

# BIG COUNTRY



DRIVING TO DAMASCUS

*THE FINAL FLING*

UK 2000



Big Country's first studio album for four years, "Driving To Damascus", combines all the elements that originally elevated the band into the charts in the mid-Eighties. These, along with a new found stylistic diversity stemming from Stuart Adamson's relocation to Nashville where he has immersed himself in the bluegrass and country community and scene over the last couple of years.

It's the first time I've ever lived in a totally creative community he comments, and the first time I have ever co-written with other artists. Last year Stuart (who is spiritual but not religious), played signature guitar on Randy Stonehill's No 1 Christian record The Face of God, sang on Darryl Scott's messed up bluegrass record and has recently been writing with Texan out and out country singer Christie Sutherland. As co-founder member with Richard Jobson of seminal new wavers the Skids, Stuart first tasted success with songs such as Into The Valley, Masquerade, Charade and Working for the Yankee Dollar.

The nucleus of Big Country was formed after the demise of the Skids when Stuart recruited guitar partner Bruce Watson from a day job cleaning nuclear submarines in Dunfermline. They came across the invincible rhythm section of Tony Butler and Mark Brzezecki when they cut their first Big Country demos and soon signed to Phonogram, released their first single and supported The Jam at Wembley for six nights on their farewell dates.

The band broke massively worldwide with their debut album *The Crossing* (1983), which sold over 3 million copies and earned Big Country 2 Grammy nominations. Their subsequent four albums, *Steeltown* (1984), *The Seer* (1985), *Peace In Our Time* (1986) and *No Place Like Home* (1988) were all certified gold on release and took the bands total record sales tally to over ten million.

Big Country played at the Wembley Live Aid and The Princes Trust 10th Birthday Party and in 1988 they played the first ever privately promoted gig in Russia at the Moscow Sports Stadium. At the end of the decade *Through A Big Country*, featuring all the bands classic hits was released and while it charted Top 5 nationwide and sold over two million copies, the group parted company with Phonogram after massive personnel changes at the label.

In 1992 Big Country signed to Compulsion, through Chrysalis, scored two top 30 hit singles (*Alone and Ships*) from their sixth album *Buffalo Skinners*, and set out on another sold out UK and European tour. Their first live album, *Without The Aid of a Safety Net*, was recorded in December 1993 at a tumultuous sold out Barrowlands gig and released in June 94.

Big Country's seventh studio album, *Why The Long Face*, was released on the newly reactivated Transatlantic Records label in 1995, and while critically well received, did not sell as well as hoped. But on the live scene the band were doing as well as ever; they co-headlined many 1995 European festivals with the likes of Bob Dylan, Faith No More, Black Crowes and Soul Asylum. They then landed the special guest slot on the Rolling Stones European tour and several shows in the UK and Ireland with Page and Plant later that year. A 40-date UK tour proved the band still had much gas left in the tank.

An unplugged album featuring friends (Steve Harley, Kym Mazelle, Hassam Ramzys Egyptian drummers) was released in 1996 after which Stuart decided it was time for a break; he moved to Nashville and the rest of the band did their own thing for a while.

In August 1998 they were once again invited to open for the Rolling Stones and played 18 shows in Europe. Some of the best songs on the new album *Driving To Damascus*, their upcoming eighth studio album, were written in between these dates.

Two songs (*Somebody Else* and *Devil In The Eye*) were co-written with Ray Davies, who became firm friends with the band after they joined him on the main stage (sans Bruce) at Glastonbury in 1997 to perform a storming set in the rain. Both Ray and I pushed each other into areas we wouldn't normally go says Stuart.

The first single from the album, *Fragile Thing*, released August 2nd, co-starred Eddi Reader; We had been mutual admirers from afar and Eddi is one of the finest singers I have ever come across. She took a sideways look at the song and expressed herself comments frontman Stuart Adamson. Eddi also sang backing vocal on *See You, Grace and Bella*.

Big Country are one of the few truly awesome live outfits to have survived the roller coaster ride of the mad Eighties to come through wiser and stronger, their star burning brighter than ever in 1999. The group triumphantly returned to the live scene when they headlined the Scotland for Kosovo gig, joined by Eddi Reader, Teenage Fanclub, Gun, Simple Minds, Ricky Ross and Midge Ure, in Glasgow on May 31st this year. The success of this gig led to the band actually performing on 11th September in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, as part of a multinational all-star bill brought together by Vanessa Redgrave & Bill Kenwright. The band were flown to the gig by the RAF and then shuttled to the venue in a K-FOR armoured car. The sight of several thousand Kosovars going wild in a sports arena in the middle of a devastated city was one of the most moving events in the bands career.

Big Country, who have scored 17 top 30 singles and seven top 30 albums in the past, are set to bounce back into the charts and surprise fans and critics alike with their new album. Produced by Rafe McKenna, *Driving To Damascus* is now out on the reactivated Track Record label (original home of Hendrix, The Who etc.).

*Driving To Damascus* marks a major leap forward for the band, contains textures and influences never before embraced and manifests Big Country back at the peak of their creative powers.


However, in November 1999, the band received more International Media coverage than they had seen in a decade or more. Stuart Adamson did not arrive in the UK for British TV appearances and some shows with Bryan Adams. Speculation was such that not only the tabloids but the broadsheets (The Times called his publicist requesting an up to date bio so that they could prepare an obituary) and radio and TV gave massive coverage to him being missing. Now residing in America and with many changes in his personal life, Stuart decided he had had enough. In December the band commenced a British tour which turns out was the start of the current 'farewell tour'. One date was a headline appearance at Aberdeens Millenium Street party with over 50,000 in attendance. Stuart agreed to tour one final time in Europe and the band did perform 18 dates in Germany and Holland.

In April of this year, a dear work colleague & friend of the bands and management - Joe Seabrook - passed away. On May 3rd (his birthday) Bruce and Mark jammed with Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood of The Rolling Stones at his memorial. In more ways than one, the new millenium for Big Country has turned out to be the end of an era.

Although there will be no new albums, Track Records does intend to release a 'live' album from this tour and future catalogue albums.

Whatever can be or has been said about Big Country, no-one can take away their musical legacy.

May 2000



**Stuart Adamson**  
**Mark Brzezicki**  
**Tony Butler**  
**Bruce Watson**

**Guitar/vocals**  
**Drums, percussion/backing vocals**  
**Bass Guitar/backing vocals**  
**Guitar**

**Management - Ian Grant**

Tour Manager - Jim Gilligan  
Sound Engineer - Graham Ewins  
Lighting Technician - Pete Ainsley  
Stage Technician - Ron Manigley  
Stage Technician - Alan Short  
Stage Technician - James Grant  
Merchandising vendor - Willie Tocher  
Transportation - Bell Hire

Agency - Solo  
Merchandiser - Mick Wright  
Promoters- SJM / Regular Music / MCD / Matthew Partridge

**Big Thanks to -**

Bill Kenwright, Ian Grant, Brett Finnigan, James Grant, David Baker & all at Track Records, John Giddings, Mo Green & all @ Solo, Julian Spear & Justin Coombes @ Red Shadow, Judy Totton PR, Lester Dales, Paul Makin & all at Dales Evans, David Gentle, Debbie & Kirsty Grant, Alex May, Ben Woodhouse, Jools & The Travel Company, Mike and Jules Peters, Intervurt. All crew, staff & companies that have worked for us - past & present. And, last but not least, YOU - our Audience. We thank you for supporting us for all these years.

