



A PICTURE OF YOU

GREAT BRITISH RECORD LABELS: PICCADILLY

rockhistory.co.uk

CD1

JOE BROWN & THE BRUVVERS *A Picture Of You*
 THE CHARIOTS *Song Of A Broken Heart*
 PAT READER *Cha-Cha On The Moon*
 JACKIE LYNTON *Don't Take Away Your Love*
 EMILE FORD & THE CHECKMATES *The Rains Came*
 CARTER, LEWIS & THE SOUTHERNERS *So Much In Love*
 BUDDY BRITTEN & THE REGENTS *Long Gone Baby*
 BEN RICHMOND *Blue Bird*
 DAVY JONES *Jezebel*
 EMILE FORD & THE CHECKMATES • *Gypsy Love*
 SIMONE JACKSON *Pop Pop Pop-Pie*
 DANNY STORM *Honest I Do*
 CUDDLY DUDLEY *Ferryboat Ride*
 JOHNNY KEATING & THE Z MEN *Ya Ya*
 THE DELAINE SISTERS

It Might As Well Rain Until September

THE KESTRELS *Wolverton Mountain*
 GARY JONES *It's Over*
 THE CHECKMATES *Rockin' Minstrel*
 THE FLEE-REKKERS *Miller Like Wow*
 CARTER, LEWIS & THE SOUTHERNERS *Here's Hopin'*
 CANDY SPARLING *Can You Keep A Secret*
 DAVID MARTIN *Why Have You Treated Me This Way*
 DAVID MACBETH *Roses Are Red (My Love)*
 RONNIE HALL *She's Mine*
 EMILE FORD & THE CHECKMATES *Half Of My Heart*
 DONNA DOUGLAS *Tammy Tell Me True*
 THE PICCADILLY STRINGS *Sir Francis Drake*
 DICK JORDAN *Fortune Teller*
 AL SAXON *There I've Said It Again*
 VINCE HILL *The River's Run Dry*
 JOYCE BLAIR & OLIVER REED *Baby It's Cold Outside*
 BRYAN TAYLOR *The Donkey's Tale*
 JOE BROWN & THE BRUVVERS *A Lay-About's Lament*
 DAVE CLARK FIVE ft. MIKE SMITH *That's What I Said*

CD2

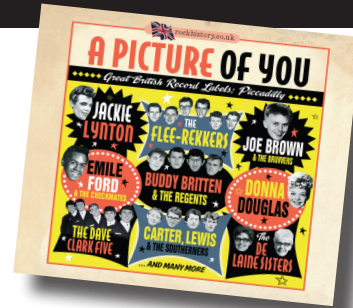
THE CHARIOTS *Problem Girl*
 EMILE FORD & THE CHECKMATES
Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name
 DAVY JONES *Don't Come Crying To Me*
 DAVID MARTIN *Cinderella Romeo*
 DANNY STORM *I Just Can't Fool My Heart*
 DONNA DOUGLAS *Memory Lane*
 JACKIE LYNTON *All Of Me*
 JOE BROWN & THE BRUVVERS
The Other Side Of Town
 JOHNNY KEATING *Theme From Z-Cars*
 THE LES REED BRASS *Theme From The Saint*
 CANDY SPARLING *When's He Gonna Kiss Me*
 CARTER, LEWIS & THE SOUTHERNERS *Poor Joe*
 THE KESTRELS *Love Me With All Your Heart*
 EMILE FORD & THE CHECKMATES *Vaya Con Dios*
 JIM DALE *My Resistance Is Low*
 RONNIE HALL *The Code Of Love*
 THE DELAINE SISTERS *Puppet On A String*
 THE COUNTRYMEN *I Know Where I'm Going*
 THE CHECKMATES *Pompeii*
 JOE BROWN *Crazy Mixed Up Kid*
 BRYAN TAYLOR *Let It Snow On Christmas Day*
 JACKIE LYNTON *Over The Rainbow*
 PENNY *Who Does He Think He Is*
 THE FLEE-REKKERS *Twistin' The Chestnuts*
 VINCE HILL *Just As Long As (You Belong To Me)*
 DICK JORDAN *Some Of These Days*
 CLEO LAINE *Something's Gotta Give*
 OLIVER REED *Sometimes*
 AL SAXON *Evil Eye*
 PAT READER *May Your Heart Stay Young Forever*
 CARTER, LEWIS & THE SOUTHERNERS
Back On The Scene
 DAVE CLARK FIVE ft. MIKE SMITH *I Knew It All The Time*
 BUDDY BRITTEN & THE REGENTS *My Pride, My Joy*
 JOE BROWN & THE BRUVVERS *It Only Took A Minute*

FILE UNDER Various / Pop / 50s / 60s

2CD Set

RHGB 44

Released March 18th 2016



827565061235

Pye-Nixa were relative latecomers to the UK record market, launching in 1955 following the acquisition of Polygon Records and Nixa Records by **Pye Limited**, a radio/TV/telecommunications company whose own roots dated way back to the late 19th Century. By the early 60s, **Pye** (they'd dropped the 'Nixa' in January 1960) was firmly ensconced as one of the UK's four majors, vying with Philips/Fontana for third place behind EMI and Decca. In addition to the main flagship label, they'd also successfully established the **Pye-Jazz**, **Pye International**, **Golden Guinea** and **Marble Arch** imprints, the latter, a pair of budget LP lines.

As the next stage in **Pye's** expansion programme, the evocative black and red **Piccadilly** label, with its yellow logo, was launched in April 1961, having initially been conceived as an outlet for thirdparty licensing (i.e. the UK-originated one-offs and independent productions which had hitherto been appearing on both the main label and **Pye International**). However, although **Piccadilly** would in time go on to register big hits and build a reputation for their vast, quirky array of artists and repertoire, they got off to a surprisingly slow start.

