

REQUESTS OVER FOUR YEARS GAVE FRANKIE VALLI A HIT

ANYONE not familiar with the story behind "You're Ready Now" might be excused for thinking that a little girl or a choir-boy was singing lead! All that's happening, in fact, is Frankie Valli demonstrating some facets of his remarkable voice which ranges from baritone to tenor to a high falsetto.

And it's not a new record, either. It was first released back in 1966, after the Four Seasons had already notched up a string of hits all over the world.

Frankie's record company told the NME: "We were still being constantly asked for this record even after four years. So we decided to re-release it. We've heard that copies of the record were being sold privately for quite high prices."

But having a hit on his own, without the other members of the Seasons, doesn't necessarily mean that Frankie will go solo automatically. He's content with the way things are going for the group as a whole — and the group's many vested interests in other businesses.

"I'd wanted to be a solo singer

By **RICHARD GREEN**

for a long time before 'You're Ready Now' was released," he revealed in a transatlantic telephone call. "But we're such good buddies there's no question of us splitting up. Why should we? We've got the best of both worlds, we stick together. Occasionally, however, I make a record on my own or do a solo spot without any protests from the others."

Outside of recording and performing, the Four Seasons have a number of other projects to keep them active. Frankie ran through them for me.

"We produce our own discs, we have a production company,

we have several publishing outlets and an artists' management corporation," he pointed out. "We are always looking for new talent."

"We do all this because we have worked hard for our success and we don't want to throw it away. We've also worked out a great attitude to our career. We can work both the teenage and the cabaret circuits, putting on shows to suit both type of audience."

Frankie is a founder member of the Four Seasons. He and Tommy de Vito met Bob Gaudio just after the latter had written "Short Shorts" with Ruddy Randol for the Royal Tens. Bob wanted to get a group together and the three men teamed up. With Nick Massi they worked together as the Four Lovers for a while without much success. Then in 1962 they recorded "Sherry."

After a time, Nick was replaced by Joe Long and still the hits continued. "Rag Doll," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like A Man" and "Let's Hang On" among others all marked by Frankie's peculiar voice.

Thirty-five-year-old Frankie is very much the family man with three children at home in Newark, New Jersey. He taught himself to play the drums and is a big baffid jazz fan who plays football and basketball. He also enjoys sketching and drawing cartoons.

Valli's '70 hit from '66

I'M tired of hearing dee-jays, and reading reports, on about the Frankie Valli single, "You're Ready Now"

They say it's his new solo record and that he'll soon be leaving the Four Seasons. Let's get the record straight. "You're Ready Now" was originally released in the UK in 1966 but was hardly played. He followed up numerous other singles, including "The Proud One", "To Give", "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" (the original version written by the Seasons and Bob Crewe) and "I Make A Fool Of Myself".

Valli and the Seasons have since recorded many singles, all of which have been available here, including "Saturday's Father", "Electric Stories" and the beautiful "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow". On top of this, the group brought out a superb album "Imitation Life Gazette", a completely new style for the team.

But these were hardly ever played. No wonder the critics get their facts confused as the group is almost totally ignored. — P. M. CROOKS, Crabtree Cottage, Wilby Road, Meon Ashby, Northampton.

Frankie's hit was left to season in the vaults

Flashback to 1966—for both the picture and Frankie Valli's latest release, "You're Ready Now."

When it was first released, it didn't make any impression on the charts, but on listening to it again recently, the record company decided it hadn't dated at all and so re-released it.

Frankie Valli has made several solo records while singing lead with the Four Seasons, and they also recorded under the name of the Wonder Who.

He had success with "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" among his solo numbers.

The group will be visiting Britain in February to tour here for the first time in five years, with Rufus Thomas. Phillips will be rush releasing an album called "Frankie Valli—Solo" as soon as possible.

Although they have been out of the charts for some time, the Four Seasons are among the biggest selling recording artists in the world. They have sold over 50 million discs.

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FRANKIE VALLI

(YOU'RE READY NOW)

on Philips BF 320226

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Frankie Valli's "You're Ready Now" is fantastic. I like the whole American production, the voice and the lyrics. I like the Four Seasons.

FRANKIE VALLI

You're Ready Now (Philips) This song is so familiar I sha kick myself when the first person reminds me who else has done it recently. Albeit, this is the nearest you'll get now to the immortal Four Seasons — a right raving number opened with shrieking girl choir, fast and very punchy and if you close your eyes you can almost imagine the other three seasons there too.

Some lovely crashing piano halfway through helps break things up and it would be so nice to see this in the chart.

