



# 2 Good 4 Words

GEOFF JERMY'S AUSTRALIAN INSTRUMENTAL NEWSLETTER

EDITION 22



CHRISTMAS 2008

## EDITORIAL

Merry Christmas to one and all. Welcome back to Kim Humphreys in the honorary (unpaid) position of artistic director!

bonus tracks (marked by \*) by Steve Denver & The Phantoms, three of which are unreleased. The Phantoms had an obvious leaning to The Shadows repertoire, but included quite a few originals, mainly written by lead guitarist Dave Lincoln. A great piece of Australian RI history.

## GEOFF'S JUKE BOX

"THE PHANTOMS" CANETOAD (Aust) CD-039

STAMPEDE / MIDNIGHT / THE RUMBLE / THE TWO FORTY-TWO / SOUTHERN CROSS / DANCE ON / APACHE / RIDIN' THE WIND / SPRING IS NEARLY HERE / ROUND AND ROUND / MOVE IT / I WANT YOU / PERFIDIA / MULE SKINNER BLUES / GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY / THE CRUEL SEA / HAVA NAGILA / TOUGH ENOUGH / NEEDLES AND PINS / STRANGER ON THE SHORE / LESSONS IN LOVE / LONG TALL TEXAN / THE FRIGHTENED CITY / MY BABE / MOVE IT (\*) / MY BLUE HEAVEN (\*) / MY BABE (\*) / THAT'S THE LOVE (\*) / KEEP ON DANCING (\*) / MONEY (\*)



"The band that outshone The Beatles on their 1964 Australian Tour!" were The Phantoms. Canetoad released an LP "The Legendary W&G Sessions" in 1991 containing 17 tracks, but this CD includes not only those tracks but ALL of the group's output, including the ultra-rare "Two Sides of The Phantoms" LP, the "Instrumental Hits" EP and all of their singles. Mostly instrumental and includes six

VARIOUS "INSTRO BEAT"  
LEGACY SOUNDS (UK) LSCD 001 (Mono/\*Stereo)

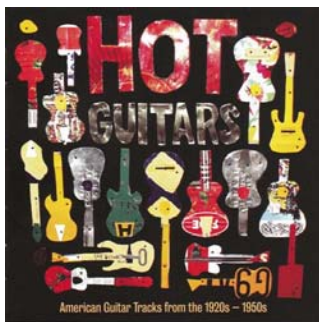
RED SQUARE - THE COUGARS / THE SPARTANS - SOUNDS INCORPORATED / CAVAQUINHO (\*) - JUDD PROCTOR / THE MILLIONAIRE - THE DAKOTAS / CARAVAN (\*) - THE FENTONES / INDIAN BRAVE- THE OUTLAWS / RED GUITAR - BERT WEEDON / SAFARI - THE FLINTSTONES / THE RUSTLER - THE COUGARS / NIGHT CRY - BERT WEEDON / SPANISH HOLIDAY - THE INNOCENTS / HUMDINGER - THE DAKOTAS / PALAMINO - JUDD PROCTOR / SUNSET (\*) - THE NU-NOTES / JUNGLE DRUMS - THE KREW KATS / WORK OUT - THE FLINTSTONES / FURY - THE NU-NOTES / GRAZINA - THE INNOCENTS / THE BAT - THE KREW KATS / FORT KNOX - THE OUTLAWS / LUDWIG - THE DAKOTAS / FRIENDS (\*) - THE SHADOWS / THE MEXICAN - THE FENTONES / HOBO - THE OUTLAWS / WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS - THE COUGARS / JACK'S GOOD - THE KREW KATS / IT'S BLUESY - JUDD PROCTOR / F.B.I. (\*) - THE SHADOWS



This is a great compilation of British instrumentals put together by "Shadsfax" editor Tony Hoffman. Some real 'classics' included here, not the least of which is one of the best examples of the genre – The Fentones' "The Mexican". Great groups The Dakotas, Outlaws, Krew Kats and Cougars contribute instrumental gems, and there are no less than four unreleased titles – Cavaquinho, Caravan, Jungle Drums and Ludwig. There's also the first UK stereo release of The Shad's "FBI". Great stuff, and accompanied by a super 16 page booklet. The CD is available from Tony Hoffman, Legacy Sounds UK, 60 Bootham Crescent, York, YO30 7AH, UK or contact Tony at [legacyguitarman@hotmail.com](mailto:legacyguitarman@hotmail.com) - cost is £12.49 plus £1.49 postage to Australia.

