

= Rory Storm =

Rory Storm (7 January 1938 ? 28 September 1972) was an English musician and vocalist . Born Alan Ernest Caldwell in Liverpool , Storm was the singer and leader of Rory Storm and the Hurricanes , a Liverpudlian band who were contemporaries of the Beatles in the late 1950s and early 1960s . Ringo Starr was the drummer for the Hurricanes before joining the Beatles in August 1962 , replacing original drummer Pete Best .

The Hurricanes were one of the most popular acts on the Liverpool and Hamburg club scenes during their existence , although their attempt at a recording career was not successful . They released only two singles (and one additional compilation track) during their early 1960s heyday , and none of their material made the charts . Their second and final single was a version of the West Side Story song " America " , and was produced by the Beatles ' manager Brian Epstein .

When Storm 's father died , he returned from Amsterdam to Liverpool to be with his mother at Stormsville , at 54 Broad Green Road , Broadgreen , Liverpool . On 27 September 1972 , Storm developed a chest infection and could not sleep properly , so he took sleeping pills . The next day Storm and his mother were both found dead . A post mortem determined that Storm had not taken enough pills to kill himself , but it was suspected that , after finding her son 's body , his mother had .

= = Early years = =

Rory Storm was the stage name of Alan Caldwell , born 7 January 1938 , in Oakhill Park Estate , Stoneycroft , Liverpool to Violet (née Disley) and Ernest " Ernie " George W Caldwell . His father was a window cleaner by profession , and a part @-@ time porter at the Broadgreen Hospital , often singing songs to patients . Storm had one sister ; Iris Caldwell , who later dated George Harrison when she was 12 , and Paul McCartney , when she was 17 . Iris later married Shane Fenton , later known as Alvin Stardust . Apart from music , Storm was interested in sports , particularly athletics ; he ran for an amateur team in Liverpool called the Pembroke Harriers , and set the Pembroke Athletics and Cycle Club steeplechase record . Instead of being driven home after concerts in Liverpool , Storm preferred to run home .

Storm played football regularly and was a good skater and swimmer (once swimming the 12 @.@ 5 @-@ mile length of Windermere) . Liverpool F.C. used to train at Melwood and he went to watch them in training , later putting up a large photo of himself training with the team on his wall at home . He was the captain of Mersey Beat magazine 's football team , called the Mersey Beat XI . Storm was born with a stutter (a speech impediment) , which did not affect his singing . Because of Storm 's bad stammer , his friends never allowed him to tell a joke or to order a round of drinks , as it took too long . He became a cotton salesman (as was Jim McCartney , Paul McCartney 's father) before forming a skiffle group .

= = Music = =

Storm 's first name for a group was " Dracula & the Werewolves " , but he then settled on " Al Caldwell 's Texans " . Still known as Alan Caldwell , Storm opened the Morgue Skiffle Club in the cellar of a large Victorian house , " Balgownie " , at 25 Oakhill Park , Broadgreen , on 13 March 1958 . The cellar consisted of two rooms , painted black and connected by a long corridor , with skeletons painted on the walls and one blue light . Groups played on Tuesdays and Thursdays for up to 100 people (above the age of 15) starting at 7 : 30 pm , including Storm 's group (later called " The Raving Texans ") and the Quarrymen (who later became " the Beatles ") . After complaints about the noise , the police closed down the club on 1 April 1958 , but Storm reopened it on 22 April 1958 . It was in the Morgue Skiffle Club that George Harrison auditioned for the Quarrymen , playing " Guitar Boogie Shuffle " by Bert Weedon , before being admitted as a member of the band . Harrison later asked Storm if he could join his group , but Storm 's mother refused to allow it , as she thought Harrison was too young .

