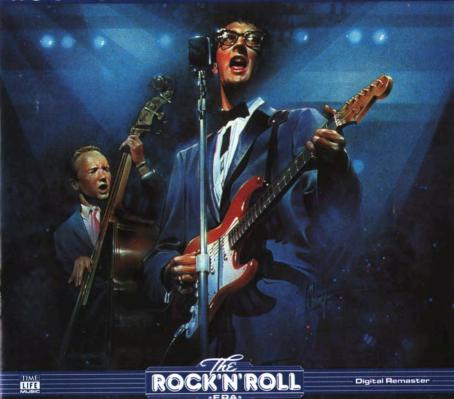
ROCK CLASSICS: THE ORIGINALS



THE ROCK 'N' ROLL ERA TIME-LIFE MUSIC 2RNR-38

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- 2. Slow Down Larry Williams
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- 4. Anna (Go to Him) Arthur Alexander
- 5. Needles and Pins Jackie DeShannon
- 6. Go Now Bessie Banks
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- 21. Act Naturally Buck Owens
- 22. I Can't Stop Lovin' You Don Gibson

SEE PROGRAM NOTES INSIDE

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Although Don Harris and Dewey Terry cut a number of outstanding R&B records for the Specialty label in the late '50s, they never achieved the national success of label-mates such as Little Richard and Larry Williams. Nonetheless, the duo left a rich legacy of original songs that would be exploited by artists as diverse as the Righteous Brothers (Justine), the Premiers (Farmer John), the Olympics (Big Boy Pete), and Dale and Grace (I'm Leaving It All Up to You). This collection presents Don and Duy 1970. The Condition of the Council of the C

In concert and on record, the early Beatles (1962-1965) helped to popularize many American rock 'n' roll songs, most learned from 45s they scrounged in Liverpool music stores, including manager Brian Epstein's NEMS shop. While seven originals included here that were later recorded by the Beatles only hint at the group's varied tastes, the songs do reveal the Beatles' affection for a strong melody. The fact that the Beatles recorded something as obscure as the Donays' Devil in His Heart, a girl-group song that achieved no success on either side of the Atlantic, suggests that the Fab Four took their record collecting seriously.

Because British groups were in awe of American rock 'n' roll, most of their cover versions imitated, rather than rearranged, the originals. The Beatles were extremely faithful to Dr. Feelgood and the Interns' calypso-flavored Mr. Moonlight, the flip side of a modest 1962 hit called Doctor Feel-Good. Dr. Feelgood was actually William Perryman a.k.a. Plano Red, a boogie-woogie pianist who had been playing Southern juke joints since the 1930s. However, it was one of the Interns, Roy Lee Johnson, who wrote and sang lead on Mr. Moonlight.

One of the Beatles' favorite artists was Arthur Alexander, a lachrymose soul singer from Alabama, who contributed Anna (Go to Him), Soldier of Love and A Shot of Rhythm and Blues to the Beatles' repertoire (although they never released recordings of the latter two). John Lennon especially liked the rough voice of rocker Larry Williams, perhaps because Williams' recordings for the Specially label featured a playful, comic quality. As a Beatle, Lennon sang three of Williams' songs—Dizzy, Miss Lizzy, Slow Down and Bad Boy—and added a fourth, Bony Moronie, on his 1975 solo album, Rock 'n' Roll.

Early in the Beatles' career, George Harrison called himself Carl Harrison, a testament to his affection for the songs and guitar style of Sun rockabilly artist Carl Perkins. Perkins wrote **Everybody's Trying to Be My Baby** as a humorous commentary on his newfound popularity after the success of *Blue Suede Shoes* in 1956.

The Beatles also released a near-exact copy of Buddy Holly's hypnotic **Words of Love.** Holly's melodic guitar style was a critical force in the Beatles' development. Paul McCartney once stated, "At least the first forty songs we wrote were Buddy Holly-influenced." In *Words of Love*, Holly overdubbed both his vocal and guitar parts, supposedly the first rock 'o' roll application of the studio technique developed by Les Paul in the early '50s.

Undoubtedly, some Beatles fans were surprised in 1965 when they flipped over their 45s of Yesterday and found Ringo crooning Buck Owens' Act Naturally, a 1963 smash on the country charts. Owens' record marked the emergence of the classic "Bakersfield Sound" that Owens and his group, the Buckaroos, shaped into one of the most distinctive styles in C & W history. Owens and the Beatles were genuine fans of each other's music, and Owens' live performances invariably included a Beatles medley.

