'S CONNIFF

The International Ray Conniff Fan Club Magazine 2005



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Dear Friends,

It is with deep regret that I have to tell you that this is the final edition of 's Conniff in its printed form, that is, As I informed you in the previous editions, my occupational situation changed three years ago. I work for the Hamburg school authorities and am in charge of everything that has to do with foreign language teaching at vocational schools. In fact, I AM the foreign language department. When I was a teacher, I had more spare time to devote to the making of the Ray Conniff fan club magazine. The production of the pages has always been fun, but what comes next, is not: Standing beside a photocopier for hours bores you to tears, then all copies have to be stapled, all envelopes have to be labelled, stamps have to be licked and so on. Sometimes I spent a whole week with this business until my life was back to normal again. And that used to happen 4 times a year. I want to take this opportunity to thank my helpers, Claudine Deman, who mailed copies to members in Europe, Sheila and Mike Leach, who distributed the magazines in the UK, Chris Couldrey in Australia and Asia, Elias Ramos Gaia in Latin America, and Warren Pischke in the USA.

And I must not forget to thank everybody who contributed to the magazine. Above all, there is Serge Elhaik, whose Ray Conniff Story remains incomplete for the time being, but who knows, perhaps he will turn the parts published here in the fan club magazine, into a book about Ray.

Don't get me wrong, I loved doing this for Ray and his loyal fans, but I look at my hobby from a different angle now. Besides, I realized that in these modern times many people are happy with the information they can get on the Internet – both on Doug Mitchell's official Ray Conniff site and from mine, Manfred's Ray Conniff Page. Updating it, as soon as there is a new release or a news item of interest, can be done instantly and is fun.

It also amazed me to see many messages on "The Yahoo! Ray Conniff Discussion Board" on the Internet from people who are not club members, although they are avid fans. The Discussion Board has more than 100 members, and in early April 2005 the messages posted exceeded 1000! Quite a

few of these fans also wrote reviews of new releases, which can be found on the websites of Collectables and Amazon. (I took the liberty to reproduce some of these in this edition.)

Anyway, together with this edition you are getting what I call a "Farewell Gift", the second Ray Conniff Photo Collection. It features pre-1970 photographs in black and white only. I hope you will like it as much as the earlier edition, which Ray found adorable. (By the way, I still have spare copies, and if you or your friends are interested in one, please contact me and I will let you know the price per copy including postage to your country.)

The people involved are the same who also produced the colour edition: Clemens Krauss chose the photos he thought you would like to see and did the layout of the whole album. (Thank you so much, Clemens!) John Gay financed the whole project and had it printed in his print shop (which he has sold meanwhile). I cannot thank him enough, and thanks also go to his assistant, Tim Drake.

Its table of contents may be incomplete, and if you can add further information or provide corrections, please let me have them. Thank you.

I will be presenting this photo album to the fans who take part in the 2005 Convention in Cardiff. (By the time the rest of the members of the fan club will read these lines, it will have happened already.) I am really looking forward to it. When I visited the organisers last year, I realized how motivated they were, and I appreciate all the efforts they invested. I will create an extra page on the Internet, documenting the Convention, soon.

My Ray Conniff Page caught the attention of a very special person at Sony, New York, Jeff James. Some of you may have seen his name on the covers of the "twofers" released by Collectables. He is the one who has access to the vaults and has dug out some gems by Ray which we would never have expected to be released, such as the previously unreleased "Jackie Blue", of which Ray once had given me a cassette recording.

Yes, what a wealth of goodies have been released lately! It all began with the US compilation 2 CD set "The Essential Ray Conniff", which is a must for every fan. It fea-

Goodbye, goodbye,

oh, why must we say goodbye?

I've heard that song in many lands.

'Ke ora ta tua' the Polynesians say,

farewell, dear friends,

we'll meet another day.

From far Japan, 'sayonara' they say,

I wish they didn't mean goodbye – goodbye.

I hear 'au revoir' and long for gay Paris,

in Rome, 'arrividerci,' they fondly say to me.

As we sail from fair Hawaii, I hear 'aloha hoe'.

Oh, I wish they didn't mean goodbye.

As I leave London town I hear their 'cheerios'.

In Spain 'hasta mañana',

'adios' from Mexico.

And Vienna's old refrain is a sad

'Auf Wiedersehen'.

Oh, I wish they didn't mean goodbye.

'Aloha Oe,' I hear them sigh.

Oh, I wish they didn't mean goodbye.

Goodbye! Goodbye! Goodbye!

Aloha for them!

(As featured on

"Ray Conniff's Hawaiian Album")

tures quite a few recordings which had been available on singles for a short time on a limited market only. Then Collectables jumped on the bandwagon and added a couple of bonus tracks on the "2 on 1"-CD of "Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song" / "Love Will Keep Us Together". I must admit I would have been a little happier if the bonus tracks had been added to the respective album recorded during the same session, but I know I should not complain, as this is some-

thing I would have never expected to materialize.

Then I learned the biggest surprise of them all: Collectables released "The Singles Collection", featuring 26 tracks. (For more information see pages 14 and 15 in this edition.) I was so happy to see "Vol. 1" behind its title, because there must be a volume 2 (and hopefully a volume 3) some time! Well, as Jeff James had seen the enormous list of unreleased and rare cordings by Ray on the Internet, he asked me to help him choose material

for the next collection on Collectables. Of course, I sent him some demo CDs and I hope that he will find the original tapes and have them remixed and / or remastered for the next Singles Collection.

I also let him have a home-made DVD featuring Ray's sound through four speakers. In fact, I had the quadraphonic demo tape that Ray once did for the promotion of quad in motor homes transferred onto a DVD. Played through a 5.1 equipment, which has become quite popular in the age of DVDs, the result is awesome! Let's keep our fingers crossed that one of these days, Ray's 12 quadraphonic albums will become available on multi-channel discs. Nothing is impossible (see above)!

I also wished Ray's wonderful TV shows would become available on digital versatile discs. Every year I receive enquiries for his TV show, and there is also a great demand for his 1991 show, which so far has been his only show being commercially

available on a home video, titled "'s Always Conniff", as you all know.

The enormous amount of CDs by Ray being constantly released throughout the world is proof that his music is still alive, and always will be, I am sure. Thanks also to Ken Conlin who plays his music on his Internet radio station daily. The Internet address is http://www.live365.com/stations/309753.

Without the existence of the Ray Conniff Sound, my life would have been different.

> I owe this man and his music so much, and I will be grateful forever.

first "Ray Conniff Newsletter" in 1981, some after my dear years friend Lois Hollands had passed away. I did not intend to step into her shoes and run a fan club. I just wanted to the share joy Ray's music brought to me with other people and inform them about his projects (albums, tours etc.). Ray never asked me to run his fan club, but

I produced my very approved of my activities and since the early 90s

had my name and address featured on many of his albums. This was quite an honour for me, and I took it as an appreciation. I was very flattered when he once asked me to write liner notes (which never materialized) for his "'s Always Conniff"-album, and when he called to discuss repertoire for his next album with me. Those many shop talks in his office are moments I will never forget, and neither are the shows I attended, nor the record sessions. His hospitality and generosity must not be forgotten, either. Ray Conniff was one of the most creative and gifted musicians of the 20th century. Although this is the very last edition of his fan club magazine, I swear I will keep on promoting his music. I am sure you all will, too.

My sincerest best wishes to you all, including Tamara and Vera Conniff.

Naybed

's Conniff 2005: The CD Column

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I am happy to inform you that one of my dreams, which I have had for decades, has become reality – to have 26 Ray Conniff singles on a CD. And this is only volume 1! This is a must-have! In December, I learned about the project from the January 2005 edition of "In Tune" (No. 155), where Richard W. Rice wrote: Volume one of the Ray Conniff singles is still in the processing stages of development, but already a second rendition is being ordered by Collectables. Conniff, of course has been best known, for his brilliant concept albums, but interspersed were a host of singles. Although a percentage was taken from the LP cuts, other original sides were also added to that catalogue. Oddly enough the first volume begins with 1963, and then moves forward. The encore, which I researched, programmed and submitted to SSP, begins at the outset of Conniff's popularity in 1955, covering those rarities that span through mid 1967. There is a snap, crackle and pop, to each of Ray's arrangements and subsequent recordings. Still more remains, for a possible Vol.3. Here are details concerning No.1:

THE RAY CONNIFF SINGLES COLLECTION, VOL.1 (USA, March 15, 2005*,

Collectables COL 7697) *official release date; the CD became available in early February.



