Back to Vera Lynn, 92, tops the charts

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At age 92, Dame Vera Lynn has beaten the Arctic Monkeys and even The Beatles to capture the No. 1 record in Britain. The singer became the oldest living artist to have a No. 1 record in Britain yesterday when her album We'll Meet Again – The Very Best of Vera Lynn took the top spot. Elvis Costello is set to debut The Costello Show Series, a selection of rare live recordings from throughout his career, with Live at the El Mocambo, a heavily bootlegged concert from March 6, 1978, in Toronto. The 14-song set is due Sept. 29. Jim Carroll, the poet and punk rocker who wrote The Basketball Diaries, died Friday from a heart attack. He was 60. Carroll published several poetry collections, but it was The Basketball Diaries, his autobiographical tale of life as a sports star at an elite high school in Manhattan, that brought his widest audience.

Memories of Bea Arthur, the star of stage (Fiddler on the Roof, Mame) and TV (Maude and The Golden Girls) filled Broadway's Majestic Theatre yesterday as friends, family and co-stars recalled the actress who died in April of cancer at age 86. The celebration was hosted by Angela Lansbury.

Star wire services