

## Classic Rock 9th April 2026 - Musical Influencers

The topic for our meeting was to highlight some current artists and their musical influences. Several group members nominated a track by an artist and a companion track by the artist that influenced them. Below is a list of tracks played and a YouTube link for the track(s) if available.

Steely Dan - [East St. Louis Toodle-oo](#) (From Pretzel Logic 1974)

Duke Ellington and his Orchestra - [East St. Louis Toodle-oo](#) (1927)

Donald Fagen and Walter Becker (Steely Dan) were long time fans of Jazz and artists such as Duke Ellington. Their version of East St. Louis Toodle-oo is the only instrumental they released and is a close 'pastiche' of the original, substituting wah-wah guitar for Bubba Miley's trumpet mute work on the original.

Paul McCartney & Wings - [Cafe on the Left Bank](#) (1978)

Frank Crumit - [Stumblin](#) (1922)

Paul McCartney's father was a keen pianist and a fan of pre war music hall songs of the time. Paul would have picked up the influence of these songs and later exhibited in Beatles tracks such as Ob la di ob la da and this Wings track.

Jeff Lynne's ELO - [When I was a boy](#) from the Alone in the Universe LP

The Beatles - [Strawberry Fields Forever](#) (1967)

The Beatles in turn influenced many, including the multi instrumentalist, songwriter and producer, Jeff Lynne (ELO) and notably later, 90's band Oasis.

Elton John - [60 years on](#) (1970) from the 'Elton John' eponymous first album

Ray Charles - [Song for you](#)

As a singer songwriter, Elton John has always acknowledged the influence of other artists, and why not the 'master' Ray Charles?

Peter Green - [Crawling King Snake](#) - from the Blues Don't Change LP (Peter Green Band)

John Lee Hooker - [Crawling King Snake](#)

The blues were a massive influence on late 60's British bands, including Fleetwood Mac, which included Peter Green, later to emerge as an artist in his own right. Green here emulates John Lee Hooker's 'lazy' style of phrasing.

The Who - [Baba O'Reilly](#) - from Who's Next (1971)

Terry Riley - [A Rainbow in Curved Air](#) (excerpt) - 1969

Pete Townsend is another that acknowledges many influences and this Who track took its underlying synthesiser theme from American experimental musician Terry Riley, who had used the technique in his 1969 LP of the same name.

Bonnie Raitt - [Love Like a Man](#) - Old Grey Whistle Test 1974

Eddie Van Halen - [Eruption](#) - Live 1986

Bonnie Raitt came from a long blues tradition and was an early rock/blues female guitarist and singer. Eddie Van Halen, an acknowledged master of the 'shredding' technique still owes a debt to Bonnie, Peter Green, Eric Clapton et al who came out of the 60's and 70' blues boom.

Led Zeppelin - [Whole Lotta Love](#)

Willy Dixon - [You need love](#)

A well known 'steal' by Led Zeppelin of Willy Dixon's blues original. Not only some of the lyrics but, notably the bass line.

Rod Stewart - [Tonight's the Night](#)

Long John Baldry - [I'm on to you baby](#)

Rod in his late 70's pomp. Before his rise to fame with the Faces, Rod was an associate of both Elton John and Long John Baldry. Elton borrowed his stage surname from the latter and Rod owes his initial break to Long John who, legend has it, spotted Rod singing in a tube station! Baldry had some success as a pop 'balladeer' in the 60's but, like Joe Cocker, his star waned through the 70's and beyond.