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Programme printed by - Treetop Design

Craig Fettes \* Johannes Baagøe-Nielsen \* Peter Mahon \* Joseph McGinley \* John R. Gouveia \* Michael Watzke \* Ralf Kirschnick \* Susan Jamieson \* RJ Macleod \* Mark Haigh \* Mike Marsh \* David Klyde \* Karryn Dalton \* Neil Featherstone \* Marcel Smid \* Richard Fitzgerald \* Tim Brown Peter Hornberg \* Jim Wilkes \* Micky Miles \* Tim Brown \* Jez Bailey \* Glyn Tookey \* David Mccaffrey \* Andreas Schade \* Garry Bower \* Yves Figueras \* Sergio Diaz \* Ciaran Dunne \* Vaughan Curtis \* Andrew Skinner \* Paul Turton \* William Gill, Jr.\* Joep Mens \* Salvatore Giordano \* Susi Krüger \* Sharon Baumber \* Dan Baumber \* Sharon Therese \* Gordon Tosh \* Irene Masterson \* John Macdonald \* Jane Hodgkiss \* Eddie Sheils \* Stefan Dierks \* Stephen Ashe \* Stuart Christie \* Samantha Holt \* John Mckinstry \* Okke Bloem \* Keith Lewington \* Gerard Kerin \* Robbie Campbell \* Mark Rattray \* Kent Penny \* William Bedzyk \* Donovan \* David Craig \* Kent Penny \* Oliver Prange \* Michael Ian Denton \* Andy Essex \* Willie M \* Dan Nordstrandh \* Jeffrey Cetola \* Graham M Adam \* Ken Hastings \* Nobby Pütz \* Joe Veres \* Laura Lynch \* David Macklin \* Neil Swanson \* Ian Winter \* Paul Carnegie \* Brian Cameron \* Ralph Sacher \* Emma Galli \* Trevor Rabet \* Jeroen Sprenkler \* Ian Cruzen \* Ant Holmes \* Danny Ward \* Nick Ward \* Donna Guy \* David Hamilton \* Paul Wills \* Maria \* Justin Keaney \* John Stanton \* Gordon Collins \* Todd Moskowitz \* Avon Drennan \* Ian Devine \* Ian Hughes \* Darren Bothwell \* Ron Maundrell \* Julian Hankinson \* Braden Rowley \* Craig Morgan \* David Browne \* Bas van Giesen \* David Browne \* Anne-Marie Rutten \* Rob Hegger \* Aileen Simpson \* Steve Bullman \* Howard Bryan \* Paul Bratley \* Anne Ciurro \* Clive Palmer \* Craig S \* Jay Gibbison \* Eric Devries \* Richard Smith \* Michael Wolf \* Ian Monk \* Martin Hetherington \* Goran Karlstrom \* Taco Scheper \* Karl Präse \* Debbie Scheper \* Ryan Nouis \* Tim Oconnel \* Alan Harris \* Scott Dawson \* Natalie Till \* Ian Hill \* Lee & Claire Downing \* Dan Foley \* Dan Yechout \* Christer Ottling \* Alan Gibson \* Allan Matthews \* Paul Temple \* Stephen Shortt \* Gordon Ferrier \* Kevin Stratton \* John Curran \* Rene Fortuin \* Kevin Jones \* Yoko Sumi \* Lee Hart \* Keren Fitzgerald \* Simon Barker \* Sergio Alvarado \* Andy Swaine \* Kevin Jones \* Don Mitchell \* John Macdonald \* Grant Macdonald \* Dave Dawson \* David Good \* Graham Goodall \* Jon Martin \* Sarah Clews-Jones \* Carl Cusumano \* Gordon Smith \* Conrad Desjarlais \* Christopher Otazo \* Cindy Monahan \* Brian- Alihi Constantino \* Gabriel Slavin \* John Griffiths \* Graham Ashworth \* Ruth Harper \* Paul Williamson \* Lisa Roberts \* Tina Harris \* Douglas Corner \* Sylvie Davidson \* John & Jessica Velez \* Alastair Keith \* Alan Preece \* Sandra Schuessle \* Keith Milbourn \* Joerg Kneller \* Bill Dalgliesh \* Mark Phelan \* David Koleci \* Rob Ford \* Clair Hinton \* Darren Hinton \* Marcel & Sandra van der Haven \* Stephen Min Barnes \* Colin Jacobson \* John David Allison \* Mandy Holmes \* Jorn Herrmann \* Eamon Crossan \* Tim Foster \* Brad Horstman \* Phil Read \* Karen Harkin \* Andrew Hogg \* Christine Lukawski \* Bill Darling \* Fran Seal \* The Caseys \* Martin Sheridan \* Tony Greco \* Clive Roper \* Peter Dijkstra \* Jochem Aarts \* Dave Chinery \* David Penfold \* Dave Nutley \* Tracey Blackmore \* Jane Preece \* Heiko Wendeler \* Mazz Nicholas \* John Paul Cowzer \* Martyn Wright \* Thomas Klosterkother \* Steve & Angie Kibble \* Dominic Williams \* Kit Curry \* Ben Preston \* Anke Knoepper \* Steve, Hazel & Stephen Dominey \* Mike King \* Paul & Gill Wilds \* Deborah Burke \* Steve Beebee \* Jonathan Treadwell \* Jay Throe \* Ulf Zenk \* Murray Hall \* Jim Morey \* Shane E. Calhoon \* Mark Stubbs \* Ben Preston \* Tim O'Hanlon \* Hans Nijof \* Mark Hanson \* Brian Ludwig \* Jane Hanson \* Jon Yates \* Daniel Sullivan \* Sue Doyle \* Julie Erickson \* Richard Graham \* Kayvon Zahedi \* Neil Sweetland \* Liam Davey \* Nicola Marie Hudson \* Tim Hudson \* Wayne Kisbee \* Richard Taylor \* Russell Jones \* David Koleci \* Phil Mather \* Andy Thompson \* Stuart Parsons \* Ian Hill \* Gers Bischoff \* Bram Wijlands \* Lesley Neilson \* Philip Bennett \* Vernon Charles \* Stefan Dierks \* Paul Gregory \* Tom Stieber \* Mandy Holmes \* Pattie Jones \* Trevor Rabet \* Trevor Jones \* John Hamilton \* Taco Scheper \* Rudiger Giek \* Phil Spivey \* Justin Weiss \* Anna Figg \* Karen Figg \* Bill Bolton \* Billy Tarr \* Alex O'Boyle \* Matt Eidson \* David & Julie Sansoni \* Eman Ramos \* Andrew Knott \* Iain Birrell \* Simon Weller \* Dave Watkins \* Andrew Cooper \* Joe Whyte \* David & Sally Rayner \* John Barrett \* Jeroen van Linge \* Kyle Matsuyama \* Ewell Crooks \* Elwyn Greenhalgh \* Steve Westley \* Tim Hitchman \* Darran Woolard \* Donna Higgs \* Ed Nicholson \* Larry Olsen \* May Roberts \* Mick Roberts \* Richard Redman \* Peter Swabey \* Paul Reed \* Scott Armstrong \* Johnny Boy \* Jill \* Simon Thompson \* Tim Brown \* Barry Gray \* Glenn Johnstone \* Gary Hannan \* Phil Hannan \* Joe Lennie \* John Paul Svabenik \* Chris Barlow \* Greg Watkins \* Michael Graham \* Graham Nicholas \* Mark L'eStrange \* Anne Crichton \* Kevin Wright \* Mick Holmes \* Sandra Holmes \* Scott Malloch \* Chris McAuliffe \* Jim Hammond \* James Shellshear \* Alan Banks \* Brenton Boswell \* Shane Millar \* Julie Sansoni \* Ben Sansoni \* Dave Orton \* Andy Hazeldine \*