**VARIOUS "HOT GUITARS"  
VIPER (UK) CD 051**

SPACE GUITAR - JOHNNY 'GUITAR' WATSON / THE HOT GUITAR - EDDIE HILL / GUITAR BOOGIE - ARTHUR 'GUITAR BOOGIE' SMITH / THAT FIRST GUITAR OF MINE - JIMMY MURPHY / PICKING THE GUITAR - NICK LUCAS / SPANISH GUITAR - BO DIDDLEY / STEEL GUITAR BOOGIE - TOMMY SARGENT / I'LL KEEP MY OLD GUITAR - ADOLPH HOFNER / FIRE ON THE STRINGS - JOE MAPHIS / GUITARESE - ROY SMECK'S SERENADERS / I'M A GUITAR KING - TOMMY McCLENNAN / GUITAR BLUES - CHET ATKINS / BERRY PICKIN'- CHUCK BERRY / PLAYING WITH THE STRINGS - EDDIE LANG AND LONNIE JOHNSON / HOT STEEL - TINY MURPHY & HIS BAR 69 BOYS / SWING GUITARS - DJANGO REINHARDT / TWIN GUITAR BOOGIE - LEON McAULIFFE / GUITAR STOMP CIRCA - ROLAND AND SCOTT / GUITAR BOOGIE - LES PAUL / GUITAR MAN - AL CASEY



Sub-titled "American Guitar Tracks from the 1920s – 1950s" this is a surprise 'find' (from Hound Dog's Bop Shop) which includes some guitar 'classics' ranging from R&B, country, western swing, jazz, and blues to pop. The titles speak for themselves and the sound quality is excellent, especially considering the age of some of the tracks. Some are readily available, but there's some rare tracks here – and really listenable!!

**TOMMY ALLSUP  
"THE BUDDY HOLLY  
SONGBOOK AND COUNTRY CLASSICS"  
ROLLERCOASTER (UK) RCCD 3048**

THAT'LL BE THE DAY / THINK IT OVER / TAKE YOUR TIME / FOOL'S PARADISE / TRUE LOVE WAYS / EVERYDAY / PEGGY SUE / IT'S SO EASY / HEARTBEAT / OH BOY / RAVE ON / MAYBE BABY / TRUE LOVE WAYS / SWEET DREAMS / I LOVE YOU BECAUSE / AM I LOSING YOU / FOUR WALLS / HELLO WALLS / ROSE COLOURED GLASSES / IT DON'T HURT ANYMORE / FOUR IN THE MORNING / DETROIT CITY



Tommy Allsup is a prolific guitarist who played on over 100 country chart toppers and worked with a wide variety of artists. He is probably best known, however, for his work with Buddy Holly, for whom he recorded a 'tribute' album back in 1964. This album is included here, along with ten tracks recorded in 2001 with versions of country hits. He did not record much in his own right, but did "The Hits of Charley Pride" and "The Hits of Tammy Wynette" and one single for GRT – otherwise, this is probably all he did 'solo'. This is a really nice album, with lots of guitar licks and tricks, and the CD includes a terrific 24 page book.

**LIVE MUSIC**

**THE FUTURAS**

Yet again, I missed The Futuras' gig at North Melbourne's Town Hall Hotel on 6 December. Gordon Johns reports that their CDEP includes The Jet Set's aussie garage classic "What Did The Man Say" as a Hammond instro, also some Billy Larkin, an original and a twangy "Day Tripper".

**GONE. . .  
BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

**MITCH MITCHELL**

Yet another drummer has left us. Mitch Mitchell was the final surviving member of the Jimi Hendrix Experience. (July 9, 1946 – November 12, 2008). Prior to joining the Hendrix Experience he was with

The Shades, The Pretty Things, Riot Squad and Georgie Fame.

He played on all the Hendrix hits, at the Monterey Pop Festival in 1967 and Woodstock in 1969 with the second incarnation of the group, which featured Billy Cox on bass.

He also later worked with Jack Bruce, Jeff Beck, and Larry Coryell. Towards the end of his life he had been playing on the 'Experience Hendrix' tour across America.

#### RAY ELLIS

Saxophonist and arranger Ellis arranged chart hits for the Four Lads, Bobby Darin, Connie Francis, Doris Day, Johnny Mathis, Barbra Streisand, Billie Holiday and others. He also worked on arranging for Ben E. King, Brook Benton and The Drifters, as well as work in TV, commercials and cartoon shows. Instrumentally, he recorded at least five albums and five singles for (US) Columbia, MGM and RCA – mostly in the 'big band' style.

## FURTHER READING

Since our last issue, Davy Peckett has managed to squeeze out not one, but TWO new "pocket edition" issues of "**New Gandy Dancer – The Magazine For Rock Instrumental Music**". Issue 85 includes items on Dick Dale, Don Ralke, Bobby Gregg, Bo Diddley, Jerry Cole and "The World's Top 500 Instrumentals" – most of which I've never heard of!!! Issue 86 has obituaries, the instrumentals of Bill Haley & The Comets, what to see on YouTube and more. Both, of course, feature the usual plethora of new releases and the latest news.

Davy has promised a very special NGD 2009 issue of over 100 pages with a Ventures Special. Over 250 albums, all singles, and more. Price will probably be about \$25-30 and will be a limited issue. So please let me know if you want a copy – it's a once only!!

