

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/26/us/jack-bruce-creams-adventurous-bassist-dies-at-71.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20141026&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=18983381](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/26/us/jack-bruce-creams-adventurous-bassist-dies-at-71.html?emc=edit_th_20141026&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=18983381)  
(NYT obituary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16h6vLy6n4A> (Sunshine of your love)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYYeM\\_t6b5c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYYeM_t6b5c) (Sunshine of your love)

Has there ever been a better bass player than Jack Bruce when he was with Cream and for a short time with Blind Faith? Maybe John Entwistle of the Who or Bootsy Collins, and these are all very subjective (see <http://www.ranker.com/crowdranked-list/best-rock-bassists>), but I will go with Jack Bruce, who just died this week. As it happens, I saw him twice: I saw him with Cream at the UNM basketball arena in 1968, where they played for about 45 minutes, with a 17 minute drum solo by Ginger Baker (“Toad”), that people kept calling for, inexplicably. Just before they came to Albuquerque, the group announced it would dissolve, and they did so a few months later, with two “reunion” events in London. And I saw him play with Ringo Starr’s All-Starr Band at some point at the outdoor amphitheater at Albuquerque’s Sandia Pueblo Casino. He dominated with Cream that night, as Clapton was not at his best that night, while Bruce was great with Ringo’s group, which had Billy Preston and a number of wonderful musicians—Joe Walsh, Burton Cummings, Todd Rundgren, Nils Lofgren, and even Ginger Baker (who was offstage in the wings, and gave Ringo a break at the drums when he sang in front).

He played intermittently over the years, and I was lucky to have seen him in his prime. It turns out, that was a truncated period of time, as is so often in rock and roll. I never did see Jimi, Janis, Cobain, Buddy, Jackie, or many others who flew too close to the sun, and who never made it to middle age.

In any event, he was underrated as a singer, and given his health problems, it is miraculous he lived as long as he did (he was 71). But, boy, could he play bass. That alone should get him into Heaven.

Michael  
Michael A. Olivas

PS—my Law of Rock and Roll Law website is nearing completion, for a December opening. I will start including Posse posts there, and will let others start signing on, should they wish to do so. I have about 75 members as of now, and last week, a good friend who has retired asked that he be taken off the list, as he was easing out of emails generally. It made me double check the list, and I am also removing from the list two friends who had passed, like Jack Bruce. Under separate cover, I am sending along a draft copy of the new website.

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