Continental

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STREET  
RALLY

LOVE  
ON

DEKRA

Moto-Sport-Museum

Hoche,heimring

DEKRA

BIG



The Highland inspired Rock'n'Roll sound of Big Country caught my passion some fifteen years ago. It will remain unique - forever...Johannes Baagøe-Nielsen, Denmark,

Awesome music ,Friendship ,Hope, Rain ,Sun Leaving us now... 34, Stefan von Wodtke -(Germany)

First ever concert Edinburgh 31/12/83 and have never looked back - Joseph McGinley  
35 years old Clydebank

One of my favourite bands ever,have been following them since -82. - Lars Pihl

An unmistakable sound. Big Country always gave me something to look forward to. Thank you for making the sun shine. - Susan Jamieson, Inverurie, Scotland. Age:35

Cheers lads from baldy in perth

When Big Country stop a part of me will die thanks for the great music and live shows stay alive. - Mark Haigh 26 from Chorley

From Los Angeles to Dublin Big Country brought the house down with their live performances. Cheers from California - David Klyde

One of the best bands ever - Great songs, great gigs and great guys!  
You'll be missed! -Love Kaz

The best live act ever,life will not be the same without them, good luck guys! -Peter Hornberg from The Netherlands

Big Country are one of the greatest live bands ever seen and will always be! - Jim Wilkes

Big Country have brought my wife and i closer,thankyou chaps - Micky

THANK YOU for the musical enjoyment you have given me since 1982.hope you enjoy yourselves as much as the enjoyment you have given everybody over the last eighteen years . TAKE CARE - Jez Bailey

Your music will live on forever. Thanks for 17 great years - Glyn Tookey

Great band,great live,great songs,great guys.thanks for a great fifteen years miss you loads,Dave

The music of Big Country really helped me through some hard times. Thank you very much for that. Cheers Andreas Schade - Germany

Big Country have taken me through half my life and I will miss the band, the tours and the fans. GARRY BOWER, 29 Oldham, Lancs

The most great band that i hardly follow since the beginning and no luck to see them -Yves Figuras

From my first gig in '83,Dunfermline '91, Bristol, London '99 and all between. Always special, always great...stay alive! Les Schriber -Age 32 Lawrenceville, New Jersey USA

Big Country have been a true inspiration on my life. All the best guys. It's been a great journey. Andrew Skinner 23, Lincolnshire ,England

The stimulating music of Big Country has helped me through some of the most trying times of my life. Mary Rusher

They have cost me a fortune, but it was worth it!! - Paul Turton

Big Country have been a way of life to me, as simple as that. - Joep Mens

Thank you for the music!!! Susi - Love the music - Dan Bamber

What can I say, you play the kind of music I love to listen to. - Sharon Therese

From The Crossing to Damascus, They were always true to themselves and fans. Keep on Rockin in the Free World

Big Country-the best live band ever!! will miss them loads.Thanks! Jane Hodgkiss, 30.

Eighteen years worth of great music from the most underrated band in the world, their music will always stay alive! - Eddie Sheils, Derry

Love the music. After 16/17 years(!) still getting a cold shower across my back and tears  
in my eyes listening to Crossing & Steeltown!! - Stefan Dierks

For most of my life, highs & lows, Big Country's music has always been inspirational...thanks for everything guys! - Stephen Ashe, Belfast

Simply The Best - Stuart Christie, 32 ,Dalkeith,Scotland

As well as brilliant music, they have provided me with a mad time and a mis-spent youth!! - Samantha Holt

Thanks for always giving me strength, hope and inspiration, your name will never die this time will be forever - John Mckinstry , 30, Motherwe,II Scotland

Thanx for your inspiration!! - Okke Bloem

BC have meant so much to me over the years and I would like to thank, the band for their music which has helped me through some pretty tough times. - Keith Lewington

Your music is with me for the rest of my life - Gerard(Galway,Ireland)

Having emigrated to Canada from Scotland, Big country gave me a familiar sound in a far away land,  
May your music live on forever. Cheers guys, all the best. Mark , 35, Toronto, Canada.

Simply, Thank You!! - William Bedzyk

In 1983 I was 13 when I first heard "In a Big Country". The songs have been a big part of my life. Now as I turn 30 their music has even more meaning for me. -Donovan

When I first heard them it knocked me off. No other band has ever done that to me.- Oliver Prange

Passion, pride, thinking, caring, fame, fortune, giving, sharing - oh, and a rocking good time !! - Andy Essex

My daughter is named Eiledon, I guess that pretty much sums it up.- Dan Nordstand,Sweden.

JEFF CETOLA -- BC SECOND TO NONE! BC are second to none - Jeff Cetola

From days spent trying to play along to the music in my bedroom, through the lonely dark times of losing a partner, the music was there to lift and help me. Gentlemen, I thank you so much. - Graham

Big Country will go on in me until I die, by having a place in my heart and my player! Nobby -

Big Country has been one of few bands to successfully balance personal experience with social observation. Good Luck. God Bless. - Joe Veres

Your music has always been in the right place at the right time. Thanks for all the years. Laura Lynch -I'm 33 and live in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Happines,Life,Love,Respect. We will always be one happy family because of Big Country - Neil

Great, great memories of fantastic concerts over 19 years and of a band with a superb bond with its fans. - Ian Winter

No matter where you are in the world, the sound of Big Country takes'





It was in the summer of 77 when I first bumped into Stuart Adamson. I was very drunk at the time and have been bumping in to him ever since. Stuart was playing with his punk combo 'The Skids' and I was in the support band 'The Delinquents'. I was very impressed with his guitar playing and he was more than complimentary about my burst couch hairdo. My band supported The Skids on and off for a couple of years and I remember Stuart saying that we should get together and do something in the future, little did I realise that he meant going on a bender for a couple of months. We got talking and soon discovered that we both shared a passion for 'The Kinks'. I cautiously suggested that we form a camp Kinks tribute band and record a cover version of their hit single, 'Pictures of Willies'. Well, as you can imagine he thought I was mad, I then told him in the strictest of confidence that I had invented the seagull, and that was it, He immediately decided that we should form a band.

