

rock's backpages

the online
library of
pop
writing

**50,000 articles from
over 1,000 publications**

**Rock 'n' roll to hip-hop:
60 years that changed the world**



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Welcome to the world's biggest library of music journalism, featuring almost 50,000 articles on artists from Aaliyah to ZZ Top, with a new edition every Friday. [Enter the library...](#)

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Featured artist



The sublime Supa Dupa Fly at 25: Missy "MadameX" Elliott talks to ANE's Andy Crayell and to J2's Bethan Cole in late 1997. Plus contemporary reviews of Missy's brilliant debut by MOJO's Lloyd Bradley and this week's featured writer Chris Roberts...

Featured writer



Chris Roberts meets Ronnie Spector

New for subscribers

Audio interview



Ira Robbins telephones Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Colin Greenwood in 1993 and Jim Sullivan hears about the new *CX Computer* - 25 years old this month - from drummer Phil Selway in 1997.

Articles

- 1964 *Beater for Sale*
- 1966 *Stevie Winwood*
- 1967 *Impressions @ Whisky*
- 1968 *Mamababe*
- 1969 *Joe South*
- 1970 *John Bonham*
- 1971 *David Crosby's Name*
- 1972 *Honey Cone*
- 1973 *Real Young @ Winterland*
- 1974 *Dony Frexin*
- 1975 *Mick Ronson*
- 1976 *New Orleans*
- 1977 *Robert "Robert" Wilson*

The RBP Podcast

Episode 126



The legendary Lester Bangs recalled by his friends and Cream colleagues Robert Duncan and Juan Ullrich!

Explore the library

Subjects & genres

- Search the library for subjects including:
- Fashion, art, and design
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incl. Neil Tennant, Mavis Goldstein, Nelson George, Carol Crayner, Lenny Kaye & Peter Dinklage...

20 years of Rock's Backpages

The RBP story

Sound by Ear

introduction

Rock's Backpages is the largest database of music journalism online.

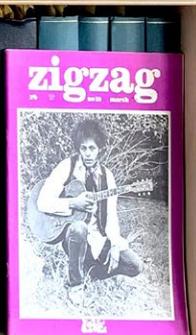
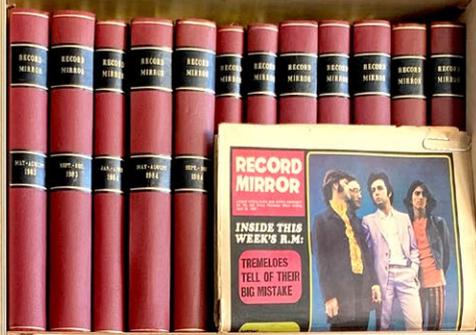
The archive features over 50,000 articles on thousands of artists from ABBA to Zappa, plus over 800 audio interviews with legends from Jimi Hendrix to Kate Bush.

We've been going for over 20 years and work with hundreds of writers to archive their interviews and reviews for students, researchers and music-lovers.

The *Library Journal* praised **Rock's Backpages** as "an essential acquisition for large public and academic libraries," while *Variety* called it "an online museum that may well be the best hope rock has of being documented in all its fullness for future generations."

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our archive: curation & content

All articles on **Rock's Backpages** are full-text, primary-source and fully searchable by artist, date, genre, publication and keyword.

The articles are taken from the widest possible range of music publications in the US and UK, from *Creem* and *Rolling Stone* to the *New Musical Express (NME)* and *Vibe*.

We also include pieces from fanzines such as *Sniffin' Glue* and *Who Put the Bomp!*, underground papers such as *The Great Speckled Bird* and *World Countdown News*, and national newspapers such as *The Guardian* and the *New York Times*.

Each week, we add a minimum of 50 interviews and reviews from the pages of the greatest music publications, plus a newly digitized audio interview.

We also create free features, spotlight the work of one of our contributors, and pay tribute to departed artists on our weekly homepage and newsletter.

“Rock's Backpages is hallowed insurance that all those hard-won interviews, priceless rarities and cultural snapshots will live forever in one grand gallery.”

