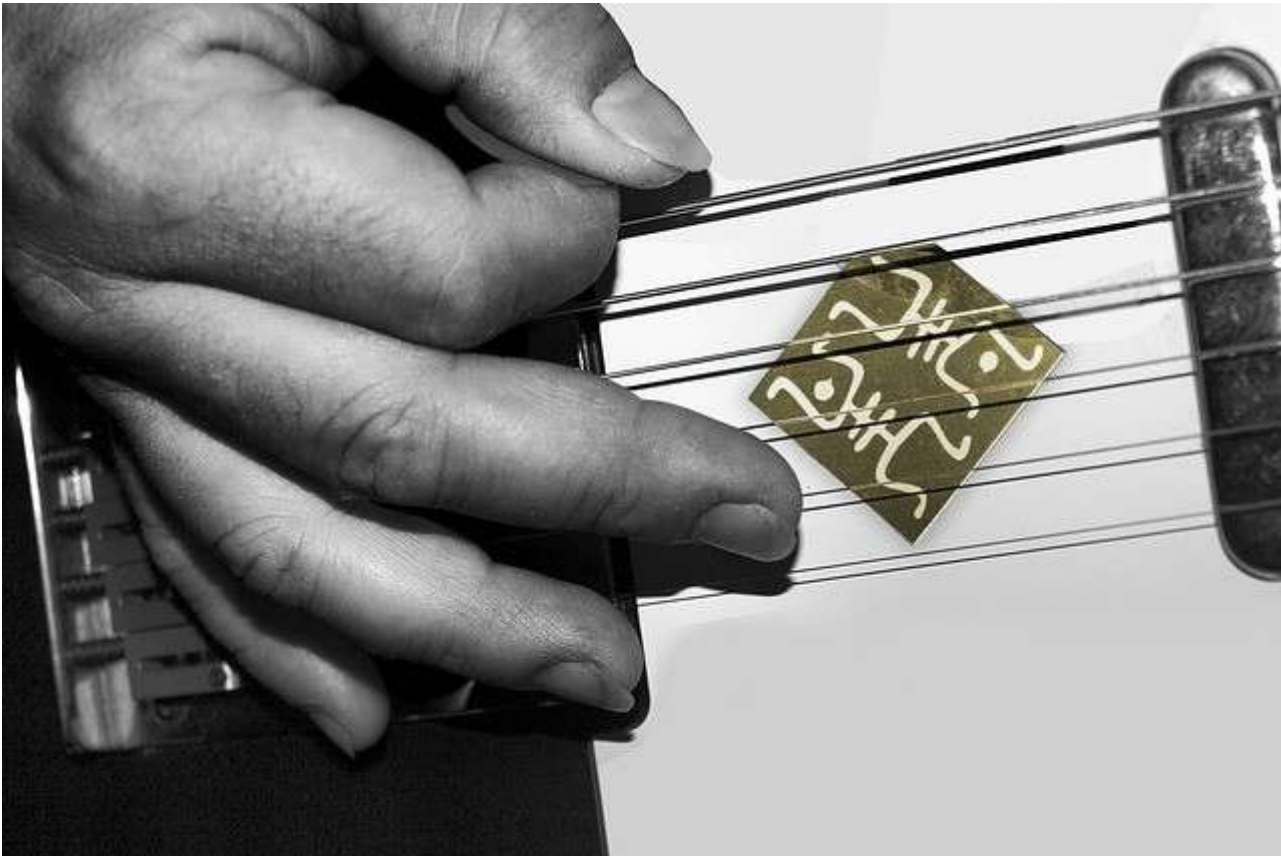


Old Guys With Guitars

By *Alexander Baron* - Apr 12, 2015



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Last week, guitarist B.B. King had a **health scare**. The veteran bluesman who will be 90 this year, was touring up until October 2014, but was forced to cancel his last eight shows after suffering from exhaustion. His recent troubles appear to be due to diabetes, something that affects many of us as we age.

There is no news yet about when he will be out and about, but is currently resting up at home, so don't go writing his obituary yet!



Chuck Berry is a year younger than B.B., and on account of this he too has had the odd health problem. In December 2010, he collapsed on stage in Chicago, but recovered well and was still performing up until last year.

Not much has been heard from him this year, but last month his complete singles from 1955 to 1961 were **re-issued on CD**. John Lennon once said that if rock 'n' roll were given another name, it should be Chuck Berry. Lennon was exaggerating, but not by much. Unlike B.B. King, no one ever called Chuck a nice guy, but his influence on contemporary music, most especially on rock musicians, is unparalleled, and it is disgraceful rather than sad that his name is not better known to the younger generation. Yes, there are people who have asked the question "Who's Chuck Berry?"



You can find both these old guys on [Songfacts](#) as well as their official websites. Another old guy who is not *quite* so old can also be found there; Ritchie Blackmore – he of [Deep Purple](#), Rainbow and latterly Blackmore’s Night – will be celebrating his seventieth birthday on Tuesday, doubtless with wife Candice, their young son and daughter, and a few friends from days of yore. Doubtless too a few photographs from the day will be posted on the official [Blackmore’s Night](#) website in due course.

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