

'Our songs were channelled from the *DIVINE*'

Exclusive

Founding member of The Beach Boys **Al Jardine** tells Kate Delamere how he and fellow songwriter Brian Wilson are evolved souls, and that we are all created for a bigger purpose

You helped formed a band that sold hundreds of millions of records worldwide, and it all started when you met fellow Beach Boys founder, Brian Wilson, at school?

Yes, we met at Hawthorne High School in California when I was 15. We literally bumped into each other on the way to class. We were both into music – I played guitar in a folk group, Brian played the piano – and our paths crossing was a happy coincidence. We later took a music class together, but Brian dropped out because he thought he knew it all already. I laughed at the time, but I think he was totally sincere – he's a genius composer like Mozart and Beethoven.

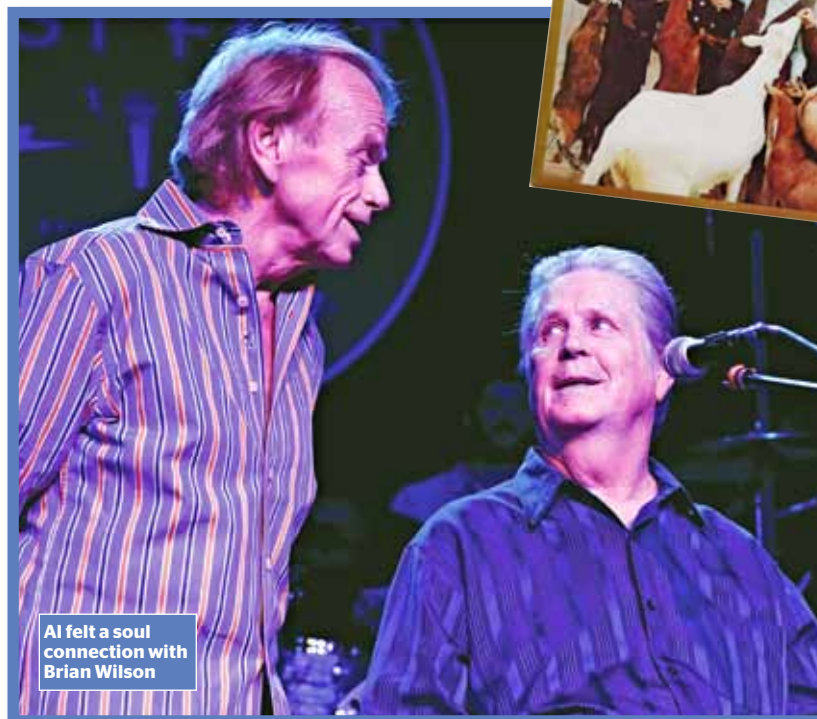
I believe Brian's an evolved soul who's been around a couple of times before. As soon as I saw him, I knew his soul. I'm a newer soul than Brian by virtue of his more sophisticated musical intellect. As a kid he could play the organ, piano and sing. He picked things up quickly because he was more evolved. As a guitarist, I learned by experience, by observing my peers and others

who had a great gift, and it rubbed off. We were brought together and formed the Beach Boys in 1961 with Brian's brothers, Carl and Dennis, and his cousin, Mike Love.

So you believe in past lives?

I get the feeling we're engineered to go round again and again to learn our lessons, to get it right. I believe in life after death – that our consciousness survives. And yet I see all the suffering on earth and think: 'If we're going round again and again, why are things not getting any better?' I think the explanation for that is earth is the place for the lowest evolved [species] out of all the other galaxies. We are the convicts of the solar system, the ne'er do wells. Some of us on this planet are here to give others comfort, and music is

Al believes a higher force influenced *Pet Sounds*



Al felt a soul connection with Brian Wilson



The Beach Boys (from top): Mike Love, Dennis Wilson, Carl Wilson, Al Jardine and Brian Wilson

