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The Edge's Rock Auction

Items from Lennon, Hendrix and Dylan benefit hurricane victims

JOHN LENNON'S GLASSES, Janis Joplin's love letters and Elvis Presley's recording contract are among the dozens of items donated for the "Icons of Music Auction" to raise money for musicians affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. "I'm amazed at how generous people have been," says U2 guitarist the Edge, who co-founded Music Rising, the organization sponsoring the April 21st auction at New York's Hard Rock

Cafe, and persuaded his bandmates to chip in: Bono gave up signature Armani shades and a leather jacket he wore on the band's first ROLLING STONE cover. The Edge donated the 1975 Gibson Les Paul he bought during the *Joshua Tree* sessions. "That guitar has songs in it," he says of the ax, expected to bring in \$60,000 to \$80,000. "It's a well-used, well-loved instrument. I'll miss it."

The Edge created Music Rising in late 2005 with Pink Floyd producer Bob Ezrin and Gibson CEO Henry Juszkiewicz to provide housing, money and instruments to musicians. The auction will help rebuild music programs in churches and schools. "We're viewing it in a slightly poetic way," the Edge says. "If the music is re-established, it's an encouragement for people to think positively and to come back."

EVAN SERPICK

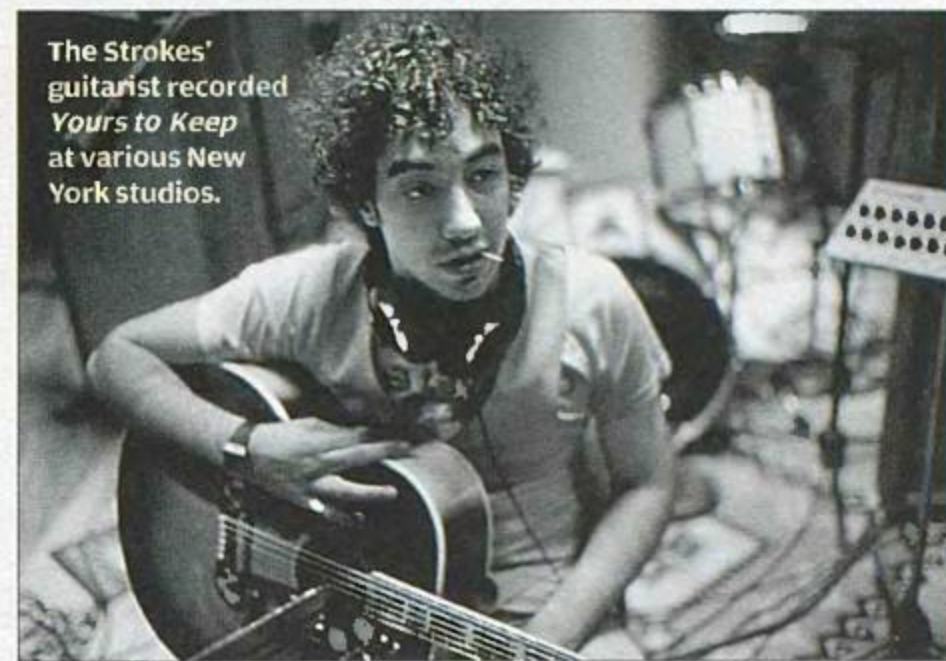
1. The Edge's guitar
The U2 maestro (inset, at the Music Rising concert in April 2006) has played this cream 1975 Gibson Les Paul on every tour since *Achtung Baby*.

2. Dylan's harmonica
Complete with Bob's autograph.

3. Hendrix: Bold as hell
Jimi wore these pink flares onstage.

Different Strokes for Different Folks

Hammond's solo debut shows off songwriting chops BY JENNY ELISCU



The Strokes' guitarist recorded *Yours to Keep* at various New York studios.

