JOHN 'RABBIT' BUNDRICK
BEYOND THE WHO

33 Years of Musical Friendship Come Together on *Mr. Big Boss Man*



As John 'Rabbit' Bundrick celebrates his 78th birthday on November 21, Dutch drummer and producer Juan van Emmerloot reflects on their musical partnership and the making of Bundrick's album *Mr. Big Boss Man*.

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John 'Rabbit' Bundrick has spent decades contributing his unmistakable keyboard playing to the music of artists and bands including The Who, Free and Snowy White.

Born in Texas and based in the United Kingdom, Bundrick has built an extensive career not only as a keyboardist, but also as a composer, songwriter and producer.

Yet beyond his work with internationally celebrated artists lies another important part of his musical identity: his own compositions and recordings.

That creative world takes centre stage on *Mr. Big Boss Man*, an album produced, mixed and mastered by Dutch drummer and producer Juan van Emmerloot. The album represents the latest chapter in a musical friendship spanning more than three decades.

A musical friendship that began in 1993

Van Emmerloot first toured with British guitarist Snowy White in 1992. A year later, he travelled to Jacobs Studios in Farnham, England, to record drums for White's album *Highway to the Sun*. It was during those sessions in 1993 that he first met John 'Rabbit' Bundrick.

The two musicians discovered a shared enthusiasm for music and recording. Their paths crossed again during a second series of sessions at Jacobs Studios in the mid-1990s, resulting in Snowy White's album *No Faith Required*.

Among the compositions recorded was *Canyon*, written by Van Emmerloot. Recalling Bundrick's reaction to the composition, Van Emmerloot remembers him saying: “Man, where have you been?” It was an early indication of a musical connection that would continue to develop over the following decades.

Making music across borders - long before the cloud

Around the turn of the millennium, their collaboration entered a new phase when Bundrick invited Van Emmerloot to contribute to his solo album *The Wind Cried*.

Long before cloud-based recording and instant file sharing became standard practice, the two musicians were already collaborating internationally using digital multitrack recording technology. The process was remarkably different from today's recording environment.

Multitrack recordings on ADAT tapes travelled between England and the Netherlands by ordinary post. Van Emmerloot transferred the recordings into his Roland VS-2480 recording system, added drum performances and other musical contributions, and developed arrangements.

The collaboration gradually expanded, with Van Emmerloot eventually taking responsibility for mixing the album. There were no instant file transfers or immediate responses. Each exchange required patience, preparation and mutual musical trust.

> *“Back then, there was no room for rushing. The entire process was worth the wait.” — Juan van Emmerloot*

What started as a recording collaboration had developed into a lasting creative partnership.

Mr. Big Boss Man - two musical worlds coming together

More than three decades after their first meeting, Bundrick and Van Emmerloot's musical relationship continues with *Mr. Big Boss Man*.

The album brings together Bundrick's compositions, existing recordings and musical ideas, developed further through Van Emmerloot's production, arrangements and instrumental contributions.

An important aspect of the album is the meeting of two established musical networks. Bundrick, an experienced producer in his own right, brought musicians from his longstanding professional circle, including Geoff Whitehorn, Jimmy Kunes, Gregg Kofi Brown, Leslie Smith, Jamie Bruhn, Jay Fleming and the late Eddie Baird.

Van Emmerloot expanded that circle with musicians from his own network, bringing together an international group of artists and instrumentalists from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium.

Rather than relying on a conventional studio band, the album developed through the combined musical relationships, creative ideas and individual contributions of the musicians involved.

Van Emmerloot took responsibility for bringing the recordings together into a cohesive production, contributing drums and other instrumental parts while developing arrangements, mixing and mastering the finished album. The result is a collection of songs that reflects Bundrick's musical versatility, supported by a diverse international cast of musicians.

Giving the music its final shape

The album's title track, *Mr. Big Boss Man*, illustrates the creative process behind the project. Originally developed by Bundrick during an earlier period, the song evolved through different stages before reaching its final form.

Van Emmerloot revisited the existing recordings, introduced new live drum performances, refined the arrangement and developed the final production. The process reflects a musical partnership in which ideas could be revisited, reshaped and developed without losing their original character.

Throughout the album, Bundrick's distinctive keyboard playing and musical personality remain at the heart of the recordings.

A partnership built on musical trust

In the album's liner notes, Bundrick personally acknowledges Van Emmerloot's musicianship and production work, explaining why he wanted him involved in the project.

For Van Emmerloot, those words reflect something that has always been essential to their collaboration: mutual respect, creative freedom and musical trust. Their relationship has developed through decades of recording sessions, live performances and independent projects, with each collaboration adding another chapter to their shared musical history.

Celebrating John Rabbit Bundrick's 78th birthday

On November 21, 2026, John 'Rabbit' Bundrick celebrates his 78th birthday. To mark the occasion, Van Emmerloot is sharing archival photographs, personal memories and stories from their musical friendship, which began in 1993.

The celebration also offers an opportunity to introduce *Mr. Big Boss Man* to a wider international audience. For listeners familiar with Bundrick's contributions to The Who, Free and Snowy White, the album provides another perspective on the musician behind those legendary performances.

Beyond his work with some of rock music's most recognisable names, John 'Rabbit' Bundrick has his own musical stories to tell. *Mr. Big Boss Man* invites listeners to discover them.

33 years of musical friendship. Two musical worlds. One album.

ALBUM INFORMATION

Artist: John 'Rabbit' Bundrick

Album: Mr. Big Boss Man

Producer: Juan van Emmerloot

Mixing & mastering: Juan van Emmerloot

Production studio: HFC Loft Studio, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Formats: Vinyl LP, CD and digital

European distribution: Suburban Distribution

US distribution: MVD Entertainment Group

Vinyl LP: Suburban Distribution - album page

PRESS CONTACT

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Album artwork, archival photographs and additional background information are available upon request.