

Essential Listening - April 2022

## **Roland White**

This month we're listening to mandolin player Roland White who sadly left this world in late March this year at the age of 83. I only got to meet him once or twice, but he was always the kind, humble Roland, welcoming new friends. He may be best known for being one of the *White Brothers*, along with his late brothers Clarence (amazing bluegrass guitarist, and one-time member of the *Byrds*), and Eric (who played bass in the family band). Roland, along with Clarence, was part of the legendary SoCal band, *The Kentucky Colonels* in the 1960s (originally called the *Country Boys*). He played guitar with Bill Monroe's band, and mandolin with Lester Flatt. Later he played for many years with banjo star Alan Munde in *Country Gazette*, then before forming his own band with his wife Diane Bouska, Roland was a member of the *Nashville Bluegrass Band*. Truly a stellar musician. Here are some essential tunes you can hear on youtube that span his career.

**Alabama Jubilee** – Clarence and Roland White recorded in an apartment in Berkeley in 1964  
<https://youtu.be/LXSTC6SGh9s>

**That's What You Get For Loving Me** – Kentucky Colonels, at the Ash Grove, LA in 1965  
<https://youtu.be/dDKOEXXtRz4>

**I'm Just a Used to Be** – Roland "ChiChi" White with Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass 1973  
<https://youtu.be/lksvBslbcsw>

**I Wasn't Born to Rock and Roll** (entire album, 1976) – with Alan Munde and Kenny Wertz  
[https://youtu.be/zfq7c\\_Moc4M](https://youtu.be/zfq7c_Moc4M)

**Live and Let Live** – Roland on guitar with Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys in the 1980s  
<https://youtu.be/DJASn33EpfE>

**Midnight** – Roland White solo album *Trying to Get to You* 1994  
<https://youtu.be/-OjTA8lkiw8>

**Soldier's Joy** – Roland White and Dianne Bouska, celebrating Bill Monroe's birthday in 2009  
[https://youtu.be/n\\_b7FSjnzNY](https://youtu.be/n_b7FSjnzNY)

**She's Gone, Gone, Gone** – Live at McCabe's in LA in 2013  
with Diane Bouska - Guitar, Herb Pedersen - Banjo, Bill Bryson - Bass, Blaine Sprouse - Fiddle  
<https://youtu.be/HOTesvtymIA>

**Christmas Time's a Coming** - with the Nashville Bluegrass Band 2015  
<https://youtu.be/z4DTrI9qGhk>

And finally, a sweet home movie of Roland, Eric, and Clarence White, The Country Boys, at ages 20, 18, and 14 in Griffith Park, LA in 1958. (no live audio, just a later recording added).

<https://youtu.be/6x4lArNXRF0>

RIP, Roland.