

“Once Upon A Time In Milwaukie”

By Casey Chameleon

“Once upon a time there was a great band....” Actually their lead singer and producer thought they were the best band they had ever had after 12 years in the limelight. But for some obscure reason they didn’t believe in them enough or invest in them as much as we the fans of the day did!

So ended the **NEW Four Seasons** on 8th October 1977

But now with the arrival of this CD we can recall what a great bunch of guys they were and enjoy their terrific music. The notes of this obviously ‘unofficial’ release tell us....

” The story behind this music comes from a long-term fan searching through cassette tapes at a Car Boot Sale in Amsterdam to find an acrylic case with ‘Four Seasons – Milwaukie 76’ written on in marker. It was supposedly an attic clearance of an American Roadie from the 70s. It was an intriguing find but would it play and would it also sound like the audience tapes we all collected back in the 70s. The opening tracks were however distorted and un-listenable and then suddenly it settled to an enjoyable stereo sound. Obviously taken from the mixing desk some of the tape we were able to restore and it is re-mastered here to CD. As with any live concert not everything goes to plan and not everyone plays or sings ‘in key’but the atmosphere of those live performances of the 70s Seasons shines through and what we have salvaged is an important historical moment.....Enjoy. The Dutch Gopher”

Whatever the source this is one of the most important finds in the last 30 years for Four Seasons Fans. OK even though the sound isn’t perfect here, it is 100 times better than the tapes of live concerts we collected back in the 70s with their booming bass and indistinct vocals which was all we could manage with hand held cassette recorders. This CD reveals in the sound engineers mixes what we all experienced then.

As Lynn Boleyn said to me after hearing these tracks.....

“This reminds you of just how talented the 4 Seasons themselves were back then - they could have been so big on their own (as we well know). It was superb hearing Don Ciccone again singing Slip Away - just wonderful - it’s the things like this that you forget over time and then it all comes flooding back to you as if it were yesterday. Frankie sounds in good voice and very



Lost and Found Volume 1

Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons Live
Milwaukie June 1976

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Group Intros |
| 2 | Silver Star |
| 3 | Slip Away |
| 4 | December 63 |
| 5 | Song Intro |
| 6 | Swearin' To God |
| 7 | Song Intro |
| 8 | I Got Love For You Ruby |
| 9 | The Way We Were/All In Love Is Fair |
| 10 | Lets Hang On |
| 11 | My Eyes Adored You |
| 12 | Who Loves You - Finale |

Crisis Records 101 - Tracks digitised from cassette tape recorded in June 1976 via Wavelab 5.0 and re-mixed to Duophonic stereo. Produced in the Netherlands

jovial. Shame he let it all go.”

All the great tracks are there with some bonuses. Gerry Polci belts out **‘Silver Star’** with great verve and punch, and Don Ciccone’s **‘Slip Away’** is so much better than the studio version....haunting and atmospheric. Frankie Valli returns for the hook lines on **‘December 63’** as the group give their familiar rendition. He then takes the level up a few notches with **‘Swearin’ To God’**. John Paiva’s lead guitar features well on this great arrangement. The song featured throughout the 76 tours and yet never got a single release was **‘I Got Love For You Ruby’** and this is the best recording we have of this song ‘live’. We asked John Paiva

what he thought of this concert ‘salvage job’. He told us.....**‘It is great that you managed to find some half decent recordings of us from back then. It was so nice to hear us doing one of the songs I particularly loved to play, “I Got Love For You Ruby.” I will never grasp why that lovely song just came and went.’**

Lee Shapiro’s arrangement of the medley of **“Memories/All In Love Is Fair”** always was exceptional and this version allows Frankie’s superb vocal to shine through.

The familiar show closers of **‘Lets Hang On/ My Eyes Adored You/Who Loves You’** are also preserved in as reasonable a quality as we can expect from such an old tape.

It has always seemed odd that Valli and Gaudio didn’t preserve tapes of these live performances...well at least a couple per tour, for posterity. We deserve the chance to hear these and recall those classic days. If I commented before about the success of ‘Jersey Boys’ providing ‘validation’ that it was OK to be a fan of the group all these years then this CD, even with obvious sound limitations, shows what a great band they were.

There must be more like this around. For a start this is Volume 1 so that is perhaps a hint. Maybe the desolate years of the 80s and 90s will be forgotten as we find more of the golden years of the 70s. As Mike ‘Doo-Wop’ Daddy Miller commented.....

“I mean it when I say this is wonderful. I have never heard a live performances that sounded so very clear, and so very great. The performances reminded me so much of attending the many concerts that I went to over that period of time. One thing about the 4 Seasons concerts of that time.....you definitely got your moneys’ worth and much, much more.”

So now our research will focus once again on the 1970s as we track **‘The Rise and Fall of The NEW Four Seasons’** in future newsletters.....and we will make sure society members get to hear these tracks ‘salvaged’ from the past....**Chameleon**