

What the critics say about Roger Lucey's album *The Road is Much Longer* 3EE 7004:

"He has rock 'n roll thicker than the Orange River running through his veins, and it's gonna get you." Patrick Lee, RDM

"I admire him tremendously for putting out such a brave album... Sometimes he hits so hard it hurts.... Roger's got it made." Muff Anderson, Sunday Times.

"I really believe that this album is a key point in South African recording history. Here is the first SA singer I have come across who combines real drive and ambition with integrity and very rare ability to pick diamonds out of the dust and hold them up for you to see." David Williams, Music Maker

"He writes, and sings, throbbing vibrant music which is virtually guaranteed to inject enthusiasm into any gathering." Frontline

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**3rd Ear Music Productions,
 Records, Recordings & Publishing**

JUST LISTEN!

PAUL CLINGMAN 'Father To The Child'
 (3EE 7000)

PAUL CLINGMAN 'Inside Outlines'
 (3EE 7003)

ROGER LUCEY 'The Road Is Much Longer'
 3EE 7004

FLIBBERTIGIBBET 'Whistling Jigs To The Moon'
 (3EE 7002)

We've also got some Sample Singles:

JOHN OAKLEY-SMITH 'Lady From The Odeon'
 (3EZ 009)

BRA MORRIS 'Zimbabwe'
 (3EZ 010)

PHASE II 'Walking In The Sun'
 (SYS 108)

BORSTAL BOYS 'Old Timer'
 (3EZ 014)

RAVEN 'Wheel Of Fortune'
 (3EZ 013)

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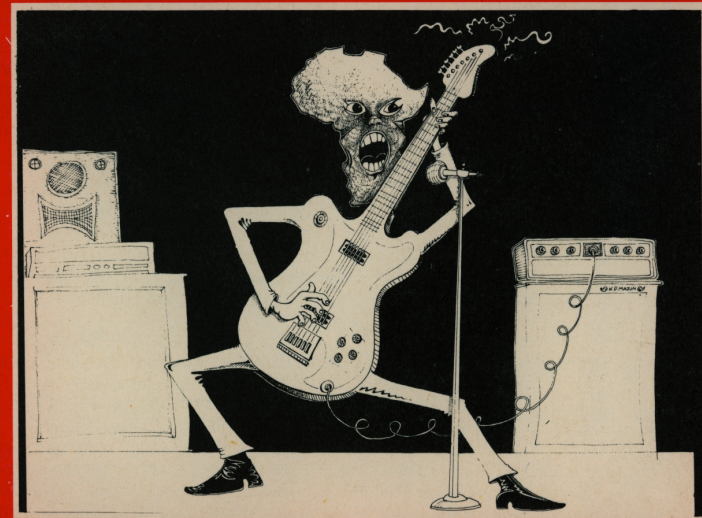
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"3RD EAR MUSIC PRESENTS"

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 BAND AND**

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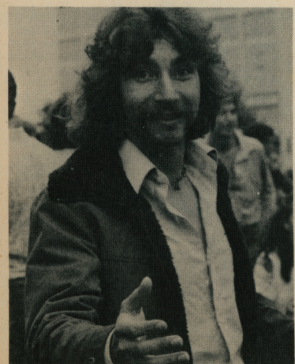
Sound system by ProSound

Roger Lucey The Road is Much Longer on 3rd Ear Records 3EE7004



Roger Lucey

Roger started his musical career playing in folk clubs and bars around the country, mainly in Durban, his home town. Groups he formed during this period included Rasputin's Rosary, The Rancid Dwarf, The Magnificent Stroke and later Bruinchild with Steve and Izzy Fataar. However, apart from campus support, Roger's songs with their Southern African focus were not widely heard until Roger moved to Johannesburg in 1978. With an initial appearance at the Market Cafe and a residency at Mangles Folk Theatre, Roger soon began to attract large audiences.



Jethro Butow

★ guitarist / session musician ★ hails from East London ★ real name Richard Butow ★ left navy in Cape Town and formed three piece session group called Shotgun ★ first pro gig at Clifton Hotel summer season '74-'75 with Steve Spangenberg ★ teamed up with Peter Turner and went to Pretoria to play professionally, renamed group Free Ride ★ started doing sessions in Cape Town. When Free Ride split, gigged with many musicians, including Mike Faure, George Wolfaardt ★ came to Johannesburg two years ago, joined various groups such as Scandal ★ last year Free Ride reformed. Jethro did a year with the group, until Citizen Band had a release in Europe — left Free Ride and did a TV show in Germany with Citizen Band ★ did Cliff Richard tour of SA as Cliff's lead guitarist. So impressed was Cliff's management that they tried to persuade Jethro into returning to the UK with them ★ Jethro, however, had other long term plans — and we hope that he'll be with the Roger Lucey Band for a long time

In February 1979 Roger recorded his first album, 'The Road Is Much Longer' (with 3rd Ear Music), which received critical acclaim when released in June. It was on the basis of this album that Roger was invited to audition with Manfred Mann's Earthband in London. Before he left, however, Roger and a group he had hastily formed called The Good Things, took part in the Johannesburg Music Festival at His Majesty's Theatre — a performance which drew rave reviews throughout the press.

