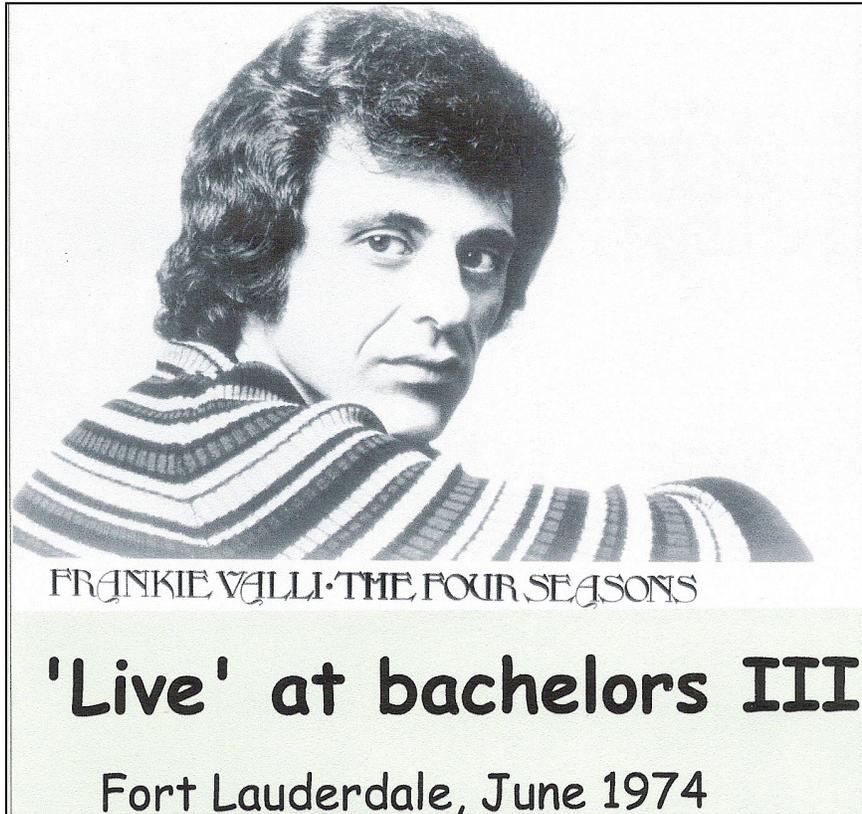


More Salvaged Four Seasons 2009

Before you listen to this CD you have to cast your mind back to (or if you are younger than 50.... try to imagine) a time when the Four Seasons Story was missing its last chapters.

In 1974 they were just starting these times. Years of public, media and music business neglect had almost killed off the group. Valli had battled against deafness and struggled to find talented and reliable musicians to reform the Four Seasons and he had escaped from Motown with his 'gem-stone'.



Still respected by his friends and fans he was determined to provide top quality entertainment in a 'Live' show. And he had a song he believed in. That's what this 'live' show recording captures. All that makes the Seasons story so alive on stage in Jersey Boys is encapsulated in this performance. It is vibrant and musically excellent. But there is something else.....

Apart from the fact that this is arguably the most talented set of Four Seasons ever....(they would be the most successful – world wide - and would provide the climax for the story in Jersey Boys) they provided Frankie Valli with such a versatile stage show.

When this CD arrived I expected.....well, the usual oldies show.....but what I got is 'knock-out'.

It is outstanding for several reasons. Firstly, it was taped from the mixing desk and not in the audience as so many poor quality tapes recorded by fans in the past. And, although we hear the audience, the group is dominant and clear sounding. The atmosphere of the club is intimate and electric and this comes across.

Secondly, it contains good recordings of songs never recorded in the studio (as far as releases go that is) so it is a unique record of these performances and arrangements. Frankie had started livening up the shows since the late-60s with contemporary songs and fans in the UK had heard the Medley: Bridge Over Troubled Water/ Long and Winding Road/McArthur Park on the 1971 and 72 tours which as Joe Long told us..."was, as I recall, originally Frankie's

Chameleon's



Comment

idea. The arrangement was a group collaboration." This was one of the last times they would perform this in concert.

And 'I Got Love', a Charles Calello arrangement of the song from the Broadway musical 'Purlie' had been a regular show opener since 1970.

But Lee Shapiro's arranging and conducting ambitions led to a number of contemporary songs appearing during this period. At this concert we get the 'lot'.....Paul McCartney's 'My Love' gets the Seasons treatment and John Paiva gets to feature on guitar. John was in the backing band at this time and would become an 'out-front' Four Season within a year.