How Am I To Know? / Wonderful Season Of Summer** / It Takes Two** / Games That Lovers Play / Moonlight Brings Memories / We're A Home / A Certain Girl / Look Homeward Angel / I've Got My Eyes On You / Dear World / Love Made A Fool Of Me / La Felicidad (The Happiness) / These Are My Flowers / Songs Are For Lovers / Half And Half (Song For Sarah) / A Walk In The Spring Rain / Loss Of Love / Rosa (Rose Nel Buio) / Out Of The Darkness (Into The Light) / Where Were You / We Must Forget We Ever Met / Sleepy Shores / Face On The Wind / A Man Without A Vision / Sing Along Song / I Understand Just How You Feel (**=mono)

This compilation of ultra-rare items contains two songs, written by Peter Knauer for Ray. Here is a letter from Michael D. Bright, who is a composer himself, to Peter Knauer's daughter, drawing her attention to this new CD:

Dear Miss Knauer, I recently had the opportunity to assist in the selections & concept of an upcoming compilation CD of the late Ray Conniff. Titled "The Singles Collection, Vol.1", it brings together some of the late bandleader's hit singles, as well as some rare items, & will be available on Collectables Records through most major retailers on March 15. Among my input, I selected the two songs Ray recorded in 1969, written by your father, Peter Knauer: "These Are My Flowers" & "Songs Are For Lovers". Though not chart hits, they were two of my favorites, and were well liked & sought-after items by his loyal fans. They appear as tracks 13 & 14 on the 25 song collection. Happily, Collectables found & remastered the stereo recordings, not monothis was 35 years ago, & CBS used separate machines at rec. sessions in those days. As always, music sounds so technically superior on CDs, as these two tracks are no exception. So these two songs will have a little 'home' on this CD, at last pulling them out of obscurity & making them available to the public once again. Hope this will be of some pleasant news & memories for you & the rest of the songwriters' family. Yours, Michael D. Bright

I cannot praise the efforts of those people at Collectables enough. You know, until the late 60's, most of these tracks were only released in mono, and therefore no stereo mixes were made, although the recordings were made in stereo. Rather than issuing the mono versions, they took the original tapes and mixed them for release in stereo. It seems, they could not locate any stereo tapes of "Wonderful Season of Summer" and "It Takes Two". (I would have loved to have the latter in stereo.) All the others are in stereo, I am glad to say. I had hoped to find out whether there was a chorus in the background of "How Am I to Know?", but I'm not the wiser now that I have listened to it intently. As for "Games That Lovers Play", this is a different take than was released on side B of "Cabaret". It becomes clear at the end, when the Singers do not sing the lyrics as on the version that we knew. I must admit that I was a little disappointed with "I've Got My Eyes on You". There are hardly any stereo effects on this one, and it lacks reverberation. I prefer the mono version featured on "Instrumental Favorites", a Time-Life compilation CD, released a couple of years ago. Other than that there is little to complain of. The CD leaflet provides all the information a fan wants to have. I am glad that these gems are not lost for good and I can hardly wait for volumes 2 and (hopefully) 3. (Manfred)

Here are some comments from fans:

Ron Narum from Houston, TX US - February, 4, 2005

The CD is a very special treat for any Ray Conniff fan. It contains songs rarely heard by even the most rabid Conniff fan, as they were not released on any of his previous albums. Being a huge Ray Conniff 70's fan the songs "Where Were You", "We Must Forget We Ever Met", "Sleepy Shores", "Face On The Wind" and "A Man Without A Vision" are extra special treats. They include the great group of singers that Ray used in the early 70's (Ron Hicklin, the Bahler brothers & Jackie Ward). If you are a fan of Ray's music from the 60's, 70's or any decade, this CD is a must-have! Thanks, Collectables for making these wonderful songs available to all of us!

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Dr. Glenn Briggs from Merritt Island, FL US - January, 22, 2005

The Singles Collection, Volume I, may be the most eagerly-anticipated Ray Conniff release of all time! Collectables is to be congratulated for their continuing efforts to carefully select, compile, and release the very best of this legendary artist's contributions to art and entertainment. The CD is unique in that it is composed of singles that the most avid Conniff fans will remember from 45 RPM records, and listening to the radio. This is truly a classic!

Just before I went to print I received these lines from Michael D. Bright – the story behind "The Singles Collection", which is proof that writing to record companies CAN be successful:

Hi Manfred,

About a year ago, just after the CBS release of the fine compilation 'The Essential Ray Conniff', I sent an e-mail to 'Collectables' re Ray's 45rpm 'singles' which never got onto any of his albums. In my opinion, the 45rpm 'singles' did contain many fine arrangements which, with the exception of a few 'experimental' tracks, were every bit as good as the songs that did make it onto albums. My consensus was that Columbia/CBS perhaps took the songs which were the biggest, most covered chart hits of the day, passing over these somewhat more obscure song titles. Perhaps one reason I enjoyed the 'singles' was the very fact THAT they were unique & not covered by every major orchestra &/or chorus group.

So, I sent a list of some dozen or so titles which were memorable favorites of mine personally... 'Look Homeward, Angel'; James Last's 'Games That Lovers Play'; 'Dear World'; Henry Mancini's pretty composition 'Loss of Love'; the two tracks written by the late Peter Knauer, 'These Are My Flowers' & 'Songs Are For Lovers'; the wistfully pretty ballads 'A Walk In The Spring Rain', 'I've Got My Eyes On You', and, just because I knew producer Jack Gold had co-written it, 'Sing Along Song'. I didn't bother to list the tracks that had been included in 'The Essential' collection, though all were among my favorites, nor the nearly forgotten mono tracks, or those which I remembered as a bit 'novelty', i.e. 'Je T'aime...', 'They Tried To Tell Me', etc.

Months went by... Then, in January, I got a nice e-mail from Jeff James at Collectables, thanking me for my suggestions re the 'singles' followed by a complimentary copy of the CD. Thus, the reason my name appears on the back, though is misspelled -'MICAHEL D. BRIGHT'/ROSA - a misprint he did apologize for & promised it would be corrected on 'Vol.2'. The thing about all this is... Collectables took my suggestions - literally, adding only a few tracks I hadn't 'listed'. They really DO listen! If I had known they used my suggestions beyond just a 'singles' CD concept basis, I would have been sure to have included some titles which I knew were favorites of OTHER fans! Then again, I'm sorry I included 'It takes Two' & 'Season of Summer' on my list. Not just because, as it turns out, they were the only two mono tracks in an otherwise all full stereo production, but... Let's just suffice it to say that what sounded cute & charming to a young teenager back in the early 1970s the last time I'd really heard them - sound musically & lyrically silly today, from a SONGWRITING

perspective, I mean. And, 'It takes Two' composer Paul Parnes, now 80, gave Ray one of his biggest & best hits in 'Happines Is' (which may be the reason why Ray recorded 'It Takes Two') & even cocomposed the theme to 'Masterpiece Theatre', so no undermining of Parnes' talent any more than Ray's is meant here.

Anyway, when Jeff asked me for assistance in choosing tracks for a 'Vol.2', I decided I'd better not be too 'selfish'. So I sent a brief list which included the 1957 stereo 'single' tracks 'Symphony of Love'/'Perry Mason Theme', the Germany issued 'single' 'Tin Roof Blues' / 'Muskrat Ramble'; for Ray's loyal fans in Brazil, 'A Banda' - yes I know it was on 'Essential', but some fans had expressed disappointment that is wasn't the stereo master, so thought I'd make a second attempt at getting it in stereo, this time; finally, though I've never heard it, I added 'Wednesday's Child'. I figured any song written by composer John Barry & lyricist Mack David, must be worth a mention.

After that, I left it up to them. I am glad they asked you for some assistance, as I'm sure you've memorized every note Ray ever recorded, and I'm sure you'll add some nice suggestions to the six above.

Also discussed with Collectables was the possibility of reissuing, if/when they are deleted by CBS, 'Concert in Rhythm' w. 'Concert In Rhythm, Vol.2', & 'Just Kiddin' Around' w. 'Conniff Meets Butterfield', bringing the first Conniff/Butterfield collaboration & the second 'Concert In Rhythm' back into print eventually.

Finally, during my correspondence with Jeff in Jan.-Feb., I proposed one final project of Ray's music, which is 'being researched' by Collectables now. I tentatively call it 'Ray Conniff's Lost Treasures'.

I think Ray would have wanted these unissued tracks available, as I'm sure in most cases, that's what they were recorded for, to begin with. Just the same, I know his many fans will enjoy such a CD compilation. Even if the 1960s tracks cannot be found in stereo masters, no doubt fans would be happy to own these tracks in a remastered collection, I should imagine. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

You must admit that, just three years ago, one would have been amazed that Collectables would release as much as they have this far. Chances are Collectables will find some items we didn't know about, such as the alternate take on 'Games That Lovers Play'.

