

Number 58 – February 2014

The Four Seasons UK Appreciation Society
Newsletter



frankie valli solo



Established in 1971 and run by the some dedicated people for the over 30 years since, we are committed to help collectors everywhere who are interested in their music.

UK Record Mirror 29/10/77

GUCCI TROUSERS

FRANKIE VALLI: 'I Need You' (Private Stock PVT 124). Still invincible after all these years but this one isn't as strong enough to count. Somehow the operatic grandioseness of previous solo outings has been lost and the Eric Carmen song gets a fairly mundane delivery. Minor hit with airplay.



FRANKIE valli; invincible

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1978-80 releases



THE THREE CARD TRICK



ALL ACES FROM TAMLA-MOTOWN



USA Phonographic Record 01/1976



"Silver Star," "December 1963"--Four Seasons (Warners)

Group with a history? Mandrill. What?? Grass Roots. Good Guess! Beau Brummels. Yes. Shawn Phillips. They definitely have that Italian guitar sound. I

hear French horns in the background. Jack Nitzsche oriented. Argent. Real old group? Tommy James? Tons of hits? Four Seasons. This sounds great. Doesn't sound *anything* like the Four Seasons. "Who Loves You"--great record. They have really done it. Is it without what's his name? Those are *his* eyes. Oh, what a lovely cover, he said sarcastically. That's not the Sound of Frankie Valli. Who? Don Ciccone, in the Tradewinds and the Critters? Illustrious credits. *There's the Sound of Frankie Valli.*

It's not such a pure transition into disco as the Bee Gees made-- they could follow up with "Nights on Broadway" and keep the Bee Gees sound, but this is not recognizable. Even "Who Loves You" had that recognizable Four Seasons sound, but this one ("Dec. 1963") doesn't. Who's this girl on the inside? What a spread! Looks like Hugh Masakela. It could be Frankie's old lady. Could be a guy. Make sure this gets printed. One of the comebacks of the year. Buy it and put it with the old Veejay ones.



Hello Frankie, can you hear me?

Sheila Prophet tries to talk to the Four Seasons



FOUR SEASONS: *silence is golden.*

"HELLO, FRANKIE? Can you hear me?"

"Speak up, honey - I can't hear you. Can You hear her, Gerry?"

This is a conference call to the States, which means three-way with one party (me) in London, and the other two (Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons' drummer, Gerry Polci) on separate lines in different parts of Los Angeles. Marvellous what these Yanks can do.

Unfortunately, the good old GPO can't quite match up to this dazzling display of technology, and it soon transpires that, while Frankie and Gerry can hear each other perfectly, and I can hear both of them more or less loud and clear, neither of them can hear a single word I'm saying.

For a while it seems all is lost, but then the operator saves the day by offering to step in and ask the questions for me.

It's not the easiest way to have a meaningful conversation, but here goes anyway . . .

Can you ask them how they came to be involved with Lou Reizner and the 'All This And World War II' album?

"Lou approached us and asked us if we'd like to do a track on the album," replies Frankie. "I'd met him once or twice in New York, and I liked what he did with 'Tommy', so after hearing a few of the other tracks, I agreed."

Message

Silence.
Time for question two.
Have they seen the film?

"Yes, we have," says Frankie. "I thought it was excellent. It really got across the message. It was trying to say how ridiculous the war was, not by concentrating on atrocities, but by filming the ordinary people - the people who really suffer in wartime. Have you anything to add to that, Gerry?"

"It was amazing how well the Beatles' songs fitted in with the theme," Gerry adds obligingly. "I think with a film like that, there's a fine line of exploitation, so I wasn't too sure what to expect. But it was very well done."

While we wait for the operator to come back ("I think he's just gone for his coffee break," reckons Frankie) there's just time for a quick recap of the Four Seasons' story. It's a long-running saga that beats 'Coronation Street' for staying power. The group's currently in its 21st year, and their latest hit, 'We Can Work It Out' (from the self-same 'World War II' album) is the latest in a line which started in '62 with 'Sherry' and has been going strong ever since. All in all, they've sold over 60 million records - and that's an awful lot of plastic!

"The fortunate thing about the Four Seasons," says Frankie when the operator's finally made his return, "is that we've kept the people who liked us at the beginning, and we seem to have added new fans as we went along. Now we have fans of all ages - from 12 right up to 40. We seem to

appeal to everyone."

"That sounds a bit extravagant," breaks in Gerry suddenly, but it really isn't. I'm constantly amazed at the age differences in our audiences. One

amazing thing I heard recently is that some 6, 7 and 8 year-old kids seem to be picking up on our music, especially our early records. They must be hearing the records that their parents have had about the house for years!"

I've already been informed that the group are currently in the studios, finishing off their latest album. So how's it been going?

