



DON'T KNOCK UPON MY DOOR

Six Dozen Great British 'B' Sides

Disc One

BILLY FURY • Don't Knock Upon My Door
 THE KREW KATS • Peak Hour
 MARTY WILDE • It's Been Nice
 GRANT TRACY & THE SUNSETS • The Tears Came Rolling Down
 RICKY VALANCE • Fisherboy
 JIMMY JUSTICE • Write Me A Letter
 JULIE GRANT • Lonely Sixteen
 MICHAEL COX • Don't Want To Know
 THE VERNONS GIRLS • We Like Boys
 ANTHONY NEWLEY • It's All Over
 JET HARRIS • Chills & Fever
 DANNY RIVERS • I'm Waiting For Tomorrow
 SHANE FENTON & THE FENTONES • Fallen Leaves On The Ground
 THE SHADOWS • Midnight
 ADAM FAITH • Knocking On Wood
 JACKIE LYNTON • Don't Take Away Your Love
 CARTER, LEWIS & THE SOUTHERNS • My Broken Heart
 THE DOWLANDS • Don't Ever Change
 THE BROOK BROTHERS • Double Trouble
 EDEN KANE • I'm Telling You
 THE JOHN BARRY SEVEN PLUS FOUR • I'm Movin' On
 LANCE FORTUNE • Action
 CAROL DEENE • It Happened Last Night (At The Movies With You)
 LEE DIAMOND & THE CHEROKEES • Josephine
 THE EAGLES • March Of The Eagles
 LONNIE DONEGAN & HIS SKIFFLE GROUP • Talking Guitar Blues
 KARL DENVER • Lonely Sailor
 BERT WEEDON • Fury
 BILL FORBES • Backward Child
 KENNY LYNCH • Jump On Your Broomstick
 THE ENGLAND SISTERS • Heartbeat
 THE OUTLAWS • Fort Knox
 DAVY JONES • Mighty Man
 THE TED TAYLOR FOUR • Canyon
 THE BIG JIM SULLIVAN COMBO ft. JACKIE ATOM • Hot Hiss Of Steam
 JIMMY POWELL • Sugar Babe (Pt. 2)

Disc Two

JOHNNY KIDD • I Want That
 BILLY BOYLE • Held For Questioning
 HOUSTON WELLS & THE MARKSMEN • North Wind
 JIM DALE • Don't Let Go
 LAURIE LONDON • Up Above My Head
 JOHNNY DUNCAN & THE BLUE GRASS BOYS • Rock-A-Billy Baby
 THE VIPERS • Maggie May
 THE TORNADOS • Jungle Fever
 JOHN LEYTON • Six White Horses
 THE LANA SISTERS • Tell Him No
 THE FENTONES • Lover's Guitar
 THE ALLISONS • Blue Tears
 BOBBY ANGELO & THE TUXEDOS • Skinny Lizzie
 JET HARRIS & TONY MEEHAN • Footstomp
 RHET STOLLER • All Rhet
 JOE BROWN • Stick Around
 SUSAN MAUGHAN • I Didn't Mean What I Said
 KEITH KELLY • Uh Huh
 EMILE FORD & THE CHECKMATES • That Lucky Old Sun
 VINCE EAGER • No Love Have I
 FRANKIE VAUGHAN • Rachel
 DAVE SAMPSON • 1999
 ALMA COGAN • Don't Read The Letter
 HELEN SHAPIRO • Marvellous Lie
 DANNY DAVIS • Lullabye Of Love
 PERRY FORD & THE SAPPHIRES WITH THE BLUE FLAMES • Prince Of Fools
 NERO & THE GLADIATORS • That's A Long Time Ago
 DERRY HART & THE HARTBEATS • Come On Baby
 MIKE BERRY • How Many Times
 PETER JAY & THE JAYWALKERS • Redskins
 TOMMY STEELE • Give! Give! Give!
 VINCE TAYLOR & HIS PLAYBOYS • Move Over Tiger
 TERRY WAYNE • Plaything
 THE SPRINGFIELDS • Good News
 FRANK IFIELD • Hoebe Snow
 CLIFF RICHARD & THE SHADOWS • We Say Yeah

