

# All about the guru of groove, Colin Larkin, editor of THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POPULAR MUSIC

b. 1949, Dagenham, Essex, England; the world's largest council housing estate, and Industrial wasteland for the Ford Motor Company, the Tremeloes, Sandi Shaw and Dudley Moore.

Educated at S.E.E.C.T.H.S and the London College Of Printing where he studied Graphic Design and Typography.

Worked in commercial art, advertising design groups and for the book publisher Pearson Longmans.

During this time (since 1967) he started to write for music journals and magazines about the new and exploding West Coast USA music scene.

Became senior book Designer/Art Editor of Longmans Publishers by the age of 24. He won major book design awards in 1976 and 1978.

In 1976 he founded his own Book Publishing company; Scorpion Publishing. Published books that the major publishers would not go near; two of them have become collectors items. *Timeless Flight: The Definitive Story of The Byrds* and *Bob Dylan's Unreleased Recordings*. During the late 70s he performed with his own rock band Closer Than Most and wrote dozens of songs for music publishers to reject.

He sold out of Scorpion Publishing in 1989 to establish Square One Books and to start creating his lifetime dream of a multi-volume Music Encyclopedia; *The Encyclopedia Of Popular Music*, to compliment the *Grove Dictionary Of Music*. During the early 90s he also commissioned and published further biographies including those on Bob Dylan, Frank Zappa, Eric Clapton, Graham Bond and R.E.M.

By 1992 his life was consumed by producing the first EPM which had now grown out of control both with cost and size. He sought further finance to continue the project and found a savior; music legend Freddie Bienstock of the Carlin Music Corporation, a large independent music publisher who believed in the project.

The first edition of the EPM arrived in 1992. It was quickly followed by 14 separate spin-off genre titles. The reaction was positive and the EPM and all its sundry spin-offs quickly became the World's leading Popular Music Encyclopedia. This was further endorsed in 1994 when Grove Macmillan (publishers of the Grove Dictionary Of Music) recognised the work and became the USA distributor.

Larkin sold the EPM (Square One Books) in 1997 to MUZE Inc., in order to protect the long-term future of his project. The company became MUZE UK Ltd.

In 1998 his *All Time Top 1000 Albums* book became a best-seller. There has now been 56 separate spin-off titles from the EPM with total sales of over 600,000.

During the past 15 years Larkin has regularly broadcast on BBC Radio and has appeared on TV many times. The EPM has become the Bible (the BBC are one of the main UK customers). He has a vast archive of music books and music magazines from 1961 to present. His personal collection is one of the largest in the UK. His record collection is similarly detailed and vast.

The EPM is the largest textual database of its kind and Larkin is acknowledged as one of the world's leading music experts.

Fortunately his family love music and allow the home to be a music Encyclopedia. He lives with his partner in Suffolk with enough space for his guitars and enough bedrooms for visiting children.

His home is his office because his life is the EPM. No music; no life.

***For additional information or to arrange an interview, please contact  
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