Most back issues of NGD are available from me - GEOFF JERMY, 9 Hughes Street, Hoppers Crossing, Vic. 3029. Tel: (03) 9749 3223. Email: [gjermy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gjermy@bigpond.net.au) Davy still has a large range of (mainly) instrumental CD's, vinyl and DVD's for sale. He can be contacted at 10 Camberwell Close, Festival Park, Gateshead, NE11 9TZ, England or email [dave2109@btinternet.com](mailto:dave2109@btinternet.com)

"**Pipeline**" magazine, 4 issues at £18, is co-edited by Alan Taylor and Dave Burke. The latest issue, No.78- has articles on Vic Flick, Judd Proctor and Don Wilson plus all the usual news and heaps of in-depth reviews. The Pipeline website is [www.pipelinemag.co.uk](http://www.pipelinemag.co.uk)

Arthur Moir is the editor of "**Twangville**", devoted to the king of twang, Duane Eddy. Now up to Issue 82, with great reviews and interviews, news of

Duane's Hollywood Bowl appearance, Duane Eddy 2008 Convention and obituaries on Buddy Long and Floyd Ramsey. Subs are £15. Contact Arthur at DECUK, P.O. Box 203, Sheffield S1 1XU, England.

"**Shadsfax**" is an excellent little A5 magazine concentrating on all matters Shadows. Now up to Issue 53. Subs are £17, but contact editor Tony Hoffman first at [legacyguitarman@hotmail.com](mailto:legacyguitarman@hotmail.com) as Tony has had a new 'lifestyle change' and may not continue after issue 58. His website covers all types of instr'o's – check out [www.instrworld.com](http://www.instrworld.com) Tony has a new CD available, with lots of rare UK instrumentals, see above for review.

For Ventures fans, there's **The Ventures Resurgence**, now up to issue 94. Edited by Gerry Woodage, it's available at £17 from Gerry at [E-Mail-venturesresurgence2007@tesco.net](mailto:E-Mail-venturesresurgence2007@tesco.net) Lots of new releases (Ventures, Nokie and others) reviewed, news of The Ventures 2008 tour and more. Contact Gerry for details!

## NEWS

### TOURS

#### CLIFF & THE SHADOWS

Further to the news in "2G4W" 21, extra dates have been added to the Cliff & Shadows "Reunited For The Very Last Time" tour. Added are: 02 Arena, Dublin – 21 September, Odyssey, Belfast – 23 September, O2 Arena, London – 28 September, NIA, Birmingham – 1 October, SECC, Glasgow – 10 October, Sheffield Arena – 15 October, Manchester MEN Arena – 18 October and CIA, Cardiff – 20 October. It is expected that Cliff and The Shadows will take the show overseas late 2009 and/or early 2010. I'll believe it when I see it!! For further details, see the Official Cliff Richard Website.

#### JEFF BECK



Guitar great, Jeff Beck will be in Melbourne, appearing at the Palais Theatre on January 26 & 27. Tickets from Ticketmaster 136 100 or [ticketmaster.com.au](http://ticketmaster.com.au)

#### ERIC CLAPTON

Eric is scheduled to appear at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena on March 11. Tickets from Ticketek 132 849 or [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

#### CHRIS ISAAK

Also on March 11, Chris Isaak will be at the Palais Theatre. Tickets from ticketmaster. Other venues in Victoria and interstate also.

All of the above will be appearing around Australia, check your local papers for details!



## BEN ROGERS

Ben Rogers Instrumental Asylum, along with The Detonators, Coyote Serenade, Red Rivers & Nailhead, Gatorbait and The Wild Violets appear at the Moonlight Mountains Festival, Warburton Football Oval, on Saturday December 27 from 6pm. Tickets \$15 at gate.

## BREAKING NEWS - KIM HUMPHREYS

NASHVILLE EXPRESS, from the new album, ATONEMENT (recorded in part as a promo vehicle for VINTAGE GUITARS) is finalist for the 2009 instrumental TIARA AWARD.



## Introducing. . . SPACE PARTY CANBERRA DELIVERS MORE THAN KEVIN 07!

Thanks to Alex Plegt for the promo CD of **Space Party** – “Invasion of the Surfer-Men!”

This surf ‘n’ space trio hails from Canberra. Bassist **Kevin Lauro** is originally from the US, where he played with surf outfit, **THE DEFENDERS**.

In 2003 he teamed up with guitarist **Alex Plegt** to jam and have fun with some surf tunes. In 2006 they added **Darren Atkinson** on drums and became a fully fledged band.

Their first EP, the 6 track **Invasion of The Surfer Men** was recorded in January 2008.

The band describes the EP’s contents thus . . . .

1. **Space Party** is a cover of a tune originally by Swedish 60s instro legends The Spotnicks – but they never played it like this!

2. **Spanish Song** is an original by Alex who writes all of the band’s original tunes – a more “trad” surf tune with a distinct Spanish influence, as the title suggests.

