**PRODUCT INFO (CD-box-set)**  
**Artist**  
Various Artists  
**Title**  
The Bakersfield Sound 1940-1974  
**Label**  
Bear Family Productions  
**Catalog no.** BCD16036  
**Price code:** JI  
**EAN** 5397102160363  
**Format**  
10-CD boxed set (LPsize) with 220-page hardcover Book  
**Genre**  
Country  
**No. of tracks** 299  
**Release date** August 2, 2019

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**INFO:**

- The compelling story of how a country music cottage industry transformed Bakersfield into the Country Music Capital of the West, sometimes called 'Nashville West', a serious challenge to Nashville's commercial country dominance.
- This first sprawling multi-disc anthology begins with 1940s field recordings of migrants, all the way through 1974, with profiles on each artist.
- Including a larger number of previously unreleased studio and live recordings, radio recordings and demos.
- A treasure trove of Bakersfield history presenting country music stars Merle Haggard and Buck Owens, guitar hero Don Rich and dozens of artists like Ferlin Husky, Dallas Frazier, Jean Shepard, Wynn Stewart, Tommy Duncan, Red Simpson, Kay Adams, Duck Curless, Joe Maphis, David Frizzell, The Gosdin Brothers, Clarence White a.m.o.
- From hits to deep cuts to alternate takes to album tracks to live material, this set dives deeper into the Bakersfield Sound than ever before.
- Full-color illustrated 220-page hardcover book with a plethora of photos, many shown here for the first time, and track-by-track commentary.
- In depth analysis by Grammy-nominated Bakersfield Sound historian Scott B. Bomar.
- Foreword by Foo Fighters guitarist Chris Shiflett.

Buck Owens and Merle Haggard emerged from the dim lights, thick smoke and loud, loud music of Bakersfield, California's thriving honky-tonk scene of the 1950s and '60s and changed country music forever. But what is the 'Bakersfield Sound?' While twanging Telecasters and crying steel guitars come to mind, the music that emanated from Central California in that era reflected a variety of influences that was expressed in myriad ways.

"We represent the end results of all the years of country music in this town," Haggard once remarked about the California city that served as home base for the two Country Music Hall of Fame inductees. But how did the musical world from which Buck and Merle emerged come to be? How were the twin pillars of the Bakersfield Sound shaped by the city's larger musical community? Who were their influences, and what were the musical markers along their paths to success? In what ways did their achievements reshape the local scene from which they emerged?

This first sprawling multi-disc anthology of Bakersfield's country music heritage begins with 1940s field recordings of migrants who fled the ravages of dust and economic depression in search of a better life in California. It traces the development of the music they brought with them all the way through 1974, the last full year Merle Haggard made his home in Bakersfield, the year of Buck Owens' final Top 10 hit as a solo artist, and the year Bakersfield guitar hero Don Rich was killed in a motorcycle accident.
Sometimes called 'Nashville West,' Bakersfield became hotbed that fostered the careers of Ferlin Husky, Herb Henson, Jimmy Thomason, Billy Barton, Fuzzy Owen, Warner Talley, Jimmy Collins, Dallas Frazier, Sonny S locate, and countless others.

Collected here are a diverse range of recordings that includes Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys in a Bakersfield radio studio in the mid-1940s; previously unknown live recordings of Buck Owens and the Buckaroos at the very last of Buck's legendary annual Toys for Tots shows before Don Rich's death; unreleased recordings by Red Simpson, Billy Mize, Bonnie Owens, and Johnny Bond; radio broadcasts from the stage of the legendary Blackboard Café; and an early Bill Woods vanity record that predates any of his previously-known recorded output.

Rare recordings from early pioneers Tex Butler, Tex Marshall, and Ebb Pilling give a glimpse into the early days of the Bakersfield Sound while dozens of rare records from local labels of the 1950s, '60s and '70s are collected together for the first time. Many of the selections presented here have never been reissued, and few have seen the light of day since their initial release. In some cases, only a handful of 78 or 45 RPM records were pressed, and the songs have been long forgotten until now. From songwriting legend Harlan Howard's first recording for Tally Records to his then-wife Jan Howard's first known demo recording in Lewis Talley's Bakersfield studio to Barbara Mandrell's very first solo recording on Mosrite Records to legendary bandleader Johnny Barnett's only known single (the first song written by Merle Haggard to have ever been released), this collection is a treasure trove of Bakersfield history. From hits to deep cuts to alternate takes to album tracks to live material, this set dives deeper into the Bakersfield Sound than ever before.