WHILE THE OTHER Strokes have been enjoying downtime since coming off the road last fall, Albert Hammond Jr. hasn't had a break. The guitarist, 26, spent the past few months supporting his solo debut, *Yours to Keep*, which came out March 6th. "We calculated that I've played a show every 2.4 days," he says. "The Strokes don't even play that often." A tour with Bloc Party, as well as his own headlining gigs, have helped buoy U.S. sales of the disc past 14,000 copies in its first month — impressive, considering that solo projects from anyone other than a band's frontman aren't normally this well received. Or this good. *Yours to Keep* brims with sweetly rough-hewn tunes that balance Hammond's obvious debt to Strokes songwriter Julian Casablancas with echoes of the Beach Boys, Tom Petty and solo John Lennon.

"I wanted the album to be like,

"Here's a half-hour of what was in my head — like an opium dream," says Hammond, who started writing these tracks in 2004 and recorded them a year later with producer Greg Lattimer and a pair of longtime friends — drummer Matt Romano and bassist Josh Lattanzi — in New York. At first, Hammond wasn't sure he'd release it. "I didn't tell anyone until it was almost done," he says the day after a show at South by Southwest that rivaled the Strokes' early high-voltage performances. "I'm shy like that. I just wanted to complete it so I'd be able to write better songs for my friends to hear."

"It's a very strong record from somebody you know but don't know," says ex-Smashing Pumpkin James Iha, who released *Yours to Keep* on his Scratchie label. "He's his own artist, as opposed to 'that guy from that band.' And I think people really root for him."

OBITUARIES

Soul veteran
Ingram



■ **Luther Ingram**, a soul singer best known for his 1972 hit "If Loving You Is Wrong (I Don't Want to Be Right)," died of heart failure on March 19th in Belleville, Illinois. He was sixty-nine. Born in Jackson, Tennessee, Ingram sang in gospel and R&B groups before signing to legendary Memphis soul label Stax as a solo artist in 1969, where he recorded "If Loving You." It reached Number Three on the Hot 100 and sold millions of copies. "His music will never be forgotten," says Sir Mack Rice, with whom Ingram wrote the Staple Singers' 1971 hit "Respect Yourself." "Those

songs will be cut over and over as time goes on."

■ **Hy Weiss**, a legendary record exec whose label Old Town defined the 1950s New York doo-wop sound, died March 20th of natural causes in Englewood, New Jersey. He was eighty-four. In 1953, Hy and his brother Sam founded Old Town, and though they signed artists of all stripes, it was their doo-wop acts — such as the Solitaires, with nineteen singles in the 1950s and '60s — that put them on the map. Weiss later joined Stax, where he worked with Isaac Hayes, the Staple Singers and Luther Ingram. "He always had a great ear," says Barry Weiss, Hy's son and the president of the Zomba Label Group. "When the Backstreet Boys came out, he called me up and said, 'Now you've got a real winner.'"

■ **Faustino Oramas**, 95, singer-guitarist for the Cuban group Buena Vista Social Club, died on March 27th of liver cancer in his hometown of Holguin, Cuba.

ANDY GREENE

REISSUES

Traveling Wilburys: Two From the Vault

The Traveling Wilburys, the supergroup starring George Harrison, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty and ex-ELO frontman Jeff Lynne, will finally reissue their two long-out-of-print CDs on June 12th with a twenty-four-minute studio documentary and various bonus tracks, such as the Harrison-sung



Ax men: Dylan, Lynne, Petty, Harrison and Orbison (from left)

"Maxine," the group effort "Like a Ship" and alternate takes of "Not Alone Any More," by Orbison (on the vinyl release only). "It's quite exciting to find new phrases by Roy that haven't been heard in nineteen years," says Lynne. "[The bonus tracks] are just like the Wilburys, exactly the same as the other ones. We just didn't have room for them. Mixing them was very nostalgic."

The Wilburys, perhaps the most star-studded supergroup in rock history, came together almost on a whim in 1988. Both *Vol. 1* and the intentionally misnumbered *Vol. 3* went platinum but have been out of print since 1996, when the band's license with Warner Bros. Records expired. Harrison, who owned the rights, didn't get around to reissuing them before he died. Rhino Records won a bidding war when Harrison's widow, Olivia, shopped the reissues last year. "I just felt it was up to me to revive it," she says. "I know it's something that George would have done with great enthusiasm."

STEVE KNOPPER