Storm went to London , on 11 April 1958 , to participate in a cross @-@ country running competition . During his stay , he took part in a jam session at Chas McDevitt 's Skiffle Cellar , which resulted in an appearance on 30 April 1958 on Radio Luxembourg 's Skiffle club programme , playing " Midnight Special " . In 1959 , Storm 's group consisted of himself , Paul Murphy , and Johnny " Guitar " Byrne all performing on guitar and vocals , Reg Hale (washboard) and Jeff Truman (tea @-@ chest bass) . " Spud " Ward , a former member of the Swinging Blue Jeans , later played bass guitar . Storm met Ringo Starr at a talent contest called " 6 @.@ 5 Special " . Starr had previously played with the Eddie Clayton Skiffle Group and was then drumming with a group called " Darktown Skiffle " . Starr 's first concert with Storm was on 25 March 1959 , at the Mardi Gras in Mount Pleasant , Liverpool .

= = = Rory Storm and the Hurricanes = = =

Storm changed the name of his group to " Al Storm and the Hurricanes " , then " Jett Storm and the Hurricanes " , and finally to " Rory Storm and the Hurricanes " . The original line @-@ up was Storm , Byrne , Ty Brian , Lu Walters , and Ritchie Starkey (drums) . Storm and the Hurricanes entered a competition managed by Carrol Levis called " Search for Stars " at the Liverpool Empire Theatre on 11 October 1959 , reaching second place ahead of 150 acts . The line @-@ up of the Hurricanes finally solidified with Storm (vocals) , Byrne (rhythm guitar) , Ty (Charles) O ? Brien (lead guitar) , Walters (bass guitar / vocals) and Ringo Starr . The group played at the Cavern Club with the Cy Laurie Jazz Band on Sunday 2 January 1960 , and a week later supported the Saints Jazz Band and Terry Lightfoot 's New Orleans Jazz Band . Playing rock ' n ' roll music was a problem at the Cavern Club , as it was not accepted by the customers or management . When Storm and the Hurricanes performed there on 17 January 1960 , with Micky Ashman 's Jazz Band and the Swinging Blue Jeans , their first song was " Cumberland Gap " (a skiffle song) by Lonnie Donegan . Then they played " Whole Lotta Shakin ' Goin On " by Jerry Lee Lewis . The jazz and skiffle audience were outraged , booed and threw copper coins at the group . The Cavern 's manager Ray McFall , fined them six shillings , but the coins collected from the stage floor were worth more than the fine .

Storm and the Hurricanes performed at the Liverpool Stadium on 3 May 1960 , on the same bill as Gene Vincent . Larry Parnes became interested in the Hurricanes , and invited them to audition at the Wyvern Club as a backing group for Billy Fury . Storm turned up at the audition , but only so he could have his picture taken with Fury . In July 1960 , the group secured a residency at Butlins holiday camp in Pwllheli (playing in the Rock ' n ' Calypso Ballroom) for £ 25 each per week . Starr was not sure about giving up his job as an apprentice at Henry Hunt 's , where he made climbing frames for schools , until Storm put forward the idea of " Starr @-@ time " (a solo spot) with Starr singing songs like " Boys " by the Shirelles . Starr finally agreed when Storm told him about how many women would be " available " . It was during this season that Starr (who had been known as " Ritchie " until then) changed his name to " Ringo " .

= = = Hamburg = = =

After playing for more than 16 hours per week , the group were contacted by Allan Williams , who wanted them to go to Hamburg . Derry and the Seniors were successful there , and Williams wanted an additional group . As Storm and the group were committed to Butlins , they turned Williams ' offer down (as did Gerry and the Pacemakers) so Williams sent the Beatles to Hamburg instead . After the summer season ended in early October 1960 , Storm and the Hurricanes were free to travel to Hamburg , replacing Derry and the Seniors at the Kaiserkeller . They arrived in Hamburg on 1 October 1960 , having negotiated to be paid more than the Seniors or the Beatles . They played five or six 90 @-@ minute sets every day alternating with The Beatles . Storm and The Hurricanes were later presented with a special certificate by Bruno Koschmider (the owner of the Kaiserkeller) for their performances .