3. **The Creature** is a tune that popped into Alex’s head while driving to the shops to get a sausage roll. It features some B-movie samples, horror

sound effects, and Kevin on fuzz bass. The song’s musical influences harken back to Alex’s spotty teenage years, holed up in his bedroom with a cassette of Black Sabbath’s first two albums.

4. **Gumshoe** is another original, with a film noir-ish, detective show type of feel. The guitar sound was discovered by Alex accidentally stepping on the wrong setting of his effects pedal at rehearsal.

5. **Flight to Mars** is a fast tune, written way back in 1986, influenced by the film of the same name, with a Spanish twist in the middle showcasing Darren’s expertise on the tambourine.

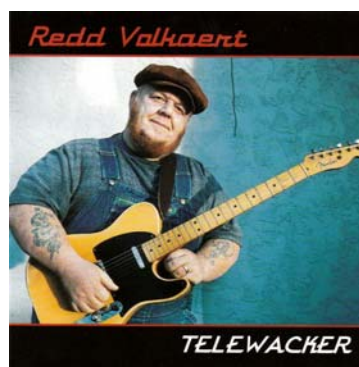
6. **Beyond the Surf**, the final track, is a muscular cover of a song originally by U.S. first wave surf band, the Tornadoes.

We hope to have the band performing at Shadoz 2009. In the meantime, check out their website.

<http://www.myspace.com/spacepartysurfband>

## REDD VOLKAERT Telecaster Terrorist

Redd Volkaert is a recent discovery (to me). Redd has been Merle Haggard’s guitarist in recent years, and has, in the decade or so recorded some great albums under his own name. He is a great Telecaster master, and absorbs a lot of influences such as Jimmy Bryant, Roy Nichols, George Moody, Eldon Shamblin, Johnny Winter, Mike Bloomfield and Albert King. He’s not a bad singer either. Here are the CD’s I’ve found so far:



### "TELEWACKER"

HMG (US) HMG 3002

(1998)

TELEWACKER / YOU'RE STILL ON MY MIND / REED MY TELE / SHE LOVES ANYTHING THAT SWINGS / TUBE'N / I HATE YOU / IT'S A MINOR THING / STUMBLING / STRANGERS / BREAKNECK / HOME IN SAN ANTONE / THE BUCK STOPS HERE / THAT GIRL WHO WAITS ON TABLES / REDD, WHITE & BLUE

**"NO STRANGER TO A TELE"  
HIGHTONE (US) HCD8129 (2001)**

NO STRANGER TO A TELE / DIMINISHING FLAMES / BEFORE SHE MADE ME CRAWL / BIG BIG LOVE / GRANNY GRUNT / T'WANGO / END OF THE LINE / I FORGET YOU EVERYDAY / DREWPFISTER / CHEE - Z / BACK TO BACK / CONSCIENCE TURN YOUR BACK / RUBBERDANCE / 3 MINUTES LEFT

**"FOR THE LADIES"  
HIGHTONE (US) HTN 8173 (2004)**

NO STRANGER TO A TELE / SHE LOVES ANYTHING THAT SWINGS (LIVE) (THE TWANGBANGERS) / T'WANGO / YOU'RE STILL ON MY MIND / THE BUCK STOPS HERE / TRUCK DRIVIN' MAN (THE TWANGBANGERS) / HOME IN SAN ANTOINE / CHEE-Z / BACK TO BACK / BREAKNECK / IT'S A MINOR THING / TELEWACKER (LIVE) (THE TWANGBANGERS) / REDDLINE FEVER / JACKHAMMER ROCK / GOOSEBUMPS / IS ANYTHING ALRIGHT / CALL THE POUND / I KNOW HOW I'D FEEL / THE LETTER / RAISIN' THE DICKENS / WE NEED TO TALK / END OF THE LINE / JUST BECAUSE I DON'T CARE / SEND IT BACK / ONLY DADDY THAT'LL WALK THE LINE / I'LL BREAK OUT TONIGHT

**"REDDHEAD"  
TELEHOG RECORDS (US) 01 (2008)**

REDDLINE FEVER / JACKHAMMER ROCK / GOOSEBUMPS / IS ANYTHING ALRIGHT / CALL THE POUND / I KNOW HOW I'D FEEL / THE LETTER / RAISIN' THE DICKENS / WE NEED TO TALK / END OF THE LINE / JUST BECAUSE I DON'T CARE / SEND IT BACK / ONLY DADDY THAT'LL WALK THE LINE / I'LL BREAK OUT TONIGHT

There's also a great DVD around, "TeleTwang" (Hal Leonard HL00320582) which combines an instructional part as well as Redd's concert at the Continental Club, Austin, TX. That concert featured Cindy Cashdollar on steel guitar. Her CD features Redd on the track "Speedin' West".

