

The "Connections"

Our American friend Mike 'Doo Wop Daddy' Miller has been a huge help in our 'Seasons' Connections series and for that we are eternally grateful but he has uncovered so much material with the involvement of Bob Gaudio-Bob Crewe-Charles Calello-Frankie Valli and the rest of the Four Seasons that we have to acknowledge we can't process it all. Fortunately with help from US fans he has been able to assemble his many tracks on CD in 'The Connections' series and we recently received copies of Volumes 4 and 5 to review.

Mike told us how much he appreciates our 'Seasons' Connections series....." when I get a finished article from you, I know the collecting and hard work is ENTIRELY worthwhile. Even though there maybe a few "dogs", amongst the listed tracks the bulk of this music is very good, if not outstanding. I get so much personal enjoyment out of listening to these tracks, that I usually can't stop listening to them for weeks and months after each article. In my world, they are my "TOP 40" and everyone I have spoken to who have heard these tracks has enjoyed them immensely.

Mike has assembled his tracks on his own sets which feature some interesting and almost lost recordings. In this newsletter we feature details of his Volume 4 with Volume 5 next time.

The Connections- Volume 4

1. **But Baby - Wendy Wilson (Bob Crewe – Sid Bass), Jubilee Records**

This song on this rare label was recorded around 1961. It is a Crewe

production but with no Seasons involvement

2. **Calendar Of Love – The Teammates (M.Paladino), Le Mans Records**

Another rare and little known label this is a teen harmony 'white doo-wop' styled song arranged by Charles Calello from possibly 1963-64. A slight Seasons sound but without their involvement. Excellent Tokens sound-alike

3. **Dark Rain- - Johnny Diamond, (B. Potter – P.Dello) Columbia Records**

Another Charles Calello arranged track with a nice melody and harmonies.

4. **Darling Je Vous Aime Beaucoup - Mitchell Keyes ,(A. Sossenka) , Atco Records**

Mike found this early first single by Troy Keyes and it sounds like the High Keyes backing him up on this catchy 1962 Crewe production. A great vocal performance

5. **Deserted – The Orphans**

- (**S.Linzer- D.Randell), Epic Records**

A really funky garage band performance produced by our Seasons connected writers/producers Linzer/Randell. Mike describes this as a 'cool 'song' performed by a group containing a member with the name 'Lillijquist'yes you guessed, the same one that wrote 'She Gives Me Light' from the Seasons 1970 'Half and Half' album .

6. **Everybody Knows My Name – The Doughboys, (B.Crewe – B.Gaudio) Bell Records.**

This is a great cover version of this wonderful mainly Gaudio song.

7. **Funseeker – Gary Knight (G.Knight – L.R.Brown), Columbia Records**

This is another garage band sounding record by the famed writers from Bob Crewe's late 60's sojourn into this genre. From about 1967 it is a rather disjointed and almost tuneless track

8. **Gently Goodbye – The Distant Cousins, (L.Brown – R. Bloodworth**



– Wegrzyn), Date Records

Another track from the group we have featured in the 'Seasons' Connections series, this time on another little known ballad in their familiar folk harmony style. A Crewe production but probably the writers work.

9. Hickory- King Harvest (K.Nolan – B.Crewe) , A&M Records

This is a nice cover version of the Motown release by the Four Seasons, but there is no Crewe / Calello connection. It just lacks the warmth of harmony that the Seasons give it.

10. I Couldn't Care Less – The Loading Zone, (P.Pylyriw), Columbia Records

Charles Calello arranged many songs at Columbia in 1967. This very cool song by a little known group has a jazz feel with a really focused organ backing.

11. I'll Be Yours - Kitty Noble (A.Sosenka – Oliveri – Poterat) , May Records

In the early sixties Bob Crewe was still producing the dated female 'torch' style female vocals that somehow got left over from the 50's. This sounds very dated today.

12. Ivy – Brendan O'Hanlon (S.Linzer – D. Randell), Columbia Records

When Valli did this song on the 'Timeless' album he captured the 'nostalgic' feel the lyrics portray on this great composition. Despite Charles Calello's faultless arrangement and production the vocalist just isn't in the same league as Frankie- poor cover version by this guy . Charles Calello did 3 records with O'Hanlon on Columbia so must have thought he had some talent ? Either that or he had no choice but to record him!

13. Looking For A True Love- The Madisons (L.Santos) MGM Records

Another great song by Larry Santos which we will feature on 'Seasons' Connections as this captures much of the Seasons sound and Charles Calello stylish arrangements as he was

arguably at a peak with the Seasons The label says this is a 'Larry Santos production for Bob Crewe Productions'.