We got together and set up a studio downstairs in the local institute to record our first demos, The line up was Stuart, myself and a bossa nova drum machine called 'Doctor Roboto.' I still have the demos of Harvest home and Inwards with that drum machine on it. Harvest home has a sexy salsa beat to it and Inwards sounds like Ricky Martin on speed. Our manager Ian Grant hawked these tapes (but not his ass) around every record company in London but came away disappointed every time.

'Guitars are out and synths are in' was the standard reply.

Well, we wouldn't take no for an answer so we decided to drop the drum machine and look for a proper rhythm section. Lady luck blew my way as I was browsing through a copy of 'Good Housekeeping' down the clinic. I was checking the small ads at the back and came across a two by two advert that simply said

'Rhythm for Hire'

'We are willing to play with any one'

Call M Brzezicki

I passed this info to Ian and he set up some proper studio time with Mark Brzezicki and Tony Butler. I instantly clicked with Tony but Mark was a different beast all together. He heard about my tropical fish keeping hobby and kept demanding to know if they had todgers. I took an instant dislike to him and in the nineteen years that I have been his colleague I have never so much as uttered one word to him. I can be like that you see. Tony once told me that I was a grudge holding son of a bitch,

To which I replied

'No one fucks with my fish.'

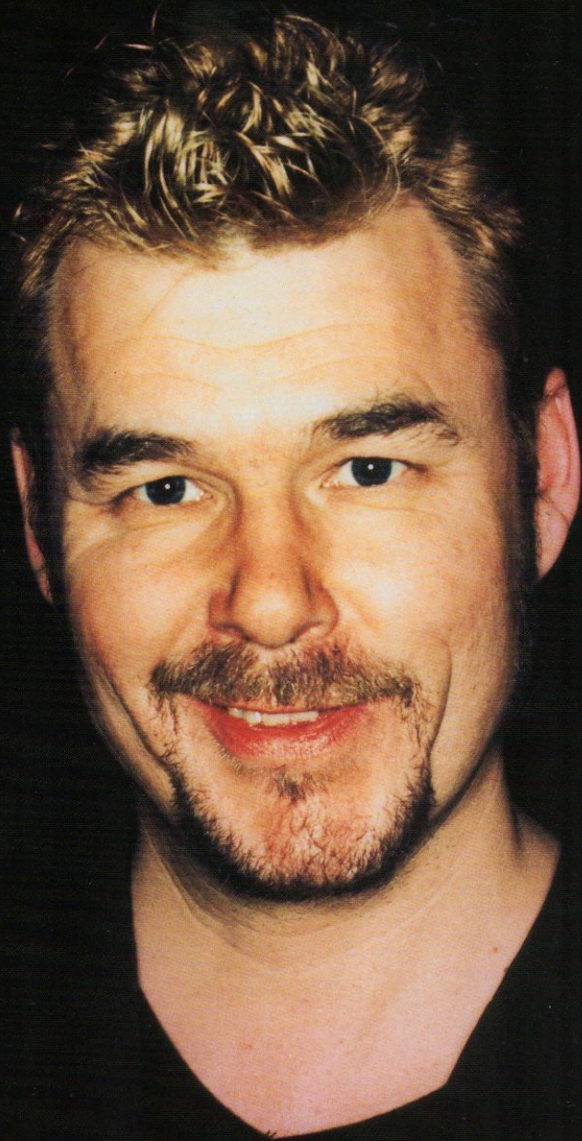
That pearl of wisdom has held me in good stead down the years. Mess with me and you mess with my fish. Get heavy with me and Harry the Halibut gets heavy with you.

Any way I would like to thank all of you good people out they're who have supported us over the years and if I was in AC/DC I would certainly salute you.

Bruce Watson

69 Tangent Grove

Zanussi.

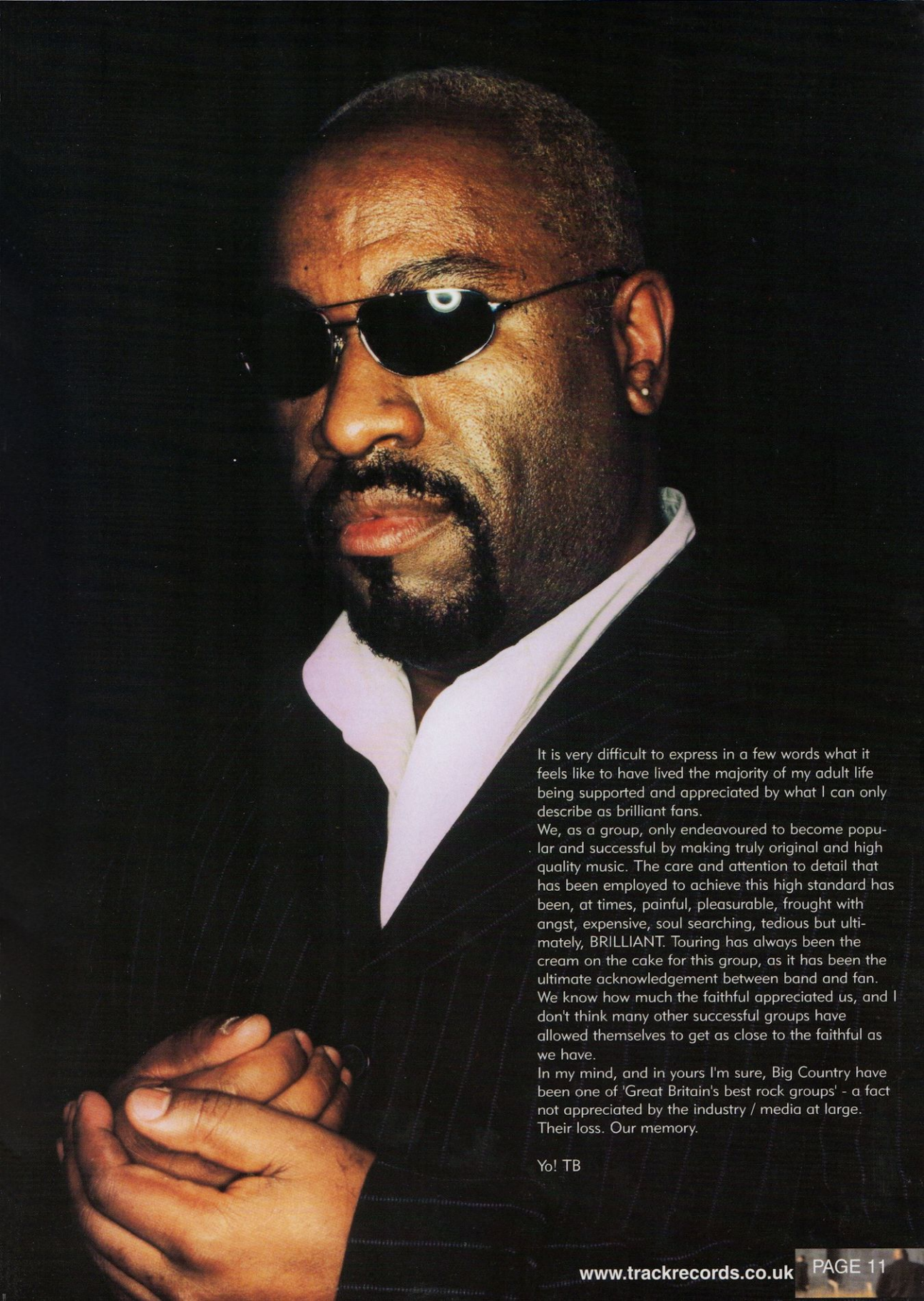


I set out a long time ago, to make a music that I felt was a part of me and that I hoped would become a part of others. I wanted it to reflect my soul and not just be some vainglorious vehicle for my ego. Somehow this little thing managed to reach out to all of you. I am both filled with pride and humbled, at the same time, by this. Thank you for it all.