The stage of the Kaiserkeller was made of planks of wood balanced on the top of beer crates , so

the two groups made a bet to see to who would be the first to break it . After punishing the stage for days , a slight crack appeared , and when Storm jumped off the top of the upright piano , during a performance of " Blue Suede Shoes " , it finally broke . Byrne remembered that as Storm hit the stage , it cracked loudly and formed a V @-@ shape around Storm . He disappeared into it , and all the amplifiers and Starr 's cymbals slid into the hole . Koschmider was furious , and had to replace the live music with a juke box . Both groups went across the road to Harold 's cafe for breakfast , but were followed by Koschmider 's doormen with coshes , who beat the musicians as punishment .

During their eight @-@ week residency Williams arranged a recording session at the Akoustik Studio , which was a small booth on the fifth floor of 57 Kirchenalle (the Klockmann @-@ House) on Saturday 18 October 1960 . Williams asked Lennon , McCartney , and Harrison from the Beatles to play and sing harmonies for Walters (of the Hurricanes) on the recording . Pete Best (the Beatles ' regular drummer at the time) was in town buying drumsticks , so Starr played drums , which was the first time Lennon , McCartney , Harrison and Starr recorded together . They recorded three songs : " Fever " , " September Song " and " Summertime " .

= = = Liverpool = = =

Storm and the Hurricanes were the headlining group at the first " Beat Night " , in the Orrell Park Ballroom , in March 1961 . They were also invited for a season at the Butlins camp in Skegness in Lincolnshire . Sam Leach (a Liverpool promoter) arranged a series of dance nights at the Palais Ballroom in Aldershot , starting on 9 December 1961 . The first Saturday featured The Beatles , but as the local newspaper forgot to run the advertisement only 18 people turned up . The second Saturday was arranged for Rory Storm and the Hurricanes to perform , and as it was advertised this time , 210 people paid to get in . Leach 's idea was to attract London agents to watch the series of concerts , but when he realised they would never travel out of London he abandoned the idea .

Starr considered leaving Storm at that time to join Derry and the Seniors , but accepted a job with Tony Sheridan at the Top Ten Club on 30 December 1961 , as Sheridan 's offer of more money , a flat and a car was too good to refuse . Starr 's stay with Sheridan was short @-@ lived , as he found Sheridan 's habit of changing the set list without telling his backing group beforehand frustrating , so he rejoined the Hurricanes . On 5 February 1962 , Best fell ill and the Beatles had to play a lunchtime concert at the Cavern and an evening concert at the Kingsway club in Southport . As the Hurricanes had no concert that day Starr played with them live on stage for the first time (although he had recorded with them in Hamburg) .

During a Hurricanes ' residency at Butlins , Lennon and McCartney drove from Liverpool to Skegness , on 15 August 1962 , to ask Starr to join the Beatles . Shortly before , Starr had agreed to join Kingsize Taylor in Hamburg , as Taylor was offering £ 20 a week , but Lennon and McCartney offered £ 25 a week , which Starr accepted . Lennon and McCartney offered Storm to swap drummers (with Best replacing Starr) but Best rejected the idea . According to Epstein in his autobiography , Storm was , " One of the liveliest and most likeable young men on the scene ... was very annoyed when Ringo left and he complained to me . I apologised , and Rory , with immense good humour said , ' Okay . Forget it . The best of luck to the lot of you ' " . The Hurricanes then became known for having a succession of drummers , including Gibson Kemp , Brian Johnson , John Morrison , Keef Hartley (August 1963) , Ian Broad and Trevor Morais , who all stayed with the group for a short period before leaving .

Despite Starr joining the Beatles , both groups would perform on the same bill during 1961 , and at many concerts thereafter . In 1962 , both groups performed together at St Patrick 's Night Rock Gala (Knotty Ash Village Hall) Queen 's Hall (Widnes) and with Little Richard at the Tower Ballroom . In 1963 , Storm and the Hurricanes were filmed as part of the " Beat City " documentary , which was broadcast by Associated @-@ Rediffusion Television .