14. No More You- Distant Cousins (B.Crewe – C. Calello) Date Records

Another plaintive and harmonic ballad by the Cousins (Brown/Bloodworth). Very pleasant but a total flop like so many of their efforts. Even their best effort "She Ain't Lovin You No More" which was just terrific failed to chart.

15. Our Dream(Song Of The Flower Children) – Johnny Diamond (R. Minao – J.Esposito- R.Tourso) Columbia Records

This was the flip of Dark 'Rain' and another Charles Calello arrangement. Surprisingly this is a pounding horn driven dancer which might have been acceptable to the Northern Soul crowd if they had found it. A bit like 'Soultime' by Shirley Ellis.

16. Plastic Man – The Swampseeds (S. Linzer-D. Randell), Epic Records.

Sandy and Denny producing again, hit the 'garage' band sound with this driving 'fuzz' guitar laced rocker.

17. Pretend Again – Wendy Wilson (B.Crewe – S.Bass) , Jubilee Records

The 'B' Side to track 1 and another forgettable 50's style ballad by Bob and Sid. The Seasons found Sid's arrangements somewhat dated and preferred to us Charles Calello's more innovative work.

18. Rocky- The Shepherd Sisters (B.Crewe – F.Slay) Warwick Records

By contrast this 1960 production is a harmonic driving rocker with great horns. Way ahead of its time. Mike told us.." Just a terrific upbeat production with all the horns, a Crewe production with Frank Slay. George Showerer was the engineer, and he told me about this great record." We'll feature this on a later Volume of 'Seasons' Connections

19. Speak Of The Devil – Danny Harrison (B.Crewe – L. Santos)

Coral Records

This guy has a terrific voice and the song is a Crewe/Santos gem, but not produced by Crewe. Just terrific.

20. Tell Me Sunshine – Gary Knight (G.Knight) Columbia Records

Gary Knight wrote some superb songs in the late 60's with Bob Crewe but this garage-psychedelic song is just awful. Hardly worth the studio time.

21. The Ole Mouse- Chuck Bene and The Mice (Bene – M.Pierce – A.Pierce) Columbia Records

Again another awful semi instrumental (with shouting Chuck Bene plus Mice in the background).This is actually a 4 Seasons production- Must be their worst.....maybe we should start a top ten worst productions. Not worth the time of day! As Mike warned us..."I hate this song !! 10 listens haven't changed my mind yet."

22.World 2000- Gary Knight (F.Neiman – G.Knight)Philips Records

An innovative arrangement on a more melodic song that "wants to see the World 2000" . A strong jazz feel on this a Crewe production.

23.The World Without You – Mitchell Keyes (B.Crewe – A. Sosenka) Epic Records.

This song has the same backing and melody as 'Tomorrow' which was later released by Matthew Reid and then Chuck Jackson, but what happened to the "Sosenko" credit, as suddenly it changed to Crewe-Bass. Bob usually wrote the lyric and this is a completely different lyric. Troy Keyes delivers his usual strong vocal performance on this Crewe Production.

24.This Is The Time – The Orphans (E. Lilljequist)

Ringin guitars open this plaintive ballad which is the 'B' side to track 5. A largely uninspiring performance, brightened by strings and good harmonies. The writer once again was also responsible for the Four Seasons song from 1970, 'She

Gives Me Light' which is on the 'Half and Half' album

25. Too Late To Love You - Bobby Norris (A. Shroeck - J. Loring), Columbia Records

A strong Artie Shroeck penned song gets a full orchestral treatment from Charles Calello's arrangement and production as this little known young lady belts out the song.

26. What in The World's come Over You - The Dovells (Wisner - Jackson) Parkway Records

As Mike told us "this is a real nice, and very rare 4 Seasons sound-a-like". Harmonies falsetto and chiming bells galore... just brilliant.

27. When I'm Gone - Lux (W. Bailey) Gazette Records

This group recorded as both 'Lux' and as 'Light' for the ill fated Gaudio label, Gazette Records. This is Bob Grimm's group who later became a 4 Season during the Motown Years.

NEXT TIME VOLUME 5 Note: These are not commercial CD's and are part of the owners personal Collection.

Back In October we launched 'Chameleons' blog publishing news research and stories between our Newsletter publications on the world wide web. This blog aims to act as a focal point for web based information and the results of our on going research.

We advise a series of Four Seasons related e-mail groups of our regular postings and we have posted 22 articles and collected a series of links with Seasons related web sites.

Thanks to all those who visit us regularly as so far (**April 1st**) we have achieved the following stats.....

