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Middle of the road

(Definition of middle-of-the-road from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press) This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "Middle of the Road" band – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (December 2008) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Middle of the RoadMiddle of the Road in 1972Background informationAlso known asPart 4 (1967)Los Caracas (1968–1970)OriginGlasgow, ScotlandGenresPop, bubblegumYears active1968–presentLabelsRCA (1970–1973)Ariola (1973–1976)Websitemiddleoftheroad-popgroup.comMembersLorna OsborneIan McCredieStuart McCredieStephan EbnPast membersSally CarrKen AndrewEric McCredieLinda CarrollLorraine FehlbergNeil Henderson Middle of the Road are a Scottish pop group who have enjoyed success across Europe and Latin America since the 1970s. Before ABBA established themselves in the mid 70s, Middle of the Road were the sound of early europop with their distinctive harmonies and lead vocals from Sally Carr. Four of their singles sold over one million copies each, and received a gold disc:[1] "Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep".[2] "Sacramento", "Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Dum" and "Soley Soley". By early 1972 the group had sold over five million records.[1] History Original lead singer Sally Carr, drummer Ken Andrew, guitarist Ian McCredie and his bassist brother Eric McCredie, founded the band on 1 April 1970 in Glasgow, Scotland. They had already played together under the name Part Four since 1967 and later in Latin American style under the name Las Caracas. Under the name Las Caracas they won the UK TV talent show Opportunity Knocks. They moved to Italy in 1970 because they had not found success in the United Kingdom. There they met the Italian music producer Giacomo Tosti, who gave the band their distinctive sound and gave them their international break. The band had their first and biggest hit record in the United Kingdom with their debut UK single, "Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep". The song reached No. 1 in the UK Singles Chart in June 1971 and stayed there for four more weeks. In all, Middle of the Road had five hit singles in the UK in 1971 and 1972. The band had especially strong success in Germany, where they achieved eleven Top 40 hits between 1971 and 1974. As an example of this, Frank Valdor was fast to adapt Sacramento as his "party records". Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep and Sacramento were played a lot on Scandinavian radio. In the Dutch Daverende 30 the group had four number 1 hits in between 1971 and 1973.[3] In 1974, early Bay City Rollers member Neil Henderson joined the band on guitar. He wrote and co-wrote songs for Middle of the Road, including the singles "Rockin' Soul" and "Everybody Loves a Winner" and 1974 albums, You Pays Yer Money and You Takes Yer Chance and Postcard, all released in Germany via Ariola like their first German LP, Music Music. Current activity In 2016, Middle of the Road's founding guitarist Ian McCredie accepted a Living Legends Award on behalf of the group at the Scottish Music Awards in Glasgow. In 2017, Middle of the Road released their first single in over 20 years, a live recording of their 1970s hit Soley Soley, performed in front of 20,000 people in Berlin's Waldbühne amphitheatre.[citation needed] Members Original members Sally Carr (born Sarah Cecilia Carr, 28 March 1945, Muirhead, Lanarkshire) – vocals, percussion Ken Andrew (born Kenneth Ballentyne Andrew, 28 August 1942, Bearsden, Glasgow) – drums Ian McCredie (born Ian Campbell McCredie, 15 July 1947, Partick, Glasgow) – guitar, flute Eric McCredie (born Eric Campbell McCredie, 17 July 1945, Partick, Glasgow; died 6 October 2007, Glasgow) – bass Neil Henderson (born Neil Fulton Henderson, 11 February 1953, Glasgow) – guitar Anne Katherine Watson (born Anne Thomson, 2 December 1951, Partick, Glasgow) – for a time in 1975 as guest keyboard player and vocalist and who did session work Current members Lorna Osborne (born Lorna Bannon), Ian McCredie (born Ian Campbell McCredie, 15 July 1947, Partick, Glasgow) Stuart McCredie Stephan Ebn Discography Albums Year Title Label Peak chart positions FIN[4] GER[5] NL[6] NOR[7] 1971 Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep RCA — — — 3 Acceleration 15 13 2 2 1972 The Best of Middle of the Road 19 — — — 1973 Drive On — 48 — — Music Music Ariola — 45 — — 1974 Postcard — — — — You Pays Yer Money And You Takes Yer Chance — — — — 1975 Dice — — — — 1976 Black Gold Dig-It, Trema — — — — 1981 Something Old Something New CNR — — — — 1987 Today Koch, Karussell — — — — 1989 The Very Best of Middle of the Road Dino — — 56 — 1994 A New Chapter Sm'Art Art — — — — "—" denotes releases that did not chart or were not released in that territory Singles Year Single Peak chart positions Album UK[8] AUS[9] AUT[10] BE (FLA)[11] BE (WA)[12] FIN[4] GER[5] IRE[13] NL[14] NOR[15] NZ[16] SA[17] SWE[18] SWI[19] ZIM[20] 1971 "Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep" 1 2 2 1 1 3 2 1 2 1 8 — 1 1 — Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep "Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Dum" 2 15 — 7 16 15 15 2 7 6 5 5 6 — 3 "Soley Soley" 5 23 — 1 1 3 2 5 1 1 6 1 2 1 1 Acceleration 1972 "Sacramento (A Wonderful Town)" 23 79 — 1 1 6 1 — 1 1 — 3 2 1 2 "Samson and Delilah" 26 — — 1 2 15 2 — 1 11 — 5 — 3 7 "Talk of All the USA" — — — 19 2 — — — — — — 9 — — 11 "Bottoms Up" — 71 — 3 13 18 2 — 5 8 — 16 — — 5 Drive On 1973 "Yellow Boomerang" — — 14 2 6 11 6 — 1 8 19 13 9 2 9 "Union Silver" — — — — 31 — — — — — — — — — "Kailakee Kailako" — — — 26 26 — 29 — 21 — — — — 5 — "Samba D'Amour" — — — — — — 35 — — — — — — — — Music Music 1974 "Honey No" — — — — 31 — 31 — — — — — — 5 — Drive On "Sole Giallo" (Italy-only release) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — Non-album single "Bonjour Ça Va" — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — Postcard "Rockin' Soul" — — — — — — 31 — — — — — — — — You Pays Yer Money and You Takes Yer Chance 1975 "Hitchin' a Ride in the Moonlight" — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — Non-album single 1976 "Bubblegum Baby" (France/Belgium-only release) — — — — 38 — — — — — — — — — — Black Gold "Everybody Loves a Winner" — — — — — — 43 — — — — — — — — Non-album single 1980 "Space Machine" (Netherlands-only release) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — Something Old Something New "Sugar Jo Jo" (Netherlands and Germany-only release) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — "Steal a Piece of My Heart" — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — 1981 "The Medley" — — — 20 — — — — — — — — — — 1982 "Jingle Jangle" (Netherlands-only release) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — Non-album singles 1985 "Scotland's Coming Alive Again" — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — 1987 "Midnight Blue" (Austria-only release) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — Today 1989 "One More Night" (Netherlands-only release) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — The Very Best of Middle of the Road "—" denotes releases that did not chart or were not released in that territory References ^ a b Murrells, Joseph (1978). 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