



ROYAL
BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

Face The Music

A tribute to ELO's Richard Tandy



featuring



with RBC Orchestra and Choir

Friday 7 November 2025

The Bradshaw Hall

Birmingham City University



To Richard Love from Jeff

BBC Radio 2
Live in Hyde Park
14/09/14

Welcome from Sheila Tandy



Richard had a great love of music, and he would have been delighted to see everyone here tonight. Especially the students who

will become the next generation following in his footsteps.

He was dedicated to playing and writing, both guitar and keyboards. It was his favourite thing. On tour, he always had a keyboard set up in the hotel room, and at the venue, he would be there early to get at least an hour to warm up.

He was also interested in science and astronomy, and was thrilled to meet Brian Cox at the O2. Richard Feynman

was another hero. Richard was reluctant to leave his home studio, but I did manage to persuade him that combining a holiday with a total eclipse would be a good idea. Cornwall was a washout, but Turkey and Queensland were spectacular.

Football was another love, he had no particular team, but would always watch

internationals, world

cups and European championships.

Richard was very kind and generous with his time, so I am happy to be sponsoring young musicians on his behalf.

I would like to

thank everyone

involved in this event who have given a lot of time and effort to make it a success.



About the performance

Tonight's performance is brought to you by a collaboration between musicians from Jeff Lynne's ELO (Big Horizon), RBC student orchestra and choir and RBC alumni. Martin Riley, RBC alumnus and self-professed ELO fan will take on the role of playing Richard's piano and keyboard parts for this special event.

An integral part of bringing this concert together is RBC alumnus Mike Stevens (saxophone), one of Big Horizon and Music Director for Jeff Lynne's ELO and Take That. His tireless efforts, along with RBC's Matthew O'Malley, have made this concert possible.

We begin with a celebration of the 50th anniversary of ELO's fifth studio album *Face the Music*. It was released in the UK on 14 November 1975 and was the first album to feature new musicians Kelly Groucutt (bass) and Melvyn Gale (cello) joining founding members Jeff Lynne, Bev Bevan, Richard Tandy and long-time members

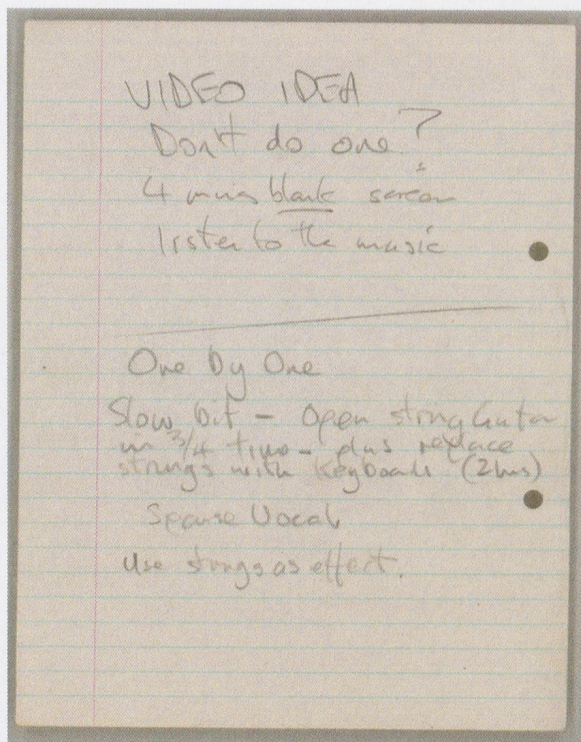
Mik Kaminski (Violin) and Hugh McDowell (cello).

We continue to celebrate and honour Richard's contribution to the music of ELO through a selection of classic ELO hits, most of which feature quintessential Tandy keyboard solos. For that authentic ELO flavour, RBC musicians will use beautifully restored historic instruments from the Tandy

archive collection, including Richard's Mini-Moog synthesiser.

