

RECORDING WITH



The way the Four Seasons have been coming up with hit after hit for the last five years, one would think they had the hit-record formula down pat. But it's not an assembly line. They still have to sweat over every new single. That's why they've been on top for so long.

The Four Seasons try to spend a few days before every recording session rehearsing all their new songs. But with their busy personal appearance schedule there's never enough time. Even songs that have been rehearsed can create unforeseen problems in the recording studio.

A few years ago the average rock and roll album consisted of one or two hit singles with a bunch of crummy tunes thrown in to fill up space. Nowadays most of the top stars put long hours and days of effort into eleven or twelve songs and choose the best ones as their singles. That's how the Four Seasons do it.

We caught up with them at a recent session at the Mirasound Recording Studio in New York. As we walked into the control room, we heard the group in the studio singing background harmony. Their producer, Bob Crewe, conducted them through the large window separating the control booth and the studio.

All Four Seasons sang the chorus several times. Bob asked different members to stand nearer or farther away from the microphone. After several takes they got it.

Now it was Frankie Valli's turn to put the lead vocal over the chorus. We soon found out that the reason the Seasons' records sound so great is that they don't stop working on a song until it's the best they can possibly make it.

Frankie sang his part over and over



Photos by Don Paulsen