



LIKE I DO

GREAT BRITISH RECORD LABELS ORIOLE

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CD1

- 1 MAUREEN EVANS Like I Do
- 2 JOHNNY CLIVE Sue
- 3 THE DOWLANDS Break Ups
- 4 TERRY DENE Next Stop Paradise
- 5 TONY SHEVETON Lullabye Of Love
- 6 DEEK RIVERS The Outsider
- 7 RAY PILGRIM Red Red Roses
- 8 THE DAY BROTHERS Angel
- 9 BRIAN WESKE In The Midst Of A Crowd
- 10 SUSAN SINGER Lock Your Heart Away
- 11 THUNDERCLAP JONES Sound Barrier Boogie
- 12 NANCY WHISKEY & HER SKIFFLE GROUP Ella Speed
- 13 HALLELUJAH SKIFFLE GROUP ft. CLINTON FORD I Saw The Light
- 14 CHAS McDEVITT SKIFFLE GROUP Sporting Life
- 15 THE TED TAYLOR FOUR Haunted Pad
- 16 ALAN KLEIN Striped Purple Shirt
- 17 GERRY BECKLES Come Back Running
- 18 SHIRLEY DOUGLAS with CHAS McDEVITT GROUP Real Love
- 19 RUSS HAMILTON Rainbow
- 20 JACKIE LEE End Of The World
- 21 JAN BURNNETTE Fool In Love
- 22 DICK JORDAN Sandy
- 23 VERN ROGERS One Way Love Affair
- 24 TONY SHEVETON A Lonely Heart
- 25 BRIAN WESKE 24 Hours A Day
- 26 THE RAINDROPS Let's Make A Foursome
- 27 MAUREEN EVANS Time And Time Again
- 28 RAY PILGRIM with the TED TAYLOR FOUR Granada
- 29 THE DOWLANDS Julie
- 30 THE GARY EDWARDS COMBO Franz Liszt Twist
- 31 THE MIKE SAMMES SINGERS Oh My Twisted Bach
- 32 ALAN KLEIN You Gave Me The Blues
- 33 THE TOTNAMITES Spurs Song
- 34 CHAS McDEVITT SKIFFLE GROUP ft. NANCY WHISKEY Freight Train

CD2

- 1 RUSS HAMILTON We Will Make Love
- 2 THE DOWLANDS A Love Like Ours
- 3 THE TED TAYLOR FOUR Son Of Honky Tonk
- 4 TERRY DENE Geraldine
- 5 TONY SHEVETON I Have A Feeling
- 6 ALAN KLEIN Danger Ahead!
- 7 THE JEFF ROWENA FIVE Diddle-De-Dum
- 8 SUSAN SINGER Hello First Love
- 9 GARY MILLS Big Story Breaking
- 10 DICK JORDAN Hallelujah I Love Her So
- 11 MAUREEN EVANS Acapulco Mexico
- 12 FRANK WEIR & HIS ORCHESTRA El Curaca
- 13 JOHNNY WORTH Nightmare
- 14 THE GARY EDWARDS COMBO The Method
- 15 CHAS McDEVITT SKIFFLE GROUP I'm Satisfied
- 16 CLINTON FORD Too Many Beautiful Girls
- 17 THE BARONS Summertime
- 18 VERN ROGERS That Ain't Right
- 19 THE MIKE SAMMES SINGERS All Of A Twist
- 20 REY ANTON How Long Can This Last
- 21 RUSS HAMILTON Wedding Ring
- 22 ALAN KLEIN Three Coins In A Sewer
- 23 JACKIE LEE & THE RAINDROPS (I Was The) Last One To Know
- 24 CHRISTINE QUAITE Our Last Chance
- 25 TONY SHEVETON Foolish Doubts
- 26 JACKIE TRENT Pick Up The Pieces
- 27 DICK JORDAN Little Christine
- 28 RAY PILGRIM Little Miss Make Believe
- 29 MAUREEN EVANS Paper Roses
- 30 LONNIE DONEGAN The Passing Stranger
- 31 BRIAN WESKE Where Does The Clown Go
- 32 CHAS McDEVITT SKIFFLE GROUP ft. NANCY WHISKEY Greenback Dollar
- 33 EDRIC CONNOR Manchester United Calypso

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Released March 9th 2015

Oriole Records' somewhat convoluted history began in the mid 1920s, which actually makes them one of the UK's earliest record labels, although they had periods of inactivity during the 30s and 40s. They were entirely unrelated to the American Oriole label.