While the Beatles' hits were almost all originals, other British Invasion bands used covers of American songs, especially girl-group records, to gain their first hits. Manfred Mann topped the charts in 1964 with a version of the Barry-Greenwich composition, **Do-Wah-Diddy**, recorded earlier in the year by the Exciters. Similarly, Herman's Hermits' debut hit, a remake of the Goffin-King's **I'm Into Something Good**, quickly outstripped Earl-Jean's original version. Earl-Jean was the lead singer of the Cookies, whose biggest hit, *Chains*, was remade by the Beatles in 1963.

A particularly flagrant case of a British record capitalizing on an American original was the Moody Blues' cover of Bessie Banks' **Go Now.** Selected as a "Pick of the Week" on New York City's influential radio station WINS, Banks' record was just gathering steam when the Moody Blues' note-for-note copy was released. Predictably, radio stations picked up on the more fashionable British version.

Ironically, many American teenagers' first taste of blues and soul during the '60s came from the numerous British bands that revered and imitated these black styles. The Yardbirds achieved success with a remake of Bo Diddley's swaggering I'm a Man, the flip side of Diddley's self-titled 1955 debut single. The song's pounding, stop-and-go riff was indebted to Muddy Waters, who recorded his own version of I'm a Man under the title Mannish Boy. The Animals were only one of many acts (including Van Morrison and Canned Heat) influenced by blues legend John Lee Hooker, master of the one-chord boogie and author of the oft-covered Boom Boom.

Of course, the most famous of Britain's R&B-styled bands was the Rolling Stones, who scored their first top-10 hit with a copy of Irna Thomas' **Time Is on My Side**, on which Mick Jagger even aped Thomas' rap in the middle of the song. A somewhat bitter Thomas later said: "I really liked that song and put my heart and soul into it. Then along comes this English group and





half sings it and gets a million seller. After that, I stopped doing it."

In mid-'63, Del Shannon became the first artist to release a version of a Lennon-McCartney song in America (From Me to You). Shannon also made one other notable contribution to the British Invasion. While on a concert tour of Australia, he tried to interest the Searchers in a song he had penned called I Go to Pieces. The Searchers were not impressed, but Peter and Gordon were. The British duo eventually recorded a version that hit the top 10, while Shannon's version appeared on his superb 1965 album, One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One Seconds with Del Shannon.

It wasn't only British bands that exploited the potential of a good R&B song. Felix Cavaliere heard the Olympics' Good Lovin' while listening to a New York City soul station; he quickly had his band, the Young Rascals, work up a faster version that became a monster dance hit. While the Vibrations, a black vocal group, had scored a moderate hit with their My Girl Sloopy, writer-producer Bert Berns was convinced that the song could sell millions if performed by a white English band. He was half-right: The McCoys, a white American band, topped the charts with the retitled Hang on Sloopy.

Released in 1958, the Five Royales' **Dedicated to the One I Love** failed to make the top-40 pop charts or even dent the R&B charts, although both the Shirelles (1961) and the Mamas and the Papas (1967) would enjoy huge success with the song. Written by the group's leader, Lowman Pauling, it features Pauling's stinging guitar, a unique addition to the vocal group sound.

Vee-Jay Records had originally wanted Dee Clark to record You're No Good, but producer Calvin Carter felt the song's accusatory lyric would be better delivered by a woman, so Betty Everett got the nod. The song was a hit in England for the Swinging Blue Jeans, but it was Linda Ronstadt who offered the most popular rendition in 1975.



One of the most dramatic crossover events in the history of popular music occurred in 1962 when Ray Charles released his tremendously successful Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music, an album in which the R&B giant sang nothing but country songs. The album yielded a No. 1 single, I Can't Stop Lovin' You, written and recorded by Don Gibson in 1958. Produced by Chet Atkins, Gibson's I Can't Stop Lovin' You and its more popular flip side, Oh Lonesome Me, are considered two early examples of the "Nashville Sound." Interestingly enough, Gibson wrote both songs in one afternoon in 1957 while living in a trailer outside of Knoxville. He later remarked, "It was the kind of day I could use more of."

