



## **RADIANT FUTURE RECORDS**

More music for grown-ups. And iDiots.

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### Contents:

- Martin Gordon
- Radio Stars
- Radiant Future
- Chris Townson
- Forum
- Other Stuff

This is the first of a quarterly update of all things Radiant. Owning it's emotions, but always sensitive to the needs of others despite it's own clear vision. Willing to achieve a compromise between varied perspectives and always attentive to the needs of it's colleagues. Easy to digest and guaranteed to be entirely free of nuts almost completely.

### **Martin Gordon**

The Mammal Trilogy continues into it's fifth edition, as the stirrings of a new series of compositions begin to appear. They'll be recorded later in the year – exact design is as yet unclear, as Chris Townson won't be drumming this time (see below). Will it have guitars on it? Probably. But who knows what else... The European edition of the Live Mammal will debut on March 1st, when Martin and his Mammals support Martin and his Radio Stars in London. He will as noted elsewhere, probably blow himself off, or else make himself look like a beginner. A win-win one, this. Line-up will be

Pelle Almgren, MG and Steve Budney from [Tristan Da Cunha](#) on drums, with [Rich Davenport](#) strumming and widdling on guitar as appropriate, and often as not. A chat with the Kollektionist on this and related topics is [here](#).

## **Radio Stars**

The one-off reunion will take place at the [Blow Up Metro Club](#) in London on March 1st in London, coinciding with the release of an archive live recording from the late 70s. Odd, really, that these two events should coincide. Normally, following the traditional Jet-style co-ordination that has often dominated these kind of events in the Mammalian Past, they would be separated by many months, and then all information would in any case be unavailable or unreadable. And often both at the same time, as well as simultaneously. Line-up will be Martin Gordon, Andy Ellison and Ian Macleod, Heroic drummer Steve Budney makes his second appearance of the evening.

Various e-items referring to the impending reunion have appeared on chat boards, including a thread on Mojo from someone claims to be owed a pint of beer by Andy Ellison. Clearly some scores remain unsettled.

In 2007, Ace Records re-released the two Radio Stars albums on CD in a 'hip-pocket' edition, for those who recall the days when they had hips. ['Songs For Swinging Lovers'](#) and ['The Holiday Album'](#) apparently 'demonstrate the melodic genius that has always been songwriter Martin Gordon's calling card', and you can't say fairer than that, can you. And there's always the compendium ['Somewhere There's a Place For Us'](#) which adds a couple of unreleased tunes to the best of both previous releases. And now ['Something for the Weekend'](#) joins the canon.

## **Radiant Future**

The Radiant Future label is now distributed in the US by Koch, and of course Amazon everywhere will always oblige with CDs – it's usually a painless operation and deliveries arrive in a couple of days. There's also [Voiceprint](#) for those in the UK and Europe. Naturally everything is available for download as well, from almost any outlet. In some cases (i.e. Something for the Weekend), you may

even find an extra track or two that were not on the CD edition. There are also other releases that are download only. You'll also find sleeve notes and PR, depending upon the e-tailer, otherwise these text items will be downloadable from the website. An overview page will be up on the site soon, to enable a complete, painless trip into the Radiant Future for all mammals, regardless of creed, colour or orientation.

## **Chris Townson**

Martin Gordon's fellow-traveler for many years, drummer Chris Townson finally embarked on the slow walk back to the pavilion on February 10 2008 after a period of illness. Chris and Martin met in 1974, finding themselves similarly unemployed when events conspired against them – half of Chris's band Jook joined Sparks to replace Martin Gordon, and they both were at a loose end. Chris and Martin formed a bass and drums duo, but soon realised that their vision was perhaps too eccentric for the mainstream. Along came Andy Ellison (from Chris' former band John's Children) and all those other people who made up the 'first supergroup of glam' that was Jet.

After playing on the final Jet recordings (also masquerading as the initial Radio Stars recordings), Chris left the music business for the world of illustration and, later, social work. In the early 90s he returned to drumming for enjoyment rather than as a career option (he was by this time older and wiser). Martin and Chris played together in a reformed (but not much) version of John's Children in the mid 90s, and Chris was an integral part of Martin's solo Mammal development in Berlin in the 2000s, playing on every album so far. More musings and recollections in due course – he is much missed. Here is a [book of remembrance](#) which is in the process of being set up by his family in his memory and here is the Chris Townson [fundraising page](#) for the MacMillan Cancer Support, set up by his children.

## **Forum**

Don't forget that the [Forum](#) is there as a platform for your views and opinions. Assuming that you can read and write, that is. Otherwise just put a large 'X' at the bottom of your illiterate, badly-thought out, ill-considered rant when you have done with it. Help

with grammar and vocabulary is always available. Don't forget, the world is waiting for your opinions about almost everything, regardless of whether they are actually worth reading.

### Other stuff

Things that we recommend at present include almost everything by Niacin, and live bootlegs from the Mahavishnu Orchestra. Full-on amphetamine widdling can be found on the MO Live in Munich 1972 recording, but you need to be sitting comfortably before listening so as to prevent damage to your extremities. As for pop music – well, there doesn't seem to be much of it about at present, except for [The Smash](#), featuring the undoubted talents of Mammal-cohort Ralf [Leeman](#). Well worth investigating.



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