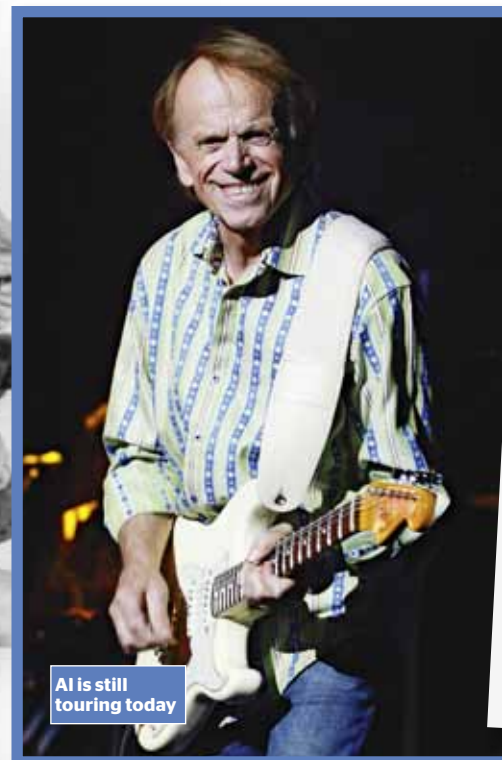
a powerful way to do that. It gives people purpose and a reason to live. It is food for the soul – a very important, life-sustaining thing.

Is the purpose of your and Brian's current incarnations to heal people through music?

The greater reason for all our existences on earth is to find that spirituality and connection to god, in whatever form that takes. God is our reason for exploring why we're here, to understand that we're all created equally, that we're all spiritual beings. We have been created for some bigger purpose and we need to seek that out while we're here. We need to ask ourselves questions, such as: 'What the hell are we?' and: 'Why are we here?'

Many songs on The Beach Boys' 1968 album, *Friends*, were inspired by Transcendental Meditation. How did you get into it?

In the 1960s we became friends with The Beatles.



Al is still touring today

John [Lennon] and George Harrison introduced us to the Maharishi [Mahesh Yogi] and we studied Transcendental Meditation. It was all about clearing our minds and connecting with higher states of thought. The Maharishi taught us how to meditate and led us into an exploration of the different kinds of wisdom and spirituality that I embrace to this day. Meditation helps me go into



With Mary Ann, his wife of 32 years

the finer states of thought, like water bubbling up from a pond – the small bubble becomes a bigger bubble, and meditation helps me do that.

I use thought to explore my spirituality, to discover where my soul emanates from, to go back to the source and merge my mind and soul in a spiritual connection. I do it any time of the day when I want to relax and go deeper.

What else did you learn from the Maharishi?

He taught me that, although we are the same as other life forms – made up of particles – humans are spiritual beings, and that differentiates us from others. I remember asking the Maharishi what he thought about Jesus, and he said he was a great man and that there was no question he was an enlightened spiritual leader – very pure and aware and connected to the source of all creation. In that respect he was the son of God. I've realised that great composers, writers, the best of the best, are all tuned in and connected to this source and take steps beyond the rest of us.

The hugging guru, Amma, an Indian spiritual leader who transforms people through her embrace, is one of those amazing people on this planet who is so far evolved along the evolutionary chain. She comes to San Francisco

once or twice a year, and Mary Ann, my wife of 32 years and mother to our twins, Robert and Andrew, 29, goes to see her. I've been, too, and got to hug Amma once – it really was amazing.

During the recording of The Beach Boys' most acclaimed album, *Pet Sounds*, in 1966, you believed a greater spirit was guiding you...

Yes, it was like there were spiritual forces acting on us, ➤



George Harrison and John Lennon with the Maharishi

Profile

some good and some not so good. It was a creative departure, with respect to Brian and anything he'd done before. We were working as a touring band and becoming known for our hits, but Brian was experimenting musically and having many spiritual experiences. He was like the intuitive conduit that the music was coming through.

The music was brilliant and wonderful and produced vibrations all over the world. It was like we were playing powerful songs from God to the world. Brian's left-handed but he intuited the notes using his right hand, and we gathered round the piano and watched him play. He was our conductor and writer. It was a labour of love, and we loved recording it and created some great music.

You're a great pal of spiritual author Lars Muhl, an ex-singer-songwriter. How did you guys meet?

A psychic friend who went on Lars's spiritual tour in the French Pyrenees recommended his book, *The O Manuscript*, to me. It's a work in three volumes about his life. I was stunned by Lars's revelations of how he came to be a spiritual seeker after a malady that left him bedridden, and his spiritual awakening in the French Pyrenees. At the

'The music was wonderful... It was like we were playing songs from God to the world'

time I read it, I felt spiritually empty, and learning about Lars made me reassess my story and life because of his beliefs.

Lars's transformation happened through a connection to an unknown divine source that commanded him to go to Spain and France to heal himself. There were shadowy figures that kept

guiding him along – it was like reading a detective story. He's a wonderful person, and his spiritual journey was so compelling that I invited him to visit my wife and me at our home in Big Sur in California in 2013. We also played a little music together a few years ago.

