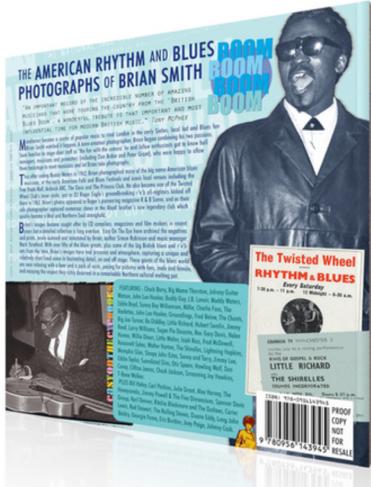




Boom Boom Boom Boom  
American Rhythm & Blues In England 1962 - 1966  
The Photographs of Brian Smith

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<https://easyontheeyebooks.co.uk/forthcoming/boom-boom-boom-boom/>

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PRE-ORDERS NOW LIVE! Use the link below:

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We've been all snowed in here at the Easy Books office as I finish this newsletter off (let's face it we're 630 feet above sea level, so this is not exactly unusual!) but feeling good having finally got the Boom Boom book down to the printers on Monday last. The final stage of preparation has been a bit of a slog, especially after that last particularly nasty variant of covid flooded us for longer than we expected in August (happily we are now all jabbed up). I said last time it was going to be an intense couple of weeks, but it actually took us a full month to prepare each individual page for print - basically taking the artwork files, assigning colour profiles to all the images (there are over 200 in the book), exporting the pages one at a time, and carefully checking the results to make sure all the conversions went as we wanted. Some pages were straightforward, others we redid two or three times, sometimes digitally dodging or burning small areas of an image to improve the balance. But the extra time taken was more than worth it, and we also picked up a couple of missed typos, shuffled a few photos about and even, just four days before deadline, sneaked in an unexpected find from Brian for his 'selfies' page!

We were with the printers for a good while, sorting out paper stock, making sure the page files (which added up to over 880MB of data) had transferred to their system correctly, etc. They will now sort out the imposition, prepare printing plates (no digital nonsense here, this is full on litho printing), schedule time on the presses and steam into it. They have also agreed to let us look in when the book is on the press, so we can try and take a few photographs. Simon used to work at a printers, so he always gets over-excited at that stage of the project.

As this is now all in hand, we are opening the title to PRE-ORDERS. The book is planned to ship in January 2025, and pre-orders will be sent out in the order we receive them. Easy Book's shop get the book ahead of anyone else, so you will be first on the block. In addition to getting it first, we are offering a Pre-Order discount price if you buy through our on-line shop. Stock will also go down to our warehouse in January, for general distribution so local bookshop should be able to supply it soon after.

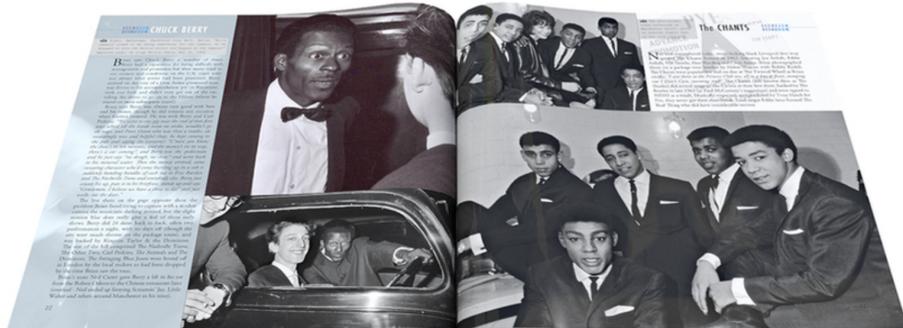


As always we're trailing a few more spreads exclusively with this newsletter, though do remember that these are not always in the order in which they appear in the final book: *This first spread shows on the left Eddie Boyd, photographed relaxing backstage at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester. It illustrates Brian's MO, which was to get an all important image or two for possible use in R'n'B Scene magazine, after which he could relax and here snapped three of the magazine's contributors getting their vinyl signed. On the other page are more Millie pics taken prior to her performance at The Twisted Wheel in 1964. I particularly like these shots, full of life and showing a jam-packed audience in The Wheel for the gig itself (with Millie signing autographs from the stage itself at the end).*

We are also beginning to ramp up promotion, and Brian's piece in the UK based *Vintage Rock* magazine (below) appeared on schedule and looked really good, with Chris Wheatley putting a great feature together. This was their October issue (selling through into November), and you can still order from their online back issue shop.



**Record Collector** magazine have also taken the title to heart and freelancer John Tucker has prepared a big four page feature for early in the New Year. We sent him the hi-res images and a pdf of the book, and let him decide what to go with. John has been following the progress of the book closely, and also did the detailed proof reading at an earlier stage. I find it hard to keep up with their cover dates over Xmas, but this is likely to be in the January or February issue of Record Collector. **Bear Records** in Germany are also taking stock of the book; they run their own on-line shop so this is much appreciated as exporting there post-Brexit is so difficult. More details to follow.



*The off-stage shots of Chuck Berry are great, Brian recalls that Chuck was always very helpful towards him and his friends, appreciating their knowledge and enthusiasm. Brian still has the receipt for the dinner they all went to, though points out Chuck didn't drive them - but just liked to lark about a bit in past photos! On the other page are a little remembered vocal quintet called The Chantays from the North West who were highly regarded and were even backed by a couple of The Beatles on a show at The Cavern in Liverpool.*

Because Brian has been dealing with his own health issues which have necessitated time consuming out-patient appointments, we knocked the plan for a special signed edition on the head in the end as he has been having to take covid isolation more seriously than most. Instead he has been busy spreading the word via his many contacts and (hopefully) getting excited about it all! As he said when he saw the proof sheet, his photographs have never looked better. I hope he's prepared for the flurry of interest which is bound to follow...

We will be making sure we get the news about the book out to as many people as we can over the next few weeks, and if you can help spread the word via social media etc. please do. PDF copies are available for bona fide writers and journalists who are able to review the book, contact Easy Books via the website with details.



*A spread devoted to The Rolling Stones, notice the toilet rolls which decorate the stage! The shot of Brian himself with just two of the group was a nightmare. He gave his friend the camera for the ultimate selfie, but the film ran out! The full story of these shots is in the book's text.*

If you have any problems ordering or questions just drop us an email. In all this has been a long and at times difficult project with the pandemic throwing everyone's plans out the window, but we do appreciate everybody's patience and hope the end result will live up to expectations. We did get a lovely email off one reviewer the other day after sending him the PDF. It just said "Wow!". We'll take that.

Promotional video  
<https://youtu.be/vlv3EK23PgM>

all the best



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