"The album's basically a new direction for the Four Seasons," says Frankie.

New path

"Yeah, things have definitely been evolving since 'Who Loves You' and 'December '63'," says Gerry. "We're following a new path."

"On this particular album, our musical contribution was much larger than the last one. We were involved in 98 or 99 per cent of the work that went into making it. There were also some guest players on it - for instance, Gregg Allman came in and did some overdubs."

The album was due to be finished last week, and Frankie hopes it'll be out in the New Year.

Mr Operator, can you ask them what their plans are now?

"Well, this week, I reckon we're off to the hospital to recover!" says Frankie. "Seriously, we've been working very hard for the past three months, and I expect we'll be taking a break over Christmas."

"We'll probably be getting back to work in late January or early February."

Any plans to come over to Britain?

"I think we'll be over in April," says Frankie. "We'll be doing a week at the Palladium, which should be good. The last British tour we did was just incredible."

Crackling

That last sentence is almost drowned out in a burst of fixing and crackling, and it looks as if they might fade out altogether any moment. But just before we go, there's one question I just have to ask Frankie - how did you achieve your, er . . . unique vocal sound?

The operator chortles as he repeats the question. "And no rude answers, Mr Valli," he tells him sternly, "or I won't buy any more of your records."

But he needn't have worried. "I think the sound just developed," answers Frankie. "Really, the sound of the Four Seasons is a structure of harmonics. Also, I have a very wide vocal range, so those early hits were written specifically for that range."

"Now, Gerry's doing a lot of vocals, and he's also got a very wide range, so, as far as the Four Seasons' sound is concerned, there are lots of possibilities for the future."

You mean there are more voices like yours at home?

... The Four Seasons have been presented with a Gold Disc for sales of their single 'December '63 (Oh What A Night)'. A new single, titled 'Silver Star' is released this week . . .

UK Record Mirror
April 17th,
1976

Frankie Valli and 4 Seasons UK/US Releases 1977 Records -LPs and Singles

4 Seasons "Rhapsody/Helicon" UK Warner Bros K 16932 Released 5/77, entered the BBC charts on 18/6/77, zoomed up to no. 37 and stayed in the charts for 3 weeks! Not issued in the USA.

4 Seasons "Down the hall/I believe in you" USA Warner/Curb WBS 8407 Released 6/77. Entered the Cash Box charts on 23/7/77, reached highest position of 77 and exited after 5 weeks! On Billboard. it entered on 16/7/77, peaked at no. 65 and went out after 6 weeks. Released in July, 1977 on UK Warner Bros 16982, the single entered the BBC charts on 20/8/77, reached highest position of 34 and exited after 5 weeks!

[Interestingly, the above two 4 Seasons UK singles all had 3 different label writing designs]

F.Valli "Easily/What good am I without you" USA Private Stock PS 45,140, released 3/77. Entered the Billboard charts, failed to reach the Top 100 and peaked no. 108 on 30/4/77! Issued on UK Private Stock PVT 98 in April, 1977. Made no impact on the charts over here!

F. Valli "Second thoughts/So she says" USA Private Stock PS 45,154 issued June, 1977. Released on UK Private Stock PVT 111 also in 6/77. Single had no chart success in either country!



F.Valli "Boomerang/Can't get you off my mind/Swearin' to God" 12" 33 1/3 rpm Disco single. Released on USA Private Stock PS 5101 in June, 1977 with a special extended 10:15 disco mix of 'Boomerang'.

F.Valli "I need you/I'm gonna love you" USA Private Stock PS/PSR 45,169 October, 1977 released. In the UK the single was issued in 11/77 on Pvt Stock PVT 124. Again never a charted single!

FRANKIE VALLI VALLI UK Private Stock PVLP 1014 (musicassette ZCPSL 1014) Issued April 1977

Tracks: Easily/We're all alone/Can't get you off my mind/So she says/Lucia/Boomerang/You're the song (that I can't stop singing/Look at the world it's changing/Where were you (when I needed you)/What good am I without you.

FOUR SEASONS HELICON USA Warner Bros/Curb BS 3016 (musicassette WB M5 3016; cartridge WB M8 3016) issued 4/77. Entered Billboard charts on 14/5/77, reached no. 168 and went out again after 5 weeks.. UK Warner Bros K56350 (musicassete K456350) Released May, 1977. Not charted over here!

Tracks: If we should lose our love/Let's get it right/Long ago/Rhapsody/Helicon/Down the hall/Put a little away/New York street song (no easy way)/I believe in you.