Sincerely, MICHAEL D. BRIGHT California (April 2005)

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Here are more details concerning the tracks featured on the CD:

1 How Am I to Know, Ray, trombone solo (January 17, 1963); c/w "Sweet Sue, Just You" (with Billy Butterfield); recorded a month prior to the "Just Kiddin' Around" album / 2 Wonderful Season Of Summer (mono), Ray Conniff and the Singers (March 25, 1966); c/w "Moonlight Brings Memories"; recorded during the sessions of the "Somewhere My Love" album / 3 It Takes Two (mono), Ray Conniff and the Singers (March 25, 1966); c/w "Lookin' For Love"; recorded during the sessions of the "Somewhere My Love" album / 4 Games That Lovers Play (different take), Ray Conniff and the Singers (November 11, 1966); c/w "Cabaret"; recorded during a session between the "En Español" album and "This Is My Song" / 5 Moonlight Brings Memories, Ray Conniff and the Singers (February 9, 1967); c/w "Wonderful Season of Summer"; recorded a month prior to the "This Is My Song" album / 6 We're A Home, Ray Conniff and the Singers (December 13, 1967); c/w "Winds of Change"; recorded during the sessions of "It Must Be Him" / 7 A Certain Girl, Ray Conniff and the Singers (December 13, 1967); c/w "Sounds of Silence"; recorded during the sessions of "It Must Be Him" / 8 Look Homeward Angel, Ray Conniff and the Singers (April 6, 1968); c/w "People"; recorded during the sessions of "Turn Around Look At Me" / 9 I've Got My Eyes On You, Ray Conniff and the Singers (October 14, 1968), released on "Instrumental Favorites" in mono; single c/w "Dear World"; recorded between the albums "Turn Around Look At Me" and "I Love How You Love Me" / 10 Dear World, Ray Conniff and the Singers (October 14, 1968); c/w "I've Got My Eyes On You"; recorded between the albums "Turn Around Look At Me" and "I Love How You Love Me" / 11 Love Made A Fool Of Me, Ray Conniff and the Singers (September 11, 1969); c/w "Je T'Aime ... Moi Non Plus (Love at First Sight)"; recorded during the sessions of "Jean" / 12 La Felicidad, Ray Conniff and the Singers (April 26, 1969); c/w "A Banda"; recorded after Ray's "Europa Tournee" on a recording date during which he also recorded the stereo version of "'s Wonderful" / 13 These Are My Flowers. Ray Conniff, his Orchestra and Chorus (December 2, 1969); c/w "Songs Are For Lovers"; recorded on a special date between the albums "Jean" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water" / 14 Songs Are For Lovers, Ray Conniff and the Singers (December 2, 1969); c/w "These Are My Flowers"; recorded on a special date between the albums "Jean" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water" / 15 Half And Half (Song For Sarah), Ray Conniff and the Singers (February 27, 1970); c/w "A Walk in the Spring Rain"; recorded a week after completing of the "Bridge Over Troubled Water" album / 16 A Walk In The Spring Rain, Ray Conniff and the Singers (February 27, 1970); c/w "Half And Half"; recorded a week after completing of the "Bridge Over Troubled Water" album / 17 Loss Of Love, Ray Conniff and the Singers (August 10, 1970); c/w "Everybody Knows"; recorded during the sessions of "We've Only Just Begun" / 18 Rosa (Rose Nel Buio), Ray Conniff and the Singers (February 11, 1971); c/w "El Condor Pasa"; recorded during the sessions of "Love Story" / 19 Out Of The Darkness, Ray Conniff and the Singers (January 23, 1971); c/w "Love Story"; recorded during the sessions of "Love Story" / 20 Where Were You, Ray Conniff and the Singers (October 11, 1971); c/w "We Must Forget We Ever Met"; recorded three weeks prior to the first album with the new group of singers, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" / 21 We Must Forget We Ever Met, Ray Conniff and the Singers (October 11, 1971); c/w "Where Were You"; recorded three weeks prior to the first album with the new group of singers, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" / 22 Sleepy Shores, Ray Conniff and the Singers (March 20, 1971); c/w "With Every Beat of My Heart"; recorded during the sessions of "Love Theme from 'The Godfather" / 23 Face On The Wind, Ray Conniff and the Singers (November 15, 1971); c/w "A Man Without A Vision"; recorded during the sessions of "I Can See Clearly Now" / 24 A Man Without A Vision, Ray Conniff and the Singers (December 5, 1971); c/w "Face On The Wind"; recorded during the sessions of "I Can See Clearly Now" / 25 Sing Along Song, Ray Conniff and the Singers (May 13, 1974); c/w "Ecstacy"; recorded during the sessions of "The Happy Sound of Ray Conniff" / 26 I Understand Just How You Feel (Auld Lang Syne), Ray Conniff and the Singers (May 13, 1974); c/w "The Entertainer"; recorded during the sessions of "The Happy Sound of Ray Conniff"

The Singles CD included, FIVE new Ray Conniff CDs from Collectables became available in the first week of February 2005: (Note: The release dates stated are the official ones given on the website of Collectables)

Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song / Love Will Keep Us Together + Bonus Tracks (Collectables # 7646 / Sony A-71898), released January 25, 2005.



inson

My Eves Adored You / The Best Of My Love / He Don't Love You (Like I Love You) / Lovin' You / Last Farewell / (Hey Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song / My Melody Of Love / Only Yesterday / Before The Next Teardrop Falls / I Need You Baby

(Album recorded on May 5 and 6, 1975)

Please Mr Please / Midnight Blue / Rhinestone Cowboy & Wildfire / Feelings / My Little Friend / I'm Sorry / At Seventeen / Solitaire / Love Will Keep Us Together & How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)

(Album recorded on August 18 and 19, 1975)

BONUS TRACKS: On The Run (recorded on February 17, 1975; previously only released on a single; c/w "I Need You Baby") Reissue producer: Jeff James Jackie Blue (recorded on May 6, 1975; previously unreleased) Reissue Engineer: Debra Park- Love Theme From An X-Rated Movie (recorded on February 17, 1975; previously released on a single and only recently on the US version of "The Essential Ray Conniff")

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Ron Narum from *Houston, TX US* - February, 4, 2005

BONUS TRACKS! "Jackie Blue"...what a wonderful song that has been hidden from the Conniff fans, until now. Thanks Collectables. If there are any other hidden gems out there, please continue to make them available to us! These are 2 very different Ray Conniff albums. "Another Somebody..." is a more up-tempo album that uses a small instrumental back-up group that is focused on percussion. "Love Will Keep Us Together" is one of Ray's most mellow albums and, in my opinion, not one of his most creative in terms of arrangements. (Hence my 4 ½ star rating.) But it is still a very good album, especially to the average "hard core" Conniff fan. It's great to have them in the CD format after all of these years. Thanks Collectables!

Frank Deckers from Kontich, Belgium - December, 22, 2004

Just another 2 superb albums from the 70's, Conniff at his best, I know these albums as I have them on LP, and they just sound great. Can't wait for the new ones to be released in February. Collectables, please continue releasing this wonderful music of this wonderful man. Regards, Frank

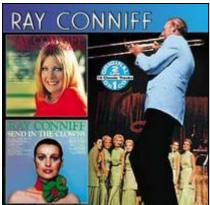
Jorge Carpes from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - December, 2, 2004

Congratulations Collectables for releasing another two gems from the Ray Conniff catalogue. "Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song" is a happy album with great songs and a superb performance from the great Conniff Singers. "Love will keep us together" shows another side of these wonderful Singers in a softer, mellow mood. They pair together perfectly! But, this is nothing new to any Conniff fan, because the Conniff quality mark is present in any thing Ray has ever produced. Can't wait for "You are the Sunshine of my life / Laughter in the rain" and "The Singles"!!! Jorge Carpes

Dr. Glenn Briggs from Merritt Island, FL US - November, 30, 2004

This is another dynamite "two-fer" from Collectables, and represents two of Ray Conniff's very best and most popular productions. The vocals in both LPs represented a sort of "middle-of-the-road" transition between the original "instruments and voices" blending that characterized the early Conniff, and the supremely mellow renditions that emerged in the early seventies. These are two highly-listenable and eminently enjoyable additions to the collections of dyed-in-the-wool Ray Conniff fans, or anyone who simply enjoys excellent music!

I Write the Songs / Send in the Clowns (Collectables # COL 7695 / Sony A-74813), officially released on February 22, 2005, but copies became available in early February already.



Theme From S.W.A.T. / Memories Are Made Of This / Lonely Night (Angel Face) / Vera's Theme / Fifty Ways To Leave Your Lover / Send In The Clowns / Moments To Remember / Do You Know Where You're Going To? / Love's Theme / All By Myself (Album recorded on March 22 and 23, 1976)

Begin The Beguine / My Little Town / The Hustle & I Only Have Eyes For You / Lyin' Eyes / Lara's Theme From 'Dr Zhivago' / The Way I Want To Touch You / Paloma Blanca / Our Day Will Come / I Write The Songs

(Album recorded on December 1 and 2, 1975)

Collectables release compiled and produced by Dan Rivard

Ron Narum from Houston, TX US - February, 4, 2005

These 2 albums by Ray Conniff, released in the mid-seventies, were some of his most under-rated work. On these two albums Ray used a full orchestra of strings and brass, seventies percussion, that great group of seventies singers, and very contemporary arrangements. Each album contains great instrumental covers like "Begin The Beguine", "Lara's Theme (From "Doctor Zhivago"), "Theme From S.W.A.T", "Love's Theme" and the self written "Vera's Theme" which he wrote for his wife. Also many great vocal songs like "50 Ways To Leave Your Lover" and "The Hustle / I Only Have Eyes For You". In my opinion these two albums help show everything that was so great about Ray's music and is a "must-have" for any Conniff collection. Collectables has done the music world a great favor by making them available again and for the first time on CD!

Dr. Glenn Briggs from Merritt Island, FL US - February, 18, 2005

It is most difficult to add anything meaningful to the words already enunciated by my good friend and avid Conniff fan, Ray. But once again, Collectables has responded to the wishes of the numerous Conniff fans around the world by producing a Two-Fer that can only be entitled, "Understated Excellence." These former LPs are among Ray's richest works, and are representative of the overall quality that pervades all of his works. Many thanks, Collectables!!