= = Stage persona and lifestyle = =

When Storm became a professional singer , he changed his name to Rory Storm by deed poll , and

changed the name of his family 's home in Broadgreen to Stormsville . Storm was known for the extravagant clothes he wore and the cars he drove , once buying a pink Vauxhall Cresta for £ 800 in cash . A young man was once caught by a porter at Bootle railway station writing " I love Rory " over the walls , and when questioned , it turned out to be Storm himself . The Hurricanes wore matching suits on stage , but Storm sometimes wore a pink suit and pink tie , and during concerts he would walk over to the piano and comb his blond hair with an oversized comb . Their stage wear changed from sunglasses and palm tree @-@ decorated shirts to red (and blue) suits . Storm also wore an Elvis @-@ style gold lamé suit . When they first appeared at Butlins holiday camp Storm wore a turquoise suit with a gold lamé shirt , while the group wore fluorescent suits .

Rod Pont (also known as Steve Day in Steve Day and the Drifters) remembered Storm arriving at the Orrell Park Ballroom for a concert with a boil on his face . When told about it , Storm pulled out a black velvet hood which had slits for his eyes and mouth , and played the whole concert with the hood on . At one concert at Bankfield House Youth club , Garston , Liverpool , in 1965 , the stage lighting failed between sets . Storm was upset until someone walked in with a torch , which Storm used to finish the concert . He occasionally used a pet monkey in some of the group 's performances , as it attracted more people . At a New Brighton swimming baths performance for 1 @,@ 600 people in 1963 , Storm climbed to the top diving board , undressed to a pair of swimming trunks , and then dived into the water at the end of a song . In January 1964 , during a performance at the Majestic Ballroom , Birkenhead , he climbed up one of the columns supporting the balcony , but slipped and fell 30 feet (9 m) to the floor below , fracturing his leg . At another performance on the New Brighton Pier , Storm made his way onto the Pavilion roof , but fell through the glass skylight .

Storm and the Hurricanes received the most votes in the first Mersey Beat magazine poll , but many votes were disqualified as they had been posted from the same place at the same time , and were written in green ink ; although never proven , it was thought that Storm had posted the votes . This meant that the Beatles reached the top position , with the Hurricanes coming fourth , even though the Beatles had also been sending in extra votes themselves . Storm was often photographed for the magazine , such as being surrounded by nurses when he left hospital after breaking a leg during a performance , or playing for the Mersey Beat XI football team .

= = The Hurricanes ' set list = =

The group 's typical 40 @-@ minute set list during 1963 / 1964 :

" Brand New Cadillac " ? Storm , vocals (Vince Taylor & the Playboys) ;

" Roll Over Beethoven " ? Storm , vocals (Chuck Berry) ;

" I 'll Be Your Hero " ? Storm , vocals (Taylor & the Playboys) ;

" Beautiful Dreamer " ? Walters , vocals (Stephen Foster song as rewritten by Gerry Goffin and Jack Keller and released by Tony Orlando in January 1963) ;

" Since You Broke My Heart " ? Walters / Byrne , vocals (The Everly Brothers) ;

" America " ? Storm , vocals (Leonard Bernstein) ;

" Danny " ? Storm , vocals (Marty Wilde) ;

" Green Onions " (instrumental) (Booker T & the MG 's) ;

" Down The Line " ? Storm , vocals (Jerry Lee Lewis) ; and

" Whole Lotta Shakin ' Goin On " ? Storm , vocals (Jerry Lee Lewis) .

Other songs included in the set were :

" Fever " ? Walters , vocals (written by Eddie Cooley and John Davenport ? a pseudonym for Otis Blackwell) ;

" Let It Be Me " ? Walters , vocals (Gilbert Bécaud) ;

" Summertime " ? Walters , vocals (George Gershwin) ; and

" Dr Feelgood " ? Storm , vocals .

