

# *Classical Gas* **Cut to the Chase Info**

This is a cut-to-the-chase overview of **Classical Gas**. For more information, visit my Web site, [www.classicalgas.com](http://www.classicalgas.com), where you'll find over 50 pages of pertinent details about the composition, the recordings, awards and more.

## **Awards & Milestones**

**Classical Gas** topped the charts in August 1968. Making it to #1 on Cash-box's Top 100 and #2 on Billboard's Hot 100.

**Classical Gas** won three Grammys in 1968 (March 1969 Awards Ceremony)

Two Grammys for Me

- ~ Best Instrumental Composition
- ~ Best Instrumental Performance

One for Mike Post

- ~ Best Instrumental Arrangement

It is the most played instrumental on the radio of all time (any instrument) and has logged over 6 million BMI airplays.

It is the most recorded instrumental composition recorded by (covered) other artists of all time.

**Classical Gas** is the most famous guitar piece in the world (or so many guitar players tell me... a highly subjective claim, but one of the most famous at least.)

## **The Recording**

Album/Track Production Info:

- Album cut on WB LP 1729 released February 1, 1968
- 45 rpm single released from LP / B-side Long Time Blues
- Album produced by Mike Post
- Classical Gas arranged by Mike Post
- 4-trk recording! Cut length (3:00)
- 2-trks for orchestra / 2-trks for Classical Guitar+12-string overdub
- After rehearsing, we kept the first take!
- The horns were tubens (Wagnerian horns/upright bell French horns)  
+ brass

Composing  
Classical  
Gas

I started writing **Classical Gas** in August of 1967. I was also writing comedy for *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* (2nd season). I worked on it between writing comedy bits for Tom & Dick and their guests. I'd finish a bit or reach an impasse with a piece and while it simmered in my subconscious, I'd pick up the guitar and take a break before tackling the writing again. The music I wrote was mixed in with thinking about Tom & Dick spots, plus ideas for guests such as: Greer Garson, The Association, Janet Leigh, Pete Seeger, Bobbie Gentry, George Burns, Herman's Hermits, Betty Davis, Mickey Rooney, Noel Harrison, Jane Powell and The Who!

TV,  
Film  
&  
Video

**Classical Gas** has been used in various TV shows and films throughout the years. Prominent uses include:

1993

**"The Simpson's: Last Exit to Springfield"**, Fox TV/Music, (TV)

"Wild Palms" Soundtrack, EMI Music Canada, LTD., (FILM)

1994

**"What's My Line"**, PBS, (TV)

1995

**"The Heidi Chronicles"** Writers Cinema II, (TV)

**"Once in a Blue Moon"** Soundtrack, Airwaves Sound Design, (FILM)

1996

**"Jeopardy"** #327, Game Show Network, (TV)

**"The Rosie O'Donnell Show"**, Kidro Entertainment, (TV)

1998

**"Rock and Roll Jeopardy"** #98012, Trackdown Productions, Inc., (TV)

1999

**"The Story of Us"** Theatrical Trailer, Soundtrack, Universal Pictures, (FILM/DVD)

2000

**"Celebrity Dating Game"** #13, Columbia Pictures Television, (TV)

**"Frasier: The Great Crane Robbery"** #170, Paramount Pictures, (TV)

**"The Newlywed Game"** #60 (1972), Columbia Pictures Television, (TV)

**"The Newlywed Game"** #62 (1972), Columbia Pictures Television, (TV)

**"The Dish"** Soundtrack, Warner Bros., (FILM/DVD)

**Henry Ford Museum** Advertisement, Greenfield Village, (TV)

2002

**IBM / LVG** Archive Video, Jack Morton Company, (VIDEO)

**"Where Angels Fear. . ."** JZK Inc., (FILM)

**"State of Grace II"**, Ladybug Productions, (TV)

2003

**"Angels Among Us: Vietnam POWs"**, US Air Force, (DVD)

**"The Simpson's"** Video, Fox (FILM/VIDEO)

**"Cheaper by the Dozen"** Soundtrack, 20th Century Fox, (FILM/DVD)

**"Glen Campbell: Inside Fame"**, MTV Network Nashville, (TV)

2004

**"Miracle Run"**, Lifetime, (TV)

2005

**"The Sopranos"**, HBO Original Series, (TV)

**The  
Recording**

**Classical Gas** has been recorded by over 100 artists. Here is a sample of recordings by other artists:

**Guitarists**

Tommy Garrett/50 Guitars  
Howard Yearwood  
Chet Atkins  
Glenn Campbell  
Steve Howe  
Tommy Emmanuel  
René Heredia  
Daniel Amalm  
California Guitar Trio  
Eric Hamilton  
Craig Einhorn  
Robert Michaels  
Zoe McCulloch  
Michael Chapdelaine  
Dave Edmunds  
Dave Salyer

**Band / Jazz Ensembles etc.**

Midnight String Quartet  
The Challengers  
Area Code 615  
Beggars Opera  
The Shadows  
The Ventures  
Al Delory  
Syracuse University Marching Band  
Cal Aggie Marching Band

**Orchestras/Arrangers**

Hugo Montenegro  
Tartaglia  
Hugo Winterhalter  
Paul Mauriat  
John Williams/Boston Pops  
Apollo 100

**Violinists**

Florian Zabach  
Vanessa May

**Piano/Synth**

Larry Fast  
Bobby Enriquez  
Wayland Pickard

**Misc.**

Rap/Hip Hop: Will Smith  
Uke: Kimoh Hussey  
Harp: Carrol McLaughlin  
Bagpipes: Michael Lancaster  
Hand bells: The Bells of the Lakes

**Publishing  
Info**

I control the publishing for **Classical Gas** through Weems Music Co. The Warner Bros. hit version recording is controlled by Warner Bros. Records. I own the recording rights for my cover version of **Classical Gas** through Skookum Records. Email [info@classicalgas.com](mailto:info@classicalgas.com) for more information or you may contact my publishing administrator:

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