The orchestra for tonight's show is conducted by special guest Louis Clark Jr, who is the son of ELO's orchestral arranger Louis Clark. Louis is also an RBC alumnus

(Music Composition, 1999) and musician with The Orchestra, alongside former ELO member Mik Kaminski. All scores used in tonight's show have been prepared from the original handwritten manuscripts from Louis Clark's own archive.



Personnel

Big Horizon

Mike Stevens musical director/guitars/backing vocals

Iain Hornall lead vocals

Jo Webb guitars/backing vocals/keyboards

Lee Pomeroy bass/backing vocals

Donovan Hepburn drums

Martin Riley piano/keyboards/mini-moog/wurlitzer (RBC)

Matthew O'Malley guitars (RBC)

RBC Orchestra

Violin I

Tehya Dawson

Jemima Soper

Jo Chambers

Louise Carey

Chloe Miller

Louis Robinson

Violin II

Zinnia Smart

Megan Wilkinson

Sarah Balfour

Nina Kopparhead

Charley Beresford

Viola

Lucie Carey

Ellen Cowan

Robyn Woolley

Jung Hee

Elly Goslyn

Helen Beecroft

Cello

Matthew Le Maistre

Helen Fitzgerald

Clare Spencer-Smith

Sean Gilder

Cath Harper

Bass

Robin Lewis

Flute

Katie Jordan

Tyler Oakes

Oboe

Seren Armstrong

Sean Massey

Clarinet

Sarah Richardson

Jonathan Parapadakis

Bassoon

Ida Hayes

Yanhan Chen

Horn

Runhang Zhong

Anna Guellner

Peter Spinner

Barnabas O'Neill

Ellie Dierckx

Trumpet

Katy Harrison

Montgomery Clark

Jak Hulse

Trombone

Seth Evarts

Isaac Bousfield

Bass trombone

Leighton King

Tuba

Ini Kuti

Harp

Holli Pandit

Timpani

Yufei Zhu

Percussion

Emma Taylor

Thomas Kelly

Junhan Gao

Owen Yarrow



RBC Choir

Soprano

Phoenix Archibald
Emily Clifford
Florence Cockerill
Jessica Handley
Genevieve Hawes
Bonita Hunnybun
Emma Kennedy
Amica Kuroda
Pengyu Zhang

Alto

Elizabeth Doran
Tyler Gorrell
Jessica Johnson
Elli-Mae McGlone
Anna Middleton
Lily Rugg
Molly Stacey
Bethany Ward
Rosie Woodhouse

Tenor

Laoise Bannon
Daniel Byron
Onyx Burkitt-Grice
Clarisse Dring
Timothy Handley
Liam Hickey

Bass

Aditya Bansriya
Joshua Cahm
Alex Godridge
Sebastian Hope
Linus Hughes
Charlie Keeling
Harry Luff
Marcus Luo
Theodore Stuart
Collin Wong

About Richard Tandy



Richard Tandy was born on 26 March 1948 and attended Moseley School where he first met future Move and ELO

drummer Bev Bevan. Richard enjoyed sport at school and was captain of the rugby team.

During the 1960s he became involved in the emerging local music scene, initially through a group called the Chantelles and collaborating with Dave Morgan. Richard's first major contribution to the Birmingham music scene was playing harpsichord on The Move's hit single *Blackberry Way*. After a few appearances with The Move, Richard joined fellow Birmingham group The Uglys. The end of the decade saw Richard having brief spells in Balls and Mongrel before ending up back with The Move musicians Roy Wood, Jeff Lynne and Bev Bevan in a newly formed group The Electric Light Orchestra (ELO).

1972 saw Richard permanently join ELO as their bass player

but later switch to keyboards. ELO sold more than 50 million records during the 1970s and Richard's keyboards can be heard throughout, including his iconic vocoder on *Mr Blue Sky*. Richard was far more than just the ELO keyboard player. He tried his hand at producing including Morgan Cleary *The Secret Album* and the concept album *Earthrise* with Dave Morgan. Further collaborations with Dave, and fellow ELO alumnus Martin Smith, saw the release of a charity single called *Action* and



the trio would later release the album *The B.C. Collection*.