-Joe Sasfy

Don Gibson, a country singer who composed one of Ray Charles's biggest hits

- 1. Everybody's Trying to Be My Baby Carl Perkins * Music and tyrics by Carl Perkins. Unichappell Music Inc. c/o Warner-Chappell Music. BMI. Sun LP 1225 (1958). Courtesy of Sun Entertainment Corp. Did not chart.
- 2. Slow Down Larry Williams Music and tyrics by Lawrence E.
 Williams. Arc Music Corp Larina Music, BML Specialty 626 (1958).
 Courtesy of Specialty Records. Did not chart.
- 3. Do-Wah-Diddy The Exciters * Music and tyrics by Jeff Barry and Ellie Greenicch. Worner-Tamertane Music. BMI. United Artists 662 (1964). Courteey of EMI, a Division of Capitol Records, Inc., under license from CEMA Special Markets. No. 78*
- 4. Anna (Go to Him) Arthur Alexander Music and lyrics by Arthur Alexander Jainted Desert Music Corp. BMVKeva Music Inc./Chanteclair. Painted Desert (PROC). Doi: 16387 (1962). Courtery of MCA Records, Inc. No. 68*
- Needles and Pins Jackie DeShannon * Music and lyrics by Sonry Bono and Jack Nitssche. EMI Music Publishing. BMI. Liberty 55583 (1963). Courtesy of EMI, a Division of Capitol Records, Inc., under license from CEMA Special Markets. No. 84*
- Go Now Bessie Banks * Music and tyrics by Milton Bennett and Larry Banks. Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. BMJ. Tiger 102 (1964). Courtesy of Sun Entertainment Corp. Did not chart.
- Words of Love Buddy Holly Masic and tyrics by Buddy Holly. MPL Communications Inc. ASCAP. Coral 61852 (1957). Courtesy of MCA Records, Inc. Did not chart.
- 8. 1 Go to Pieces Del Shannon Music and lyrics by Del Shannon. Mole Hole Music/Bug Music/Unichappell Music Inc. BMI. Amy LP 8006 (1965). Courtesy of Mole Hole Records. Did not chart.
- 9. You're No Good Betty Everett * Music and lyrics by Clint Ballard Ir. Edwin H. Morris Co., Inc. AS Songs Inc. Cosa David Blue Seas Music Inc. ASCAP, Vee-Jay 566 (1963). Courtesy of Vee-Jay Records, No. 51*
- 10. Mr. Moonlight Dr. Feelgood and the Interns Music and lyrics by Roy Lee Johnson. Lowery Music Co., Inc. BMI. OKeh 7144 (1962). Produced under license from CBS Special Products, a Semice of CBS Records, a Division of CBS Records, Inc. Did not chart.
- 11. Dedicated to the One 1 Love The Five Royales * Music and lyrics by Lowman Pauling and Ralph Bass. Fort Knox

- Music/Duchess Music Corp. c/a MCA Music/Trio Music Co. BMI King 5453 (1961). Courtesy of Gusto Records. No. 81*
- Boom Boom John Lee Hooker * Music and tyrics by John Lee Hooker. Conrad Co. Inc. BMI. Vee-Jay 438 (1962). Courtesy of Vee-Jay Records. No. 60*
- 13. I'm Leavin' It All Up to You Don and Dewey Music and lyrics by Dewey Terry and Don F. Harris. Venice Music Inc. BMI. Specialty 610 (1957). Courtesy of Fantasy Records. Did not chart.
- 14. I'm Into Something Good Earl-Jean Masic and lyries by Gerry Goffin and Corole King, Screen Gerns-EMI Music Inc. EMI. Colpex 729 (1964). Licensed Courtesy of Butterfly Entertainment Corp. arbo Rhino Records, Inc. No. 38*
- 15. Nobody But Me The Isley Brothers Music and lyrics by Ronald Isley, Rudolph Isley and O'Kelly Isley. Wemar Music Corp. BMJ, Wand 131 (1963). Courtesy of Gusto Records. Did not chart.
- 16. DevI in His Heart The Donays * Music and tyrics by Richard Drapkin. Brent Music Corp. BMI. Brent 7033 (1962). Produced under license from Timeless Entertainment Corp. Did not chart.
- 17. Time Is on My Side Irma Thomas * Music and tyrics by Norman Meade. Unichappell Music Inc. BMI. Imperial 66041 (1964). Courtesy of Capitol Records, Inc., under license from CEMA Special Markets. Did not chart.
- 18. Pm a Man Bo Diddley * Music and lyrics by Ellas McDaniel. Arc Music Corp. BMI. Checker 814 (1955). Courtesy of Chess/MCA Records, Inc. Did not chart.
- Good Lovin* The Olympics * Music and lyrics by Rudy Clark and Arthur Resnick, Alley Music/Trio Music. BMI. Loma 2013 (1965). Produced under license from Warner Bros. Records Inc. No. 81*
- 20. My Girl Sloopy The Vibrations Music and lyrics by Bert Russell and Wes Farrell. Screen Gens-EMI Music Inc./Morris Music. BMI. Atlantic 2221 (1964). Produced under license from Atlantic Recording Corp. No. 26*
- Act Naturally Buck Owens Music by John Russell, lyrics by Voni Morrison. Tree Publishing. BMI. Capitol 4937 (1963). Courtesy of Buck Owens Enterprises. Did not chart.
- 22. I Can't Stop Lovin' You Don Gibson Music and lyrics by Don Gibson. Acuff-Rose Publications. BMI. RCA 7133 (1958). Courtesy of RCA Records, a label of BMG Music. No. 81*

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NOTES INSIDE

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