Total number of page views: 6245

Average per day: 37.17

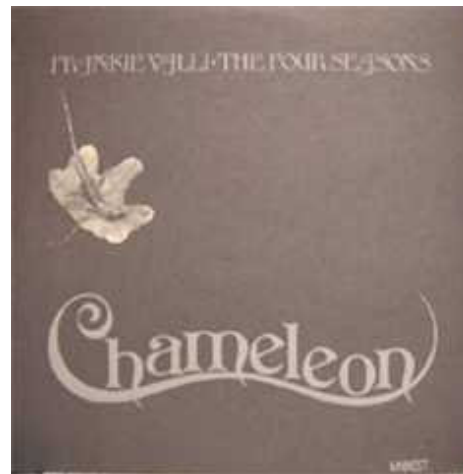
Last 7 days: 385

Today since midnight GMT: 31

So if you have anything to contribute to the Four Seasons Story be it information or photos add them to the library at <http://movementbureau.blogspot.com/chameleon/>

Contact us at

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But What Was The Year?

Seasons worked off their feet!

VINCE MARC'S New York office—aply named Genius Inc.—is also associated with the fortunes of another big chart group of the moment, the Four Seasons. So it was interesting to get his own picture of how the Seasons have been faring in the States with their hit "Let's Hang On."

He told me: "Chart-wise, the Four Seasons are just about the biggest thing here at the moment. They have currently this big one with 'Let's Hang On' and they are just worked off their feet with success.

"Funny thing about the Seasons is that they were pretty big both in the States and Britain about two years ago. Especially here.

"Then they went cold. People didn't hear about them for a while... but the reason was that for five months they hid away and shunned all publicity while they worked out a really great stage act.

"Today, the four Seasons are greatly changed artists, even more professional than before. But the

main thing is that they offer so much variety: when they start their show they do 25 minutes of standard Broadway tunes, followed by a lot of really different material.

"They have also done a fantastic LP, which I hope you will be hearing in Britain soon. One side consists of their special treatment of Bacharach tunes and the other side is all Bob Dylan material."

The transatlantic telephone pips started to bleep, and the chatty and energetic Mr. Marc had to go. "Bye now," he shouted, "see you in London soon!"

"The Toys are gonna love meetin' ya," he added, thinking of his first-loves. And me them!

Ray Nichols—60s Clips

More interesting clips about Seasons songs when they first came out from Ray Nichols old music papers. They were recognized then as 'vibrant', 'absorbing lyrics' and even so much as 'invigorating'. Sounds like the description of the same songs in the stage production of 'Jersey Boys'. Chameleon

'Classic' Seasons

†"Opus 17 (Don't You Worry 'Bout Me)"/"Beggars Parade" (Philips).

ADAPTED from the classics, this has all the Seasons' familiar trademarks — solo voice with that distinctive falsetto chanting of Frankie Valli, vibrant crashing beat emphasised by tambourine, conerake sax, and bags of vitality.

Reminded me of a stepped-up "Lover's Concerto." Invigorating! FLIP. A rippling tinkle underlines the vocal blend in this Crewe-Gaudio medium-pacer.

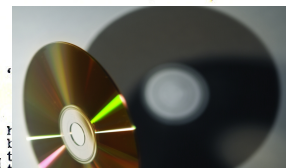
New hit for Seasons

**"Tell It To The Rain"/"Show Girl" (Philips).

FOR a change, not a Crewe-Gaudio composition—but you'd never know it! This is the typical Four Seasons—solo voice, with insistent falsetto chanting, and a thoroughly absorbing lyric.

The backing bounds along like there's no tomorrow. It's an absolutely shattering sound—completely enveloping. Add to this a fairly strong melody line, and it looks like the boys have got another hit on their hands. What a tremendous scoring!

FLIP: Much slower in pace, this has a more forceful and imploring vocal approach. A thudding plod beat, an underlying rasp sound and a big build.



THREE RAG DOLLS

A THROBBING, pulsating rhythm, highlighted by tambourines, sets the pattern for the Four Seasons' "Rag Doll" (Philips), which topped the American charts. The group's hallmark is their wide harmonic range, and this fascinating rockaballad is the perfect showcase for them. An unusual feature is the contrapuntal melody lines between the lead singer and the others.

British cover version by the Femmen on Decca follows the Seasons' styling, even to their extensive vocal range. But the local lads have injected a heavier beat, which

erases much of the delicacy, but makes it more suited for dancing.

A third version by HMV's Sammy King also abandons the artistry in favour of a more pronounced beat. In fact, this is altogether a more orthodox beat styling in dual-track, with chanting and screaming.

Flips: The Seasons warble a restfully attractive sentimental ballad with a subdued beat "Silence Is Golden." The Femmen offer a run-of-the-mill medium shaker "Be My Girl." And Sammy's coupling is a mediocre twister with a strong beat and vibratos, "We're Through."