The Hurricanes recorded songs for Oriole 's two This is Mersey Beat albums , but only released two singles : " Dr Feelgood " / " I Can Tell " , Oriole (45 @-@ CB 1858 12 / 63) and " America " / " Since You Broke My Heart " , Parlophone (R 5197 11 / 64) which was produced by Epstein at IBC

Studios in London . Epstein also sang backing vocals on " America " , and Starr added percussion and sang . Storm later asked Epstein to manage the group , but Epstein refused . The Hurricanes later recorded two songs at Abbey Road Studios in 1964 : " Ubangi Stomp " and " I 'll Be There " , although they were never released .

= = Later life and death = =

In 1967 , at the age of 26 , O 'Brien collapsed on stage during a performance , and later died due to complications after an appendicitis operation . Storm disbanded the Hurricanes and became a disc jockey , working at the Silver Blades Ice Rink in Liverpool , in Benidorm (he was also a water @-@ skiing instructor there) in Jersey and Amsterdam . When Storm 's father died , he returned from Amsterdam to Liverpool to be with his mother . He developed a chest infection and could not sleep properly , so he took sleeping pills . On 28 September 1972 , Storm and his mother were both found dead , at Stormsville . The post mortem revealed that Storm had alcohol and sleeping pills in his blood (as had his mother) but not enough to cause his death , which was ruled accidental . Although it could not be proven , it is thought that his mother had committed suicide after finding Storm 's body .

The funeral for Storm and his mother was at Oakvale Congregational Church , Broadgreen , on 19 October 1972 . Mourners sang Storm 's favourite song , " You 'll Never Walk Alone " . The two coffins were carried from the hearse to the cremation (at Anfield Crematorium) by former band members . Storm 's remains were scattered on section 23 at Anfield Crematorium 's Gardens of Remembrance . When Starr was asked why he did not attend , he said , " I wasn 't there when he was born either . " Although Starr had often offered to arrange for Storm to record whenever he wanted to , Storm was not interested in finding new or original material . His sister said : " He [Storm] was happy to be the King of Liverpool ? he was never keen on touring , he didn 't want to give up running for the Pembroke Harriers ... and he 'd never miss a Liverpool football match ! " .

Billy Fury , who Storm had met at the Wyvern Club auditions , later played the part of a fictional singer called Stormy Tempest (based on Storm) , in the film That 'll Be the Day (1973) , which also starred Starr . In 1987 , a musical was staged in Liverpool about Storm and the Hurricanes called A Need For Heroes .

Johnny Guitar Byrne died in Liverpool on 18 August 1999 .

= = Legacy = =

Ringo pays tribute to him in both his songs " Liverpool 8 " on his Liverpool 8 album and " Rory and the Hurricanes " on his Postcards from Paradise album .

= = Discography = =

= = = Singles = = =

1963 ? Dr. Feel Good b / w I Can Tell , Oriole , CB 1858

1964 ? America b / w Since You Broke My Heart , Parlophone , R 5197

= = = Albums = = =

1994 ? The Complete Works , Oriole 270 (unofficial release)

2012 ? Live at the Jive Hive March 1960 , Rockstar Records , RSRCD 033

= = = Compilations = = =

1963 ? This Is Merseybeat volume 1 , Oriole , PS 40047 (tracks : Dr. Feel Good and Beautiful

Dreamer)

1963 ? This Is Merseybeat volume 2 , Oriole , PS 40048 (tracks : I Can Tell)

1974 ? Mersey Beat 1962 ? 64 , United Artists , USD 305 (tracks : I Can Tell , Skinnie Minnie , Dr.
Feel Good and Let 's Stomp)

2004 ? Unearthed Merseybeat Volume 2 , Viper CD @-@ 027 (tracks : Lend Me Your Comb)