I am very happy with my decision to come off the road. It has been a long, long haul. Now let me see what it's like to live a life.

Love and Peace,

Stuart.

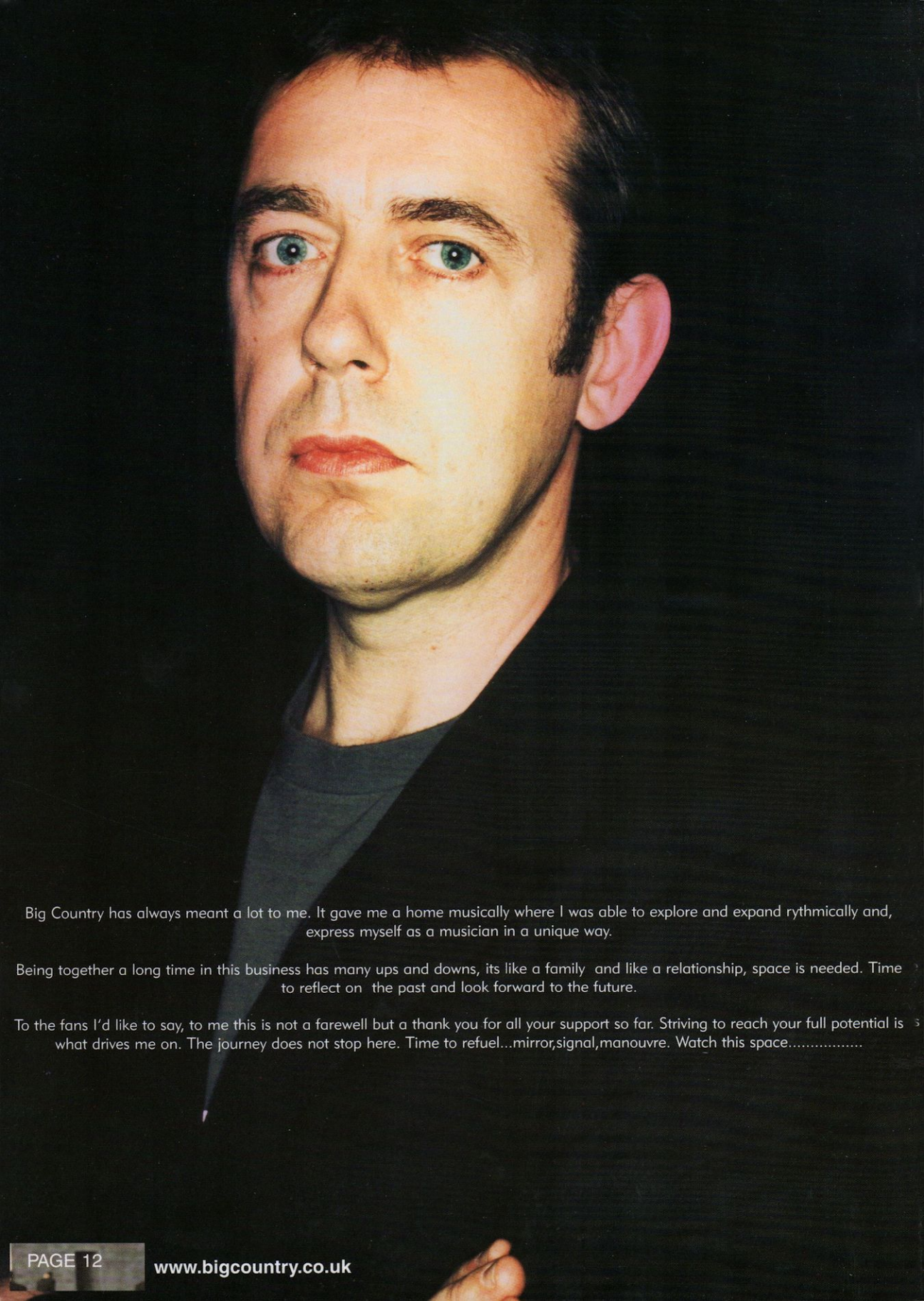


It is very difficult to express in a few words what it feels like to have lived the majority of my adult life being supported and appreciated by what I can only describe as brilliant fans.

We, as a group, only endeavoured to become popular and successful by making truly original and high quality music. The care and attention to detail that has been employed to achieve this high standard has been, at times, painful, pleasurable, fraught with angst, expensive, soul searching, tedious but ultimately, BRILLIANT. Touring has always been the cream on the cake for this group, as it has been the ultimate acknowledgement between band and fan. We know how much the faithful appreciated us, and I don't think many other successful groups have allowed themselves to get as close to the faithful as we have.

In my mind, and in yours I'm sure, Big Country have been one of 'Great Britain's best rock groups' - a fact not appreciated by the industry / media at large. Their loss. Our memory.

Yo! TB



Big Country has always meant a lot to me. It gave me a home musically where I was able to explore and expand rythmically and, express myself as a musician in a unique way.

Being together a long time in this business has many ups and downs, its like a family and like a relationship, space is needed. Time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

To the fans I'd like to say, to me this is not a farewell but a thank you for all your support so far. Striving to reach your full potential is what drives me on. The journey does not stop here. Time to refuel...mirror,signal,manouvre. Watch this space.....



you home. Thanks guys. Paul Carnegie,

Since I'll never be able to see BC live in Rome... I hope in this opportunity! I do think BC music and Stu words express real everyday life, as it really happens. All the best, boys!!! Emma from Rome.

Thanks for all the great music over the last 18 years. All the best for the future. -Trevor Rabet

Big Country are my boyhood compass. Without their music and lyrics I would've been a completely different person today. -Jeroen Sprengeler, 32, Amsterdam.

Honest music, honest message - Thanks and as always "stay alive" - Ian Cruzen, Boston, Mass.

Big Country has given joy and inspiration to me for 15 years. Thank you. Armin Meile (ch)

I would also like to wish the band best wishes for the future and thanks for the last 18 years. Big Country were the only ever band to give me the shivers.Thanks. - Nick Ward

This might be the last tour but I would wait 100 years to hear you play again. Up the Pars! - David Hamilton, 26. London (originally Glasgow)

The last ever gig - brings tears to my eyes. Thanks for everything & good luck to you all. Stay Alive!