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You Are The Sunshine Of My Life / Laughter In The Rain

(Collectables # 7647 / Sony A-72814), officially released on February 22, 2005, but copies became available in early February already.



Reissue producer: Jeff James Reissue Engineer: Debra Parkinson

You Are The Sunshine Of My Life / The Twelfth Of Never / Dueling Voices (Dueling Banjos) / Neither One Of Us / Sing / Peaceful / Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round The Ole Oak Tree / Killing Me Softly With His Song & There Was A Girl / The Right Thing To Do / The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia / Bah Bah Conniff Sprach (Zarathustra)

(Album recorded on April 9 and 10, 1973)

Laughter In The Rain / I Honestly Love You / Sundown / Angie Baby / Mandy / Seasons In The Sun / Eres Tu / Cat's In The Cradle / Feel Like Makin' Love / (You're) Having My Baby

(Album recorded on October 21, 1974, on January 13, 1975, and on February 17, 1975)

Ron Narum from Houston, TX US - January, 24, 2005

"You Are the Sunshine..." is one of the best albums Ray Conniff ever produced. Although Ray had many different "sounds" through out the years, this albums production value and sound quality along with the fantastic singers and arrangements used by Ray during the 70's was one of the best of all times. "Laughter In The Rain", recorded a couple of years later is also a wonderful album with a very different "sound" from "You Are The Sunshine". "Laughter" offers a smaller musical back-up group of musicians and more of a focus on the singers, some of which appear on "You Are The Sunshine..". Thanks again for making the two GEMS available on CD!

Jorge Carpes from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - December, 27, 2004

At last!! My favorite Conniff album from the seventies, "You are the sunshine of my life" is available from Collectables! This album shows all the versatility of the Conniff arrangements, e.g.: "There was a girl/Killing me softly" showcases the singers Jackie Ward and Jerry Whitman in an unforgettable solo that even non-Conniff fans will love. "Duelling Banjos" and "Bah Bah Conniff Sprach" have the classical orchestra & chorus treatment, with a wonderful contemporary approach here, certainly among the best works Ray has ever produced! "Laughter in the Rain" is an all-singers album and has a marvelous acoustic sound, very different to "....Sunshine", but also great!! I highly recommend this spectacular 2-album compilation from this company that has become the no. 1, due to the first class quality of its releases. Keep up the great work!!

Dr. Glenn Briggs from Merritt Island, FL US - February, 18, 2005

This marvellous Conniff offering is typical of Ray's success in presenting rearrangements of contemporary recordings in the seventies - a masterpiece! Very few artists have been able provide new and different renditions of popular songs that were actually better than the originals, but this was typical of Ray Conniff's approach to "good music." These CDs will have the listener lying back with eyes closed and being wrapped in delightful music!

Alex Garcia from Fairview, NJ US - March, 12, 2005

Sunshine of My Life is a landmark LP. It was one of those outstanding LPs that quietly crawled up to our collections without much fanfare, but it was TERRIFIC in every sense of the word! What a gorgeous and positive arrangement Ray gives us with Stevie Wonder's Sunshine of My Life. Very similar take as I Can See Clearly Now, which is very similar "arrangement-wise" to Sunshine of My Life. Now the GEM of this LP, honestly folks, has anybody ever heard a BETTER version of KILLING ME SOFTLY than this one? I wish Roberta Flack would have sung over Ray's arrangement. I have gone to weddings and hear cover bands playing Killing me with Ray Conniff's arrangement. Glady Knight's Neither One Of Us is presented by Sir Conniff in such a beautiful arrangement "singer-wise" as well as instrumentally. Joe Raposo's SING is OUTSTANDING and showcases Ray's "ta ta ta"-type singer-instrumentalist play-alongs! Laughter in the Rain is just plain SWEET and FILLED with LAUGHTER! What a gorgeous version of Terry Jack's SEASON IN THE SUN! ERES TU is just TERRIFIC and let's not forget Olivia Newton John's I HONESTLY LOVE YOU which is sung by Jackie WARD with a spirit of love gone right and wrong at the same time. The singers in this LP champion the arrangements. This is an album that gives the singers an opportunity to stand ahead of the instrumental work. KUDOS to Collectibles for FINALLY PUTTING THESE TWO GEMS OUT for all of us to Laugh with Sunshine and with Rain because of RAY CONNIFF! What works of GENIUS.

TV Themes / After the Lovin' (Collectables # 7696), officially released on March 29, 2005 (but it became available in February already)

Description by Oldies.com: A CD reissue of two Ray Conniff releases from the mid-1970s. The first features themes from television shows including "Happy Days," "M*A*S*H," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and others. The second features arrangements of songs from Elton John ("Sorry Seems The Hardest Word"), Gamble & Huff ("You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine"), Boz Scaggs ("Lowdown") and Peter Cetera ("If You Leave Me Now.")



Compilation Producer: Jeff James Compilation Engineer: Steve Kadison at Sony Studios, NYC

Theme From Police Story / Happy Days / The Young And The Restless / Baretta's Theme / Welcome Back / Theme From S.W.A.T. (from the "Send In The Clowns" album) / Love Is All Around / Mystery Movie Theme / Song From M*A*S*H / Making **Our Dreams Come True**

(Album recorded on July 6 and 7, 1976)

A Fifth Of Tchaikovsky / If You Leave Me Now / Rain On / Lowdown / Remembering You / After The Lovin' / Tara 's Theme / Kiss And Say Goodbye / You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine / Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word

(Album recorded on November 28, 29 and 30, 1976)

Ron Narum from Houston, TX US - February, 9, 2005

Another GREAT Ray Conniff treat! These two albums, never before released on cd, are some of Ray's better works. The great full brass and string arrangements on instrumental versions of Theme from "Police Story", Theme from "S.W.A.T" and "Mystery Movie Theme" are some of Ray's best work. There is a good mix of vocal as well as wordless chorus arrangements all tied together with a line up of contemporary song selections and arrangements. This 2-fer is another 'must have" Conniff collection. Thanks again Collectables!



(Sony Discos SMK 0095702, released in Latin Countries in March 2005)

Compilation: Samuel Lopez

Tracks are as follows:

Besame Mucho / Brazil / Caballo Viejo / Cuando Sali de Cuba / Cuando Calienta el Sol / Detalhes / Green Eyes / La Mucura / A la Antigua / Frenesi / Vereda Tropical / Lisbon Antigua / La Mer / Patricia, It's Patricia / La Bikina / Tico Tico

After a discussion on the Yahoo! Ray Conniff Discussion Board whether "Lo Esencial" should be written with a double-s or not and what exactly the meaning of "Esencial" was, Doug Mitchell wrote the following:

To end the debate about the meaning of esencial, I looked up definitions in my online dictionary: Es·en·ci·al (adj.) 1. uninspired packaging 2. no details 3. no liner notes 4. inaccurate dates

The GOOD - for the first time on a Sony Discos Ray Conniff compilation, the sound quality is quite good. I suspect they got fresh copies of the recordings. The BAD - There are no liner notes or song details. Some of the songs show a release date but not all of them are accurate. (Green Eyes shows 1974, Lisbon Antigua shows 1965.) The UGLY - the only photo is a blurry, black & white reproduction of the cover photo from Fantastico with a dark background. Does Sony not have any more photos of Ray in their archives?

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These CD's definitely are bootlegs:



RAY CONNIFF GRANDES EXITOS VOL. 2

(Argentina, GLD Distribuidora, GK 28521, poor quality)

Love Is A Many-Splendored Thing / Smoke Gets in Your Eyes / As Time Goes By / Only You / Greenfields / Moscow Nights / The Song from Moulin Rouge / My Prayer / 's Wonderful / Blue Moon / Gigi / On The Street Where You Live / Rhapsody in Blue / Never on Sunday / Tempta-

(Track details of Vol. 1 were featured in the last edition of 's Conniff on page 14.)



RAY CONNIFF CON SU ORQUESTA Y COROS

(**Spain**, DigiMusic, released December 27, 2004)

CD#1: Say It With Music / Brazil / Beyond the Sea (La Mer) / Tico Tico / Too Young / That Old Feeling / I've Got You Under My Skin / As Time Goes By / Green Eyes / Someone to Watch Over Me / Be My Love / 's Wonderful / Where or When / Moonlight Serenade / Mack the Knife / All the Things You Are / Blue Moon



CD#2: Besame Mucho / The Continental / Morgen (One More Sunrise) / Smoke Gets in Your Eyes / April in Paris / Stranger in Paradise / Night and Day / Paradise / Say It Isn't So / Softly, As in a Morning Sunrise / Deep Purple / Temptation / In the Still of the Night / The Way You Look Tonight / I Hear a Rhapsody / You Do Something to Me / I've Told Ev'ry Little Star

But what about these? I am not so sure... If you can confirm they are (not), please let me know.



