

Don't believe what the labels say...



DOLORES HAWKINS: "AW SHUCKS BABY"

Epic JZSP 43146 (matrix No., no record No., promo copy only; side B: "A Waltz to Remember")

Although the label says "Orchestra under the direction of Joe Sherman", "Aw Shucks Baby" was recorded on August 6, 1957 with Ray Conniff (after four tracks with Clare Nelson on the same date). Side B has nothing to do with Ray Conniff.



VIC DAMONE: "I ONLY KNOW I LOVE YOU"

Columbia (Canada) C4 2601 (c/w "Time on my Hands") and Philips B21957H/P.B.627 (c/w "I Cried for You", 78 rpm single) I do not know what the label of the Canadian single says, but according to the release on Philips (UK) the "Orchestra and Chorus [were] under the direction of Ray Conniff".

I once asked Ray whether this was an error by the record company, and he assured me, "I never made any recordings with Vic Damone". He did not even write arrangements for him. So I guess, the backing was made by Paul Weston or by Ray Ellis.



JO STAFFORD: "WIND IN THE WILLOW"

Columbia 40832 (c/w "King of Paris")

Whereas side B indeed was backed by Paul Weston, side A was not, although it was stated on the label.

Ray Conniff backed two tracks by Jo Stafford, "Wind in the Willow" and "On London Bridge", which both were recorded on October 14, 1956.



JO STAFFORD: "ON LONDON BRIDGE"

Columbia 40782 (c/w "Bells Are Ringing")

Whereas side B indeed was backed by "Paul Weston and his Music from Hollywood", side A was not, although it was stated on the label.

Ray Conniff backed two tracks by Jo Stafford, "Wind in the Willow" and "On London Bridge", which both were recorded on October 14, 1956.



GUY MITCHELL: "LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE"

Philips 322 320 BF (c/w "Butterfly Doll") / Columbia 41215

Ray Conniff really wrote an arrangement of this song for Guy Mitchell (as listed in his arranging bills). On November 14, 1957 Guy Mitchell recorded "Wonderin' And Worryin'", "The Lord Made a Peanut" and "One Way Street" with Ray Conniff, his orchestra and chorus. As the Guy Mitchell Discography lists the recording date of "Let It Shine, Let It Shine" being February 28, 1958, the song may have been rehearsed only during the above recording session, and the accompanying orchestra might indeed have been that of Jimmy Carroll (at the session of February 28, 1958), as stated on the label.

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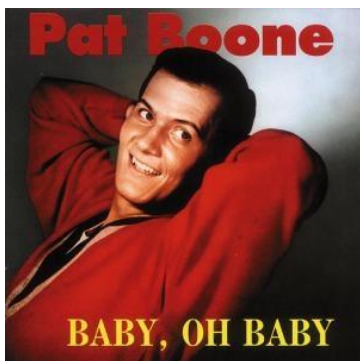


THE FOUR VOICES: "THE BIG EYE" / "DARLING, THANKS TO YOU" Columbia 40582

"With Orchestra under the direction of Fred Weismantel" is stated on both labels of this single record. However, I found the record listed as "Ray Conniff backings" on an internet discography, and it wouldn't surprise me if both sides were really arranged and accompanied by Ray. They both sound very much like the very first backings he did for Columbia in 1955.



THE FOUR LADS: "The Singles Collection" (Collectables CD, 2005) Track No. 18 ("No, Not Much") is listed as a recording backed by Ray Conniff, but it was Ray Ellis, who conducted the orchestra.



PAT BOONE: "Rosmarie", a song sung in German. The arrangement reminds of Ray Conniff's rendition of "Chanson d'amour". Maybe this is why some releases state "with Ray Conniff, his Orchestra and Chorus"; however, the backing was done by Tanzorchester Henry Mayer, die Sunnies und das Cornel-Trio". The cover shown belongs to an album released by Bear Family in 1992.

The following backings by Ray Conniff have remained unreleased so far (to my knowledge):

Recording dates	Singer(s)	Song title	Notes
July 26 1955	GUY MITCHELL	OLD FASHIONED SWEETHEART	Entries in Ray's diary: "Sessions from 9:30 to 12:30, Guy Mitchell out of voice, made tracks / paid"; title might also be "Old Fashioned Sweethearts"
July 26 1955	GUY MITCHELL	HOME TOWN RAG	Arrangement finished on July 25, 1955 / Entries in Ray's diary: "Sessions from 9:30 to 12:30, Guy Mitchell out of voice, made tracks / paid"
April 8 1956	CATHY JOHNSON	THESE LITTLE THINGS ARE YOU	
June 22 1956	MINDY CARSON	WE COULD MAKE SUCH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC	
August 2 1956	THE FOUR VOICES	COME ON BABY, LET ME SEE YOUR SMILE	According to arrangement bills also recorded on January 8, 1957
August 2 1956	THE FOUR VOICES	SCHOOL BELLS	
August 27 1956	THE BON BONS	STRANGER IN MY ARMS	
January 8 1957	THE FOUR VOICES	COME ON BABY, LET ME SEE YOUR SMILE	Cf. session of August 2, 1956; either dubbing session or re-recording
January 25 1957	MINDY CARSON	BON BON	
April 3 1957	EILEEN RODGERS	SAY IT FROM YOUR HEART	
June 18 1957	EILEEN BARTON	BELLS IN MY HEART	
July 21 1957	DON CHERRY	MAGGIE MAY	
Sept 24 1957	SOMETHIN' SMITH AND THE RED HEADS	IT'S GONNA SNOWFLOW	Personnel of session including Al Caiola, Billy Butterfield, a. o.
Sept 24 1957	SOMETHIN' SMITH AND THE RED HEADS	LOVE IS A GAMBLE	Personnel of this session including Tony Mottola, a.o.
Dec. 17 1957	EILEEN RODGERS	A BOTTOMLESS CUP	
August 27 1958	DON CHERRY	IT'S ME IT'S ME	

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