

11:35pm (UK)**Stars Pay Tribute to 'King of Skiffle'***By Anita Singh, Showbusiness Editor, PA News*

Some of the biggest names in rock took part in a tribute concert tonight to "King of Skiffle" Lonnie Donegan.

Van Morrison, Mark Knopfler, Roger Daltrey and Bill Wyman were among the stars appearing at the Royal Albert Hall gig.

Donegan – considered by many to be the "Godfather of Rock'n'Roll" – died in November 2002 at the age of 71.

Other stars appearing on the bill tonight included Gerry Marsden, Jools Holland, Joe Cocker, Rolf Harris, Joe Brown and Billy Bragg.

All cited Donegan as their inspiration for going into the music business.

Rolling Stones star Wyman said after Donegan's death: "He was the first Englishman that did it, he was the inspiration to all the bands of the 60s, and we owe it to him."

Glasgow-born Donegan took the British music scene by storm in the 1950s with his distinctive sound.

He had a string of hits including My Old Man's A Dustman, Cumberland Gap and Rock Island Line.

Sir Paul McCartney once said of the Beatles: "When we were kids in Liverpool, the man who really started the craze for guitars was Lonnie Donegan. We all bought guitars to be in a skiffle group. He was the man."

The Royal Albert Hall was the venue for Donegan's first solo performance, under his real name of Tony Donegan.

Proceeds from tonight's concert will go to the British Heart Foundation.

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