

THE FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS SESSIONS 1953 TO 1974

Introduction

The sessions cover recordings by Frankie Valli and the various artists/groups he performed with up to the formation/naming of the Four Seasons in 1962 and subsequently on projects under other pseudonyms were known or rumoured. The listing covers a long period and the degree of record keeping and preserved paper records appears limited by some of the record companies. Information is taken from 45s (and their release date) in the absence of recording session information. Sometimes session dates are suggested or established as a 'best guess'. Unreleased recordings are noted were known. They may no longer exist. New 'finds' are occurring over time and will be added as 'discovered'.

With Vee-Jay getting into litigation with the group in 1964 and eventually having to give up 49 masters the rumours are that after they won their case the group were provided with 2 masters of each song (mono and stereo-two track). Unfortunately no one checked to see if they were the masters used for the 45's and albums. Checking of versions is a major problem and if identified from issued recordings is noted as we know it. The 'session record' compiled here identifies information about the vinyl issues from the records and CD project research by others compiled into a master set of information in chronological order as far as can be done.

It is based on work by Tom Cramlington, based on original work by Edward R. Engel.

Contributors include : Ray Nichol, Michael J. Sweeney, Russ McClelland, Ken Charmer, George Ingram and Mike Miller. Acknowledgements go to Bob Hyde & Steve Kolanjian for the sleeve notes on ACE CDs 507,538,554,582,596,615,620,628,635 & 642. (The FOUR LOVERS R.C.A. information is taken from Bear Family CD BCD 15424).

These notes represent all the information available from the records the Four Seasons Partnership appear to have of the sessions and recording dates. (although we cannot verify this at present). If more information exists it is within the Partnerships private records. The order of recording at sessions is not known so the listing follows the session/matrix number. Known unreleased tracks do exist of late sessions at Philips circa 1970 and at Motown from 1972 to 1974 and some information has been included re these until more can be discovered.

The record is compiled in five sections :-

1. Early recording up to and including The Four Lovers 1958
2. Recordings under other names and backing work to others. 1958 to 1963
3. The Four Seasons Recordings 1961 to 1963 (Gone and Vee Jay)
4. The Philips Era 1964 to 1970
5. The post Philips and Mowest/Motown Recordings 1971 to 1974

The format is firstly the artist session name, performers, year and place.

Then the tabulated information lists in columns across the page.

[Session Nr]	[Time (on record)]	[Title]	[Record release No]	[Date Issued]
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(Matrix or Master No)

NOTE: All release dates refer to vinyl issues and not to subsequent issue on CD