

ALL BACK TO MY PLACE

IN WHICH THE STARS REVEAL THE SONIC DELIGHTS GUARANTEED TO GET THEM GOING...

Billy Bragg

THE PROGRESSIVE PATRIOT

What music are you currently grooving to?

I'm in a bit of a **Ry Cooder** jag – *My Name Is Buddy* I really like, and also *We'll Never Turn Back*, the new **Mavis Staples** album, which he produced and plays on. They set out to record songs of the civil rights movement, but Mavis has also written about her experiences in the days of civil rights and how things are now. It's not celebratory, but there's joy in it.

What, if push comes to shove, is your all-time favourite album?

Bridge Over Troubled Water was the first album that really touched me. I taped it off a schoolfriend's sister Lesley, on a reel-to-reel recorder.

What was the first record you ever bought? And where did you buy it?

The single of *You Wear It Well* by **Rod Stewart**, from the record shop downstairs from the hardware shop where I'd just started working as a Saturday boy in Barking, in 1972. I was spending my money in the company store.

Which musician, other than yourself, have you ever wanted to be?

Ronnie Lane, most of all when he was playing with **Slim Chance** and doing his *Passing Show* – what a fabulous thing to lose all your money on. Those albums he made are to me the most quintessentially English albums ever made – eclectic, country, good time and reflective.

What do you sing in the shower?

The Ode To Joy from **Beethoven's** Ninth Symphony.

What is your favourite Saturday night record?

Tamla Motown Chartbusters Volume 3 – it's got all the highs and the lows.

I taped this off my friend's sister Lesley as well. She had impeccable taste.

And your Sunday morning record?

It's on Shanachie – *Avenging And Bright* by **Charles Guard**. It's traditional Irish harp music, beautiful, like an aural back rub.

Billy Bragg has launched an independent initiative to supply musical equipment to inmates in Her Majesty's prisons. See www.jailguitardoors.org.uk for more info



Bettye LaVette

SHE'S GOT HER OWN HELL TO RAISE!

What music are you currently grooving to?

A whole bunch of pop, rock and country artists. The music I listen to when I want to relax is usually something soothing and classical like **Mozart** or **Beethoven**. My grandchildren call it elevator music.

What, if push comes to shove, is your all-time favourite album?

Oh gosh. It would have to be *John Coltrane And Johnny Hartman* with *Lush Life*, or *Donny Hathaway* with *Giving Up*. I've been listening to both those albums for decades and there's nothing I would change about either. Perfectly put together and the singing is flawless.

What was the first record you ever bought? And where did you buy it?

It was **Bobby Day's** *Rockin Robin* from *Alma & Carl's* on *Owen St* and *Oakland Ave* in *Detroit*. I loved it so

much I played it to death.

Which musician, other than yourself, have you ever wanted to be?

I've never wanted to be anyone other than Bettye LaVette.

What do you sing in the shower?

I never sing in the shower or when I'm cooking. My husband must be so disappointed because I think one of the reasons he married me is he thought I'd sing all the time!

What is your favourite Saturday night record?

Anything by **Marvin Gaye** or **Ray Charles**. I grew up listening to them and I still really enjoy listening to them.

And your Sunday morning record?

My perfect Sunday morning would consist of peace, quiet and an old black-and-white movie from the '40s. If I was going to listen to any music I'd want it from that period!