— CAMERON CROWE, Journalist and Filmmaker

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The Beatles



443 articles

Newcomers To The Charts: Liverpool's Beatles Wrote Their Own Hit

Profile by Alan Smith, *New Musical Express*, 26 October 1962
MAKING THEIR NME Chart debut with 'Love Me Do' this week are the Beatles, a vocal-instrumental group who hail from Liverpool, the birthplace of such ...

Chart Chatter by June Harris: Frank Ifield Just Had To Hit That Top Spot!

Report by June Harris, *Disc*, 10 November 1962
THERE'LL BE no stopping Frank Ifield now! It HAD to happen that 'Lovesick Blues' would hit number one, and establish the Australian as our leading ...

Beatles Find Show Biz Isn't All Fun

Interview by Jean Carol, *Disc*, 24 November 1962
THE BEATLES, newest British group to join the ever-growing list of outfits to challenge the Shadows, dropped into the DISC office just about 12 hours ...

At a Recording Session with the Beatles

Report and Interview by Alan Smith, *Mersey Beat*, 3 January 1963
THE SECONDS tick away, high in the control room at EMI's recording studios in St. John's Wood, London. Through the glass panel I could see ...

You've Pleased-Pleased Us Say The Beatles

Interview by Alan Smith, *New Musical Express*, 1 February 1963
THINGS ARE beginning to move for the Beatles, the r-and-b styled British group which crashed back into the NME Chart this week at No. 17. ...

Beatles Beatles

Report and Interview by Wesley Laine, *Record Mirror*, 2 February 1963
WHETHER YOU like them or not, you've got to admit that the Beatles are just about the most talked-about group on the British beat scene. ...

Why The Beatles Create All That Frenzy

Profile and Interview by Maureen Cleave, *The Evening Standard*, 2 February 1963
THE BEATLES are the darlings of Merseyside. The little girls of Merseyside are so fiercely possessive about their Beatles that they forced Granada to put ...

The Beatles: Liverpool Group Takes Britain by Storm

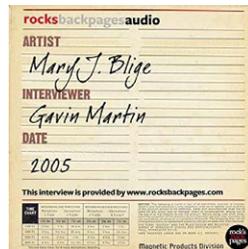
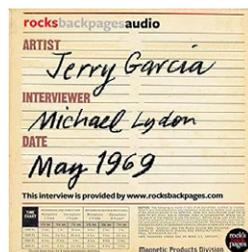
Profile by June Harris, *Disc*, 9 February 1963
LAST WEEK Brian Matthew described The Beatles as "the most original musical and visual sensation since The Shadows." And the off-beat writings of leader John ...

artists

The 50,000+ articles in the **Rock's Backpages** database feature almost 8,000 artists from Aaliyah to ZZ Top, and from classic rock icons to game-changing rappers. The articles range from short reviews and reports to long interviews and retrospectives.

The earliest article is from 1948, the most recent from 2022. In addition, the archive contains over 800 exclusive audio interviews, stretching from David Crosby in 1967 to Beck in 2019. It includes fascinating conversations with the following legends:

- 1969 **Little Richard**
- 1972 **David Bowie**
- 1975 **Bob Marley**
- 1977 **Fleetwood Mac**
- 1980 **Paul McCartney**
- 1986 **Chrissie Hynde**
- 1988 **Al Green**
- 1991 **Bob Dylan**
- 1993 **Snoop Dogg**
- 1998 **Joni Mitchell**
- 2002 **Madonna**
- 2005 **Stevie Wonder**
- 2015 **One Direction**



June 1974 21p USA one dollar

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The Real Rock'n'Roll Underground

Grateful Dead
Grand Funk
Aretha
Bucky Fuller

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blues & soul

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ROLLING STONE

Vol. 9, No. 24 1974 U.K. 3p 50

Dylan in the Studio With George

Paul Simon, If Anybody Asks

Little Richard Child of God

Janis Back From Jungle!
Cream's Last Puff

the FADER.

