

# IAN RANKIN TALKS MUSIC



As readers of Ian Rankin's Rebus novels will know, Ian is obsessed with music. He has admitted that he would rather be a rock star than a novelist, and only his inability to hold a note lets him down. He was the singer in a new wave band for six months when he was eighteen, and the amount of music in his books has led to friendships and alliances with many musicians. Pete Townshend sends him e-mails, REM invited him to dinner, and Bill Wyman is a general fan. Ian recorded an album with singer-songwriter Jackie Leven (*Jackie Leven Said*), and recently contributed lyrics (and, alas, background vocals) to the second album by Edinburgh rock band St. Jude's Infirmary. Ian even wrote the sleeve notes to the latest album by Glasgow-based noise warriors Mogwai. The last gig Ian attended was by Brian Wilson, and Ian got to meet the man himself backstage.

When Ian was invited onto the long-running BBC radio show *Desert Island Discs* in 2006, his eight chosen records were

1. *Double Barrell* by Dave and Ansil Collins
2. *Rage:Man* by Mogwai
3. *Solid Air* by John Martyn
4. *Atmosphere* by Joy Division
5. *Snow in Anselmo* by Van Morrison
6. *You Can't Always Get What You Want* by The Rolling Stones
7. *The Boy with the Arab Strap* by Belle and Sebastian
8. *Linseed Oil* by Jackie Leven

Ian is also a fan of jazz and a patron of the Edinburgh Jazz Festival. He counts tenor player Tommy Smith as a friend and his favorite jazz musicians include Coleman Hawkins, John Coltrane, Eddie Harris and Miles Davis.

On a classical music note, Ian wrote the libretto to a short opera in 2008 about the composer Gesualdo, with music by award-winning composer Craig Armstrong (best known for his film scores and work with Massive Attack). Ian has also recorded a desert-island-discs style set for BBC Radio 3. The program was called *With Great Pleasure* and featured music by Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, and Michael Nyman.

**For more information, receive media copy of The Complaints book, and/or to book an interview please contact:** Parmjit Parmar, Montana Ridge, 416-750-0966 / [parmjit@montanaridge.com](mailto:parmjit@montanaridge.com)