FRANKIE VALLI LADY PUT THE LIGHT OUT USA Private Stock PS 7002 [11/77]
MC (5300 7002 H); Cart (8300 7002 H)

(I need you/Second thoughts/I could have loved you/With you/Native New Yorker/Lady put the light out/Boats against the current/Rainstorm/I'm gonna love you/There's always a goodbye)



MORE 2013 RELEASES; PREVIOUSLY OMITTED RELEASES TO REPORT

FRANKIE VALLI *I GO APE* (Rock n' Roll Hits) (MP3 Download only format) AP Label AUPCD 465 Released February 1st, 2011

Tracks: Joyride/White Christmas/It may be wrong/You're the apple of my eys/Pucker up/My life for your love/Diddily diddily babe/Cimarron/Such a night/It's too soon to know/Memories of you/Real (This is real)/I go ape/Come si bella/I want a girl like the girl that married dear old dad/Please don't leave me/The laugh's on me/Happy am I/An angel cried/be lovey dovey/Love sweet love/The girl in my dreams/Please take a chance/Honey love/Forgive and forget/If you care/What is this thing called love/Lawdy Miss Clawdy/Never never/The stranger/I love you for sentimental reasons/Jambalaya.

THE HIT MEN *A FOUR SEASONS CHRISTMAS* (MP3 Download only format) EMI Label Services 8656420 Released December 20th, 2011

Tracks: Medley of Santa Claus is comin' to town/The little drummer boy/Have yourself a merry little Christmas/White Christmas.

THE ROYAL TEENS *SHORT SHORTS* (MP3 Download only format) AP Label AUPCD 1543 Released June 18th, 2012

Tracks: Short shorts/My memories of you/Dottie Ann/Royal blue/Sham rock/Why/Believe me/Little Trixie/My kind of dream/Open the door, forgot the key/Wounded heart/All right baby.



FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS – *THE EARLY YEARS* Master Classics Records USA CD Released April 5th, 2013. Also available on download MP3 since December 1st, 2010.

The tracks appear to be a selection of early releases plus some artists on which the 4 Seasons undertake back-up vocals. Similar CD tracks to the USA Real Gone Music 2013 release, the UK Jasmine "This is My Story" CD from 2010, UK One Way Music (The Anthology) 2013 releases and the numerous MP3 download tracks. Amazing!! I've added the info on each track for interest' sake!

Tracks:

- Somebody else took her home** Frankie Valley & the Travelers Mercury 70381 4/54
- What about me?** Jonathan Marcus MGM 13580 8/66 (4 Seasons backing vocals)
- No Lies** The Kokomos Josie 906 5/63 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
- Lonely Lovers** The Four Kings Canadian American 173 7/64 (Tom De Vito & Nick Massi produced)
- Bright Brown Eyes** The Rays Perri L-1004 6/62 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
- Things Go Better with Coke** McCann-Erickson EP of jingles for Coca Cola (one slot by 4 Seasons) 6/65

I Still Care	Miss Frankie Nolan ABC 10231 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals) 6/61
You're the Apple Of My Eye	The 4 Lovers RCA 47-6518 4/56
Please Take A Chance	Frankie Vally Decca 9-30994 10/59 (= Frankie Valli)
If You Care	Frankie Tyler Okeh 4-7103 7/58 (= Frankie Valli)
Little Lana	Larry Lee Genius 2100 6/63 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
An Angel Cried	Hal Miller and The Ray Topix 45-6003 11/61 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
A Fling Of the Past	Van Trevor Vivid 1004 9/63 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
It May Be Wrong	Frankie Vally Decca 9-30994 10/59 (= Frankie Valli)
C'mon Now Baby	Van Trevor Vivid 1004 9/63 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
My Life For Your Love	The 4 Lovers Epic 5-9255 2/58
I Go Ape	Frankie Tyler Okeh 4-7103 7/58 (= Frankie Valli)
Come Si Bella	Frankie Valle and The Romans Cindy C-3012 3/59
My Mother's Eyes	Frankie Valley Corona 12234 3/53 (= Frankie Valli)
Pollyanna	John Corey Vee-Jay 466 10/62 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
One Night	The Four Kings Canadian American 173 7/64 (Tom De Vito & Nick Massi produced)
The Girl In My Dreams	The Topics Perri L-1007 6/62 (= The 4 Seasons)
Cousin Brucie Go Go	WABC Radio 77 11/65 (4 Seasons Sing Theme Tune to Bruce Morrow's Radio Show)
Please Don't Leave Me	The 4 Lovers RCA 47-6519 5/56
Real (This is Real)	Frankie Valle and The Romans Cindy C-3012 3/59
Lost Lullabye	Billy Dixon and the Topics Topix 45-6008 1/62 (Frankie Valli and the 4 Seasons)
The Laugh's On Me	Frankie Valley Corona 12234 3/53 (= Frankie Valli)
Betty Jean	Johnny Halo Topix 45-6004 5/62 (Valli and 4 Seasons backing vocals)
Trance	Billy Dixon and the Topics Topix 45-6002 10/61 and Topix 45-6008 1/62 (= FV & 4 Seasons)
Little Pony	Alex Alda Topix 45-6007 1/62 (= Nick Massi lead with the 4 Seasons)
Forgive and Forget	Frankie Valley and the Travelers Mercury Mercury 70381 4/54
Pucker Up	The 4 Lovers Epic 5-9255 2/58
I Am All Alone	Billy Dixon and the Topics Topix 45-6008 1/62 (= FV & 4 Seasons)

FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS *LIVE IN CHICAGO 1982* EU CD released on Immortal IMA 105015 May 21st, 2013! Originally 1982 video and recently reissued on DVD format and taken from the January 1st, 1982 Park West, Chicago concert.

Tracks: Dawn/Who loves you/Grease/Our day will come/My eyes adored you/Medley-I've got you under my skin-Working my way back to you-Will you still love me tomorrow-Skin (reprise);A sunday kind of love/Can't take my eyes off you/Medley-Sherry-Walk like a man-Big girl's don't cry-Bye bye baby;Medley-Save it for me-Candy girl-Big man in town-Ronnie-Rag doll; Medley-Silence is golden-Tell it to the rain-Beggin';Stay/Let's hang on.

FRANKIE VALLI *FOUR SEASONS COLLECTION* Master Classics Records USA MP3 download of 77 1953-1962 tracks released July 3rd, 2013.

Tracks: All the 1953-1959 Frankie Valley & The Travelers., Frankie Tyler, Frankie Valle & The Romans, 4 Lovers and Frankie Vally releases plus some of the Topix material (Billy Dixon, Alex Alda etc) and artists which the 4 Seasons (Miss Frankie Nolan, Hal Miller, Matthew Reid, The Rays, Johnny Halo). In addition the tracks to the "Sherry" and "Seasons Greetings" LPs are included plus Walk like a man, Connie-O and I've cried before and the Gone single.



THE 4 SEASONS *SHERRY AND ELEVEN OTHERS* UK CD Hallmark 712802 Released 25/2/13. Tracks as per the 1962 album.

THE FOUR SEASON THE 4 SEASONS GREETINGS UK CD Hallmark 714172 Released 13/8/13
 This is a reissue of the Philips 1966/VJ 1962 Xmas album tracks with original sleeve cover!

THE FOUR BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY AND TWELVE OTHERS UK CD Hallmark 714162 Released 26/8/13. Tracks as per the original 1963 USA album.

THE FOUR SEASONS VALLI'S PEAKS – 1962 THE INCREDIBLE FIRST YEAR CD released in UK on Jasmine Records JASCD 287 January 10th, 2014.

Tracks: All the tracks on the 1962 “Sherry and 11 Others” and “Seasons Greetings” albums plus Bermuda, Spanish Lace, I’ve cried before, Connie-O, Walk like a man and Lucky Ladybug are to be found on this CD! MP3 downloads available!

Whilst on the subject of MP3 downloads, the following amongst others are available via Amazon:

- Frankie Valli “The Classic Years” 40 tracks of 1953-1959 material Chacra Music 9/7/12
- Frankie Valli & The 4 Seasons “Early Years” 20 tracks of 1953-1959 stuff Bringins Music 30/1/13
- The Four Seasons “Sherry” orig. 12 tracks off album Blue Bridge Records 2013
- Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons “Sherry & 11 Others” White Station 2013 (remastered album)
- Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons “The Very Best Of” USA Rhino R2-74494 1/03
- Frankie Valli The Four Seasons “Jersey’s Best” USA Rhino R2-8122799376 2/08



Frankie Valli & The 4 Seasons
 Early Years



- “Jersey Beat” The Music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons USA Rhino R2-74852 6/07
- The Four Seasons “Big Girls Don’t Cry” same 12 tracks as above Good Old Times 2013
- Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons “The 4 Seasons Greeting Album” Sinetone AMR 2/9/13
- The 4 Seasons “Greetings” Canadian Star Records 2013
- Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons “The Anthology” UK One Way Music DAY2CD193 1/13
- Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons Working My way Back To You Rhino UK 5249837702 3/11 and re-released again on Rhino UK 8122797259 in 6/12



Legends of Rock & Roll – The Four Seasons (Kindle Edition) Published 13/8/12

This is a 46 page book written by James Hoag which covers the life and history of the original 4 Seasons, the VJ saga, their hits, Wonder Who through to Jersey Boys with a major hits discography only. I’ve not read this e-book but suspect that all the information inside it is what we already know! Publishers: Monument Marketing Publishing Ltd (www.number1project.com) which is based in Utah, USA.