Another original medley that would survive up to the 80's in live shows was 'The Way We Were/All In Love Is Fair' and this is a well performed version by Valli and the band. But we also get the treat of having another Stevie Wonder classic performed with 'You Are The Sunshine Of My Life' done in a superb harmonic arrangement featuring Don Ciccone on lead vocals with Frankie. Throw in 'If I Were A Carpenter' and David Gates and Bread's 'If' and the versatility and musicianship of this Four Seasons line-up is there for all to see. Frankie knows this and leaves 'The Four Seasons Orchestra' to rock through an instrumental of Barry White's 'Love Theme'.

Threaded between these Four Seasons 'originals' are great versions of lots of Four Seasons hits delivered with the benefit of a horn section led by the great Richard Natoli. And this recording also provides one of the earliest performances of the 'gemstone'...the soon to be Number 1 song 'My Eyes Adored You', which Valli and Gaudio had bought from Motown on their departure. It is beautifully performed.

But for the Four Seasons this was a 'transient' moment. This is the briefest flame of the best ever Four Seasons line-up. Certainly musically.

Joe Long is still with the group and carries the humour and banter with Frankie and the audience. Sadly Joe would have to

**Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons
'Live' at bachelors III Fort Lauderdale June 1974**

- 1 Medley: Save It For Me/ Opus 17
- 2 I Got Love
- 3 Band Introductions
- 4 Dawn
- 5 You Are The Sunshine Of My Life
- 6 Working My Way Back To You
- 7 Can't Take My Eyes Off You
- 8 Stay
- 9 Intro and Silence Is Golden
- 10 My Love
- 11 Medley: Sherry/Walk Like A Man/Big Girls Don't Cry/ Bye-Bye Baby
Applause/Intermission before Part 2
- 12 Medley: Bridge Over Troubled Water/Long and Winding Road/McArthur Park
- 13 Medley: The Way We Were/All In Love Is Fair
- 14 Love Theme - The Four Seasons Orchestra
- 15 More Band Intros
- 16 My Eyes Adored You
- 17 If I Were A Carpenter
- 18 If
- 19 Let's Hang On

Performers: Frankie Valli - Lead vocals

The Four Seasons - Lead and backing vocals : Lee Shapiro- Arranging/conducting and Synthesizer, Gerry Polci - Drums, Don Ciccone - Lead Guitar, Joe Long - Bass Guitar

Featured band members -

**John Paiva - Lead Guitar fill-ins,
Richard Natoli - Horn section**

Produced in the EC by The Sound Works

leave the group within a year and things would never be the same. But the words 'clouds' and 'silver linings' come to mind.....and there was much to come as Bob Gaudio unleashed this talented band to tackle the 'Who Loves You' album and the NEW Four Seasons would soon soar to their highest ever chart success world-wide with 'December 63 (Oh What A Night)'

This show puts all that in context. This was the 'prelude' to that period and showcases the talents of the 4 young men who would complement and enhance the voice of one of the recording industries best vocalists at that time, Frankie Valli.

I found this an exciting listen and almost as good as a visit to a Jersey Boys show. It is for me, at least, the 'definitive' live Four Seasons concert recording.

It is easy to forget how good a band Frankie and Bob had at that time. Hopefully this CD will remind everyone....including them. It has been a privilege to acquire this.

Casey Chameleon

Recording Note: Joe Long advised that this is an amazing find he had thought was lost forever. He told us...."The irony of the whole thing was that the tape was just a rough "board mix" that our sound guy, Ryp Pasano, made during the show. There was no prior intent to create a live tape for later use. It just happened to turn out great."

We were also told the tape was salvaged from a car boot sale in Holland a couple of years ago. It was cleaned, re-mixed and re-mastered to improve the stereo image by a group of sound engineers in several countries. The recordings are not all from the same show although the final mix makes it appear that way. The sound engineers segued the tracks for listening continuity. We are eternally grateful for their dedication and hard work. Contact Lynn Boleyn for more details of the CD.