Oriole's roots can be traced back to **Levy's Record Shop**, which was founded by Morris's father in Whitechapel in the early 1920s. In addition to gramophones and gramophone records, the store sold sewing machines (and hired out bicycles), whilst also doubling as an importer and distributor, bringing highly-priced Jazz 78s in from the United States and Europe. In 1925, the increasing demand for Jazz 78s led to the launch of the shortlived **Levaphone** record label, which issued a handful of US "Race Records" licensed from Vocalion and Pathe. The label was discontinued in 1927 and immediately replaced by **Oriole**, which continued to release **Vocalion** repertoire. Following a brief period of inactivity **Oriole** returned in the early 30s with a series of their own UK Hot Jazz recordings, which were in turn followed by a handful of French Jazz releases a couple of years later.

By now, Levys had their own recording studio - **Levys Sound Studios** - in Regent Street which moved to bigger premises in New Bond Street later in the decade. At this stage they were operating primarily as custom recording and manufacturing operation. The studio side of the family business was managed by **Jacques Levy**, whilst his aforementioned brother, **Morris**, handled admin, promo, marketing and label management.

The Oriole imprint was resurrected again in 1950, initially with a series of UK and European Jazz 78s, which were soon augmented by licensed-in recordings from the American Mercury label. The same year they opened their own state-of-the-art pressing plant and warehouse in Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, and they soon began to get 'overspill' pressing work from the bigger, established British record companies. Meanwhile, their deal with Mercury provided success with releases by artists like Frankie Laine, Patti Page, Georgia Gibbs, Vic Damone and Billy Daniels, and by the mid 50s Oriole were actively recording home-grown artists in search of their own hits.

Another record label which is indelibly linked to Oriole is, of course, their budget line, **Embassy**, which was sold exclusively through the **Woolworths** chain of stores. **Embassy** debuted towards the end of 1954, and their modus operandi remained the same for the next ten years, viz: double A-sided cover versions of the hits of the day, which sold at around half-a-crown cheaper than regular 78s/45s. It's likely that Embassy was more profitable than Oriole, as many of their releases - notably in the R&R era - sold in their tens of thousands.

The arrival of R&R and Skiffle in the UK during 1956 changed everything, of course, and alongside their staple diet of danceband and musical hall fare, Oriole began to sneak out a few releases aimed squarely at the new, young teenage market. Certainly, **Thunderclap Jones'** pounding '**Sound Barrier Boogie**' possessed all the energy and drive of R&R, and although **Lonnie Donegan's** gentle '**The Passing Stranger**' was hardly representative of his Skiffle repertoire (it was, in fact, an older recording, from the 1954 film of the same title), its very release served as an indicator that they had their finger on the pulse.

Indeed, when Oriole hit the jackpot with an UK recording it was with a bonà-fidé Skiffle classic, '**Freight Train**', by **The Chas McDevitt Skiffle Group featuring Nancy Whiskey**. It promptly made the UK Top 5 and in a wholly unlikely scenario also made the US Top 40, leading to their touring the US (where they appeared on the prestigious Ed Sullivan Show) and ultimately taking worldwide sales of the disc to well over a million. But ironically, Nancy didn't much like Skiffle and quit the group after their second hit, '**Greenback Dollar**'; sadly, neither she nor Chas were destined to taste chart glory again.

Meanwhile, Oriole had scored an even bigger success with scouser **Russ Hamilton**, the Butlins' redcoat who reached No.2 in the UK with his self-penned '**We Will Make Love**'. This, in itself would have been impressive; but the disc was issued in the US, where an enterprising DJ flipped it and began playing the B-side, '**Rainbow**', which subsequently climbed to No.4. Although his follow-up, '**Wedding Ring**', also made the UK Top 20, he was never quite able to sustain a career....