**CINDY CASHDOLLAR  
"SLIDE SHOW"  
SILVER SHOT RECORDS (US) SS 9481 (2004)**

SLIDING HOME (With SONNY LANDRETH) / MIDNIGHT IN OLD AMARILLO (With HERB REMINGTON) / SOMETHING I CAN'T DO (With MARCIA BALL & JOHNNY NICHOLAS) / SLIDE SHOW (With STEVE JAMES) / LIVING IN THE MOMENT (With JORMA KAUKONEN) / THE OTHER WOMAN IN MY LIFE (With MIKE

AULDRIDGE) / SPEEDIN' WEST (With LUCKY OCEANS & REDD VOLKAERT) / MILK COW BLUES (With JOHNNY NICHOLAS) / TWIN GUITAR SPECIAL (With HERB REMINGTON) / SPANISH FANDANGO (With STEVE JAMES) / KEEP MY HEART (With MIKE AULDRIDGE) / LOCUST GROVE

**Other CD's featuring Redd include . . . . .**

**THE TWANGBANGERS  
"26 DAYS ON THE ROAD"  
HIGHTONE (US) HCD8142 (2002)**

TRUCK DRIVIN' MAN / I GOT A ROCKET IN MY POCKET / THE STUFF INSIDE / WACKY WALK / SHE LOVES ANYTHING THAT SWINGS / HOW MOUNTAIN GIRLS CAN LOVE / ROCKABILLY FUNERAL / IN MEMORY OF A MEMORY / ROCK BOTTOM / TELEWACKER / I GOTTA GET DRUNK / HOT ROD LINCOLN

**HEYBALE "THE LAST COUNTRYALBUM"  
HEYBALE (US) No Number (2008)**

GUESS WHERE I'LL BE THIS MORNING / MR. RECORD MAN / CALIFORNIA WINE / LIVIN' IN A CHEAP MOTEL / HOUSE OF SECRETS / HEYBALIN' / HANG YOUR HEAD IN SHAME / THAT'S HOW I GOT TO MEMPHIS / HONKY TONK MOOD / STEP ASIDE / EVERYTHING ... ABOUT DRINKIN' / LET'S GO TO MEXICO

Redd also appeared on albums by Dale Watson, Clinton Gregory, David Lee, Pauline Reese, Brooklyn Cowboys and Brad Paisley, and the Merle Haggard albums "Live At Billy Bob's Texas" (1999), "For The Record - 43 Legendary Hits" (1999), "If I Could Only Fly" (2000), "Roots Vol.1" (2001), "Cabin In The Hills" (2001), "Two Old Friends" (2001) and "Peer Sessions" (2002).

**GUITARS AND VOCALS!**

Here a few CD's I've recently found which may be of interest for their guitar component.

**JAMES BURTON  
"JB SUN SESSION" (JAMES BURTON & BILLY MOROKAWA & OTHERS) BMG FUNHOUSE (Japan) BVCM-37936 (88697-11726-2) (2007)**

BLUE MOON OF KENTUCKY / A BRAND NEW KING / BABY LET'S PLAY HOUSE / NINETEEN NAVIGATION (SCENE 1988) / MAMA DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW / DO ME NO WRONG / SIXTEEN CHICKS / GOING PLACES AT LAST / PUBLIC BOY

MIDNIGHT IN MEMPHIS / A BRAND NEW KING (Inst) / BONUS TRACKS: SIXTEEN CHICKS (TAKE 1) / MAMA DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW (TAKE 2) / MIDNIGHT IN MEMPHIS (TAKE 3) / SOMEDAY / INAZUMA ROCKABILLY YAROU

Billy Morokawa is a Japanese rockabilly singer and recorded this at Sun Records in Memphis in 1998. As the cover notes state – “When it comes to singing rock’n’roll, who cares if the R’s and L’s don’t sound quite right?” Actually, he’s not a bad singer, but I bought it for the guitar work of James Burton, who shines as usual. He is joined by Kenny Lovelace (guitar), Glen D. Hardin (piano), D.J.Fontana (drums) and Bob Kommersmith (bass) on an enjoyable album.

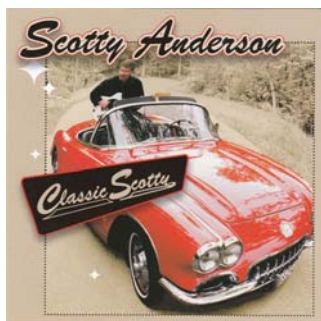
**THE MIGHTY HANDFUL**  
**"SCOTTY MOORE PRESENTS THE MIGHTY HANDFUL VOLUME 1"**  
**SCOTTY MOORE (US) BMCD-2007-01 (2008)**

I'VE GOT MY MOJO WORKING / DUST MY BROOM / YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK / ROCK ME BABY / WHAT AM I LIVING FOR / MY BABE / HOOCHIE COOCHIE MAN / SINCE I MET YOU BABY / LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL / SHE CALLED ME BABY / I'M READY / HOLY COW / I PUT A SPELL ON YOU / I GOT A RIGHT TO SING THE BLUES / THERE'S ALWAYS ME / RECONSIDER BABY

Scotty Moore does not actually play on this album, but oversaw the project after some successful live shows in Memphis. Billy Swan (vocals), Boots Randolph (sax), Bob Moore (bass), Bucky Barrett (guitar), Buddy Spicher (fiddle), Steve Shepherd (keyboards) and Fred Satterfield (drums) are the featured players. Some good country, R&B and blues.

