

Bright and Steadfast star: a look at the astrological world of

LOU ROSENTHAL

Fans of The Merseybeats who have avidly read “Beats’ News”, throughout the years, will be familiar with the tenderly funny and witty letters sent by Lou Rosenthal, the group’s diarist and percussionist. Lou’s off – beat style of writing and candid observations of life on the road and at sea – Who can forget what he wrote about Scrabster? – have rendered him as endearing as a treasured friend, in the minds of fans. But to what extent do the diary entries reveal the true character of this gifted rock star? Does he actually resemble the personality channelled through his written words? Lou has kindly given permission for his astrological chart to be analysed and so I shall take you on a journey through it, to unveil the planetary positions that correlate with his writing skills, as well as others that point to aspects of his nature that are not always on show or evident.

Destined to write

It is obvious from his “Beats’ News” diary submissions that Lou has a strong inclination to write and to do so in a confident, maverick style that reflects the ambiance of the world he inhabits professionally. An astrologer, therefore, would not be surprised to find that Lou was born when the Moon, the Earth’s satellite, was in the sign of Gemini, because Gemini is the sign of the Zodiac so often associated with writers or with those who feel compelled, vocally, to pass on their knowledge, thoughts and ideas. Among the many writers who are Gemini – linked, in some way, one finds Samuel Beckett, George Orwell, Franz Kafka, Jean – Paul Sartre, Ian Fleming and even William Shakespeare, as well as song – writers Paul McCartney, Cole Porter and Paul Simon. Like Jenny Mussell, who was born when Venus was in Gemini, Lou expresses, through his writing, a sparkling joie de vivre, an enjoyment of life that, I imagine, makes fans, reading his work, simply happier. The exuberance Lou communicates makes the world seem to be a more amusing and kinder place and fans, I am certain, feel all the better for having been party to his generosity of spirit.

Chiaroscuro : light and dark

But oh! Something calls Lou to the deep! Like Tony Crane and Billy Kinsley, Lou has an emphasis on Scorpio in his astrological chart and so, like these two fellow band members, he will be well aware of the fact that the world can be as dark and mysterious as the circles of Dante's "Inferno" - and that the motives of even the nicest people can be multi-layered. In Scorpio's world nothing is simple. Yet, Lou yearns, too, for the very simplicity that Scorpio scorns. At times, he longs for a world that is sun-drenched, straightforward and just funny. Dealing with the Caravaggio-like light and dark of life becomes easier if at least one of them is channelled into some kind of art form, into writing or into music.

Anchored in the real world.

The rock star on stage has been described, from time to time, as a channel for the spirit of mythological Dionysus, son of Zeus and Persephone, and Greek god of all things wild, chaotic and liberated. Maybe it is difficult for some rock stars to keep their feet on the ground when, priest-like, they have been in touch with such mighty, released forces as those associated with the god of revelry - and have induced frenzy in their audiences. Yet, there are some rock stars - usually those who are anchored to reality by some connection with the Earth signs of Virgo, Capricorn or Taurus - and in particular, Taurus - who will find it easy enough to remove the cloak of stardom after a performance and who will relish becoming "ordinary" mortals again. Lou is one of these, being strongly Taurean - and, in the band of rock stars touched by Taurus, he is joined, amongst others, by Aaron Williams, John Lennon, Bob Dylan and, perhaps surprisingly, by Jim Morrison, also.

Sunshine ahead

Having the Sun and two planets, in conjunction, in the bright, warm sign of Leo, Lou is unlikely, ever, to be short of friends. This sign's qualities - its magnanimity, creativity and enthusiasm - will be dominant in Lou's personality. These qualities, too, will be the force behind Lou's desire to perform, as Leo adores a stage. The presence of transforming and regenerating Pluto in the Leonine conjunction, though, suggests that the gifts of Leo might

not be fully employed until life's challenging or enriching experiences have been absorbed and understood. The post 60 years are often the most fruitful for those who are creative.

The Leonine Sun in Lou's chart is linked with Mars. The Sun and Mars are exactly 90 degrees apart. (In astrology, a distance of 90 degrees, a "square", is highly significant). Mars is in Scorpio and the existence of Scorpio in Lou's life, I have already mentioned. I shall just add that the blending of Sun – Leo with Scorpio, or with Scorpio's ruling planet, Pluto, is not uncommonly found in the charts of crime writers. The much respected Raymond Chandler, for example, has a connection such as this in his astrological chart.

The Inner Critic

When Lou was born, Venus was in the sign of Virgo. This is a sign which can make one conscientious, hard – working, attentive to detail, health conscious...All these good and important things. However, Virgo is also given to self – criticism and although this, too, can be good, obviously, the inner critic can sometimes also be simply too harsh, too demanding and too impatient. The inner critic sometimes needs to be sent on a holiday.

Starlit poetry

When writing about Tony Crane's birth chart, I mentioned the fact that The Merseybeats brought to my mind images of the Romantic poets. Were I to liken one of these poets to Lou, it would be Keats that I should choose, the reason being that the sun – lit, nature – loving and luxurious poetry of Keats, with its touches of mystery, strikes me as being Taurean, Leonine and Scorpionic all at once – like Lou. In one of his poems, Keats mentions a bright and steadfast star. This seems to be an appropriate description of Lou Rosenthal. So, Steadfast Star, shine on ...and thank you for brightening our lives.

