



most things, the UK lagged behind the USA in release dates with Genuine Imitation Life Gazette being issued in 7/69 on Philips SBL 7880. Also in the spring of 1969, Frankie Valli recorded the movie title soundtrack of "A Dream of Kings" which was recorded initially as a 45 rpm, stereo acetate pressing at Sterling Studios, Inc, NYC. The movie featured the actor Anthony Quinn and the soundtrack was released on National General NG 1000. Following the lack of chart success with "Idaho", Bob Crewe came to the rescue again with the release of the old Della Reese song "And That Reminds Me of You". This track backed with "Singles Game" came out on Crewe 333 in August 1969 and not on Philips. The song entered the Billboard charts on September, 13th peaked at no. 45 (33 on Cash Box) and vanished again 7 weeks later. Two versions of the picture cover exist viz. one with (the rarer) and the one without the shadow behind the heads of Joey Long and Valli. The only remaining L.P. to appear that year was the re-release in January (or maybe perhaps in December 1968?) in the USA, with a rare coloured picture of the Seasons on both front and back of the LP sleeve, of "Sing Big Hits By Bacharach, David and Dylan" on Philips PHS600193. This same album with the open yellow book on the front of the LP sleeve and a black and white photo of the group on the back was re-released in the UK in December 1969 (Philips SBL 7687). This marked the end of the 1969 era and the following year was a turning point in the history of the group from many points of view. **Important reissues of the 1969 albums on CD format**



"Sing Big Hits By Bacharach, David and Dylan" was reissued by USA Rhino on CD (R2-70249); cassette (R4-7029) and even vinyl (R1-70249) in July 1988. At the same time, Rhino reissued "Genuine Imitation Life Gazette" in the above three formats as R2-70249, R4-70249 and R1-70249. On 26/2/96 UK Ace reissued "Sing Big Hits By B, D & D" on CDCHD 620 and Ace also reissued "Gen. Imit. Life Gaz" on 28/10/96 on CDCHD 628 with 4 bonus tracks "Watch the Flowers Grow/Raven/Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow and Electric Stories". Finally USA Collectors' Choice Music reissued "Gen. Imit. Life Gaz. and Working My Way Back To You" in 11/06 as a double CD on CCM 07402. Due to demand, this and five other Season's boxed set CDs, were finally made available immediately after Christmas on January 9th, 2007.

Article Taken from UK Record Collector No. 333 April 2007

12 FEB 2006
TV
Britains favourite
breakup songs
CHANNEL 5
at no 9 THE SUN AINT
GONNA SHINE
Walkers Bros version
was featured, but the
VALLI original got a
mention.
Film footage of comments
by Bob Crewe.

The 4 Seasons
Edizione d'Oro
29 Gold Hits (Double Value Album)
DBL 003 (2 record set)
For release in April 1969

**UK Record Collector
No. 325 (July 2006)**

Lou Christie

Beyond The Blue Horizon
★★★
Brook BBOOK 1050
Shriek, swank and shimmy!
Not to be confused with the simi-
larly-titled 1994 Varese release,
this compilation nevertheless
does a decent job of showcasing
the disconcerting falsetto-doo-wop
of the Pennsylvanian/Italian

heartthrob, born Lugee Alfredo
Giovanni Secco in 1943.

The Wall Of Sound-esque
atmosphere throughout is best
served on the hits: the provoca-
tive -- and somewhat ironic, given
this isn't exactly the first compila-
tion of his stuff -- Lightnin' Strikes
still stands up well here, as are
the still-dramatic The Gypsy Cried
and breakthrough single Two
Faces Have I. But the performer
who was often tagged as a poor
man's Frankie Valli occasionally
gets it wrong too: the tortured
yelps that degrade Tears On My
Pillow will send the estate's
hounds into a frenzy, and Stay is
as inconsequential a workout as
it is tiresome. There are already
plenty of Christie box sets and
compilations available, making
this a rather pointless addition.
Joe Shooman

UNITING THE GANGS

**The Beach Boys/Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons
East Meets West/Rhapsody**

(FBI Records FBS 7701, US 7", 1984) £36

For some years in the 60s, while the
British were invading the US charts,
The Beach Boys and The Four
Seasons were the only
American groups to
consistently enjoy hit
records. The Beach Boys
had even hinted at an
inter-coast rivalry when
they allowed, 'Four
Seasons, you'd better
believe it', to be left
audible in the fade out of
Surfers Rule. For their part,
the Seasons cut a song
called No Surfin' Today, though
it didn't have any direct jibes at
their West Coast equivalents.

Both groups were unbeatable on their
own turf, and nowhere had there ever been any hint of collaboration, until this one
off affair from summer 1984. With the B-side being an existing Four Seasons track,
Rhapsody, and the A-side written by long-standing Season Bob Gaudio and their
producer Bob Crewe (with Gaudio being responsible for the production and
arrangement), it's obvious where the main thrust came from. The label FBI stood for
Frankie & Bobby Incorporated, rather than its more famous reference.

It was a smaller set-up than the major label issue The Beach Boys were expecting
when they agreed to the deal. When they saw this new-scale issue, they soon
demanded withdrawal of the single, thus making it one of the least-known Beach
Boys' releases. It's one of the hardest to find now, even though up to 5000 may
have been put out. Add to that the unusual fact that all original Beach Boys, apart
from Dennis, appear to be contributing vocals, then this makes for a genuine
collectable. That, and it's actually pretty damn good... Kingsley Abbott, with
thanks to Andrew G Doe