Wishing you all the best of luck in whatever you choose to do with your lives. Thank you for the years of pleasure your music has brought me. I shall miss the anticipation of new records however I shall treasure the music you have provided. Heaps of love and best wishes, Maria

Inspiration,optimism,tartan shirts!Big country will always have a place in my heart. - John Stanton

BC have been the best band to come out of scotland ever.Their music sends shivers down my spine.Stay alive - Gordon Collins

BC has been the one true light shining in a world of dimly light random monsters. They rocked. Stay alive. Todd

Since a bright day in '83 to a dark day in'00 Thanks for all the big memories .Best wishes - Ian Devine

An unrivalled honesty combined with contagious energy.My life has been inspired by your existence.This native remains restless. - Ian Hughes

I first saw Big Country in 1986 when I was 15 , followed them ever since , not another group like them - Darren Bothwell

Big Country ROCK.- Ron Maundrell

Some days will stay a thousand years... Who knows where all our days go?" Thanks for the inspiration. - Julian Hankinson

Meeting the band after a concert in San Diego completed my musical mission. As Stuart told me: "Stay Alive" - Braden Rowley

If you ever feel down, put BC on and 'Pull up your head off the floor, come up screaming' Thanks. - Craig Morgan

Sending chills up my spine since 1983, I have found music that plays directly to my heart and soul. - David Browne

Big Country (and most of all Stuart) has brought me musical poetry! - Bas van Giesen

The music of Big Country brought Scotland to my heart. - Anne Marie Rutten

In a Big Country is the song that changed my life! - Rob Heger

Aileen Simpson--For me, Big Country has meant truth. The power of music is undeniable, and Big Country are masters.

Big Country shone out like a shaft of gold when all but U2 was darkness. Unlike U2, they still shine. - Steve Bullman

Great music stikes a place deep in the soul of an individual. Mine will miss hearing new Big Country music - Clive Palmer

I found Big Country to be a major positive in my life when most things seemed to go wrong. The music has meant so much to me and will for many years to come. I wish the band and everyone involed the best for the future. - Anne Ciurro

Your music gave immeasurable enjoyment and inspiration . I'm no longer just a shadow of the person I should be. - Jay Gibbison

I admire Stuart and Big Country for never compromising on their music and always producing inspirational stuff.Thanks. - Richard Smith

Memories of good times in life ,of worse times ,inspiration to learn and play music, driving my car @ 125 mph with the crossing @ 600 db, super gigs . Meeting bruce in Tappie Toories pub,meeting Mark for a pint, shame they have to go so soon.Best wishes for the future - Michael Wolf

The end after 18 good years. Many happy times. Thanks lads. Good Luck & STAY ALIVE. Ian Monk

Takes a moment in the darkness to know how much you love the light." Big Country are the light ! Thanks ! - Martin Hetherington, 31.

First the Skids and I was about 13-14. Then Big Country,I saw there gig from Barrowland on NYEand I was sold too this music. I have seen Big Country two times in Stockholm and in Luleå. Really gone miss you and the music Big country stands for. Goran Karlstrom/ Stockholm Sweden

Big Country was the first and BEST band I ever saw live, and they still are going strong !  
Taco Scheper

Big Country gave me some great moments in time. Their music will stay forever. Stay Alive - Karl Prose

BC is and will be the best band for me. Thanks truthfully for giving us such great music.  
Debbie Scheper

Big Country has brought consistency over a long period of turbulence and inconsistency.  
Thank you for keeping our sanity. - Ryan Nous

This is just to say thank you to Mark for being an inspiration to my drumming career. I can honestly say he is a true gentleman - Tim OConnell

Big Country - simultaneous inspiration, exhilaration and exasperation. No Australian tour, few Australian hits, but still my heroes. - Scott Dawson

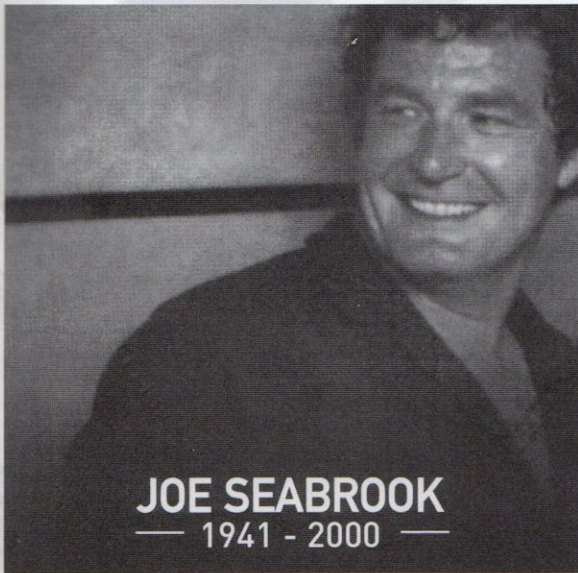
18yrs of music that has seen me through good and bad times, but basically kept me going !!! - Natalie Till

Thanks for the ride lads. All the best and thanks for the last 18 years. Its been an inspiration - Lee and Claire Downing, Dudley, West Mids.

City Hall Cork January 1989 - magical for various reasons, one being Peace in Our Time" - Dan Foley

The Way to Go Out! - Dan Yechout

Your music will live forever. CHEERS. STAY ALIVE - Aggy, from (The



A Personal Tribute. By Tony Butler

It was always my personal ambition that this group would be able to carve out a path to success with no casualties along the way. This game has, too many times, in the last 30 years claimed the lives of extremely talented people. Either due to the drive for success or the excesses of rock'n'roll or accident, it seems that the business of music takes it toll. I would like to mention three people who touched our lives, who are no longer with us.

Malcolm Aitken, aka 'Fluff', was the nicest man I knew. Roadie with the band for many years, always had a smile on his face, nothing was ever a problem. He delivered some gear to my house once and on arrival my dog Nicky cocked his leg and pissed over his legs. Fluff replied: "Och, its no problem", and laughed. Dunfermline never felt the same after his tragic death.

Joe Seabrook was a giant of a man with a heart to match. Security for the band when we were at our most popular. We stole him from the Rolling Stones until they decided to tour again. Later he was very instrumental in getting us two separate support slots with the Stones because he wanted to help get the band back on its feet. Joes' role in the BC story is huge but will be left untold.

Richie Close was brought in by Pat Moran ( producer ) to programme computers and play keyboards on 'No Place Like Home'. A quiet man who really enjoyed working with us, and brought a cheery feeling to a very tense studio atmosphere. He passed away a few weeks after his involvement with us.

To the above mentioned - much love, much missed, nuff respect.  
Yo!  
TB

The internet is just about in everyones life now. In fact you can't get away without seeing or hearing dot com this or dot com that. 2 years ago to the month, we launched the 'Official Big Country' web-site. In that time it has had somewhere in the region of half a million hits and continues to receive 8,000 hits a week on average. This site really has been able to let people know that the band did exist, had released many albums that, if you lived overseas you may not have been aware of.