Front over

MP3 COLLECTION

This CD became available in Russia at the end of September 2004. Its No. is RMG 1389. The CD features mp3 files of the following albums: Dance the Bop!, 's Marvelous, 's Awful Nice, Concert in Rhythm Vol.1, Hollywood in Rhythm, Just Kiddin' Around, En Español, This is My Song, Jean, We've Only Just Begun, Love Story, Love Affair, and Bridge Over Troubled Water.



Back cover

No cover art available for the following discs from Argentina:

RAY CONNIFF: SUS GRANDES EXITOS, VOL. 1/12

(Argentina, label: Teltron, released September 2004)

12 discs, Volume 1: Charlotte's Web / I Will Survive Volume 2: Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song / Theme from S.W.A.T. and Other TV Themes Volume 3: After the Lovin' / Exitos Latinos Volume 4: Exclusivamente Latino / Entre Amigos Volume 5: Laughter in the Rain / Say You Say Me Volume 6: The Way We Were / The Happy Sound of Ray Conniff (In The Mood) Volume 7: Amor, Amor / Fantastico Volume 8: Siempre Latino / Campeones Volume 9: 's Awful Nice / Just Kiddin' Around Volume 10: It's The Talk of the Town / The Happy Beat Volume 11: 's Wonderful / 's Marvelous Volume 12: Memories Are Made of This / Somebody Loves Me

CD's can be purchased separately. Price per CD: \$ 35.00 inclusive of registered air mail postage from Mario Rossi (see address on the following page)

ES MAGICO / CONOCES EL CAMINO A SAN JOSÈ?

(Argentina, January 2005, CBS CD 9869 / 9923)

Up, Up and Away / Honey / Love Is Blue / Say A Little Prayer / Don't Sleep in The Subway / Yesterday / By The Time I Get To Phoenix / The Impossible Dream / Goin' Out Of My Head / The Sounds of Silence / Spanish Eyes / Kiss Me Goodbye / Do You Know The Way To San Jose? / I Love How You Love Me / Hold Me Tight / Angel Of The Morning / Little Green Apples / Harper Valley P.T.A. / Sunny / Wichita Lineman / Hey Jude / Scarborough Fair/Canticle / Can't Take My Eyes Off You / Those Were The Days.

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YO TE AMO, YO TAMPOCO / CANDIDA

(Argentina, January 2005, CBS CD 18987 / 19073)

Jean / A Man Without Love / I'll Never Fall In Love Again / Spinning Wheel / The Power Of Love / Love Made A Fool Of Me / Je T'Aime...Mois Non Plus (Love at First Sight) / Love Me Tonight / A Time For Us / Love Can Make You Happy / Aquarius & Let The Sunshine In / Candida / Close To You / What Have They Done To My Song, Ma? / Everything Is Beautiful / Make It With You / We've Only Just Begun / Snowbird / I'll Be There / You've Made Me So Very Happy / Everybody Knows / Let It Be.

EN ESPAÑOL / LOS MAS GRANDES EXITOS

(Argentina, January 2005, CBS CD 9721 / 19055)

Days Of Wine And Roses / Invisible Tears / Downtown / Taking a Chance On Love / Happiness Is / Love Is A Many Splendored Thing / Red Roses For A Blue Lady / Dear Heart / Three Coins in The Fountain / Hi Lili, Hi Lo / Mam'selle / Everybody Loves Somebody / Besame Mucho / Yellow Rose / Only You / Patricia, It's Patricia / Melodie d'Amour / Green Eyes / Brazil / Stompin' At The Savoy / Blue Moon / Deep In The Heart Of Texas / Rhapsody In Blue / The Continental.

ROSAS EN LA OSCURDAD - EXITOS EN RITMO

(Argentina, January 2005, CBS CD 19092 / 19125)

Rosa / Sweet Caroline / It's Impossible / Come Saturday Morning / For The Good Times / Love Story / Rose Garden / El Condor Pasa / If You Could Read My Mind / My Sweet Lord / For All We Know / Happy Together / It's Too Late / I Don't Know How to Love Him / A Taste Of Honey / Never Can Say Goodbye / Conniff's Dance Of The Hours / Tijuana Taxi / Put Your Hand In The Hand / I Want To Hold Your Hand / Delilah / Superstar.

PLAYAS SOMNOLIENTAS -- NUEVAMENTE SOLO

(Argentina, January 2005, CBS CD 19199 / 19237)

Sleepy Shores / Without You / Imagine / I've Found Someone of My Own / A Horse With No Name / The Way Of Love / Love Theme from "The Godfather / I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing / The Summer Knows / Precious And Few / Hurting Each Other / The First Time Ever Saw Your Face / Alone Again Naturally / Too Young / Because / Brandy / Where Is The Love / Cherish / Song Sung Blue / Daddy Don't You Walk So Fast / I Need You / The Happiest Girl in the Whole U.S.A. / Run To Me / Cabaret.

ES LA FELICIDAD / LAGRIMAS INVISIBLES

(Argentina, January 2005, CBS CD 9607 / 9087)

For All We Know / Love Is A Many Splendored Thing / Supercalifragilistic expialidocious / Try A Little Tenderness / Dear Heart / Mam'selle / Happiness Is / Three Coins In The Fountain / Taking a Chance On Love /Hi Lili, Hi Lo / A Spoonful Of Sugar / Miss You / Everybody Loves Somebody / Melodie d'Amour / I Only Have Eyes For You / Singing The Blues / Somebody Loves Me / Oh Lonesome Me / Blue Moon / Invisible Tears / Are You Lonesome Tonight? / The Green Leaves Of Summer / Waiting For The Evening Train / If I Knew Then

Fans who are interested in any CD's from Argentina please contact

Mr Mario Luis Kocian Rossi, Sucre 2815, C 1428 DVY Buenos Aires, Argentina (Fax: +51-(0)11-47846974). Note: As the CBS label has not been in existence for quite a few years I doubt that they revived it for the release of the discs above, and that is why I believe these are bootlegs. Besides, no information is available on the Internet. This may prove that these discs are simply "home-made".

Recommended Conniff-related Websites:



Jorge Iório's Lyrics Page





Chris Couldrey's Australian Tribute Page



Doug's Mitchell's Ray Conniff Page

OPINION - Editorial

Artie Shaw: No Regrets

By TAMARA CONNIFF

Artie Shaw died Dec. 30, 2004, at his home in Thousand Oaks, Calif. An obituary appeared in the January 15, 2005 edition on page 8. The following is a tribute by Billboard's co-executive editor.

Six months ago, I had the pleasure of spending a sunny California afternoon with Artie Shaw. I had tracked him down to talk about my late dad, Ray Conniff. He played trombone and arranged for three

of Shaw's bands. I was thirsting for some insight into the swing era, into Shaw's world and who my dad was as a young man. I think somehow I wanted to touch my dad through Shaw.

I was nervous—it somehow seemed daunting to sit down with one of the greatest clarinet players of all time. Shaw was the rock star of his day. He married and dated the most glamorous women (including Lana Turner, Rita Hayworth, Ava Gardner and Evelyn Keyes) and had groupies following him around the country.

Shaw sat in his living room, sun on his face, a view of his swimming pool and garden. This great man, who at 94 spoke with extreme spiritual clarity, enraptured me.

"I look back at my life; that's all I've got to do now," Shaw said. "I look back at my life, and I have no regrets. I can't think of anything I did that I'm sorry about. It was what I had to do then. Would I do that now? No. I'm no longer that guy. But what I did was what I wanted to do."

I was endlessly curious about why Shaw hung up his clarinet in 1954 to pursue his dream of being a writer.

"You can't do both," Shaw said. "Writing is more scope. It's broader. For me, that's the major medium. Music can be fine. But I was not aspiring to be that. I had done all I wanted to do with music when I quit."

"Did you always want to be a writer?" I asked.

Shaw nodded. "Yeah, from the beginning. But I knew enough to know I couldn't support myself. I had a talent for music, and the better I got, the more money I made, and the more I got tangled up in it. Life took over, until I finally had enough guts to say, 'I'm through with it.' People say, 'Why did he quit? Why did he quit?' You can't explain that."

Shaw had no regrets about retiring from music, mainly because he said he created one of the best big bands to ever grace the stage. My father was

lucky enough to be a part of that particular Shaw incarnation, which also featured Billy Butterfield (and later Hot Lips Page) on trumpet, Johnny Guarnieri on piano and Georgie Auld on tenor sax. I grew up hearing stories about this band. My father and I would sit for hours listening to cuts, admiring the musicianship, the excellence and spirit of such great players working together.

"There is a very curious thing about playing swing," Shaw explained. "One night, we had a night in a place, it had a low ceiling, and it was a big band with strings. And we hit a groove. It happened. It

just suddenly took over. Swing is when your band is doing what it does unconsciously."

My dad once described that same night to me. "Everything was just perfect," he said. "The band just starts to swing. It's like there's something in the air, and we're all tuned in together. It's so exciting, it's so electric, that the audience catches on and they stop dancing, and they crowd around and just listen."

Shaw and my dad and the musicians on that stage all experienced the same magic. It's something that happens

very rarely, but when it does, it leaves its mark forever. My dad never forgot that night, and he judged many of his future bands against it. It's like a high you always want to get back. I think Shaw in many ways felt the same, and he quit while he was on top of his musical game so he could hold that memory intact.