**SCOTTY ANDERSON**

**"CLASSIC SCOTTY"**  
**J CURVE ROOTS & BLUES (US) JCR8002 (2003)**  
 GOING DOWN THIS ROAD FEELING BAD / LA GRANGE / COLD COLD HEART / WE GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE / HONEY FINGERS / MILK COW BLUES / BOOGIE ON REGGAE WOMAN / ALL MY LOVING / RUBY ARE YOU MAD AT YOUR MAN / 16 CANDLES



After reading quotes such as “sounds like two Albert Lee’s playing at once” and “blazing country bluegrass-jazz”, I just had to track this down. This is Anderson’s second album (the first was Triple Stop)

and lives up to the hype. The tracks are all covers (Z Z Top, Hank Williams, Animals, Elvis, Beatles etc) and are about 50/50 vocals and instrumentals. This is hard to get, but well worth tracking down.



**Vintage Guitars are distributed worldwide by JHS (UK). Pro Spec Series are standard models customized in Australia.**

**GEOFF'S CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST**

It's the time of the year to drag out your instrumental Christmas albums. Some of my favorites are listed below. The Duane Eddy one is a 'home made' one containing his free Christmas downloads from the past four years. By far the best (essential) album is the Ventures' Christmas Album – the 2001 and 2002 follow-ups just don't quite cut it. Similarly, Chet

Atkins' original album from 1961 is far better than the re-recorded versions for Columbia / CBS. Of the 13 albums here, “Jingle Bells” and “White Christmas” win out with ten versions each. So take the top off a beer, grab a mince pie, relax and enjoy some Christmas instrumentals. Cheers!!

**CHET ATKINS**  
**"CHRISTMAS WITH CHET ATKINS"**  
**RAZOR & TIE (US) RE 2155-2 / BMG (US) DRC1-1546 (1997)**  
 JINGLE BELL ROCK / WINTER WONDERLAND / JOLLY OLD ST. NICHOLAS / WHITE CHRISTMAS / BLUE CHRISTMAS / JINGLE BELLS / SILVER BELLS / LITTLE DRUMMER BOY / MEDLEY: THE COVENTRY CAROL - GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN / THE FIRST NOEL / HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING / O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / DECK THE HALLS / SILENT NIGHT

Chet's classic Christmas album, recorded in 1961 for RCA VICTOR (US) LSP.2423

**"EAST TENNESSEE CHRISTMAS" COLUMBIA  
(US) CK 39003**

JINGLE BELL ROCK / WHITE CHRISTMAS / LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW / WINTER WONDERLAND / THE CHRISTMAS SONG / I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS / EAST TENNESSEE CHRISTMAS / DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? / THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY / GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN / SILENT NIGHT / AWAY IN A MANGER

This is the CD issue of the 1983 album recorded not long after Chet switched to from RCA to CBS / Columbia. It contains six numbers from the RCA album (re-recorded) and six new tracks.

**BOOKER T & THE MG's**

**"IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT"**

**ATLANTIC (US) 82338-2 (1992)**

JINGLE BELLS / SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN / WINTER WONDERLAND / WHITE CHRISTMAS / THE CHRISTMAS SONG / SILVER BELLS / MERRY CHRISTMAS BABY / BLUE CHRISTMAS / SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY / SILENT NIGHT / WE THREE KINGS / WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Booker, Steve, Al and Duck bring you the ultimate MG's Christmas experience. Recorded in 1966. CD issued in 1992.

**THE SPACEMEN**

**"THE SPACEMEN –**

**IN A CHRISTMAS MOOD"RAINBOW (SWEDEN)  
RMCD 2030 (1994)**

MARCH MILITAIRE / SON OF BETHLEHEM / JINGLE BELLS / RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS / HAPPY SNOWFLAKES / PEACE ON EARTH / PARADE OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS / SEND ME A CHRISTMAS CARD / SANTA'S BACK IN TOWN / NU TÄNDAS TUSEN JULELJUS / WHITE CHRISTMAS / I SAW MAMA KISSING SANTA CLAUS / THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY / SILENT NIGHT

A Swedish Christmas – Sandor Hajosi, Lennart Clerwall, Hans Clerwall and Tomas Ericsson bring their Spotnicks style sound to an unusual selection. Fantastic sound.

