

# Queen Begins

1970

(February)

**Freddie Bulsara** joins Sour Milk Sea (Chris "Dummett" Chesney, Jeremy Gallop, Paul Milne and Robert Tyrell). According to Chesney, he brings some songs from Ibex/Wreckage to the band, including:

"Lover" - The March 1970 Oxford Mail article on the band reprints some of the lyrics of this song, some of which are exactly the same as verses which appeared earlier in "Green," indicating **Freddie** may have merged the two by this point.

"Blag-A-Blues"

"F.E.W.A"

"Rock 'n' Roll Medley"

**Brian May** works on his astronomy PhD on the mountainside of Mount Teide, Tenerife, in the Canary Islands of Spain, at the Observatorio del Tiede at Izana.

(Late-February)

**Smile** breaks up after record label problems, lack of money and differences in musical direction.

(Date Unknown)

Tim Staffell joins Jonathan Kelly's band Humpy Bong, as bass and harmonica player. They write and record "Don't You Be Too Long" and "All Right Till Then" for release as a single.

(March)

An article appears in the Oxford Mail about Sour Milk Sea, noting that **Freddie Bulsara** had only joined the band a few weeks prior. It also reprints some lyrics from the song "Lover."

Sour Milk Sea plays the last of three gigs.

(April)

Sour Milk Sea breaks up. **Freddie Bulsara** joins **Brian May** and **Roger Taylor** to form **Queen**. Their first bass player is Mike Grose, formerly of The Reaction.

(Spring)

**Queen** rehearses at various locations, including Imperial College, London, England, and the band works on song writing, which has been noted several times in interviews, to build up a repertoire before resuming live gigs. **Brian May**, in a January 2009 *Record Collector* interview, specifically notes that **Freddie Bulsara** came in with some existing ideas for songs. Some songs worked on at the time include:

"Keep Yourself Alive" - **Brian May** has said this was the first original **Queen** song the band worked on together.

"Liar" - Adapted from Wreckage's song "Lover," as confirmed later by Ibex's roadie, Geoff Higgins.

"Son And Daughter" - This track would appear in the band's first live show.

"Feelings" - The 2011 *News Of The World* Deluxe Edition liner notes confirm this track originated during this period.

"Stone Cold Crazy" - Also supposedly altered from a Wreckage track (or as **Brian May** suggests in 1998, that it was worked on by one of **Freddie's** previous bands). It's been claimed that the original version of the song was played at a slower tempo, but **Brian** says in the same interview that the song was always at the familiar speed. Barry Mitchell (the band's second bass player) confirms that it was the fast version during his time in **Queen**. **Freddie Mercury**, in a 1977 interview with *Circus* magazine, says this was the first song **Queen** ever performed onstage.

"Modern Times Rock 'N' Roll" - In a 2013 interview with *Classic Rock* magazine, **Roger Taylor** says that "Stone Cold Crazy" was written before he wrote this track as his first solo effort with **Queen**.

"Hangman" - Written by **Freddie** (possibly), it's been suggested that this song was carried over from Ibex and Wreckage, though it doesn't appear in their few known set lists.

"Doing Alright" - Carried over from **Smile**.

"Polar Bear" - Carried over from **Smile**.

"Silver Salmon" - Reportedly carried over from **Smile**.

"See What A Fool I've Been" - Carried over from **Smile**.

"Rock 'n' Roll Medley" - Carried over from Ibex and Wreckage.

"The March Of The Black Queen" - **Brian May** (in a January 2008 website entry) claims **Freddie Bulsara** had begun writing at least part of the song by this time, citing it as one of the bases for the band's name.

"Father To Son" - In the article *Is This The Real Life: The Untold Story of Queen*, Mike Grose recalls that all the songs that would appear on the debut album, plus "Father To Son," were written during this summer.

(June 27)

**Queen** performs for the first time, though are credited as **Smile**, because the date was originally booked as such. The gig takes place at City Hall, Truro, Cornwall, England. Reportedly, various other gigs in the early days are billed as **Smile**. Two known original tracks appear in the setlist:

"Stone Cold Crazy" - The song that began their set that night, as confirmed by **Freddie Mercury** as being the first song **Queen** played live, ever.

"Son And Daughter" - Confirmed by **Roger Taylor** as being in the set that night.

(July 12)

**Queen** performs as **Queen** for the first time, at Imperial College, London, England.

(Date Unknown)

The Opposition records an acetate disc of one original track and two cover versions. Reports claim **John Deacon** performs on this recording and he definitely co-wrote "Transit 3" with the band.

*The Opposition Acetate*

"Transit 3"

Written by The Opposition (a.k.a Art)

Appears on: The Opposition acetate

The only original composition recorded by The Opposition (known at that time as Art). The track was named after the band's third van, dubbed "Transit 3." The track should be instrumental, featuring heavy use of an organ keyboard, and taped in mono.

"Vehicle"

Written by Jim Peterik

Appears on: The Opposition acetate

A cover of The Ides Of March track. Lead vocals provided by Alan Brown.

"Sunny"

Written by Bobby Hebb

Appears on: The Opposition acetate

Cover of the Bobby Hebb track.

(August)

Mike Grose leaves **Queen**. Barry Mitchell is brought on as a replacement. In interviews later, Mitchell recalls the following tracks were part of **Queen's** repertoire during his time with the band (until January 1971):

"Stone Cold Crazy"

"Liar"

"Keep Yourself Alive"

"Doing All Right"

"Great King Rat"

"Modern Times Rock 'N' Roll"

"Hangman"

"Rock 'n' Roll Medley"

(August 21)

Humpy Bong releases the 7" single "Don't You Be Too Long" in the UK.

7" single:

"Don't You Be Too Long"

"All Right Till Then"

(August 23)

**Queen** performs at Imperial College, London, England. Ex-1984 member John Garnham attends and notes that the song "Son And Daughter" was in the set list.

(October 16 or 23)

**John Deacon** sees **Queen** perform in London, England. It's been reported in the biography *The Early Years* that **Deacon** saw **Queen** play at a London club in October, which appears to be one of these dates.

(November)

**John Deacon** forms the band **Deacon**.

(November 21)

**Deacon** plays their only known show, at Chelsea College, London, England.