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« [RIP Elmer Alley \(June 9, 2008\) Helped Create Opryland On This Date \(June 10, 1982\) Micki Harris / The Shirelles](#) »

RIP Red Shea (June 10, 2008) Canadian Guitarist Played With Gordon Lightfoot

Posted by themusicsover on June 10, 2008

Red Shea
1938(?) - June 10, 2008

[fyimusic.ca](#) is reporting that Canadian guitar wizard, **Red Shea** as died:

One of Canada's most respected guitarists, **Red Shea's** inventive and often times complex finger picking held many fellow guitarists in awe. His contributions to the met as a member of the **[Gordon] Lightfoot** "sound" have been a source of discussion in music circles for years, many arguing that his departure from the band altered the melodic structure and fluid ensemble performance that characterized much of **Lightfoot's** best work. The highly respected dobro player and guitarist passed away Tuesday, June 10, at the age of 70 of pancreatic cancer. **Red** first came to prominence with "Moon Boogie Twist", an early and long out-of-print Canadian rock classic. He joined CBC TV show **Music Hop** in the early '60s, an after-school show modeled after **Dick Clark's** sanitized **American Bandstand**. Staff announcer **Alex Trebek**, who also worked as the quizmaster on **Reach For The Top**, presided over the show (and would be replaced by an up-start disc jockey by the name of **Dave Mickie**). The house band was **Norm Amadio and the Rhythm Rockers**, comprised of **Norman Amadio** on piano, **John Stockfish** on bass, **Red Shea** on guitar, **Don Thompson** on tenor saxophone, and **Alex Lazaroff** on drums. **Shea**, with a pompadour and duck's-ass haircut had a **James Dean**/juvenile delinquent look someone once said. **Music Hop**, originated in the period of the girl group, featured its own vocal trio, the **Girlfriends**, who were **Diane Miller, Rhonda Silver**, and **Stephanie Taylor**. Not long after their **Music Hop** gig, **Shea** and **Stockfish** took up jobs as **Gordon Lightfoot's** regular backup musicians. From 1965-1970 Shea was in the famed trio that cut several timeless albums for **United Artists** and went on to record with **Lightfoot** during his even more celebrated **Reprise Records** era. **Shea** left the touring band in 1970, but continued to record with **Lightfoot** until 1975. He hosted his own Canadian variety show, played with **Ian Tyson**, and became band leader for **Tommy Hunter's** TV show in the 1980s on CBC. **Lightfoot** met **Red Shea** in 1960 while they both worked on the CBC country series, **Country Hoedown**, **Lightfoot** Singin' **Swingin' Eight** and **Shea** as a member of the **Red & Les Trio**. The trio was made up of Red, his brother Les and bassist **Bill Gibbs**.



Thanks to Craig at [Number1Albums](#) for the info. Check out his cool site.

This entry was posted on June 10, 2008 at 5:19 am and is filed under [Folk](#), [Musician](#), [Rock](#). Tagged: [American Bandstand](#), [Dick Clark](#), [Red Shea](#), [Gordon Lightfoot](#), [Alex Trebeck](#), [Ian Tyson](#), [Music Hop](#), [Reach For The Top](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

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