

# Paul Millns Band



Sylvain Fassel  
A PHOTOGRAPHER

“ If there is any justice in the musical world,  
he would be filling the biggest halls in the land. ”

THE SCOTSMAN

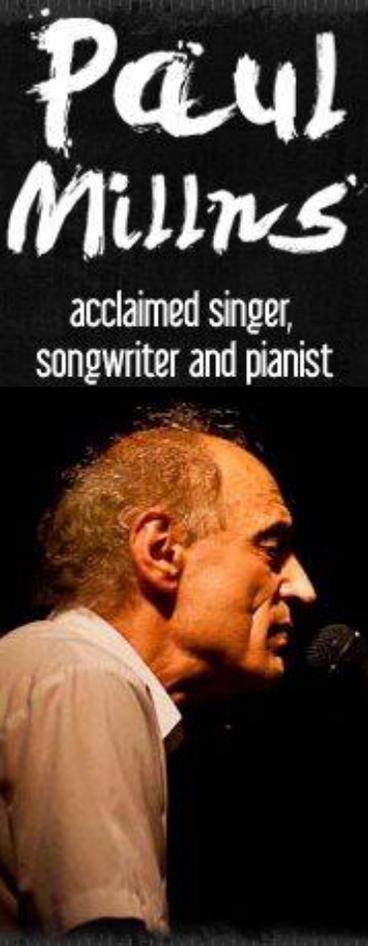
“ Paul Millns: a charismatic  
performer. ”  
The Daily Telegraph

“ His music defies categories, spanning earthy blues, love ballads,  
soul rock and jazz. He has one of the most expressive voices you  
will ever hear, and he uses it to bring out all the emotions he packs  
into some superb lyrics. ”

MusicWeek

“ Superb singer/songwriter/pianist -  
supremely lyrical and melodic songs. ”

TimeOut



Singer, Pianist and Songwriter, Paul Millns is one of the quiet ones, one of those poets more inclined to introspective musing. He has never liked putting on a great show or pushing himself into the foreground without consideration for others. And perhaps it is here that the source of his musical power of persuasion is to be found, the source of the intensity of his songs, which have the power to move one again and again. Paul Millns used to play in English groups such as Sweet Thunder and Stud, but since the 1970's he has usually appeared solo. Then he sits at the piano, a thin, fragile-looking figure, leant forward and completely absorbed in the music. He loves the black keys, the "blue notes", and whoever hears him playing without seeing him could easily believe that a black bluesman was playing and singing the melancholy from the depths of his soul. For there is this voice, above all, rough and quite simply moving, nesting in the pleasure centre of the brain with its vibrating undertones created from unsophisticated melancholy and deeply felt sensibility. This voice seems to know all the heights and depths of human existence; it knows how to breathe conspiratorially and whisper imploringly; it articulates with its smoky timbre the emotional world of the blues and is capable of heart-wrenching eruptions. This is why critics have for years stopped at nothing in making comparisons in order to show how much they think of Paul Millns. They mention Joe Cocker and Tom Waits, Randy Newman and –in a bold fit of free association- even Captain Beefheart. But no matter who is made the scapegoat in describing Millns' magnetic personality graphically – there has never been any doubt as to the inadequacy of such comparisons. For though it may be true Millns' songs and his voice are reminiscent of Joe Cocker, Tom Waits, Randy Newman, or even Captain Beefheart, such superficial similarities are never the whole story. Whoever

listens more carefully soon notices: Paul Millns is Paul Millns. Comparisons are always lame, and in this case they never learn to walk. And this is OK. For Paul Millns has much to say in his songs which only he can say in this way and in no other. Whoever hears his music from "Gibbi" can convince himself of this. The impressive poetry of "Gibbi's Song", the prophetic power of "Down in the danger zone", the visionary clarity of "look at the madman", or the moving intensity of "Till the morning comes" – all these songs reflect the strong personality of the artist. He does not ignite short-lived fireworks for effect, but draws his scenes with a fine brush and creates his effect from their atmospheric intensity.

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Born in Norfolk, Paul started his musical career in the late 60's and early 70's playing piano and keyboards for blues and soul bands, music which was always to influence his own singing and composing. In the mid 60's Paul came to London and went to college while he checked up on the thriving blues scene there. Eventually he joined several bands as a piano player, beginning with his own band 'Sweet Thunder', and subsequently touring the world in the bands of Alexis Korner, Eric Burdon, various visiting blues singers like Louisiana Red, Dr Hook's Denis LeCourier, Peter Thorup of CCS, Bert Jansch and Jo Ann Kelly. Later as a solo artist, he worked opening for John Mayall, David Crosby, Murray Head, Ralph McTell and John Martyn.

In 1975 he recorded his first solo album and began an impressive solo career. Meanwhile Paul has recorded 15 albums, Critics have always commented on the soul quality of Paul's vocal style in the tradition of great smokey voices like early hero Ray Charles and Joe Cocker. This together with his piano style has always given his own performances of his songs a strong 'bluesy' character mostly absent from the work of other singer/songwriters. Recently, with several singers taking an interest in Paul's repertoire, he has started to concentrate on writing for other performers.

The main breakthrough for Paul as a composer was Elkie Brooks recording "Too much between us" for her hit album "Pearls 2", and many other artists have performed and recorded his songs, including Bonny Tyler ["Forget her" on her 1996 album "Free Spirits"]. A trip in 1997 to Nashville, America's songwriting city, to write with top US composers like Robert White Johnson and Karen Taylor Good, and a gig in the famous Bluebird Cafe, was so successful that Paul returned there in the spring of 1998.