"I tried everything there was," Shaw said. "I ended doing it as well as you could do it; that's why I quit. I got to a place where I thought, 'What am I going to do now? Spend the rest of my life trying to play a better G?' "

I like to think of that band being reunited now in heaven, with my dad on trombone, Hot Lips Page on trumpet, Shaw on clarinet and Guarnieri tearing up the keys.

What I hope most of all is that we never forget these greats. I hope we bring out these albums, these magic moments, and play them for generations to come. It is our history, our heritage, our culture and our greatness. Shaw's recording of "Begin the Beguine" is timeless. I sometimes feel like our musical culture is slipping away from us. These jazz cats were the first rebels. They broke the rules to make music that breathed and had swing. Thank you, Artie Shaw. I thank you for those memories. We all thank you for the music.

(Reprinted with Tamara's kind permission)

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Pete Jolly

Born Peter Ceragioli, 5 June 1932, New Haven, Connecticut / Died 6 November 2004, Pasadena, California



Pete Jolly lived a double life as studio ace by day and jazz cat by night for over 40 years. A member of the musicians union since his teens, he settled in Los Angeles in his early 20s and became a member of Shorty Rogers' Giants, one of the leading West Coast jazz groups. He also began working as a studio musician in the mid-1950s and decided to divide his energy between the security of studio work and the artistic satisfaction of playing jazz in local clubs in Los Angeles.

Jolly's father, also named Peter, was a superb accordion player, and he started the boy on the instrument not long after weaning. By the time Jolly was seven, his father was taking him by train to New York City once a week to take lessons from the great Joe Biviano, and when he was eight, he made his first broadcast appearance, billed as "The Boy Wonder Accordionist" on CBS Radio's "Hobby Lobby." The show's emcee messed up his name, announcing him as "Pete Jolly," but the boy liked the sound of it and used it ever after.

Jolly moved with his family to Phoenix, Arizona, where he became friends with another future studio ace, guitarist Howard Roberts. While still in high school, Jolly managed to get a regular job leading the house trio at a local club, the Jazz Mill, where he played behind such touring jazz starts as Chet Baker and Benny Carter.

After graduating, he kept working at the Jazz Mill, but after a few years, Roberts, who'd moved to Los Angeles,

convinced Jolly to move west. In 1954, he arrived, and within days, was hired to play with one of the hottest stars of West Coast Jazz, Shorty Rogers. In a town with no shortage of good piano players, Jolly's exceptional technical skills, rock-solid rhythm, and somewhat self-effacing style made him a hot commodity among jazz stars looking to round out a combo. Over the next ten years, he recorded with most of the best talents passing

through L.A.: Gerry Mulligan, Mel Torme, Red Norvo, Buddy De Franco, Terry Gibbs, Art Pepper, Anita O'Day, and Marty Paich.

He also began his own long recording career, with a 1955 album, Jolly Jumps In for RCA. Over the next forty-five years, Jolly would record over twenty albums, but rarely more than twice with the same label. The highlight of his career came in 1963, when his bossa-nova flavored composition, "Little Bird," recorded for Ava Records, earned him a Grammy nomination.

Ironically, the peak of his recording career also marked the beginning of nearly three decades of steady, well-paying, but often anonymous, work as a studio musician. Among studio players, Jolly wasn't far behind Carol Kaye, Roberts, Tommy Tedesco, and Hal Blaine when it came to quantity and quality. He was a favorite of artists ranging from Neal Hefti and Don Costa to Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass and Anita Kerr. Ray Conniff used Jolly for piano and organ on virtually all his recordings

from the early 1960s on, and their association continues today with Conniff's latest CDs.

Jolly played on the soundtracks of hundreds of films and television series, including "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "M*A*S*H," "Dallas," "I Spy," "Mannix," "The Love Boat," and "Get Smart." He was also Herb Alpert's favorite pianist, and can be heard on the opening bars of Alpert's 1968 #1 hit, "This Guy's in Love."

While keeping up a heavy schedule of studio sessions, Jolly never lost the need to exercise his jazz chops on a regular basis. He, bassist Chuck Berghofer, and drummer Nick Martinis, who were also busy on the studio scene, kept the trio they'd begun around the time of "Little Bird" going.

They played their first club session at the Red Chimney in 1964, and in 1965, they opened the famed Los Angeles jazz club Donte's, where they remained a club staple for over 20 years. VSOP Records released several CDs in the mid-1990s that featured live recordings by the trio made at Donte's. As one club folded, the group just moved along to another one. In the end, they managed to appear at least once a month for forty years, right up to the time of Jolly's hospitalization for bone marrow cancer in August 2004.

Alpert paid his compliments to Jolly's jazz talents by releasing three albums on his A&M record label, the sole mainstream jazz albums on the label until Alpert lured in producer Creed Taylor and his stable of artists from Verve. On the last of these, Seasons, Jolly displays his prowess with an array of keyboards, including the Wurlitzer electric piano, the Hammond Organ, the Musette, the Sonovox, and the accordion.

Despite his early mastery of the accordion, Jolly's re-

cordings with the instrument are few or anonymous. He squeezes a mea squeebox on Continental Jazz by "Les Cinqs Moderne," a Gallic version of Somerset's Hawaiian super group, The Surfmen. Among musicians in the L.A. area, though, Jolly was considered one of the best accordion players around.

It's a shame that Jolly never got the popular recognition as a soloist he deserved. His style is so sure yet so light and flowing, it belies

the depth of skill behind it. There are pianists--most notoriously, Oscar Peterson--who build their style around an ability to play exceptionally fast and well. Jolly could play every bit as fast as Peterson, but always let the tune take the showcase.

The same is true of Berghofer and Martinis--they never used a solo to show off, which may be why the three worked together so well. That means, however, that their work tended to get overlooked by audiences who preferred flashier acts. But take a listen to Jolly's wonderful version of Bacharach's "Windows of the World" elsewhere on this site, and you'll have to agree that it fits Mickey McGowan's definition of a great record: it can be played in the background without disturbing you, and played in the foreground without boring you.

It will be a long time before another pianist like Pete Jolly comes around.

Source: http://www.spaceagepop.com/jolly.htm

's Conniff 2005: Unreleased and Rare Recordings

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Here is a list of **other rare items** - either singles or unreleased recordings, which hopefully will either appear as bonus tracks on future Collectables CD's or on "The Singles, Vol. II". As you can see, there is plenty of material to choose from. I also listed the ones released already on other CDs so that Sony / Collectables know which ones not to include in the next volume.

Cuddle Up A Little Closer	Ray, vocal solo, January 30, 1957; single c/w "Three Way Love"		
Three Way Love	Ray, vocal solo, January 30, 1957; single c/w "Cuddle Up A Little Closer"		
Walkin' And Whistlin'	January 30, 1957; single c/w "Melody for Two Guitars"; track released on "The Essential Ray Conniff" (US version)		
The Ritz Roll And Rock	June 18, 1957 (pseudonym "Jay Raye"); single c/w "Ann's Theme"		
Ann's Theme	June 18, 1957 (pseudonym "Jay Raye"); single c/w "The Ritz Roll and Rock"		
Melody For Two Guitars	July 22, 1957; single c/w "Walkin' And Whistlin"		
Steel Guitar Rock	August 20, 1957 (pseudonym "Jay Raye"); single c/w "Finnesse"		
Finnesse	August 20, 1957 (pseudonym "Jay Raye"); single c/w "Steel Guitar Rock"		
Symphony of Love	September 13, 1957; single c/w "Park Avenue Beat (Theme from The Perry Mason Show)", recorded during the sessions for "'s Marvelous"		
Park Avenue Beat (Theme from "The Perry Mason Show")	September 13, 1957; single c/w "Symphony of Love", track released in stereo on "Television Themes: 16 Most Requested Songs"		
They Tried to Tell Me	March 5, 1959; single c/w "Early Evening", recorded during the sessions for "It's The Talk of the Town"		
Midnight Lace, Part II	September 8, 1960; single c/w "Midnight Lace, Part I"		
Midnight Lace, Part III	September 8, 1960; as featured on "The Essential Ray Conniff" (titled "Midnight Lace, Part II")		
Scarlet	January 17, 1963; single c/w "Popsy", track released on "The Essential Ray Conniff" (US version)		
Man from Mars	May 15, 1964; unreleased		
This Is My Beloved	March 23, 1966; unreleased		
Lookin' For Love	March 25, 1966; single c/w "It Takes Two"; track released on "The Many Moods of Ray Conniff" in mono		
Wednesday's Child	November 11, 1966; single c/w "Mame", track released on "Instrumental Favorites" (stereo, no fade-out)		
Seventeen	February 9, 1967; single c/w "The World Will Smile Again"; track released on "The Essential Ray Conniff" (US version)		
Winds of Change (instrumental version)	May 9, 1967; only released on the original soundtrack album of "How to Save a Marriage and Ruin Your Life"		
Winds of Change	May 9, 1967; single c/w "We're A Home"; track released on "The Essential Ray Conniff" (US version) in stereo		
Song of the Islands	June 12, 1967, unreleased		
My Tane	June 14, 1967, unreleased		
Tin Roof Blues	October 14, 1968; single c/w "Muskrat Ramble"		
Muskrat Ramble	October 14, 1968; single c/w "Tin Roof Blues"		
A Banda	April 26, 1969; single c/w "La Felicidad"; released in mono on the US version of "The Essential Ray Conniff"		
La Bostella	April 26, 1969; unreleased		
Love At First Sight (Je T'Aime Moi Non Plus)	September 11, 1969; single c/w "Love Made A Fool Of Me"; track released on "Love Songs" in stereo		
Listen to Your Heart	February 27, 1970; unreleased		
Rose Nel Buio	Recorded in Italy in early 1971; single c/w "Everybody Knows"		
II Picchio	Recorded in Italy in early 1971; single c/w "Someone"		
With Every Beat of My Heart	May 19, 1971; single c/w "Sleepy Shores"; track released on "The Essential Ray Conniff" (US version)		