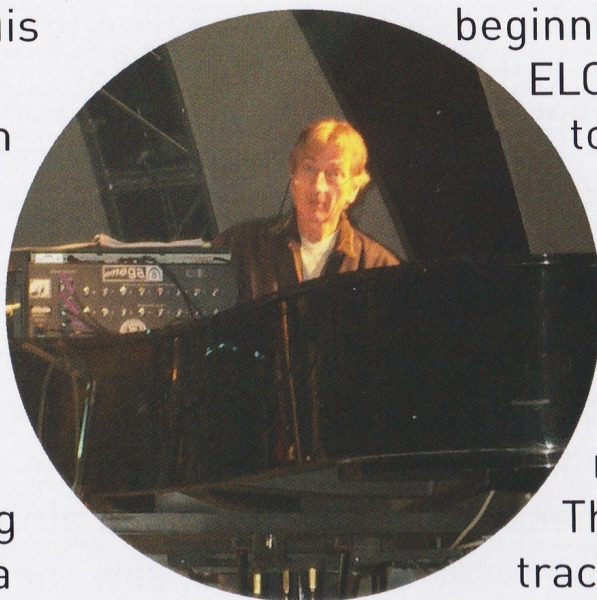
Richard was highly valued as a session player for artists including Dave Edmunds, Kiki Dee, The Everly Brothers and George Harrison. The song *How Much Fun* (from the self-titled album *Kiki Dee*) was produced

by Elton John in 1977. Elton had called Jeff Lynne wishing for the song to sound like ELO and Jeff passed the work on to Richard and Louis Clark. The album also features Hugh McDowell and Mel Gale. Richard's composition *Take Away the Sadness* appeared on Jim Horn's *Work It Out* album showing Richard was also a talented songwriter in his own right.

Ever the humble lad from Birmingham, Richard was happy to appear in local pubs with The Trevor Burton Band as well as

packed-out stadiums with ELO. The year 2014 saw a resurgence in ELO popularity with the now iconic Hyde Park concert and beginning of Jeff Lynne's ELO. Richard continued to appear with Jeff Lynne's ELO until 2017, the last Jeff Lynne's ELO album *From Out of Nowhere* was released in 2019.

This included the track *One More Time* on which Richard played piano, a very poignant title for his last contribution to the band for which he had dedicated nearly 50 years of his talent.



About Big Horizon

Here's a question for you – what happens when five of the world's best session musicians find themselves with time to spare during lockdown? Well, they form a band and go and write and record an album, obviously!

Big Horizon are Mike Stevens, Iain Hornall, Donovan Hepburn, Jo Webb and Lee Pomeroy.

They have been the backbone of Jeff Lynne's ELO since 2013 and Take That's band since 2006 (longer for some!). As Mike explains Big Horizon has been around for a lifetime in our minds! The band represents a group of friends and musicians bringing together their musical loves in one place. Those friends have played for Take That, ELO, Annie Lennox, Adele, 10cc, Yes, and they were the house band for the Queen's Golden Jubilee concert in 2012. But when the UK & Europe leg of the ELO tour was cancelled

due to Covid in 2020 the guys finally started to make the band a reality.

Their debut album *In the Beginning*, recorded at the legendary Rockfield Studios, was released in 2024.

After concluding Jeff Lynne's ELO's *Over and Out* tour in July 2025, the group knew

that they wanted to recognise the 50th

anniversary of

Face the Music and pay tribute to Richard's contribution to music. As Mike Stevens (saxophone) is an alumnus and Honorary Fellow of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, knowing about the donation of the Tandy Archive, and Richard's enthusiasm for working with students and up-and-coming musicians, this performance was the perfect solution.

To find out more and to buy their album, visit www.musicglue.com/big-horizon/



About the Tandy Archive



Richard made his final on-stage appearance at RBC in 2019 during the *Earthrise* concert. This world exclusive performance

(delivered on the same stage as this tribute event) commemorated the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Dave Scott-Morgan performed music from the Tandy/Morgan *Earthrise* album with the RBC Orchestra, and while Richard didn't perform that night, he did take to the stage at the end of the concert.