Their inaugural 'Release Schedule' consisted of just two singles, which received minimal promotion and even less pre-launch publicity. **Joe Brown** was **Piccadilly's** first artist, drafted in from the main **Pye** label, and he provided their debut release, '**Crazy Mixed Up Kid**', a rather dubious 'novelty' disc which failed to do either the label or the artist much credit. His 'running mate' was **Ronnie Hall**, an obscure, wholly unknown American singer who was at that time living in the UK - Hall would cut three unsuccessful 45s for **Piccadilly**, including '**Code Of Love**' and '**She's Mine**'. The second tranche of releases, one month later in May '61, was spearheaded by **Emile Ford & The Checkmates**, whose '**Half Of My Heart**'/'**Gypsy Love**' delivered the new label their first chart entry, reaching #24 in the NME Top 30. Ford, who'd also been imported from **Pye**, went on to record a tremendous LP for **Piccadilly** - **Emile**, from whence we've plucked '**Vaya Con Dios**' - plus a further handful of 45s, the pick of which were a pair of B-sides, covers of Bobby Darin's '**Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name**' and Big Sambo & The Housewreckers' Swamp Pop classic '**The Rains Came**'.

Over the ensuing months **Piccadilly's** output gradually picked up, their releases covering a variety of musical genres. Among a plethora of mainstream Pop hopefuls were **Jackie Lynton** (a genuinely magnificent singer, who came close to making it with his revival of '**All Of Me**'), former Oriole recording artist **Dick Jordan**, Saturday Club mainstays **Carter, Lewis & The Southerners** (the self-penned '**Back On The Scene**'/'**So Much In Love**' was their very first record), **Davy Jones** (the UK domiciled ex-GI, with a famous Beatles' connection, whose revival of Frankie Laine's '**Jezebel**' faced stiff competition from Marty Wilde), **David Martin**, **The Kestrels** (their personnel included Tony Burrows and Roger Greenaway), **Gary Jones**, East End pub singer **Ben Richmond**, former *Oh Boy!* stalwart **Cuddly Dudley**, and actors **Oliver Reed** (his '**Sometimes**' was co-written by drummer Dave Clark - more of whom in due course) and **Jim Dale**, whose '**My Resistance Is Low**' picked up considerable radio play and very nearly restored him to the charts.

Elsewhere there were plenty of Instro's, ranging from R&R combos like the aforementioned **Checkmates** and one-time RGM house band **The Flee-Rekkers** to Light Orchestral, e.g. **The Piccadilly Strings** and **The Les Reed Brass**. Girl singers seemed to proliferate on **Piccadilly**, notably **Penny** (Penny Calvert, aka Mrs Bruce Forsyth), **Donna Douglas**, Jazz diva **Cleo Laine**, **Candy Sparling**, **The DeLaine Sisters** (in reality, a pair of ex-Vernons Girls, Maggie Stredder and Jean Ryder), **Pat Reader** (whose delightfully preposterous '**Cha Cha On The Moon**' remains one of Joe Meek's most endearing productions), **Simone Jackson**, and plenty more. And of course, like every other mainstream UK label, there were the inevitable novelty songs; step up **Bryan Taylor**, and **Joyce Blair & Oliver Reed**, whose '**Baby It's Cold Outside**' was clearly aimed at Mike Sarne fans. However, at this stage, hit records were still few and far between; a handful of **Piccadilly** 45s which crept into the lower reaches of the charts included former Fontana artist **Al Saxon's** revival of '**There I've Said It Again**', which dented the NME Top 30, **Danny Storm's** pop-corn teen '**Honest I Do**' and **The Countrymen's** Folksy '**I Know Where I'm Going**'. Eventually, after what must have seemed like an eternity, **Piccadilly** finally registered their first Top 10 entry in the early Spring of '62 with **Johnny Keating's** recording of '**Theme From Z-Cars**', from the popular TV show. A few more minor hits followed.

Meanwhile, after registering a handful of earlier minor chart entries, **Joe Brown** had finally cracked it big in the Summer of '62 with the chart-topping '**A Picture Of You**'. It reached No.1. A couple of months later Joe made the Top 10 again with '**It Only Took A Minute**'. By now the winds of musical change were gathering; the Beat Boom was about to hit the UK and **Piccadilly** seemed to be gearing up for it, with releases like **Carter, Lewis & The Southerners' 'Here's Hopin'**'/'**Poor Joe**' and **Buddy Britten & The Regents' splendid 'Long Gone Baby'**'/'**My Pride, My Joy**'. But dwarfing these was **The Dave Clark Five** with the prescient '**That's What I Said**'/'**I Knew It All The Time**' - the one and only DCF record, incidentally, ever to namecheck lead singer Mike Smith on the label! Finally, special mention must be made of a disc which the great lost classics of the era; the mighty '**Problem Girl**'/'**Song Of A Broken Heart**' by **The Chariots**, a vocal group comprised of four UK-based West Indian guys. A powerful double A-side by anyone's standards, sounding wholly unlike anything else recorded in the UK at that time, it remains one of life's genuine unsolved mysteries that this magnificent record failed to become a massive hit.



rockhistory.co.uk

RockHistory.co.uk is an on-going historical project to record the background stories and the anecdotes from the people who participated in greatest British musical explosion that started back in the 1950s and that went on to reverberate right round the world. Tales about the origins of the songs, the roots of the groups and the front of the performers. These CD releases are part of a series of multi-media release that are all linked via the www.RockHistory.co.uk