Roger left for London at the end of July and despite a very successful audition with the Earthband, Roger failed to get the job as Manfred felt that a musician and songwriter of Roger's calibre could not be tied down for a number of years to someone else's band . . . "Quite honestly, we can't praise him enough," said Dave Clarke, Manfred's manager. "Manfred felt that Roger needed to form his own outfit around his own distinct personality and style — it's a pity though because he would have made a marvellous front man and he has an absolutely great voice." This article appeared in London, September 1979.

Roger then spent four months in Boston and New York where he followed up negotiations with WEA (USA), who indicated that they were very excited about recording and working with Roger in the future.

Roger returned to South Africa in February and this is his first appearance in Johannesburg. His plans are to perform around Southern Africa, mainly on campuses, record an album, and with a locally established band return to the USA in 1981.

The Band

Gerry Salendis — keyboards
Les Goode — bass
Steve Spangenberg — drums and featuring:
Jethro Butow on lead guitar



Era

From left to right: Stompie Mavi (vocals), Themba Mngomezulu (drums), Buggs Tafu (guitar), Zola Sishuba (vocals), Desmond Malotana (keyboards), Xuba Xaba (alto), Sam Nxusani (bass), Gambu Pasiya (tenor), Don Heba (trumpet)

Era

The explosive "era" has arrived. They handle anything from blues, funk, R&B and soul to basic Afro-rock / jazz with such verve and energy that they create a storm at any gig.

There are nine members with origins in Queenstown, Grahamstown and far-off Cape Town. The group was formed in 1976 and have never looked back although they have had some difficult times through the years. Says bandleader, Stompie Mavi: "It has been a real hard road, brother. In Queenstown all nine of us had to share and live in one small room."

When the group first hit Johannesburg in 1977 they found that the police were cracking down on mixed nightclubs. "Our proposed 'gig' at the posh club New York City came to an abrupt end when the cops came in," Stompie recalls. So it also happened at the Club San Francisco. The band ended up at the Club 45 in Springs until they had to go back to the Cape and the rehearsal room to polish their act and concentrate on original compositions.

However, their insatiable longing for recognition is the driving force behind their success today. Vuzi Khumalo, a showbiz writer, who introduced the group to me, once said: "They rally for recognition while spreading the gospel of their funk. The boys are desperate to go into a studio and record."

Through two very close associates — Hassan Cassamjee and Solly Nkutha, I have acquired the most unforgettable experience of my record industry life. I was approached to produce this until-very-recently unknown combo. What transpired at EMCEE Studios, that tiny studio situated in the heart of throbbing Hillbrow, will never leave my mind. The music . . . The beat . . . The life . . . The complete vibe . . . All came oozing out of those instruments of theirs. It was unimaginable! The result? Two knockout elpees made up of six songs each of immeasurable quality and standard, scheduled for a March / April release.

Era's repertoire is made up of indigenous Xhosa rhythms as in the case of their hit song 'Manyano'. Other examples of this are 'Peshakomlambo', 'Umbongo' and 'KwaXhosa'.

Talk about R&B, Afro-rock / jazz or soul . . . They have all that in such tracks as 'Era Groove', 'Trouble', 'Dreams Of A Gifted Man', 'Memories' and 'Highway Bus Stop', to name a few. Their live presentation . . . this is a wow to watch! They had a four-hour solid nonstop gig at Umtata's National Stadium and all corners vibrated to their pulsating sound.

As much as it would be unfair to single out any individual talent, blind man guitarist Buggs Tafu is worthy of mention. Then there is lead vocalist Stompie Mavi, who has the charisma and captures any audience as soon as he opens up with his velvety voice. Xuba Xaba, a prodigy of Winston Mankunku Ndlozi, is outstanding on alto-saxophone. He blends in well with Gambu Pasiya and Don Heba on tenor and trumpet respectively.

Their appearance in Club Elegante in Eden Park have kept people talking. "We've never stopped having a full house," said the club's manager, "and we've had to turn people away some nights."

Then there was that festival at the Vosloosrus Stadium on the East Rand and this is what the critics said: Kaizer Mgwenya, Post: ". . . Era pumped a boogie-woogie atmosphere into the festival at Vosloosrus . . . I was overwhelmed . . ." Vusa Khumal, Pace: "The explosive 'Era' has arrived! You only have to sit back and enjoy the Era sound . . . and most of all, you have to get up and boogie to appreciate them even more." Doc Bikitsha, Rand Daily Mail: "Era had the fans clamouring for more with their versatile and easy blend of rock, funk, R&B, jazz, soul and disco."

Era's storm on the local scene is sure going to last for a helluva long time. Watch out for their double album released by WEA Records.

Nunka Mkhalipe
(WEA Records — A&R)