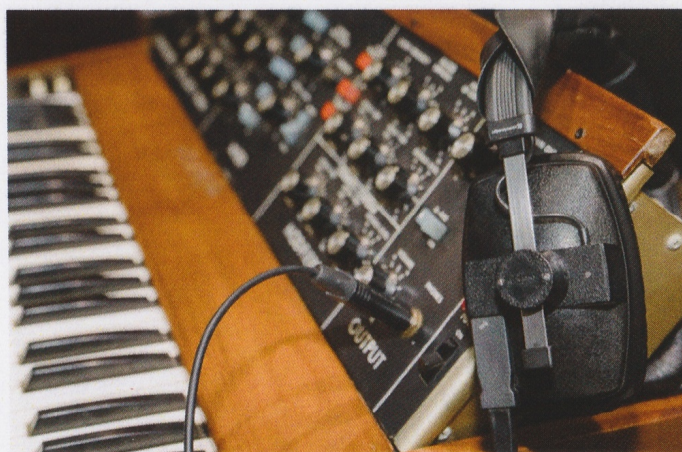
Contrary to all media statements, Richard officially passed away on 24 April 2024, leaving an extraordinary collection of memorabilia and instruments to RBC, an invaluable collection for the benefit of students and the history of music in Birmingham.

Handwritten notes and scores help us to learn how works are constructed and go through various changes before ending up as the music we know and love. Photographs help us to confirm front and backstage personnel and the specific equipment used which helps us understand the

textures and timbres of each track.

Various forms and professional documents help us understand the business side of the music and the spectacular gold records show us how many records were sold in each country in what particular year.

Most of all, the archive helps to preserve the legacy of these wonderful musicians and to inspire a new generation to aspire to great things, no matter their backgrounds. When students and staff alike walk into the newly opened Richard Tandy production suite for the first time the looks on



their faces say it all. It really is an archive that inspires, encourages and helps add to the valuable world of popular music research.

Peter Newton

PhD Researcher, Media, BCU & RBC
A Strange Magic - The musical contribution of Jeff Lynne; Analysis of Style, Sound, Sonic Identity, and Impact.

About the Tandy Scholarship

As well as donating the Richard Tandy Archive to RBC, Sheila wanted to create a new Scholarship to support young musicians in piano, keyboard and guitar, the instruments that meant the most to Richard.

Initially established by Sheila's generous gift, the Richard Tandy Scholarship became the charity focus of Jeff

Lynne's ELO's *Over and Out* tour of the UK in summer 2025. Through VIP auctions and an online sweepstake, ELO fans contributed over £30,000 to help students in Richard's memory.

The life of a music student is challenging. Tuition fees are a barrier to young people from low-income backgrounds. On top of this, the cost of instruments, touring, recording and promoting can seem out of reach. But scholarships provide a lifeline for talented musicians, helping them follow in the footsteps of inspirational musicians like Richard.

The first Richard Tandy Scholar

was appointed in October 2025, supporting first-year electric bass guitarist Caleb Greer. Caleb said: *"I am absolutely thrilled to receive the Richard Tandy Award and extend my thanks to Sheila, Jeff and all of the charitable funders behind this award. [The Scholarship] will help me immeasurably going forward with my studies at RBC!"*



We're grateful for every donation to the Richard Tandy Scholarship. The proceeds from this tribute performance will contribute to the Scholarship fund,

and we thank you for being part of this unique evening.

You've already made a difference to a talented guitarist or keyboardist, but if you'd like to donate further, go to www.justgiving.com/campaign/richardtandyscholarship or email Terry Gibson, Head of Fundraising at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, at terry.gibson@bcu.ac.uk to talk about the Richard Tandy Scholarship or learn more about creating your own fund.

Donate to the Richard Tandy Scholarship at:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/richardtandyscholarship