Have you ever had a psychic reading?

Yes, it was fascinating. Way back in the 1960s I had one with an old Greek guy in the USA. The band all had readings with him. The psychic said that I would remarry, even though I was happily married at the time to my first wife, Lynda Sperry. He said we'd have conflict in the group, and that's happened. The Beach Boys are pretty divided – Brian and I are working together in concert, and Mike [Love] and Bruce [Johnston] are in charge of The Beach Boys brand. The psychic foresaw all of this.

You're a keen environmentalist, and your songs often centre on eco issues?

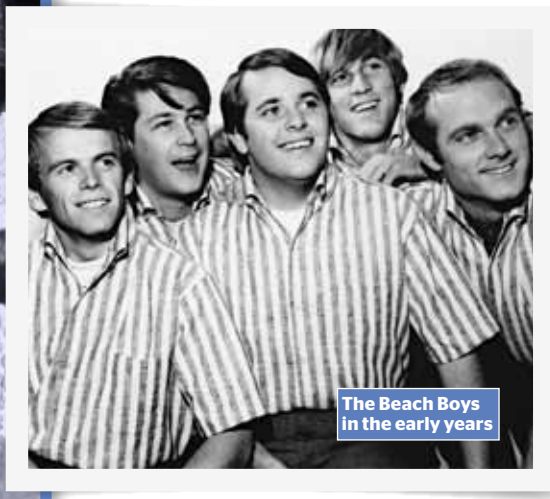
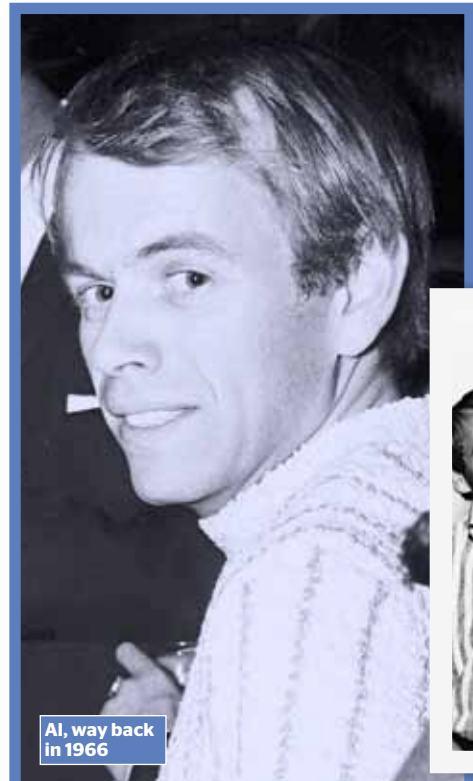
They do. Environmental protection is a subject that's very close to my heart, and one I've studied. I dedicate myself to helping save our oceans and whales.

Hunger and poverty are huge concerns of mine, too – they are truly our biggest problems in the world. The oceans will be here long after we've gone, at least for a few million more years. But if I'm hungry and go without a meal, I'm a grumpy b*****d – it changes my sense of wellbeing completely. So imagine how the thousands of hungry refugees coming from Syria feel? Politics creates hunger, and we have to get real about that and start thinking about how to solve the problem.



Do you have any spiritual advice for readers that you've gleaned from your journey so far?

I wish folks would learn how to find spiritual happiness using a technique such as prayer. I'm a firm believer in the positive power of prayer, and I love the traditional Lord's Prayer – it's my favourite. The band included an interpretation of it on our B-side to the 1963 *Little Saint Nick* single. We all connect [to the source] in different ways, and prayer is one way of doing that. I would say that, in Brian's case, he has more of an amplified connection to what he's receiving from whatever spiritual realm he's connected to. I don't know if even he knows what he's connected to. He sits at the piano and is like a divining rod – 'it' talks through him, and watching him is like being at a seance. I believe in Brian and see him as a very evolved soul trying to guide us through all this muck. ■



THE BEACH BOYS BEST-LOVED HITS

Here are some of their classics:

- *Fun, Fun, Fun*
- *God Only Knows*
- *Good Vibrations*
- *I Get Around*
- *Sloop John B*
- *Surfin' USA*
- *Barbara Ann*



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Al Jardine and Brian Wilson are currently on a world tour to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their seminal album, *Pet Sounds*. For further information about UK dates, visit brianwilson.com