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NEIL YOUNG AT LARGE

Paul Williams in the West

John Hammond on the Road

publications

The **Rock's Backpages** library draws on a vast archive of over a thousand different publications, from *Crawdaddy!* and *Mojo Navigator* in the mid-1960s to *Echoes* and *Stylus* in the 2000s.

We also source articles from national newspapers, specialist magazines, trade publications, fanzines and websites from all over the world. Publications include:

1960s

<i>Blues & Soul</i>	<i>KRLA Beat</i>	<i>Melody Maker</i>
<i>NME</i>	<i>Rolling Stone</i>	<i>The Village Voice</i>

1970s

<i>Circus</i>	<i>Creem</i>	<i>Let It Rock</i>
<i>Sounds</i>	<i>Trouser Press</i>	<i>ZigZag</i>

1980s

<i>The Face</i>	<i>Kerrang!</i>	<i>Musician</i>
<i>Smash Hits</i>	<i>Spin</i>	<i>The Wire</i>

1990s

<i>Details</i>	<i>Mixmag</i>	<i>MOJO</i>
<i>Select</i>	<i>Uncut</i>	<i>Vibe</i>

2000s

<i>Complex</i>	<i>Harp</i>	<i>Paste</i>
<i>Pitchfork</i>	<i>PopMatters</i>	<i>The Word</i>

2010s

<i>Coup de Main</i>	<i>The Guardian</i>	<i>Line of Best Fit</i>
<i>NYTimes</i>	<i>The Quietus</i>	<i>The Times</i>

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Carol Cooper

Dr. Carol Cooper (*snapped in the late '90s with Eddie Palmieri*) is a New York-based journalist and cultural critic who has been reviewing music, books, film, and live performance for over twenty years. Her work has appeared in national and international publications including *Actuel* (Paris), *The Face* (London), *Latin New York*, *The Village Voice*, *Essence*, *Elle*, *New York Newsday*, and *The New York Times*. Her essays have also been anthologized in the following collections: *Rock She Wrote*, *The Rolling Stone Book of Women in Rock*, *Brooklyn*, *Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough: Essays in Honor of Robert Christgau* and *Rolling Stone Press: The '70s*. Her own collection of music, film, book, and nightlife essays *Pop Culture Considered as an Uphill Bicycle Race* is available internationally from Amazon.com.

89 articles



By Artist | By Date

List of articles in the library by date

The Black Music Association Movement Of Jah People

Report by Carol Cooper, *SoHo Weekly News*, 28 June 1979
DURING A DEFINITIVE rendition of 'Exodus' which capped an hour-long show by the Wailers, Stevie Wonder joined Bob Marley on stage and moved 2,000 members ...

Jamaican Sunrise: The Promise, Problems and Ethos of Rasta Reggae

Essay by Carol Cooper, *The Black American*, 1980
AS A BAROMETER of social pressure, and an indicator of public opinion, reggae music has no peer in the modern world of multi-media. As an ...

Joan Armatrading: Angel of Intrigue

Interview by Carol Cooper, *Musician*, April 1982
Joan Armatrading has bartered her acoustic folk roots into a gutsy, punk maelstrom; her new album, *Walk Under Ladders*, crackles with aggressive electricity and sensual ...

Kid Creole & The Coconuts: August Darnell And The Creole Perplex

Essay by Carol Cooper, *The Village Voice*, 27 July 1982
"The dominant feeling of the black poet is one of malaise, better still of intolerance. Intolerance of reality because it is sordid, of the world ...

Marvin Gaye: Midnight Love (CBS)

Review by Carol Cooper, *Musician*, February 1983
UPON RELOCATING to England in 1981, Marvin Gaye complained to London's *New Musical Express* that his last Tamla release, *In Our Lifetime*, was flawed because ...

The Equals, Eddy Grant: Eddy Grant: A Reggae Popster Makes His Own Breaks

Interview by Carol Cooper, *Musician*, June 1983
REMEMBER D.I.Y.? Remember all those fierce and earnest punk rockers who vowed to bypass the corporate monopoly and conquer the rapidly devolving Western world? It ...

