

Frankie Valli is a man whose accomplishments in music make him one of the most outstanding members of the industry. He has enjoyed no fewer than 14 years of success with The Four Seasons and, at the same time, managed to establish himself as a popular solo artist.

Frankie Castelluccio was born in Newark, New Jersey, in a poor neighborhood in which street gangs and fights were commonplace. He was determined to succeed as a singer and is fiercely proud of the years he spent struggling for recognition. Much of his enjoyment of his success stems from the fact that he knows, all too well, how much work went into building his career.

At first, Frankie appeared locally at cocktail lounges and night clubs. A performer long before he became a recording artist, Frankie feels that his popularity stems in part from the fact that he learned early in his career that one of the most important aspects of being a singer is to entertain your audience.

Late in the 1950s, Frankie recorded his first solo record on the Corona label. Called "My Mother's Eyes," the single enjoyed local success but did not move on to national best-selling charts.

In the early 1960s, Valli's solo efforts were temporarily put aside and he became known primarily as The Four Seasons' lead singer on such hits as "Sherry," "Dawn" and "Rag Doll."

Although he enjoyed his work with the group, Frankie decided he still wanted to pursue his solo career. In the mid-1960s he recorded "You're Going To Hurt Yourself" and had his first national chart hit as a solo artist. That success was followed with his records "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You," "To Give," "I Make A Fool Of Myself" and "The Girl I'll Never Know." Every song hit the charts and Frankie enjoyed double success as The Four Seasons' lead singer and as a recording artist in his own right.

When music styles turned to heavy rock, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons continued to tour, making over 150 concert appearances a year including ten sold-out Madison Square Garden engagements.

Although Frankie did not have chart successes in the United States for a few years, his appeal as a solo artist continued to grow. In 1971, a song Frankie had recorded in the mid-1960s, "You're Ready Now," hit the charts in Britain and Frankie was presented with a rhythm and blues award in England for his single.

In the early 1970s, Frankie signed with Motown. He recorded the single, "My Eyes Adored You," for the label but the song was never released. Later, when he left the record company, Frankie purchased the tapes.

Valli then signed with Private Stock. His first release on that label was "My Eyes Adored You" and it was an immediate success, certified gold by the RIAA. He followed that hit with another, "Swearin' To God." Valli's solo album releases on Private Stock include "Gold," "Our Day Will Come" and "Closeup."

In concert, Frankie performs alone as well as with The Four Seasons. Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons are now firmly established as two separate, but closely related, entities.

A man who loves working, Frankie believes that few people can succeed alone. He gives credit to his wife, Mary Ann, who helps select much of his material, and to Bob Gaudio, his partner.

Although he has already spent 14 years filling a difficult and demanding schedule, Frankie Valli's current commitments are greater than ever. He works with The Four Seasons on their records, he records material for his own albums and he keeps up with an active performing schedule. Frankie Valli has no intention of slowing his pace and judging from his past, he will continue to be a leading figure in the music industry for a long time to come.