Paul has composed music and songs for several European film productions, and music for Thames TV, Channel Four and BBC Two programmes, including TV Society and BAFTA award winners. A new direction in 1994 was Paul's collaboration with writer David Lake in the first "interactive book" – "TEARS OF GLASS", a psychological thriller with its own soundtrack tape of Paul's songs. Major Hollywood studios are interested in this project. He has enjoyed writing together with long time friend Benny Gallagher of Gallagher and Lyle fame and with Chris Neil, the producer and writer of Mike and the Mechanics and top selling artist Celine Dion.

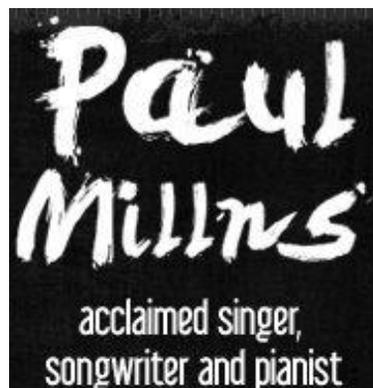
Besides a busy schedule touring in **2002** and **2003**, including a first tour of Czechoslovakia, Paul was working on film music and ballet projects. He wrote the orchestral score for the BBC Documentary film 'JLB – The man who saw the future' directed by Jan Leman, and first shown in 2003. This film has been shown on BBC 4 and also BBC 2.

He is also involved in an ambitious project with Swiss painter Jurg Gabele in a piece of music composed and scored for orchestra and choir called 'PAPILLONS'. This is based on the themes of some of Gabele's paintings and involved Paul going to Russia to record it with full orchestra and choir.

Songs of Paul were recorded by John Wright and top Slovenian singer Tinkara. Meanwhile he was still touring, recording and writing new songs. A new album of songs 'WHEN LOVE COMES CALLING' was Paul's first major release in the UK for a long time, in **2004**.

Since 2004, Paul toured extensively in Europe particularly in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Holland. Soon he recorded a new album "Undercover" . In 2009, Paul released his first DVD while writing new songs for his next album "Calling All Clowns" which was released in 2010, with fine reviews.

Current works include a new double CD-Live from a concert performed early 2012 in Geneva and a video clip on one of Paul's favorite song: "Gasoline Heart".



### **CALLING ALL CLOWNS**

[2010] ACOUSTIC MUSIC RECORDS

11 new songs and one standard, co-produced by Ingo Rau in his Amps Factory Studios in Freiburg. With contributions from Ingo Rau (bass), Vladi Kempf (drums), Butch Coulter (harmonica), Nick Pentelow (sax), Ralph McTell (Ac. guitar), Niels Kaiser (guitar) and Daniela Dietrich (violin).



# The Band



## Bass - Ingo RAU

Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, studied bass and drums. He started playing professionally in the German band EAT AMPS ALIVE in 1991 and they recorded four hit albums. Since then he has been the owner, producer and engineer in a recording studio in Freiburg/Germany where Paul has recorded his last 6 albums since UNSUNG HEROES. He also engineered and produced albums in Recording Studios in Oslo, Berlin, Paris, Tokyo, New York. Additionally he engineered LIVE concerts all over the world.

While working there Ingo has recorded albums and engineered Live Concerts by other artists like MARCUS MILLER, MACEO PARKER, CHICO FREEMAN, AL DI MEOLA, NILS LANDGREN, CANDY DULFER and many others. He recently played bass on Paul's recent albums including the latest "CALLING ALL CLOWNS" and tours regularly in Europe with Paul's band.

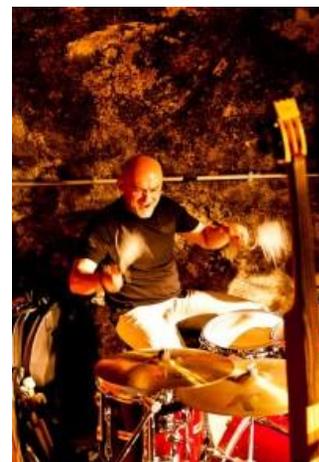
## Drums - Vladi KEMPF

Born in Poland, where he played drums with top band LOMBARD touring all over Europe. He also worked with guitarist JAN ACKERMAN, original member of the Dutch group FOCUS.

He moved to the West in 1987, and now lives in Freiburg in the south west of Germany.

Now one of the most sought-after drummers in Europe, he plays with bands like HIGH JINX with RAY AUSTIN, The CADILLAC BLUES BAND, and American bluesmen JIM KAHR, GUITAR-CRUSHER SMITH, JUNIOR WELLS, and Canadian singer MARTY HALL.

His association with the music of PAUL MILLNS goes back to the early '90', and he still tours with Paul and his band. He has appeared on all Paul's albums since "UNSUNG HEROES" till the latest "CALLING ALL CLOWNS" .



## Guitar and Harmonica - Butch COULTER

Canadian Butch Coulter has been playing his virtuoso harmonica style in Blues and Roots music for the last 25 years all over the world. For fifteen years he was working with blues legend LONG JOHN BALDRY, and has also played with ALBERT COLLINS, JEFF HEALEY, JIMMY PAGE and MICK TAYLOR.

Since moving to Europe in the 90's, he recorded two albums with the late LONG JOHN BALDRY and has appeared on all Paul's albums since then, with his unique brand of harmonica and guitar styles. He and Paul are very often playing live concerts together and with the band, throughout Europe