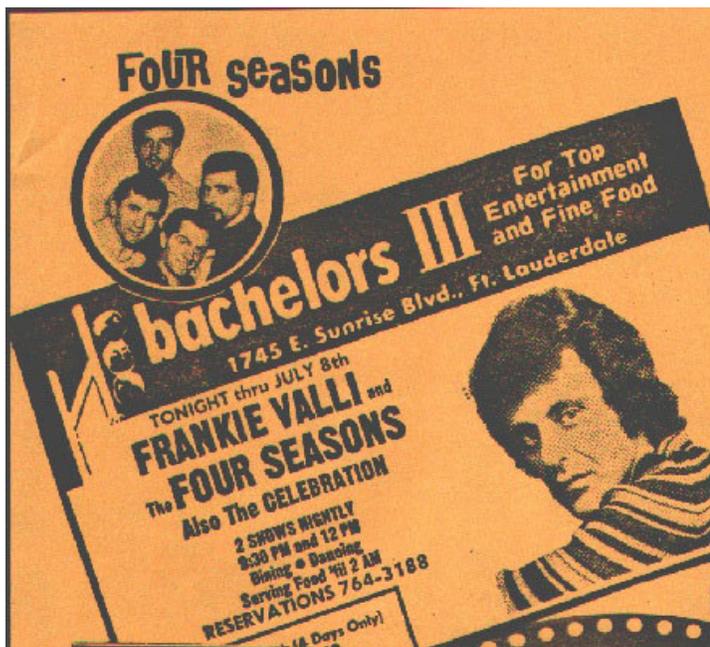
Top Photo: —John Paiva was part of the backing band and would move 'out-front' with Lee Shapiro and the guys within a year.
Centre Photos: : Top right...clockwise; The Four Seasons 1974 comprised Don Ciccone, Joe Long, Gerry Polci, Lee Shapiro.



Recollections of Bachelors III, Florida

We asked about the background on the club 'bachelors III' which provided this great show and first heard from former Four Season Joe Long.....

"Bachelors 3 was a moderate sized night club, seating around 300 people. It was located on Federal Highway 1, in Fort Lauderdale, about a mile west of the Atlantic Ocean. It was owned by two men, Bobby Van and Joe Namath. Joe was a very famous athlete. He played quarterback for the New York Jets, a popular football team. In the mid-sixties, Joe led the Jets to a World Championship in the Super Bowl. We would ordinarily book two weeks at a time, and would do two shows a night. We generally booked the club in winter, since south Florida enjoys tropical weather all year long, and there are a lot of tourists at that time of year. And, no, it was not a necessarily a holiday week when we would appear there. The group was always popular in Florida, dating back to the early days, so we always played to packed houses. The audiences were lively, and really got into the show."



And John Paiva told us...."As I recall I was there two times, both times I was in the band as a side-man. Just the same, I was treated to a wonderful apartment in an apartment house close to the beach. Mafia connections?... Yes, it certainly appeared to belong also to some folks who were connected. I can only say they were great with us all. I was sitting in the office and one crooked nose asked me why I wasn't eating. I didn't feel comfortable being only a side man to order cause it was a pretty expensive joint. I said I would eat later or something and the guy said, "bullshit... Have lobster and steak"....., and I was served an unforgettable dinner of a full size beautifully prepared lobster and a steak the size of a house. What a great meal. I was rather tight with the sound man Joe mentioned because the first time I went there, I shared driving the sound truck and my wife at the time came along. We drove straight through and it took forever. The horn section was the Memphis Horns and they were great. I forget the name of the leader. He was the trombonist. The stage was not at all high and the Seasons got to look the audience in the eye. I always liked audience contact. Joe was in top form when he got laughs close up so the shows were lively and I totally enjoyed my Florida stay. The next time I shared driving with Duke Natoli. I had been to Florida a year or so before as one of the Happenings and had a great time then as well. I do recall though that Tommy Guilliano was too long on the beach and that night we had to pour buckets of ice into his bathtub with him lying there in agony. Onstage the poor guy suffered having to where his tight stage cloths. That's of course, another story."

Fan Mike 'Doo-wop Daddy' Miller also attended one of the bachelors III concerts...."I can remember well when they were there, as I had gone on (winter) vacation to Florida and I found out they were performing at the Bachelors III, went to FT. Lauderdale, and heard them perform live there in a VERY intimate setting, with only a few hundred in attendance, and 'My Eyes Adored You' had just hit number 1 on the charts. It marked the big comeback of his career, as for the last several years, Valli was performing at any small club which would take him, as he and Gaudio were trying to pay back all the debts from the De Vito mis-management. They would play bars, supper clubs, any place. It was a very interesting time in their career. But the group and Valli would always put on a terrific show." [Mike is referring to the second appearance they made that year...see John's note above]