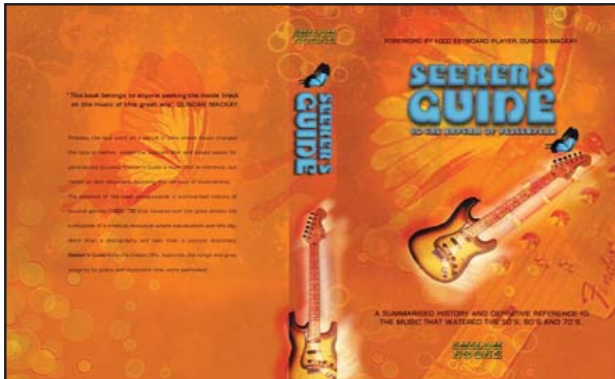


## THE SEEKERS GUIDE TO THE RHYTHM OF YESTERYEAR by Shiloh Noone



by Paul Brett

For those readers who like to delve into popular music history, I can recommend a very good read. The title of the book is "The Seekers Guide to the Rhythm of Yesteryear". It's by South African author, Shiloh Noone and spans 600 pages. The book itself started as a website that became a book. It lists and features guitarists and bands from the 50's through to the late 70's and summarises the musical genres that encompassed the Globe during this period. It's crammed packed full of big names and overlooked musicians and poets, it's a whose who and who done what of musical links. Here's how it's described on the author's promotional material. " *The book is also the first summarised history of music reflecting eight genres namely Rock and Roll, Surf Guitar, Psychedelia, British Invasion, Birth of the Blues, Legends of Folk, the Progressive Rock Era and the history of the Seventies Rock Warriors. The book itself started as a website that evolved into a 600 page document reflecting the finer guitarists and groups of the sixties and seventies with particular focus on bands that were extremely talented, but received little exposure namely Keef Hartley Band, String Driven Thing, Tractor, Velvet Opera etc. Several articles have already been used by the BBC like 'The Slicing of an Evergreen Apple'.*" It has a comprehensive index at the back of the book listing thousands of songs in alphabetical order in juxtaposition with hundreds of cult 60's soundtracks and thousands of musicians.

So who is Shiloh Noone, the author of such a worthy feat of research? I was surprised when I read his biography to find that here was a truly dedicated person, who truly believes in the causes he sets out to pursue. Shiloh is more well known publicly as a radio presenter on FMR 101.3Fm with a history on pirate radio stations in the seventies, namely Q Radio Gory castle Jersey isles , Love Radio Amsterdam from a windmill , and Peace Radio (Radio Hershalom) from a ship off the coast of Israel . In 2004 he was interviewed on the BBC Radio by Shaar Pillay while his book was used by actor Brad Pitt during his BBC narrative documentary of folk musician Nick Drake. Shiloh met Brad one year before his baby daughter was born, ironically also named Shiloh. Alongside his creative work he has another side which equally drives his life. He does pay

the price for causes he passionately believes in. In 2006, things turned dark with Shiloh's refusing to interview Celine Dion, quoting 'she's a diva with a fever, but not an artist', which led to his departure from the Radio Station. He was actively involved in Mordecai Outcry during the early eighties

[http://icej.org/data/images/File/WFJ/july\\_aug2005.pdf](http://icej.org/data/images/File/WFJ/july_aug2005.pdf) , jailed for two years in Jordan for treason while working for a radical Zionist group. Shiloh is well connected with leftist groups and ANC leaders in the South African government . He is understated but extremely charismatic and known to get results. Close associate of Peter Jones, attorney for Steve Biko. (Shiloh known as the white fox in the seventies ) Arrested on numerous occasions in the seventies by the State of Security and interrogated at the convenience of the President. I think you can gather by now that Shiloh doesn't do things by half !

