obsessed with synthesizers and I decided I didn't want to play in bands anymore. I had three keyboards and a drum machine and I was happy just to stay in my room and make tapes. In the spring of 1980 my neighbour played me a tape of a band his friend was managing. They were called the Spoons (so don't blame me for the name). I thought they were great and I began to collect the posters from all their shows. In the fall I joined a band called The Filters, Jeff Danna's new band, and a couple of weeks later I began to work with a group that was made up of nine synthesizer players called Electronic-Or-



chestra, where we played synthesized classical music. Amazingly enough, I still found time to do some recording with a person by the name of Brett Wickens, who at the time was the original keyboard player for the Spoons. We worked on a tape for the CFNY Talent Search. On one song, Brett brought over Gordon Deppe to play sax, I thought it was really exciting having all these "rock stars" over at my house. Little did I know that one month later I would answer an ad that Gord put in the paper looking for a new keyboard player for the Burlington band, the Spoons. And of course, the rest is history. ▲

'TAKE THE PLUNGE'

Well a lot has happened with the band since we played at Ontario Place for four great nights this past summer. The Spoons were invited to an autograph session at Canada's Wonderland in August, which turned out to be a lot of fun, especially with the fact that it was CFNY day and we got to hang out with all our favourite DJ's from our favourite radio station. After that day, the band took a couple of months off to write some new songs and just relax with some time to ourselves. Believe me, we needed it! That break was really good for us because we had a chance to work on some great new songs like *Candy Apple*, *Cactus Heart*, *Truth Or Nothing* and a song called *Take The Plunge* which is about a girl who is sitting beside a swimming pool and she has her eyes on the life guard, "She wants to dive right in and impress the boys, but she knows that'd be



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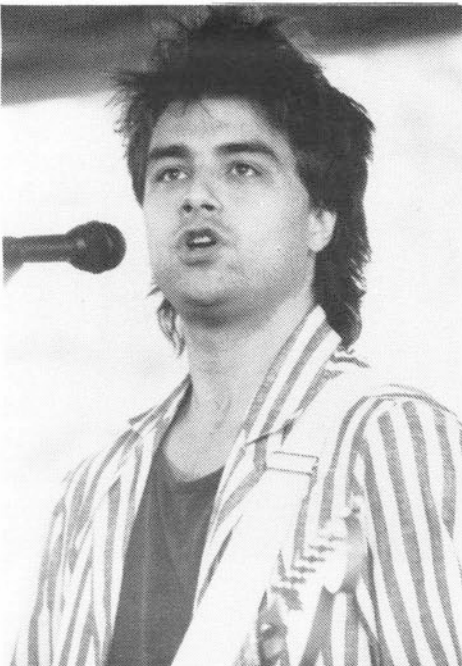
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Burlington, Ont.

the start of something." It's about not being afraid to get involved – a relationship, a job, something crazy and fun. As soon as the band started playing again in September, we did a two week tour of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia which was really wild because the fans were really supportive and enthusiastic. We also got an opportunity to appear on TV, on the "Frank Mills Thanksgiving Special" which was filmed in Ottawa. We definitely had a blast and we premiered one of the new songs *Candy Apple* which I'm sure will be a smash hit if the audience response is any indication. Finally, the Spoons played Canada's Wonderland in early October on a terrible, wet, windy night, but again the fans came through with flying colours and 6,000 people showed up. Believe me, we really appreciated the support and we'll make it up to you when you hear the new album; which we hope to start recording in late November. Hopefully it should be ready by early Spring. All in all, it's been a great Fall for us and we hope that next year will be the best year yet. Again, thanks for everything. We love you! ▲



SPOONS UPDATE

In early September, Gord was asked to produce a local Toronto band called Tall New Buildings. It was Gord's first time at producing a project outside of the Spoons. The single *Fashion In Your Eye* has been played heavily on CFNY and other campus radio stations in Southern Ontario and Montreal, It's really worth checking out!

Not only does the Spoons keep Rob busy, but so does Nile Rodgers. Nile, as most of you know produced the Talkback album for the Spoons. He invited Rob down to New York for a long weekend in August, where he appears as a special guest on the new Sheana Easton album. Rob plays on two of her tracks – *Do It For Love* and *Young Lions*. As well, that same weekend, Rob also appears in the new Nile Rodgers video for his song *State Your Mind*, look for it on your favourite video show.

In case you haven't heard, there is a special United Nations youth benefit concert in Hamilton – featuring the

Spoons and FM. Tuesday, December 17th, 1985 at the new Cops Coliseum. Tickets available at Bass. It's a great cause . . . hope to see you there. ▲

CONTEST!

Listed below are three songs of which you will choose *one* and give your interpretation of that song in 100 words or less.

- 1) Nova Heart
- 2) Old Emotions
- 3) Romantic Traffic

There will be one winner from each song category. To win you must depict Gord's original interpretation of his song. All entries will be read and judged by Gord himself. The three winners will receive their song personally hand written out by Gord and then autographed by the band to you.

Send all entries to the Spoonerhythm Network and they must be in by January 10th, 1986. Remember this is an exclusive contest just for members so have fun, and good luck!



the
SPOONERHYTHM
network

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