It needs an overhaul and some features need to be updated but, if you wish to 'chat' with fellow fans, enter competitions, leave messages, read updated biogs or, purchase CDs that are exclusive to the site or any of their catalogue you can do so by using credit card (security guaranteed) or by cheque/postal order.

Their are mouse mats, laminates from past tours, CD's from Bruce, Mark and Tony. Obviously clothing (everything you will see on sale here tonight and more). We have just introduced a limited edition numbered print, signed by the band and the artist. The image is the one on the homepage of the web-site thats also been used for a mousemat and the Shepherds Bush T shirt from last year.

All these items are available for people that are not on the internet. You may see some flyers in the building tonight that gives you more details to order any of the goods by mail order,paying by cheque.

Even though the band are calling it a day, the website will continue and new items will be made available for sale (such as the live album being recorded from this tour and a covers album). The band visit the site frequently and chat with their fans. Indeed at one time last year the whole band were in the chat room with fans from as far apart as New Zealand and Los Angeles.

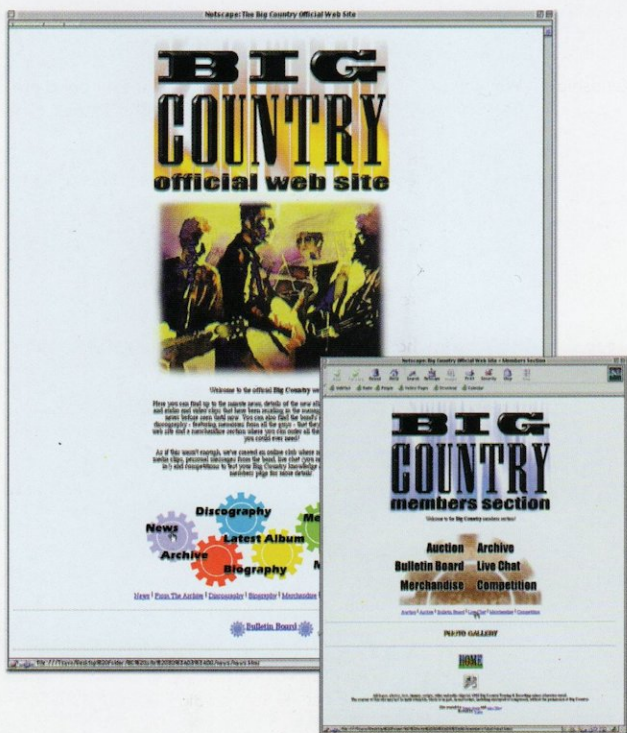
You can join the members section of the site for £10 per year and one of the benefits is that you get 10% discount off all merchandise.

Track Records, Big Countrys record label also has a site and will be selling Big Country product that will be exclusive to the site (first release being the "Nashville Sessions" EP). You can hear clips of all songs the band have released on Track and of course other bands too. In the not to distant future you will be able to download entire albums from the site.

We hope to see you at either site sometime.

[www.bigcountry.co.uk](http://www.bigcountry.co.uk)  
[www.trackrecords.co.uk](http://www.trackrecords.co.uk)

Ian Grant. May 2000



LIMITED EDITION PRINT OF THE HOMEPAGE WATERCOLOUR ON THE BIG COUNTRY WEBSITE (AS ABOVE),SIGNED BY ARTIST AND BAND, AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE OFFICIAL BIG COUNTRY WEBSITE



Paisley Chosen Few)

The quality of your music has been one of life's few constants through all life's ups and downs. Good Luck. - Allan Matthews

Thanks for the pleasure your music has give me. When ever i needed insparation the stories and music are with me. - Paul Temple

Their name will never die...this time will be forever - Stephen Shortt , 27, Bury, Gtr Manchester

Since seeing them live at the Caird Hall, Dundee in '86, Big Country have provided the soundtrack for every occasion. - Gordon Ferrier  
So few have given so much pleasure to so many. They will be remembered by the people who love them most" - Kevin Stratton  
Big Country has been there for me in the good times and the bad. - John Curran

Not only the band is great, the fans are fantastic. - Rene Fortuin

Their music is most important thing in my life. I will never forget. - Yoko Sumi

I have followed Big Country for years now and their music has meant a lot to me and will continue !!!! - Lee Hart

Keren Fitzgerald - Never will be forgotten "Do you believe in ghosts" - Restless Natives

With friends In a Big Country in 1983 one of the greatest memories of my life thank you Big Country - Simon Barker

Big Country's music has been an important part of my life over the years. Cheers!!! - Andy Swaine

The fields of fire will never go out-thanks for the music - Kevin Jones

Thanks for keeping me sane, - Don Mitchell

The Music of Big Country has always meant Trust, Home, and friendship. As long as there's hope, there's a Big Country - Dave Dawson

Your music was the soundtrack to my youth. David Good

Big Country have been a massive part of my life since 1983. It's been a great experience ! I've "Stayed Alive!" - Graham Goodall

Channel 4 was my 1st meet with BC through childhood into adulthood remember Ronnie Scotts Birmingham - Sarah Clews-Jones

Been to many a gig, thanks for the memories and Good Luck for the future. Stay Alive! - Lesley Neilson

Big Country have been a big part of my life for the last 20 years. Their songs have given me hope, when there seemed like none. The last 20 have been wonderful. Carl Cusumano, 28 Port Orange, Florida USA

I never tire of legends grown, We dream too much and time has flown - the memories will be forever, Thanks - Gordon Smith (34), Letham, Fife, Scotland

What can I say!BC has been a lifestyle not just a band. Thanks for all the great songs! I would wait a hundred years to hear yoursongsagain!  
ConradDesjarlais,31 Vancouver,Canada

Farewell friends. We met at your 1st NYC show, I hope to see you in Glasgow on 5/31/00. Thanks! - Christopher Otazo

I've stayed alive!!! 1000 thanks for telling me to do so! 24, Honolulu, Hawaii

United in music, you brought us all together. Forever will you remain in our hearts. Good luck in the future. - John Griffiths

A simple plea to the band - "Stay Alive!" - Mike Lynd  
Big Country, the best band there has ever been. Steeltown, the best LP

ever made. No debate. Thanks guys! Douglas Corner, 18, Glasgow

They made music to move mountains! - Sylvie Davidson

Your music and voices will resound in our hearts forever. Thank you for the wonderful memories. GOOD LUCK! - John & Jessica Velez  
Superb music, genuine guys and my home town band - thanks for the memories - stay alive!" - Alastair Keith  
What can I say Big Country are a brilliant Band. STAY ALIVE - Ruth Harkcom

I don't know if this is right but Big Country are simply the best - Alan Preece

If I die in a combat zone - box me up and ship me home  
If I die and still come home lay me where the rose is sown - Keith Milbourn

From days spent trying to play along to the music in my bedroom, through the lonely dark times of losing a partner, the music was there to lift and help me. Gentlemen, I thank you so much. Graham 39yrs. Glasgow.

People say 20 years is a long time to stay together as a band. Maybe it is!!! But in that 20 years you have given me a lifetime of musical memories - Mark Phelan

Huge Texas fan since the beginning....waiting for a chance to see them in the States....