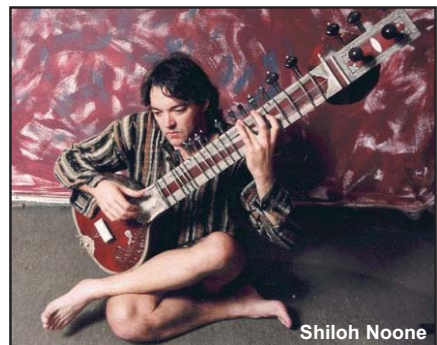
Here's an extract from the book which deals with some of the bands I was associated with

**Velvet Opera - the Shroud of Radio One**  
 ..... **Velvet Opera** first comprised vocalist **Elmer Gantry** (Dave Terry), guitarist **Colin Forster** and drummer **Richard Hudson**, all ex **The Five Proud Walkers** that recruited **Vulcans** bassist **John Ford**. **The Five Proud Walkers** had already won esteem as a support blues band for **Pink Floyd** which included **Jimmy Horrocks** on organ. **Velvet Opera** then changed name to **Elmer Gantry's Velvet Opera** (name taken from 1960 Bert Lancaster movie) largely due to Terry appearing in a black cape and preachers hat resembling Sinclair Lewis' fictional character Elmer Gantry. The group forged a respectable anchor in the Psyche scene based on their nominal 1967 debut *Elmer Gantry's Velvet Opera* largely due to the influential John Peel and their performances on Top Gear Radio One. In contrast the real top gear to follow was their scorching "Flames"/ "Salisbury Plain" single with **Colin Forster** also on guitar, a song that **Led Zeppelin** covered during their early live shows. Further seven inch eaters like "Mary Jane" (1968) and Howard & Blakley's "Volcano" (1969) charged into the arena, now with the gifted **Fire** guitarist **Paul Brett** who had previously cut his way through their *Magic Shoemaker*. Gantry and Forster would then depart, replaced by ex **Tintern Abbey / Fire** lead guitarist **Paul Brett** and ex **Levee Breakers** twelve - string guitarist **John Joyce** who had previously played the blues alongside **Beverly Martyn**. The groups name was also shortened to **Velvet Opera** and celebrated by the launch of their 1969 *Ride A Hustler's Dream* . The core of the album pushed out a

spread of different styles such as the traditional "Black Jack Davy", **Willie McTell's** "Statesboro Blues" and a stirring instrumental version of **Lennon & McCartney's** "Eleanor's Rigby". The template for future **Hudson & Ford** is well stamped on the riveting "Raise The Light" and acoustic "Warm Day". (**Hudson & Ford** later launched their advance singles "Burn Baby Burn" & "Pick Up The Pieces") Ford's power bass breaks again through the blues riffing "Don't You Realise", a pick of **S B Williamson's** "One Way Out" which originally bled off the *Allman Brothers' Fillmore Concerts*. **Paul Brett** would later form the respected **Sage** which included sessions by ex **Fire** guitarist **Dave Lambert**. Dave went on to **Strawbs** and **Earl King Boogie Band** covering the **Downliners Sect's** "Bad Storm Coming". **Paul Brett** also helped out on the **Strawbs' Dragonfly**, but more acutely Paul's acoustic stealth is found years before with **Roys Harper's Sophisticated Beggar** and **Al Stewart's Zero She Flies**. Ex **Krisis Colin Bass** and ex **Tintern Abbey** vocalist **Dave McTavish'** reformed the group putting out two singles "She Keeps Giving Me These Feelings" and the **PJ Proby** influenced "Hole in my Pocket". Dave then joined **Smokestack Crumble** while Gantry formed **Stretch** which spat out the staggering single "Why Did You Do It" with riffs by ex **Curved Air** **Kirby Gregory** and ex **Hackensack** bassist **Paul Martinez**. **Paul Brett** went on to write a 12 string Suite in 1977 called *Earth Birth*, releasing 3 more LP's up to 1980 until a chart hit with Romantic Guitar on K-Tel in the eighties. **Colin Bass** joined the latter stages of **Camel**.

As you can see, the author is very factual. Everything in this book is similarly presented. All in all, this is a must have book for fans and researchers alike of this era in music. The book received a four star review in Record Collector and has been listed in the Cecil Sharp House ( The English Folk and Dance Society ) by the order of Sir Malcom Taylor OBE. Lauded by Manfred Mann, Paul Kantner of Jefferson Airplane and Dave Williams of Mellow Candle with a foreword by Keyboard wizard Duncan Mackay ex 10CC / Alan Parsons etc . This is a once in a lifetime work by an author who truly delivers. Shiloh and his wife are in fact due to come to the UK in February 2009 to live in London for five or so years. It will be interesting to follow his activities throughout his stay !

The book is available via Foyle's or [http://www.geocities.com/SEEKERS\\_GUIDE/](http://www.geocities.com/SEEKERS_GUIDE/).



Shiloh Noone