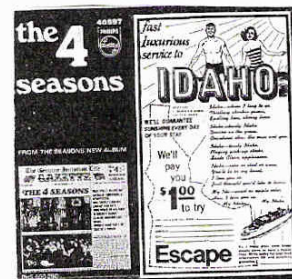


**Frankie Valli and 4 Seasons Singles, EPs and LP Vinyl Records Releases Part :1969**



In January 1969, UK Philips released both “**Electric Stories/Pity**” BF 1743 and Frankie Valli’s “**Timeless**” album SBL 7856 but to no chart avail. Meanwhile back in the USA, a novel atypical 4 Seasons’ album was released viz “**Genuine Imitation Life Gazette**” on Philips PHS600290 which reached no. 85 on the Billboard album charts. All the tracks were co-written by Bob Gaudio and Jake Holmes and the sleeve was packaged in a newspaper type format with an insert containing advertisements, the kind of thing found in Sunday newspapers. This concept, theme album is reminiscent of the avant garde Wilson’s Beach Boys LP “**Pet Sounds**” from 1966. **Tracks:** *American Crucifixion Resurrection:* A long complex track albeit harmonious with fast pace singing followed by slow pace tempo. Didn’t appeal to ardent Seasons Fans but Valli’s voice was distinct. Chart miss!*Mrs Stateley’s Garden:* A up tempo humorous skit on USA late 60’s higher

society ladies with their garden parties, coffee mornings and gossip mongering. Exemplified by the line “Get up Alice, you’re crushin my hat”. *Look Up, Look Over:* A beautiful slow ballad type song with much blended vocals; the tune flows nicely along. *Saturday’s Father:* A sad song about separation of parents and their father’s weekly visit. A nice story is told in this slow style ballad and the best part is the highly harmonious ending to the song. This track had come out as a single in 6/68 flip side “*Goodbye girl*” on Philips 40542; it only reached no.103 on Billboard (48 Cashbox). *Wonder What You’ll Be:* A pleasant, swingy similar tempo track with Valli’s & Seasons’ vocals very subdued. *Idaho:* A tune about the sunny state Idaho complete with its crops and sung in a fast pace with harmonious inflections but an abrupt ending to the song; it was issued as a 45 rpm single as a marker for any chart impact. *Something’s On Her Mind:* A nice happy go lucky, beaty song with distinct Valli vocals and phasing background orchestration sounds like the coming out of space from a distance. May have made a nice single? *Wall Street Village Day:* One of my favourites that typifies NYC with the hustle and bustle of Wall Street and trendy Greenwich Village. A fast pace track with unusual albeit interesting musical arrangements, horn sounds and dig that vocal style towards the end of the track “dup,doo doo dup” and repetitive lyrics to add to the sound. *Genuine Imitation Life Gazette:* Although the album title, the song is patchy with a bit of this and a bit of that and just strung together words in any order. The music is slow and they’ve even copied “*Hey Jude*” at the end! Not a good track overall but it seems to be about respect of the individual in a jazzy sort of way. Two star rated. *Soul of a Woman:* A delightful slow ballad with meaningful lyrics typifying the dreams of what a woman wants out of life. More like a Valli solo song than the group’s effort. The ending would be like going to heaven.



To coincide with the issue of the album, a **Genuine Imitation Life Gazette juke-box EP/mini-LP 33 1/3 rpm** disc was released on Philips PL 2704 with tracks: *Wall Street Village Day, Mrs Stately’s Garden, Idaho, Something’s On Her Mind and /Wonder What You’ll Be*. In March 1969 saw the release of two more singles. In the UK Philips put out a picture sleeved single (the first for a UK Seasons release) “**Rag Doll/Working My Way Back To You**” BL 7643 which of course did not chart whilst in the USA on Philips 40597 saw the release of “**Idaho**” backed with “**Something’s On Her Mind**”. The track Idaho entered the USA BB charts on 5/4/69 and reached no. 95 (64 on Cashbox) and vanished 2 weeks later whilst amazingly the flip side entered 29/3/69, peaked at 98 and

went out again after 1 week (CB no. 64 also). In April, the “**EdizioneD’Oro (Gold Edition)**” double album was finally released in the UK on Philips (S)DBL 003 and it actually charted at no. 11 in the BBC charts. In May, it was time for another US Frankie Valli solo release namely “**The Girl I’ll Never Know/A Face**

**Without a Name**” on Philips 40622 entered the BB charts on June 14<sup>th</sup> went out again 7 weeks later. Two sleeve titled “**Bob Crewe Presents** and the other “ “ “ The single came out as a demo 33 1/3 rpm black 4” flexi-disc In June 1969 the single came



was released in May 1969. The single peaked at no.52 (26 on Cashbox) and variations also are in evidence. One pic Frankie Valli-*The Girl I’ll Never Know*” *The Girl I’ll Never Know*”. Furthermore, Bob Crewe Presents on CGC 18 and a was also available as a promotional aid! out in the UK on Philips BF 1795. Like