I WANT MY BIG COUNTRY!!!! - Cheers, David K.

"How can you replace a band that whatever your mood the music takes you to a better place - thanks & good luck in whatever" Best Wishes, Rob Ford

Oh Lord, why must Big Country go?  
Oh Lord, I've never felt so low!!!!  
Will miss you loads, Good Luck.. - Clair Hinton

Why the long face? It's obvious - the greatest ever band are no more. FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK - STAY ALIVE!! - Darren Hinton

We will never forget Big Country, they brought us joy, happiness and last but not least peace in our time! - Marcel & Sandra van der Haven

Great music, great memories, last of the great bands. thanks for the unforgettable music! - Stephen Min Barnes

I've been there since the start. It's sad to see the end... - Colin Jacobson

Big Country has been a instrumental! part of my development as a person. They've helped me through real bad times. - John David Allison

I have listened to 'Chance' many times particularly when I have felt sad and it never fails to cheer me up. - Mandy Holmes

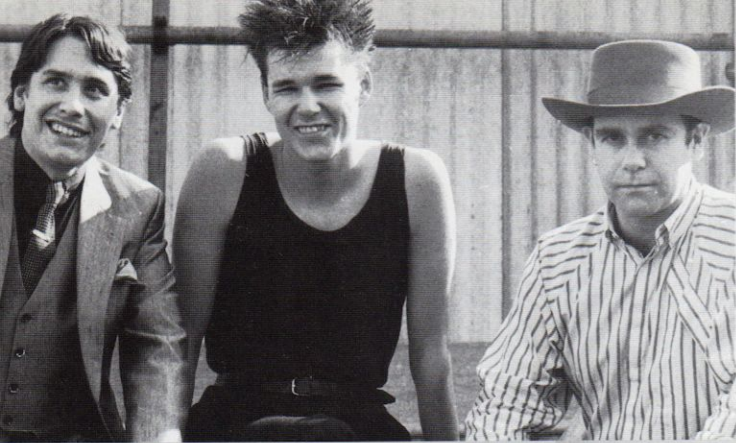
Thanks for the music and the memories lads especially the shows in Derry .In a Big Country dreams stay with you !! - Eamon Crossan

From Manchester to Hull; Glenrothes to London. New friends and great memories -

"We dream too much, and time has flown" Tim Foster (29), Pudsey, England

They've cost me a lot of money over the years - absolutely worth every penny! An AWESOME act. Thankyou Big Country. - 31, Tamworth, Staffordshire.

I'm gutted! but thanks for the memories guys - some very enjoyable evenings will live with me forever. Had the pleasure of meeting you all many years ago in Aberdeen after my first BC concert at the Music Hall - I was hooked after that. Good Luck and happiness to you all.-Karen Harkin



Ok-- I have to say that Listening to BC has saved my life on several occasions. How did you know what I was thinking??? Love Christine

Thanks for all of the friends, highs, lows, sharing, laughs, cries, words, thoughts, feelings, the "journey and the rest" - Bill Darling - 35, Oklahoma USA

Thanks Big Country! I have had pleasure of introducing your music to our children. They are big fans as well. Especially our 9 year old daughter. She has taken my old Big Country posters and plastered her walls with them. I couldn't be prouder. Thanks , Chris, Laura, Sas, Goo, and Bunny Casey

17 years on from first seeing Big Country live, I still get that same brilliant buzz at every BC gig! - Tony Greco

Great music and great lyrics!!! Thanks guys!!! 27. Groningen, The Netherlands. - Pieter Dijkstra

"BC taught me to keep my head up, no matter what mess I've been into" - Jochem Aarts

Big Country are lyrical and musical geniuses! May the road long rise up to meet you in whatever you do! - David Penfold.

Thanks Big Country for the best live gigs ever - Stay Alive !!! DAVE NUTLEY ,DUBLIN

Thanks for the great music. The only band I go to watch on my own but never feel alone. Tracey Blackmore,30, Leigh, Lancashire

Please carry on forever Stuart!!!! - Jane Preece



They've made me happy when I've been sad, and been a huge part of my life right from the beginning.

Big Country are genuine rock heroes who have provided countless inspiring songs over the last 18 years. Martyn Wright, age 25, Manchester

They are the best. Their music gave me more words can say. Stay alive in a BIG COUNTRY dream. - Thomas Klosterkother

Big Country have travelled with me through many highs and lows - cheers. - Dominic Williams

You saved my soul, You gave me grace, No one can ever take your place. Stay Alive, Kitt Curry



Big Country is always my choice when I dont know what to play from the cd collection..... probably because they are the BEST !! - Ben Preston

Thank you for your music, for arousing my musical interest, for becoming an individual, for pieces of happiness. - Anke Knoepper

Big Country; The "Buffalo Skinners"- The meaning of life. (As we know it) - Steve Dominey

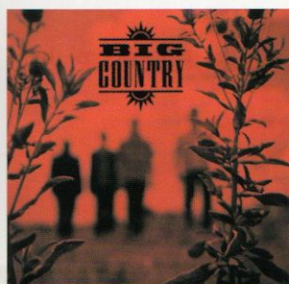
Keep on rockin' in the free world. Stay Alive.....!!!! - Stephen Dominey



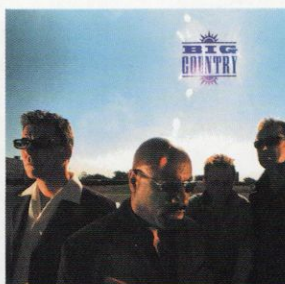


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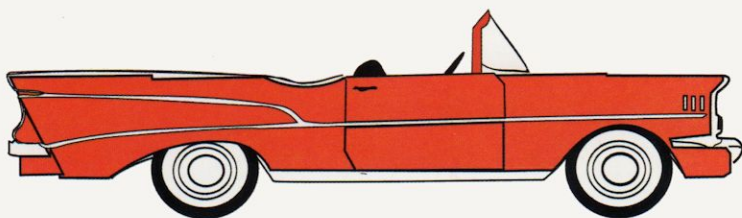
Fragile Thing  
Track0004(a&b)



See You/PerfectWorld  
Track0005(a&b)



Somebody Else  
Track00011



## DRIVING TO:

THURSDAY 18TH MAY	CAMBRIDGE, JUNCTION
FRIDAY 19TH MAY	NORWICH, UEA
SATURDAY 20TH MAY	LONDON, SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
SUNDAY 21ST MAY	WOLVERHAMPTON, CIVIC HALL
TUESDAY 23RD MAY	MILTON KEYNES, STANTONBURY CAMPUS
WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY	NOTTINGHAM, ROCK CITY
THURSDAY 25TH MAY	LEEDS, TOWN AND COUNTRY
SATURDAY 27TH MAY	MANCHESTER, ACADEMY
MONDAY 29TH MAY	DUBLIN, OLYMPIA
TUESDAY 30TH MAY	BELFAST, WATERFRONT
WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY	GLASGOW, BARROWLANDS