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When I first became interested in Pop music, back in the late 50s, my pocket money wouldn't stretch to records so I had to try and blag what I could from sundry uncles, aunts and cousins. The trouble was, their unwanted oldies were invariably either cracked old Embassy 78s or ancient, pre-R&R crooners/dancebands/novelty items, so my embryonic 'record collection' was crap! A few years later, when I started earning money of my own (eleven-and-six a week - my first paper round!), I began to hang around local junk shops, where you could pick up old 45s for a couple of bob each. And this was where my obsession with B-sides began. Back then, I couldn't afford to waste money on records which didn't have two good sides... consequently, once I'd begun collecting seriously, I had a rack of 'special' 45s whose flips I preferred to their designated top decks. Some of these I'm delighted to share with you on this compilation, which presents a generous six dozen of the finest British Killer B's issued between 1957 and 1962. As you'll hear, many of these were wholly wasted as flips; several are long-forgotten goodies which were tacked onto the backs of significant hits, a couple even dented the UK charts under their own steam, while others simply appeared on the flips of obscurities which disappeared without a trace, nowadays mourned by just a handful of sad old vinyl junkies.

The earliest side featured herein is **The Vipers Skiffle Group's** take on the traditional '**Maggie May**', which in April '57, as the flip of their top tenner 'Cumberland Gap', also briefly made the Record Mirror Top 20. Another great early Skiffle B-side was **Johnny Duncan's** frantic '**Rock-A-Billy Baby**', while **Terry Wayne's**, **Jim Dale's** and **Laurie London's** featured flips are all of a similar vintage.

By common consensus, Britain's finest rocker was the mighty **Billy Fury**, whose self-penned '**Don't Knock Upon My Door**' was arguably thrown away as a lower deck. **Cliff Richard**, whose biggest-selling UK 45 was the theme song to his hit movie *The Young Ones*; tucked away on t'other side was the romping '**We Say Yeah**', which remains a huge fans' favourite. Cut from much the same cloth were **Marty Wilde's** '**It's Been Nice**' (the flip of his magnificent 'Bad Boy') and **Tommy Steele's** '**Give! Give! Give!**' (which dented the NME Top 30 after its topside, 'Tallahassee Lassie', had made the Top 20), whilst artists like **Vince Taylor**, **Johnny Kidd** (his '**I Want That**' is a great lost/forgotten classic), **Joe Brown**, **Lance Fortune** (his '**Action**' would have made a tremendous A-side), **Vince Eager**, **The Vernons Girls** and **Michael Cox** were also, of course, all hugely popular, fellow *Oh Boy!* and *Boy Meets Girls* regulars.

Meanwhile, over on the BBC, a new R&R-oriented TV show, *Drumbeat*, was introducing fresh names and faces under the musical direction of trumpeter/bandleader/arranger **John Barry**, whose augmented **Seven Plus Four's** bizarre, pizzicato string-driven arrangement of Hank Snow's '**I'm Movin' On**' was a real killer B. *Drumbeat's* biggest star, by a long shot, was the diminutive **Adam Faith** (whose '**Knocking On Wood**' wholly eclipsed its disappointing A-side, 'Baby Take A Bow'), while other regulars on the show included **The Lana Sisters** (who famously included a teenage Dusty Springfield), **Anthony Newley** (his catchily-commercial '**It's All Over**' sounds like it ought to have been an A-side), **Ricky Valance** and former John Barry Seven singer/rhythm guitarist **Keith Kelly**.

Lonnie Donegan, of course, transcended all TV/Radio shows and genres. By the late 50s he was firmly established as a major star and he'd begun to stretch out musically, his Anglicised version of Ernest Tubbs's '**Talking Guitar Blues**' (wasted, frankly, on the flip of 'San Miguel') being a prime example. Conversely, **Emile Ford**, who suffered equally from synaesthesia and "his own worst enemy" syndrome, never quite became as big a star as he perhaps should. Perpetually at odds with his record company, Emile wanted '**That Lucky Old Sun**' issued as an A-side, whereas they insisted on going with 'Slow Boat To China' (mind you, Pye were right - it reached No.3!). It took **The Shadows** a while to get going (they're represented here by '**Midnight**', the flip of the ubiquitous 'F.B.I.'), but once established, they opened the floodgates for a UK Instro scene which was remarkable for its quality, if not always its commercial success. In their wake, groups like **The Outlaws**, **The Krew-Kats**, **The Fentones**, **The Ted Taylor Four**, **The Eagles**, **Peter Jay & The Jaywalkers**, and solo artists like **Rhet Stoller** and even dear old **Bert Weedon**, routinely cut great double-sided 45s, whilst worldwide chart-toppers **The Tornados** even briefly threatened The Shads' status as the UK's premier Instro Group....