Prince: Someday Your Prince Will Come

Essay by Carol Cooper, *The Face*, June 1983
THE THING TO BEAR IN MIND is that Prince does not do interviews. He certainly didn't do this one, nor any of a dozen others ...

David Bowie Let's Dance (EMI/America)

Review by Carol Cooper, *Record*, July 1983
A CONSUMMATE BLEND of everything Chic and David Bowie (in his Negro period) represent, 'Let's Dance' - the title sona of the latter's new album ...

writers

There are almost 800 writers on [Rock's Backpages](#), covering all eras of popular music from the 1940s to the present day. These include many of the biggest names in the history of music journalism, from *Crawdaddy!*'s Paul Williams to *Shock & Awe* author Simon Reynolds. We launched the site in 2001 with the work of such legendary names as:

Al Aronowitz	<i>New York Post/Rolling Stone</i>
Caroline Coon	<i>International Times/Melody Maker</i>
Simon Frith	<i>Creem/Let It Rock</i>
Charlie Gillett	<i>Record Mirror/Observer</i>
Vivien Goldman	<i>Sounds/Melody Maker</i>
Mary Harron	<i>Punk/Village Voice/Guardian</i>
Lenny Kaye	<i>Fusion/Rolling Stone</i>

Subsequently we've added hundreds more writers whose work we preserve for posterity in the [Rock's Backpages](#) library, including:

Lorraine Alterman	<i>Detroit Free Press/Rolling Stone</i>
Lester Bangs	<i>Creem/Rolling Stone</i>
Carol Cooper	<i>Musician/Village Voice/The Face</i>
Nick Kent	<i>Frenzd/New Musical Express</i>
Greil Marcus	<i>Rolling Stone/Creem/Let It Rock</i>
Lillian Roxon	<i>New York Sunday News</i>
Nick Tosches	<i>Fusion/Rolling Stone/Creem</i>

Every year, we add many new writers to expand and diversify our historical and contemporary content.

subjects

The study of popular music history overlaps closely with the study of social history, politics, fashion, film, photography, technology, the music industry, and other disciplines.

For this reason, **Rock's Backpages** articles are tagged not only by artist, publication and writer but by subject, extending the application of our content far beyond music.

Subjects include:

Cultural studies and theory

Fashion, art, and design

Festivals and events

Journalists, authors and publications

LGBTQ+

Politics, race, religion and society

Women in music, feminism

“Rock's Backpages [...] benefits not only music students and faculty, but those studying and researching journalism, history, English and pop culture. The inclusion of underground and street publications in addition to mainstream journals like *Rolling Stone* and *MOJO* makes it unique.”

LORI WIDZINSKI, University of Buffalo

genres

Despite its name, **Rock's Backpages** covers almost every genre of popular music from the past 60+ years.

From gospel and rock 'n' roll to hip-hop and electronica, the library does not discriminate between punk and reggae, or between country and heavy metal. We believe there is incisive writing about all these musical styles and more.

Genres include:

Blues and rhythm & blues

Chart pop

Folk and folk-rock

Hip-hop, rap, garage and grime

Jazz and jazz fusion

Punk and hardcore

Soul, funk and R&B

“Reading rock articles was a crucial part of my education, formation, and inspiration. The great thing about **Rock's Backpages is that it's been done by experts, by people who've got a feeling for it. For me it's definitive...”**

JOHNNY MARR, musician



E12: JENNIFER OTTER BICKERDIKE ON BIG STAR + PREFAB SPROUT

E63: NEIL TENNANT ON SMASH HITS + PET SHOP BOYS + ANDY WEATHERALL



E105: NELSON GEORGE ON THE DEATH OF R&B + JIMMY JAM AND TERRY LEWIS AUDIO

E120: KATE MOSSMAN ON JONI MITCHELL + LOU REED + MORRISSEY & MARR

“A fantastic podcast from which I always learn so much. The **Rock’s Backpages** team makes a point of tracking down and featuring unsung women pop journalists from the ’60s and ’70s. The guests are invariably great.”

