

## WHO'S WHO



FRANKIE VALLI

Frankie Valli is a man whose accomplishments in music make him one of the most outstanding members of

the industry. He has enjoyed no fewer than 14 years of success with The Four Seasons and, at the same time, managed to establish himself as a popular solo artist.

Frankie Castellucio was born in Newark, New Jersey, in a poor neighborhood in which street gangs and fights were commonplace. He was determined to succeed as a singer and is fiercely proud of the years he spent struggling for recognition. Much of his enjoyment of his success stems from the fact that he knows, all too well, how much work went into building his career.

At first, Frankie appeared locally

at cocktail lounges and night clubs. A performer long before he became a recording artist, Frankie feels that his popularity stems in part from the fact that he learned early in his career that one of the most important aspects of being a singer is to entertain your audience.

Late in the 1950s, Frankie recorded his first solo record on the Corona label. Called "My Mother's Eyes," the single enjoyed local success but did not move on to national best-selling charts.

In the early 1960s, Valli's solo efforts were temporarily put aside and he became known primarily as The Four Seasons' lead singer on such hits as "Sherry," "Dawn" and "Rag Doll."

Although he enjoyed his work with the group, Frankie decided he

\* still wanted to pursue his solo career. In the mid-1960s, he recorded "You're Going To Hurt Yourself" and had his first national chart hit as a solo artist. That success was followed with his records: "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You," "To Give," "I Make A Fool Of Myself" and "The Girl I'll Never Know." Every song hit the charts and Frankie enjoyed double success as The Four Seasons' lead singer and as a recording artist in his own right.

When music styles turned to heavy rock, Franki Valli and The Four Seasons continued to tour, making over 150 concert appearances a year including ten sold-out Madison Square Garden engagements.

Although Frankie did not have chart successes in the United States for a few years, his appeal as a solo artist continued to grow. In 1971, a

song Frankie had recorded in the mid-1960s, "You're Ready Now," hit the charts in Britain, and Frankie was presented with a rhythm and blues award in England for his single.

In the early 1970s, Frankie signed with Motown. He recorded the single, "My Eyes Adored You," for the label, but the song was never released. Later, when he left the record company, Frankie purchased the tapes.

Valli then signed with Private Stock. His first release on that label was "My Eyes Adored You" and it was an immediate success, certified gold by the RIAA. He followed that hit with another, "Swearin' to God." Valli's solo album releases on Private Stock include "Gold," "Our Day Will Come" and "Closeup."

In concert, Frankie performs alone as well as with The Four Seasons. Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons are now firmly established as two separate, but closely related, entities.

Although he has already spent 14 years filling a difficult and demanding schedule, Frankie Valli's current commitments are greater than ever. He works with The Four Seasons on their records, he records material for his own albums, and he keeps up with an active performing schedule. Frankie Valli has no intention of slowing his pace and, judging from his past, he will continue to be a leading figure in the music industry for a long time to come.

### GERRY POLCI (Drums, Vocals)

Gerry, the lead singer on The Four Seasons' current hit records "December, 1963 (Oh What A Night)" and "Silver Star," is a native of New Jersey. When he was 13 years old he was given his first drum set and soon afterward he started playing locally at wedding and school functions. He attended Montclair State College, majoring in music, and later studied with Joe Morello. Gerry joined The Four Seasons early in 1973. Gerry is 23 years old.

### JOHN PAIVA (Guitar, Vocals)

John, who was raised in Rhode Island and New York, was exposed to music at an early age. His father, an amateur musician, performed locally with friends, and when John started playing the guitar at the age of 14, he often joined his father and entertained at weddings and other small gatherings. When he was 17, John went into the Navy for four years. After his discharge, John joined a group called Cal Ray and the Classaires. They had a local hit called "Lovely Lies." Everett

Miles picked up the group, and John spent five years performing in a nine-piece show band. He then formed his own group called "The Time Machine." They were playing at the Mill Hill Club in Cape Cod at the same time that Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons were at the Melody Tent. Frankie heard John perform and asked if John would like to join The Four Seasons. His first professional appearance with the group was before 22,000 fans at New York's Madison Square Garden.

# Review of a USA concert in Autumn 1976 from Westchester, New York

IN CONCERT REPORT



Daily Item Port Chester, N. Y.  
Submitted by: Frank Rovello

Entertainment - Lou Cevetillo

Frankie Valli and Four Seasons are still on top of charts

As sure as one expects to experience the continual cycle of summer, fall, winter and spring, one might also expect to experience Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons as part of the "Top 40" of popular music.

After fourteen years and more than 85,000,000 records sold, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons are still on top of the charts as one of the most prosperous singing groups in the business... and if you doubt it, I suggest you witness the excitement of one of their concerts at the Westchester Premier Theater this week.

Frankie Valli, (born Francesco Castelluccio in Newark, New Jersey) took his enthusiastic audience on a musical journey that began in 1962 with his hit recording, "Sherry," through today with his recent "Swearin' To God."

Although in recent years Valli has left his four friends for the road of solo fame, there seems to be no hard feelings between the acts. As a matter of fact the good natured fun that took place on stage could only have taken place among friends.

Frankie Valli has made an entire career of singing primarily with his expert falsetto voice. Rarely does he sing with the normal mixture of head and chest voice. Nevertheless, his fans, screaming girls, treat him with the respect of the most macho of sex symbols. Valli, who probably is slightly taller than five feet, fills the stage with his presence and leaves little doubt in the minds of those present, that he is a talent of major proportions.

The audience was not composed solely of the teeny-bopper type. The ages of those present spanned the whole spectrum of society. It was interesting to note that many of his screaming fans were probably not even born when Valli and the Four Seasons first came on the popular music scene. Whether it is the current craze for nostalgia or just his new releases, there was little doubt at his opening Tuesday evening, that these performers were loved by those who had come to hear them.

The program included all those hit songs that kept this group of talented musicians on the radios and phonographs of America. Each song received its just applause as Valli smiled and repeated those familiar lyrics, which have become part of the memories of an entire generation. Standing ovations were the order of the evening for the 3,000 fans present.

The Frankie Valli Show with the Four Seasons will be at the Westchester Premier Theatre through Sunday, with two shows Saturday evening. Although most of the good seats are already sold, there are still a fair number for each performance waiting at the box office.

This one should be included in your plans for this week. It is fine entertainment of the rock-pop genre, with more of the mellow sounds,