**PAUL JOHNSON WITH THE HEPCATS**

**"CHRISTMAS WITH THE HEPCATS"**

**HEPCAT (US) HCD 21 (1993)**

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS / O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN / WHITE CHRISTMAS / SILENT NIGHT / SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN / DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? / IT CAME UPON A

MIDNIGHT CLEAR / ANNUNCIATION MEDLEY: JOY TO THE WORLD - HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING - ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / JINGLE BELLS / NATIVITY MEDLEY: O, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - THE FIRST NOEL - AWAY IN A MANGER - WHAT CHILD IS THIS? / DECK THE HALLS / THE CHRISTMAS SONG ("CHESTNUTS ROASTING...") / JINGLE BELL ROCK / SLEIGH RIDE / CAROL OF THE BELLS / O, HOLY NIGHT / O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (REPRISE) / WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS (REPRISE)

Paul Johnson (Bel-Airs, Challengers, Surfari's etc) recorded this all acoustic Christmas album in 1994. Very nice.

**THE SPOTNICKS**

**"THE SPOTNICKS IN WINTERLAND PLUS LIVE IN BERLIN"**

**KING (JAPAN) KICP 277 (1992)**

SLEIGH RIDE / WINTER WONDERLAND / HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS / RUDOLF THE RED-NOSED REINDEER / FROSTY THE SNOWMAN / SILENT NIGHT / WHITE CHRISTMAS / JINGLE BELLS / WINTERLAND / PARADE OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS / I SAW MAMA KISSING SANTA CLAUS / AULD LANG SYNE / THEME FROM "A FEW DOLLARS MORE" / WICHITA LINEMAN / HEY GOOD LOOKING / HAVA NAGILA / SYLVIA / DIAMONDS / LAST DATE / LONG TRAIN RUNNING / MOONSHOT / WILDWOOD FLOWER / JOHNNY GUITAR / IF YOU COULD READ MY MIND / AMAPOLA / TINTA VERDE

An unusual pairing of two Spotnicks' LP's from 1966 and 1974. The Christmas part is typically Spotnicks with some very different arrangements of well-known tunes. And now to Germany with a more traditional selection, albeit played with Ricky King's soaring Stratocaster sounds. Absolutely beautiful. 1980 album issued on CD in 1988

**RICKY KING**

**"LEISE RIESELT DER SCHNEE – DIE 20**

**SCHÖNSTEN WEIHNACHTSLIEDER MIT RICKY KING"**

**(20 CHRISTMAS GUITAR SOUNDS)**

**CBS/EPIC (GERMANY) EPC 462950 2**

GLOCKEN / STILLE NACHT, HEILIGE NACHT (SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT) / LIESE RIESELT DER SCHNEE / O TANNENBAUM / AM WEIHNACHTSBAUME DIE LICHTER BRENNAN / ALLE JAHRE WIEDER / IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET / FRÖHLICHE WEIHNACHT ÜBERALL / LAT UNS FROH UND MUNTER SEIN / STILL, STILL, STILL / IN DULCI JUBILO / ARIA / O DU FRÖHLICHE, O DU SELIGE / KLING, GLÖCKEN, KLING / JINGLE BELLS / VOM HIMMEL HOCH / ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN / WHITE CHRISTMAS / AVE MARIA / KOMMET, IHR HIRTEN / SÜER DIE GLOCKEN NIE KLINGEN / GLOCKEN



**THE VENTURES**

**"THE VENTURES' CHRISTMAS ALBUM"**

**EMI (US) CDP 7 94994 2**

SLEIGH RIDE / SNOW FLAKES / SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN / JINGLE BELLS / JINGLE BELL ROCK / SILVER BELLS / RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER / FROSTY THE SNOWMAN / SCROOGE / BLUE CHRISTMAS / WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS / WHITE CHRISTMAS

Every self respecting rock instrumental collector should have this – the ultimate RI Christmas album. Recorded in 1965 for Dolton and released on CD a few times – my copy is the US issue on EMI-USA, released in 1990. The tracks are all introduced by a Ventures track (e.g. Walk Don't Run becomes Sleigh Ride, Tequila becomes Frosty The Snowman) and are really essential listening. It will be on my turntable (sorry, CD player) a few times in the next few weeks!

**THE VENTURES**

**"60'S ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS"**

**M&I (JAPAN) MYCV-30123 (2001)**

SLEIGH RIDE / SNOWFLAKES / SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN / JINGLE BELLS / JINGLE BELL ROCK / SILVER BELLS / RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER / WINTER WONDERLAND FROSTY THE SNOWMAN / BLUE CHRISTMAS / WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS / WHITE CHRISTMAS / MEDLEY: ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE - HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS / THE CHRISTMAS SONG (MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU) / FELIZ NAVIDAD

As the Mortein ad said "When you're on a good thing, stick to it". So did the Ventures. Using much the same theory, this is a 2001 version of the Christmas album, recorded for M&I. Most of the tracks are new versions of the Dolton album, with a few new tracks and new arrangements. Gerry and Nokie share lead guitar duties.

