

The Prisoner – Still Inspiring Musicians: A Review

by Debs McDougall.

During the last few months this editor has had contact from three bands/musicians who have contacted Six of One regarding their music and the influence of The Prisoner. Each band/musician comes from very different genres of music so hopefully there will be something of musical taste for every one. So in no particular order....

1. Gerry Colvin: Gerry's music falls into the Country and Western style of music. Best to let Gerry tell his own story.



The Prisoner and Portmeirion have always inspired musicians and songwriters alike, from the iconic 'I Helped Patrick McGoochan Escape' by The Times to Fairport Convention and Supergrass' jolly video for 'We're Alright' to name but a few. Now a new album has been released by Folk-Pop legend Gerry Colvin entitled 'Six of One Half a Dozen of the Other', the cover of which reflects his admiration of the programme that he watched as a child.

'I saw The Prisoner when it was first aired and was totally captivated. When I started writing songs professionally it was a major influence – and still is. When I met my wife Kathy, we discovered we had a mutual love of the programme and we have attended many conventions since. A lot of the tracks I write explore the same themes that are found in The Prisoner; individuality, outsiders and the faults found in our modern society.'

Gerry (also known as Nigel, who won The Gary Lineker Award for nicest person at the 1998 Convention) has written with Alison Moyet, worked in Nashville and toured Europe, America and the UK. His band supported Status Quo on their 'Aquostic' tour in 2015.

Past albums have included songs such as 'Living in Harmony' and 'I've Got A Rival', the latter being about his wife preferring McGoochan to him!! (A very enjoyable and cleverly written track). Gerry's new CD is available from www.gerrycolvin.com, a collection of folk/country tinged songs with razor-sharp lyrics and haunting melodies.

2. The second offering is a work in progress by Six of One member Victoria Clarke. Vickie has been working on an EP called "Degree Absolute" and hopes to have a ten track album of songs and soundscapes based on The Prisoner completed for the 50th anniversary of the screening of The Prisoner, feeling that something this good should be acknowledged musically. Vickie has recently informed me that the EP is now online for listening and also as a download at:

<http://thehuntsaboteurs.bandcamp.com/album/degree-absolute-double-a-bonus>

Her music is quite different and varied with track one called "Ashes of Destruction" incorporating Prisoner sound bites set to electronic dance music/dub step (my favourite of the two) whilst the other track called "Number 6" reminds this editor of the Beatles track Revolution 9 from the White album, being very psychedelic. Vickie hopes soon to add another track "Keep on Running". The intention is to release a ten