

## INFINITY INTERVIEW WITH FRANK C CLIFFORD

**Frank C Clifford - An Iconic Vocalist for Astrology**

*Andrew Ifandis*



**INFINITY:** Hello Frank, it is a great pleasure for me to interview you and before we begin let me congratulate you on winning the ISAR Award for Best Article 2014-2016 in this year's ISAR Symposium.

*FRANK:* Thank you. I was surprised to be nominated and then I was surprised that people voted for me. There was a Full Moon at 23 Aries that evening (on my Sun—Venus conjunction) and I joked in

*my acceptance speech (they were in Los Angeles and I was in London) that it was a good time to win something! My Sun—Venus lines run through California, too. It was a surprise but astrologically it was a perfect time!*

**INFINITY:** This was really a great article on «The Power Degrees of the zodiac». If I am correct, it was the basis of a lecture you gave and then published. Please share with us some thoughts on the idea to write this article in the first place.

*FRANK:* The degrees of the zodiac have always interested me. Each has a memory and a quality, so I've always been curious to discover their meanings. I would like to do more research on all 360 one day! When I was first investigating Solar Arc directions for a book, I found that when a planet reached the first and final degrees (the so-called power degrees) these were very important years for the person for specific reasons.

**INFINITY:** So we will have to wait till you publish a book with 360 pages!

*FRANK:* Maybe, you never know! As you can see with the article, my work attempts to be practical and fun, based on modern examples, life stories, and people that interest me. Most of my books are influenced by pop culture and are coloured by all the biographies and books that I research.



**INFINITY:** I totally agree with you, Frank. It is quite different to assign meanings on astrological factors based on dreams or divination or intuition. Doing the research and grasping the meanings by having real life examples speak much more. This is living astrology — something I also love to do.

*FRANK:* We learn as astrologers that Aries means this and Taurus means that, and so on, and then we apply it to clients. When researching, I prefer to listen to a person's life and hear why people are the way they are, and then find it in the chart — instead of speculating. I learn much more astrology that way.

**INFINITY:** I asked you the previous question having in mind your very well researched «Iconic Vocalists of the 20th Century» article which I personally enjoyed tremendously. You also have created a graph of planetary ingresses and aspects along with a history of key music events from 1956 to 2011. What is this special relationship you have with music? Do you just fancy it or do you play an instrument or something?

*FRANK:* I used to play the piano as a child, but I played it very badly. When I started learning astrology at sixteen, my piano teacher would prefer to talk astrology with me and I preferred that to practicing.

*I think Astrology and Music have much in common, from the rhythm of the chart and the timing, to the understanding of different notes and the combination of notes that we can see with aspects and planetary combinations. I wrote an editorial for The Mountain Astrologer that described this and looked at the parallels between Astrology and Music. It is rare to find an astrologer who does not have a link to music, either liking music or playing an instrument.*

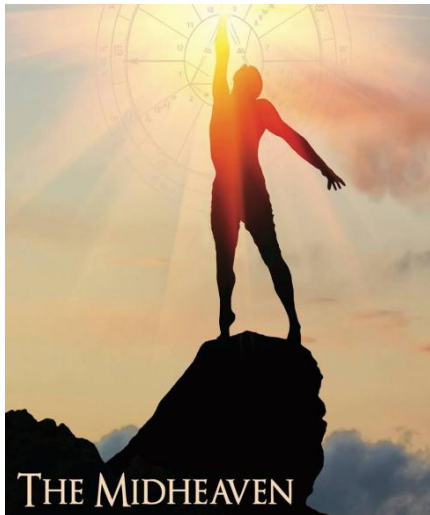
**INFINITY:** This is not an astrological question. Tell me your favourite groups from the eighties?

*FRANK:* Ah. I like a whole range of things. I was born in 1973 and started listening to music around the early eighties. I love any good vocalist. I am a great appreciator of the human voice. Many friends and clients are singers, some pop, some jazz. When I am writing articles I try to find people with fascinating lives and charts. That is how the timeline graph on music came about. I knew in my head that it could be done and it was a huge amount of work. For a while, my Moon in Virgo was obsessed with it!

**INFINITY:** In my preparation for this interview I was amazed by how much this Virgo Moon has contributed to the astrological community. This is no flattery, it is a fact. I open Solar Fire and it has your name on the chart's database. Can you share with us the background on how this came to be?

*FRANK:* The research came from a love of study and investigating people. At the time we were a team: a dozen or so data freaks. We were a group of people who were spending lots of time and money writing to birth registries getting birth certificates, writing to famous people, asking them in the streets, always in pursuit of accurate information. I contacted Lois Rodden in the early 1990s and we were friends up until her death in 2003. She was a reporter, a collector and her Sun was at 0° Gemini. Our friendship developed and then I had the opportunity to do the database for Solar Fire.

*But I have always wanted to do more with the data than just collect it. That is why I wrote a book a few years ago called "Getting to the Heart of Your Chart", with dozens and dozens of profiles, quotes, events and life stories.*



**INFINITY:** Frank you are twice an awarded astrologer. Besides the ISAR award you are also the recipient of The Charles Harvey Award for Exceptional Service to Astrology, owner of the London School of Astrology, a publisher, lecturer and writer of 12 books. What's the sign of your Midheaven?

*FRANK:* I am Gemini Rising with Aquarius on the MC.