's	Conniff	2005:	Unreleased	and	Rare	Recordings
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Favorites				
Instrumental version, recorded on April 12, 1973; unreleased May 14, 1973; unreleased December 22, 1973; unreleased December 22, 1973; unreleased April 12, 1974; single ow "There Was A Girl & Killing Me Sofily"; track leased on "The Best of Ray Conntif" I Will Follow Him May 13, 1974; unreleased April 12, 1974; single ow "There Was A Girl & Killing Me Sofily"; track leased on "The Best of Ray Conntif" I Will Follow Him May 13, 1974; unreleased February 17, 1975; previously released on a single and only recently on the version of "The Fessential Ray Comitif" and as bonus track on "Another Sonebody Wrong Song" / "Love Will Keep Us Together" Movember 30, 1976; unreleased November 30, 1976; unreleased November 30, 1976; unreleased June 18, 1979; unreleased June 18, 1979; unreleased June 18, 1979; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1987; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1987; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1987; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1987; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1987; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1987; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; unreleased I Can Do All Things July 31, 1986; un	Charlotte's Web	November 15, 1972; single c/w "Someone"; track released on "36 All-Time Favorites"		
Hands of Love What'll I Do May 14, 1973; unreleased What'll I Do May 14, 1973; unreleased Half-Breed December 22, 1973; unreleased All I Know December 22, 1973; unreleased April 12, 1974; single c/w "There Was A Girl & Killing Me Softly"; track leased on "The Best of Ray Comiff" I Will Follow Him I Sonly A Paper Moon October 21, 1974; 2 different versions, both unreleased February 17, 1975; previously released as bonus track Another Somebody Wong Song" "Love Will Keep Us gether" Another Somebody Wong Song" "Love Will Keep Us Together" Will Guck Walk) November 30, 1976; unreleased February 17, 1975; unreleased on a single and only recently on the version of "The Essential Ray Comiff" and as bonus track on "Another Somebody Wrong Song" "Love Will Keep Us Together" Neltody November 30, 1976; unreleased February 17, 1975; unreleased Febru	The Free Electric Band	April 10, 1973; unreleased		
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Con The Run	Your Book	February 17, 1975; unreleased		
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Ray Conniff posthu-

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awards with the Plati-

num certification of

Christmas With Con-

niff and the Gold certi-

fication of his Greatest

Usher "Confesses" Seven Million Times Big & Rich Become First Country Artist To Earn Digital Award, **Marvelettes Receive First Gold Singles**

WASHINGTON, November 4, 2004 - Already the best selling record, thus far, of 2004, Usher's Confes-

sions added another two million units to its overall tally in October after being certified six times Platinum on October 7th and subsequently seven times Platinum just 20 days later according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). With Confessions topping the sales of his previous best seller, 1997's My Way (six times Platinum), the man born Usher Raymond has sold more than 18

million albums in the United States. As part of the RIAA's newly launched digital sales award program, Usher also picked up a pair of Gold awards when both "Yeah!" and "Burn" were each certified for sales of more than 100,000 downloads. Muzik Mafia members Big & Rich received a digital Gold sales award

for their wildly popular song "Save A Horse, Ride A Cowboy," giving them the distinction of being the first country artist to receive an award under the RIAA's new Their Warner Bros. Nashville program. debut, Horse Of A Different Color, was

certified Platinum in August. It was a strong month for some of Motown's finest as The Marvelettes earned their first-ever pair of Gold singles for the legendary songs "Please Mr. Postman" and "Don't Mess Another Motown staple, The Jackson With Bill." Five, amazingly earned their first Gold album as well when 20th Century Masters – The Best of The Jackson Five was certified for sales of more than 500,000 copies. Finally, the now defunct Commodores received their seventh Gold record for their "best of" collection, 20th Century Masters – The Best of The Commodores. Kenny Chesney had an excellent month as his latest BNA Records release, When The Sun Goes Down, was certified triple Platinum. In addition, Chesney earned a double Platinum award for the longform video of the same name as well as a Platinum video award for Road Case.

Two of the hottest new bands in music, Breaking Benjamin and The Killers, earned their respective first Gold records when We Are Not Alone and Hot Fuss were each certified for sales of more than half a million copies.

Toby Keith added another 1.5 million in album sales, bringing his total album sales to 16.5 million, after the quadruple Platinum certification of Shock 'N Y'all and the Gold certification of 20th Century Masters - The Best of Toby Keith. Sara Evans picked up her first RIAA multi-Platinum award for her album Born To Fly. Both of Evans' other recordings for the RCA Label Group, No Place That Far and Restless have

each previously been certified Gold. Using his stage name Five For Fighting, John Ondrasik received his first RIAA Platinum album for his 2000 Columbia debut, America Town. His latest release, The Battle For Everything, was certified Gold in May 2004. Ondrasik also picked up a Gold award under the RIAA's digital sales program for 100,000 downloads

> of the track "100 Years." Gary Levox, Jay DeMarcus and Joe Don Rooney, better known as red-hot country trio Rascal Flatts, earned their third consecutive Platinum album when their latest release, Feels Like Today, was certified for sales of more than

one million copies. Orchestral pop icon Ray Conniff

Hits album posthumously earned a pair of awards with the Platinum certification of

Christmas With Conniff and the Gold certification of his Greatest Hits album.

Two solo female artists from opposite ends of the musical spectrum received their first Gold records in Oc-

The legendary Etta James' 20th Century Masters – The Best of Etta James and newcomer Ciara's Goodies both passed the 500,000 sales mark.

The RIAA awarded a total of seven multi-Platinum, seven Platinum and 17 Gold albums in October.

All certifications are calculated by Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman. Complete lists of all album, single and video awards for October 2004 can be accessed at www.riaa.com.

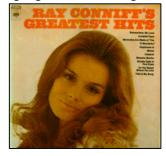
Thanks to Tamara Conniff for providing this great news item!



I must confess I had always suspected, Ray's first album Christmas went platinum or even doubleplatinum many years ago, as it seems to be one of the most popular Christmas albums ever. Mention the name of Ray Conniff to an American, and he will say,

"Ah, we used to play his Christmas album when I was a kid, and we still do." It amazes me, however, to see the "Greatest Hits" album go gold, which is great

(don't get me wrong). compilation never been released on CD in the States (but elsewhere). So, why did it go gold in 2004 long after LP's died? This gold album is for sales in the US only, or am I wrong?



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From

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Ray Conniff (Christian name Joseph Raymond Coniff) born November 6, 1916 in Attleboro, Massachusetts, USA, and died October 12, 2002, Escondido, California, USA) was an American musician. He was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, and learned to play the trombone from his father. He studied music arranging from a course book.

After he was in the United States Army in World War II where he worked under Walter Schumann, he was hired by Mitch Miller, then head of A & R at Columbia Records as their home arranger, and he worked with several artists, including Rosemary Clooney, Marty Robbins, Frankie Laine, Johnny Mathis, Guy Mitchell and Johnnie Ray. He wrote a top 10 arrangement for Don Cherry's "Band of Gold" in 1955, a single that sold more than a million copies.

Amongst the hit singles he backed with his orchestra (and eventually with a male chorus) were "Yes Tonight Josephine" and "Just Walkin' in the Rain" by Johnnie Ray; "Chances Are" and "It's Not for Me to Say" by Johnny Mathis; "A White Sport Coat" and "The Hanging Tree" by Marty Robbins; "Up Above My Head," a duet by Marty Robbins and Johnnie Ray, and "Pet Me, Poppa" by Rosemary Clooney. He also backed up the albums "Tony" by Tony Bennett,

"Blue Swing" by Eileen Rodgers, "Swingin' for Two" by Don Cherry. and half the tracks of "The Big Beat" by Johnnie Ray.

In these early years he also produced some similar sounding records for Columbia's Epic label under the name of Jay Raye (which stands for "Joseph Raymond") amongst them a backing album and singles with Somethin' Smith & The Redheads, an American male vocal group.

Due to the success of his backings Mitch Miller allowed him to make his own record, and this became the successful "S Wonderful", a collection of standards that were recorded with an orchestra and a wordless singing chorus (four boys, four girls). He released many more albums in the same vein, including "Dance The Bop" (1957), "S Marvellous" (1957, gold album), "S Awful Nice" (1958), "Concert in Rhythm" (1958, gold album), "Hollywood in Rhythm" (1958), "Broadway in Rhythm" (1959), and "Concert in Rhythm, Volume II" (1959, gold album).

