

What are you 'into'?

It's hard to believe that if you delve back into history you will find that for about a hundred and fifty years Britain was considered the least musical country in Europe. 'The British don't enjoy music, they just love the sound it makes' remarked one of our most famous conductors, summing up the general malaise quite succinctly.

How different the situation is today as a trip to the top floor of the O2 Arena in London will confirm. 'The British Music Experience' is an interactive exhibition of all that is good about modern British music, offering you the chance to sample 'Golden oldies' from the 60's and 70's up to the very latest hits and attend workshops from the likes of guitar god KT Tunstall.

You can also view a host of rock and pop memorabilia allowing us all to revisit our embarrassing youthful obsessions. There should be something to interest everyone no matter what kind of music they are 'into'.

To be 'into' something simply means to like or have an interest in and it can be applied to any kind of hobby or art form but is particularly common when we are talking about pop music as it has a more youthful feel:

'What kind of music are you into?'

'I'm into techno at the moment.'

It has a companion phrase *to get into* which means to become interested in:

'I tried to get into enka but.....'

Britain's musical centre has shifted restlessly over the decades but at the moment many people are 'into' bands based in Glasgow, such as Belle and Sebastian, Franz Ferdinand and The Fratellis. The success of these groups has given a great boost to the local tourist trade with music lovers keen to follow in their heroes' footsteps by frequenting their favourite haunts. Fans of Belle and Sebastian make a pilgrimage to The university Café in Byers road (wonderful home-made ice cream!) while Franz Ferdinand's devotees have been keen to sample the curries at the band's favourite Indian restaurant 'Mother India' (lovely nan bread!) and followers of The Fratellis have been dropping in to games at Glasgow Celtic's Parkhead stadium where one of their songs is played every time the home side scores. If the goal happens to be scored by Japan's own Shunsuke Nakamura the pleasure must be all the sweeter for the music loving Japanese football fan.

However just outside Glasgow there is a place that witnessed a truly unique event in music history – Prestwick Airport.

It is generally believed that the great Elvis Presley never visited the UK but he did, albeit for only 30 minutes as his flight to Germany was refuelling at the obscure Scottish airport. He deplaned, made use of the toilet facilities and reboarded. Ever since, this particular lavatory has held a special significance to fans of rock and roll in the UK. There is now a marker and an Elvis lounge to commemorate the event. So if you are passing through why not take the opportunity to make use of the only British toilet ever honoured by a visit from 'The King' (men only of course). It will make a nice anecdote for your friends back home. Assuming they're 'into' him of course.

Written by Philip Patrick

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