**THE VENTURES**

**"CHRISTMAS JOY"**

**VARESE SARABANDE (US) 302 066 401 2 (2002)**

JINGLE BELLS / WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS / WINTER WONDERLAND / JOY TO THE WORLD / O CHRISTMAS TREE (O TANNENBAUM) / SILENT NIGHT / HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING / GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN / O HOLY NIGHT / THE CHRISTMAS SONG / SLEIGH RIDE / MEDLEY: ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE - HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS / WE THREE KINGS / WHAT CHILD IS THIS? / O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL / DECK THE HALLS / FELIZ NAVIDAD / CHRISTMAS JOY

And wait, there's more!! These tracks were recorded in 2002 in Glendale, CA. As the notes say

– "So, pour yourself a cup of eggnog, throw another log or two on the fire, and listen to The Ventures play your favorite timeless Christmas melodies in fresh, bracing new ways. Thirty-seven years after their first Yuletide offering, these gentlemen still know how to celebrate the holidays in impeccable musical style!"

**NOKIE EDWARDS**

**"NOKIE EDWARDS - NEW X'MAS ALBUM"**

**NMT RECORD (JAPAN) VKNMT-03 (1992)**

RUDOLF THE RED-NOSED REINDEER / SNOW FLAKES / BLUE CHRISTMAS / SILVER BELLS / WHITE CHRISTMAS / JINGLE BELLS / WINTER WONDER LAND / O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM / SLEIGH RIDE / THE CHRISTMAS SONG / X'MAS MEDLEY

Not to be outdone, Nokie does his own thing. Using the same 'modus operandi' his version was recorded in the US and Japan using local musicians and is very good, but does not reach the heights of The Ventures original.

**DUANE EDDY**

**"CHRISTMAS TWANG"**

EARLY CHRISTMAS (2004) / MERRY CHRISTMAS (2005) / THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS (2006) / SLIPPIN' SLIDIN' SANTA (2007)

I compiled this CD by including the free downloads Duane has done in the past four years. Hopefully there'll be a 2008 version. I always wondered why Duane did not do a Christmas album in his 'heyday', but we'll have to wait (at this rate) for 10 more years to get a full album!! As expected, there's lots of twang here, and I think all four are Duane's compositions. The 'twang' is still the Christmas 'thang'





**HELP!!**

One of our esteemed readers suggested an article on the equipment and instruments used by our local favourites would be welcome. . . . .

Knowing that many of our guitar playing readers like to jam with backing tracks, we have asked Kim Humphreys to kick this segment off and share his knowledge with us. Anyone who has seen Kim performing live will realize that he has taken the *one man band* option way beyond 'guitar karaoke.'

# TOP GEAR

**KIM HUMPHREYS**



**LINE 6 POD X3**

I have not used an on stage amp for years, always favoring going straight into the PA. I started experimenting with a Rockman in the 80's, moved thru the Roland GP pre amp series, the Boss GT floor pedals. In the mid 90's I discovered the POD and realized the Line 6 guys had it sussed. With the advent of the X3, for me, it is now a 'no contest' with conventional amps. I find that less is more with these type of units. Stay completely away from the over processed factory presets! Of special interest to UB Hankers - fully programmable 6 head echo is possible with the X3! !



**KV AUDIO PA**

Your average affordable vocal PA does not have the headroom and power to reproduce great DI guitar sounds, or deliver punchy clean backing tracks. I found it worth the extra outlay to invest in a state of the art system. I started out with Mackie and then moved onto this KV system which are studio monitor quality. *It all fits in the back of the car!*

**2 X 400 watt 1 X 10" top boxes  
1 X 500 watt 1 x 12" sub**



**Berhinger micro mixer**



I run stereo backing tracks, stereo guitar and one mic. This extremely affordable micro **8 channel Behringer** is perfect.

Perhaps the biggest quandary for solo acts is deciding what format to employ for backing tracks.



While mp3's seem the most logical and cost effective option, I find the compression factor eliminates dynamics from the track.

I master all of my BT's in Wavelab, matching levels and giving them some extra punch. I mix thru EMES studio monitors which I purchased as a result of the studio where I master my CD's swearing by them. It's then straight from the computer to an **Archos 700** 100GB video/wav file player which also allows me to organize my sets into folders. The 7" screen is easy to navigate and read. Very compact and user friendly.

**GUITARS**

I am now using Pro Spec Vintage Guitars exclusively. They are the **best sounding guitars I have ever played**, bar none! With Max Paton coming on board to customize these instruments to Pro Spec standard, they rival guitars 10 times their price.

Here are my new babies! This collection cost less in total than one 'top end' new Gibson or Fender. All this said- "*Our musical goals are more likely to be realized by the time we spend, not the dollars!*"

**KIM H.**



So come on down Screamy, Bazza, Joey, Martin, Bryan Browne, Cossy and others, send in your lists!!

SEASONS GREETINGS and thanks for your support in 2008

Cheers, *Geoff*