**INFINITY:** Perfect Midheaven for an Astrologer I'd say.

*FRANK:* I guess so — there are many types of astrologer. I think that Astrology is not a vocation. We all have vocations that we use Astrology to get to. Some of us are researchers, some of us are counsellors, some of us are biographers. Astrology is a language that helps us fulfil our vocation. I

*think that my Aquarius Midheaven shows my great interest in people. I am also rather independent and I want to do things my own way. In an Aries way I just go ahead and make things happen without committee or group decisions. I joke that I'm a benevolent dictator. I look after my teachers, show them respect and pay them on time, but there is no committee or chance to allow ego or politics into my school. This is why I've managed to get so much done. I also have a Mars and Jupiter conjunction in Aquarius on my Midheaven, so this probably explains quite a lot of the energy and the drive I have. It's very directed.*

*I've spent a lot of time teaching in America. From my point of view, America is very Jupiter and England is very Saturn. In America when you are young and ambitious they try to elevate you, to make you the next big thing, the next star. In England you can be doing it for 30 years and no one even looks up to notice or celebrate you. Because I started so young, I didn't want to lecture until I felt I had my own thing to say, and in my own style. I waited until my Saturn return before I gave my first lecture. I just wanted to keep my head down and to study and research. In America I would have felt the pressure of expectation, so I am happy I was sixteen and I was learning astrology in England.*

**INFINITY: Frank, these are great insights that you are sharing about your Midheaven and they lead us to your latest publication, “The Midheaven: Spotlight on Success”. Share some insights from this book, which I hear is very well received.**

*FRANK: This is one of my “mini books”. It's around 30.000 words. What I decided a few years ago was to write smaller volumes that got to the point quickly. I realized that people generally don't have the energy or the tolerance to read 600 pages any more. The first mini-book I did was called “Solar Arc Directions” and it was about 30-40 pages, packed with information, charts and insights. It was a fun challenge to be able to say it all in a smaller book. I've done five or six of these now. The most recent is the “Midheaven”. From what I hear, people enjoy being able to grab them, put them in a bag, read them on a journey and refer to them again.*

**INFINITY: They are the perfect concise and compact information to kick-start one's research into Astrology. Very nice, Frank, and what are the Solar Arcs for the near future? What are your next plans?**

*FRANK: My MC has just Solar Arc directed into Aries, so there are lots of new projects. A few months ago I put out a booklet with Mark Jones called “Dialogues” about the consultation process. We both wrote two essays each and one of the essays I wrote was about looking at the client's Mercury and understanding how to speak to somebody so they will hear you properly. For instance, if you're speaking to a Mercury—Saturn person, we astrologers have to be versatile enough to speak in a language the Mercury—Saturn will hear, and this will be quite different when we talk to a Mercury—Neptune client. My next plan is to write a text book for beginners and to put the London School of Astrology online. That's the next big job.*

**INFINITY: I wish success to all your plans Frank and I am looking forward to the online London School of Astrology!**

*FRANK: Thank you!*



**INFINITY: What is that you deem to be the most valuable asset of the London School of Astrology for anyone who wants to expand his astrological skills?**

*FRANK: Other than the course content and fun way we teach, the most valuable thing is that the students get a lot of practical help during the course, which includes*

*how to work with clients. I work closely with the students during the three years of the program. I think the LSA offers a supportive environment and tries to help students feel confident in working with various techniques: natal interpretation, mundane, locational astrology and forecasting, etc. The aim is for them to leave feeling confident that they can articulate any horoscope. We encourage students to engage in dialogue, show them how to answer questions and interact with the client. This is the important thing. Astrology seems to have moved towards discovering (and showing off) old techniques, many of which don't offer much practical assistance to the client. But hopefully there are still a good few of us working for the client primarily!*

**INFINITY: One last question before we leave the stage. Your writing style is very much liked and admired, not only because it is serious research but because you also include humour, experience and modern-day 'real life' examples in your work. So please share with us a humorous event relating to astrology.**

*FRANK: If you're looking, astrology is full of humour! At the last couple of NORWACS in Seattle, I did a talk on humour in the horoscope which was quite naughty and close to the edge and I did another talk, in May 2016, on Speaking Your Chart and the audience was laughing non-stop for an hour. It was a great evening.*

*A few years ago I did a talk called "A History of the 20th Century ... with the Boring Bits Left Out" for the Astrology Student Conference I run. One of the charts was for the start of The Benny Hill Show. The night before the talk, I found a lot of pictures of Benny Hill impersonating various famous people and, as I was looking at these pictures, they all started to look like Astrologers that I knew (including myself). Many of the astrologers would be in the audience the next day. As I showed them, people were laughing and clapping. It was hilarious, a wonderful montage of silly and funny photographs. So, yes, there's lots of humour in Astrology if we want to find it!*

**INFINITY: Frank, INFINITY Astrological Magazine is thankful for this interview. We are delighted!**

*FRANK: Thank you INFINITY, and thank you, Andrew, for your interest. It's been fun.*



Frank has built an eclectic career as a consultant, publisher, lecturer, and writer of a dozen books (including Getting to the Heart of Your Chart). He recently completed a series of mini-books (Humour in the Horoscope, The Midheaven: Spotlight on Success and Dialogues (with Mark Jones)) and continues to write for (and guest edit) The Mountain Astrologer. In 2012, Frank won The Charles Harvey Award, a lifetime achievement award for 'exceptional service to astrology'. In 2017, he will begin courses online with The London School of Astrology.

[www.flareuk.com](http://www.flareuk.com)



[www.londonschoolofastrology.co.uk](http://www.londonschoolofastrology.co.uk)