DAVID STUBBS, author and journalist

our podcast



The **Rock's Backpages** podcast began in November 2018 as a casual conversation between RBP co-founders Barney Hoskyns and Mark Pringle, shedding light on the articles and audio interviews added to the site each week.

Produced and co-hosted by Jasper Murison-Bowie, the podcast swiftly expanded into a one-hour-plus format featuring guests sharing personal anecdotes about their lives in music. These have included:

Neil Tennant	writer turned Pet Shop Boy
Midge Ure	Ultravox/Live Aid legend
Stewart Lee	comedian
Alan McGee	Creation Records founder
Barbara Charone	celebrity PR
Danny Fields	former Ramones manager
Bernard Fowler	Rolling Stones backing singer
Nelson George	R&B/hip-hop writer
Mary Harron	film director
Michael Zilkha	ZE Records founder
Jill Furmanovsky	photographer
Peter Guralnick	historian/biographer
Adele Bertei	postpunk icon
Jez Butterworth	playwright
John Harris	<i>Guardian</i> columnist
Vicki Wickham	former Labelle manager
Geoff Travis	Rough Trade founder

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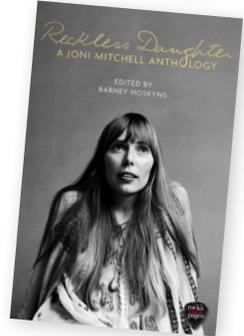
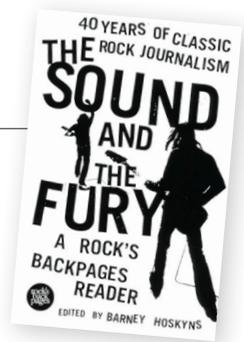
In addition to its online library, **Rock's Backpages** has produced a number of books and audio downloads over the years.

Bloomsbury published *The Sound & the Fury*, an acclaimed **Rock's Backpages** anthology of music journalism, and a partnership with Constable/Little, Brown led to anthologies of interviews with Joni Mitchell, Steely Dan and Radiohead.

We also license exclusive audio clips for use in TV, film and radio documentaries, and text articles for inclusion in books, magazines and album reissues.

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our story



20 years
of Rock's
Backpages

Rock's Backpages is operated by Backpages Limited, a company set up in 2000 after *MOJO*'s U.S.

correspondent Barney Hoskyns returned to London and teamed up with musician Mark Pringle, designer Martin Colyer and financial director Tony Keys.

The company has since been bolstered by the additions of Paul Kelly and Jasper Murison-Bowie. We recently celebrated our 20th anniversary online.

Although **Rock's Backpages** was initially conceived as a research tool for music writers, it soon became clear that it would be a fantastic resource for universities and public libraries. We attended our first American Library Association Annual Conference in 2005 and have subsequently exhibited at a number of other conferences in the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom.

"Little did we realize we'd still be going strong two decades after our launch party in 2001," says Hoskyns. "The idea was to create the definitive library of pop writing from all the great popular music publications — a library, moreover, that kept growing and expanding as all the best libraries do. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do."

"Rock's Backpages is the best resource we have ever subscribed to. It's had a great impact on our library, especially for younger users — you need this!"

JO GUIDICE, Director of Dallas Libraries

technical information

All content within the **Rock's Backpages** archive is presented with the full agreement and permission of the copyright holders or their estates. The vast majority of this material is exclusive to **Rock's Backpages**.

All text content is full-text, primary-source HTML which is designed to be used for academic purposes and includes auto-citations in APA, Chicago, MLA and Harvard formats, making for easy and accurate referencing.

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The articles are fully searchable by keyword utilising standard Boolean operators or faceted search by artist, date, genre, publication, subject, writer and article format.

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*please note trials are available for institutional use only, for the purpose of evaluation.



Rock's Backpages

is a trading name
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Registered office:
Unit T13 Tideway Yard
125 Mortlake High Street
London SW14 8SN
United Kingdom

+44 (0)7590 317 326

+44 (0)20 7998 0695

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