In 1959 he started the Ray Conniff Singers (12 girls and 13 boys) and released the album "It's the Talk of the Town. This group of word — not just syllable —

singing singers brought him the biggest hit he ever had in his career: "Somewhere My Love" (1966). The title track of the album (also called "Lara's Theme") was written for the film "Doctor Zhivago" (1965), and was a top 10 single in the US. The album also reached the US top 20 and went platinum, and Conniff won a Grammy. The single and album reached high positions in the international charts (a.o. Australia, Germany, Great Britain, Japan) as well. Also extraordinarily successful was the first of four Christmas albums by the Singers, "Christmas with Conniff" (1959). Nearly fifty years after its release, in 2004, Conniff posthumously was awarded with a platinum album/CD.

Musically different highlights in Conniff's career are two albums he produced in cooperation with Billy Butterfield, an old buddy from earlier swing days. "Conniff Meets Butterfield" (1960) featured Butterfield's solo trumpet and a small rhythm group; "Just Kiddin' Around" (after a Conniff original composition from the 1940's), released 1963, featured additional trombone solos by Ray himself. Both albums are pure light jazz and did not feature any vocals.

Later in the 1960's he produced an average of two instrumental and one vocal album a year. Among these are (Original albums only):

(This is followed by a list of all of Ray's albums and the year they were released.)

Between 1957 and 1968, he had 28 albums in the American Top 40, the most famous one being "Somewhere My Love" (1966). He topped the album list in Britain in 1969 with "His Orchestra, His

Chorus, His Singers, His Sound". He also was the first American popular artist

to record in Russia—in 1974 he recorded "Ray Conniff in Moscow" with the help of a local choir. His later albums like "Exclusivamente Latino", "Amor Amor" and "Latinisimo" made him very popular in Latin-American countries. In Brazil he was treated like a young pop superstar in the 1980s and 1990s when he was in his 70s and 80s. He even

played live with his orchestra and eight-person chorus in large football stadiums.

Ray Conniff was a quiet, modest sympathetic artist. He always worked in the background so that in the fifties there were rumours that this man didn't even exist and his name was just a name fake as then his orchestral sound was so sensational. Nevertheless he sold about 70 million albums world-wide and continued recording and performing until his death in 2002. He is interred in the Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery in Los Angeles, California.

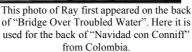
Recently, a memorial two-CD compilation set, "The Essential Ray Conniff", was released, featuring many rare and previously unreleased tracks.

Rare

around



I discovered this unusual cover of "Christmas with Conniff" from Colombia on the Internet on the "ebay" pages.





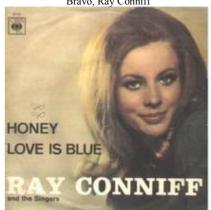
One of the first singles by Ray released in Germany.
The photo was also used for the German release of
the "Say It With Music" album, which was re-titled
"Bravo, Ray Conniff"



This LP featured an unusual compilation of tracks from 2 Singers albums.



This is the front cover of a compilation LP from Czechoslovakia.



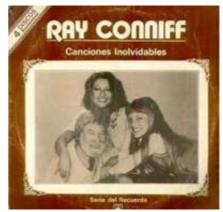
A single from Australia.



This cover photo of the "Hi Fi Companion" 2 LP set was re-used for the German version of "The Essential Ray Conniff" in 2004.



Here you can see the first release of "Hi Fi Companion" on the Philips label in the UK.



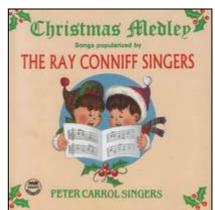
The Conniff Family on the cover of a 4 LP set from Peru



"Ray Conniff Around the World", an EP from the UK.



The cover of the "Invisible Tears" single released in The Netherlands.



At the second glance only, the buyer learns that this is not a CD by Ray. In smaller print it says "songs popularized by...". (From the Philippines.)

Synopsis

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Liebe Ray Conniff Fans,

1981 produzierte ich zum ersten Mal den "Ray Conniff Newsletter", aus dem später das Clubmagazin "'s Conniff" wurde. Meist erschien es 4x im Jahr. In diesem Jahr (wie auch im letzten) jedoch nur 1x – und zum letzten Mal überhaupt, so leid es mir tut. Ich habe meine Entscheidung schon mehrfach angekündigt und sie mit meiner neuen beruflichen Situation begründet. Als kleines Trostpflaster gibt es das 2. Fotoalbum gratis für alle Clubmitglieder dazu.

Mein Dank dafür geht an Clemens Krauss (Layout und Auswahl) und an John Gay, dem großzügigen Druckereibesitzer aus Wales. Ich habe übrigens noch Restbestände vom Fotoalbum Nr. 1. Preise auf Anfrage.

Auf der Titelseite habe ich eine CD abgebildet, die schon seit Jahren mein Traum war, und von der ich nie geglaubt hätte, dass es sie wirklich geben würde. Sie enthält 26 Aufnahmen, die nur auf Singles (und nur für kurze Zeit und meistens nur in den USA) zu haben waren. Die Leute von Sony und Collectables haben sich die Mühe gemacht, die alten Bänder herauszusuchen und sie zum Teil neu abzumischen, denn einige stammen noch aus der Zeit, als Singles in Mono waren und eine Stereofassung nicht erforderlich war. In zwei Fällen fanden sie offensichtlich keine Stereobänder, aber das schmälert die Freude an dieser CD keinesfalls.

Inzwischen habe ich Kontakt mit dem Verantwortlichen bei Sony, Jeff James. Er wurde auf mich aufmerksam durch meine Ray Conniff-Internetseite. Er bot mir an, an weiteren Projekten dieser Art mitzuwirken. Ich hoffe, dass die 2. Folge der "Singles Collection" weitere Schätze enthalten wird. Material gibt es jedenfalls genug. (In dieser Ausgabe ist eine zweiseitige Liste, die auch Jeff James hat. Mal sehen, was er davon auswählen wird.)

Im Frühjahr 2005 hat Collectables 4 weitere CDs von Ray auf den Markt gebracht. Besonders erwähnenswert ist die CD mit den Alben "Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song" / "Love Will Keep Us Together", denn hier gibt es zum ersten (und hoffentlich nicht zum letzten Mal) Bonustitel. Darunter ist eine bisher unveröffentlichte Aufnahme mit dem Titel "Jackie Blue".

Wieder einmal hieß es Abschied nehmen – und zwar von zwei weiteren Weggefährten von Ray: Artie Shaw und Pete Jolly. Nachrufe befinden sich in dieser Ausgabe. Den für Artie Shaw hat Tamara Conniff geschrieben.

Es versteht sich von selbst, dass ich weiterhin dafür Sorge trage, dass alle Ray Conniff Fans informiert sind über Neuerscheinungen in aller Welt. Das werde ich allerdings nur im Inter-

net machen. Deshalb der gute Rat: Einfach ab und zu mal reinschauen (lassen). Vielleicht wird es ab und zu Seiten zum Runterladen und Ausdrucken geben. Ich denke, als Erstes wird es einen Bericht über die Ray Conniff Fan Club Convention in Cardiff geben. Ich freue mich auf das Wiedersehen mit vielen Freunden im Juni. Wir werden Teilnehmer haben aus den USA, Wales und England, Belgien, Spanien, Deutschland usw. Es soll übrigens auch in zwei Jahren wieder eine Convention geben. Wahrscheinlich findet sie in Brügge (Belgien) statt.

Ganz herzliche Grüße an alle deutschsprachigen Fans, Ihr / Euer / Dein

Hayfel

NEWS IN BRIEF



In October 2004, there was a tribute concert to Ray in El Salvador. Pictured her is band leader Bob Porter. Full details (in Spanish) can be found

on the Internet at http://www.elsalvador.com/noticias/2004/10/21/escenarios/esc6.asp

In April 2004, the 4 CD set (containing two compilation 2 CD sets, featured in 's Conniff 2004 on page 15) was released on the Som Livre label in Brazil. These two 2 CD sets are listed on the Internet by several online stores under the title "Coletânea Ray Conniff, Vol.1 and 2" (with the official release date August 31, 2004).

"The Essential Ray Conniff" (the version compiled for Germany) was officially released in Russia in January 2005.



This CD (COL 8081) is available from Collectables. It features two backings by Ray, "In the Candlelight" and "You Don't Owe Me a Thing". The latter, however, is a different take than most of you know. It does not feature the whistle solo. (For die-hard fans only!)

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CONNIFF

The International Ray Conniff Fan Club Magazine



is a publication for the discriminating collectors and admirers of the music of Ray Conniff.

It is compiled and edited by Manfred Thönicke, president of The Ray Conniff International Fan Club.

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For latest "Conniff News" please visit

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http://mthoenicke.privat.t-

online.de/rayconniff/index.htm (no "www."!)

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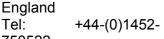
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The Lyrics Page (created by Jorge L.D.lorio): http://geocities.yahoo.com.br/connifflyrics/

Wendell Silva's Ray Conniff Tribute Page now both in English and Portuguese at

http://www.swonderful.mus.br/