The accompanying 220 page book includes hundreds of photos, a foreword by Foo Fighters guitarist Chris Shiflett, in depth analysis by Grammy-nominated Bakersfield Sound historian Scott B. Bomar, profiles on each artist, and a track-by-track commentary that puts the sprawling 10 CD collection in context to illuminate the story of how a country music cottage industry transformed Bakersfield into the Country Music Capital of the West and ignited speculation that the city could become a challenge to Nashville's commercial country dominance.

**TRACK LISTING:**

**CD 1:** Lloyd Stalcopy: The Cotton Picker's Song • Homer Pierce: Darlin' Baby • Jack Bryant: Sunny Cat • Mary Sullivan: Sunny California • Wayne 'Gene' Dinwiddie: Home In The Government Camp • King Family: Get Along Down To Town • Lloyd Reading: Home In San Antone • Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys: Opening Theme / Seven Come Eleven • Get Along Home Cindy • Elwin Cross and his Arizona Wranglers: Back In Dear Old Oklahoma • The Maddox Brothers and Rose: Okie Boogie • Bob Manning (vocal: Billy Gray): Reading Your Letter With Tears In My Eyes • Leon Payne: Lost Highway • Tex Marshall & Bill Woods: Hittin' The Trail • Tex 'Tex' Butler: When The Leaves Come Tumbling Down • Bill Woods / Cliff Crofford: Have I Got A Chance With You • The Maddox Brothers and Rose: Water Baby Blues (Boogie) • Terry Preston: (A Pretty Woman Is A) Deadly Weapon • I Want You So • Herb Henson: Funny Book • Jimmy Thomason: Honey Baby • Your Love Was Like The Weater • Hillbilly Barton: You Made Me Love You • Ebb Pilling and his Ozark Squirrel Shooters: Ozark Polka • Bill Woods and his Orange Blossom Playboys with Hillbilly Barton: A Heart Break Ago • Fuzzy & Bonnie Owens: A Dear John Letter • Bill Woods & Rita Goodwin: Dear John • Billy Mize with Bill Woods and his Orange Blossom Playboys: Pusan • Ferlin Husky: Hank's Song • Joe Maphis & Rose Lee: Dim Lights, Thick Smoke (And Loud, Loud Music) • Jean Shepard & Ferlin Husky: A John John Letter

**CD 2:** Tommy Collins: You Better Not Do That • Dallas Frazier: Ain't You Had No Bringin' Up At All • Bud Hobb's: Louisiana Swing • Forest Lee & Clete Stewart: When I Hold You • Buck Owens: Down On The Corner Of Love • Dave Stogner with Al Brumley: Stepping Stones • Herb Henson & Joyce Yours: Out Of Line • Semie Moseley: When The Saints Go Marching In • Jean Shepard: Take Possession • The Farmer Boys: It Pays To Advertise • Wynn Stewart: Why Do I Love You So • Tommy Duncan: Crazy Mixed Up Kid • Johnny Taylor: Sad Sad Saturday Night • Wanda Jackson: I Gotta Know • Billy Mize: Who Will Buy The Wine • Al Coker with the Coker Family: Baby I Like Your Style • Louise Duncan: Wherever You Are • Sid Silver: Bumble Rumble • Andy Morris: I Need Her Love • Rusty Payne: I Want You • Fuzzy Owen: Your Every Thing (I Wish That She Could Be) • Bonnie Blue Bell: I Never Thought • Jan Howard: What Time Tomorrow • George Rich: Drivin' Away My Blues • Bill Woods: Ask Me No Questions • Fuzzy Owen: Beware Of A Stranger • Skeets McDonald: Keep Her Off Your Mind • Dave Stogner: Yes Sir • Harlan Howard: Fun On The Freeway • Cliff Crofford: A Night For Love • The Farmer Boys: Someone To Love • Buck Owens: Come Back To Me

**CD 3:** Reuben Chapman with Coy Baker & His Band: I'm Sorry Too • Don Thompson with Coy Baker & His Band: Empty Days And Lonely Nights • Phil Brown: You're A Luxury • unknown: Steady Lovin' • Johnny Bond: I Like That Kind • Henry Sharp: Crazy Moon • Gene Martin with the Desert Stars: Pair Of Empty Arms • Herb Henson: You'll Come • Lewis Talley: Letters Have No Arms • Buck Owens: Second Fiddle • Billy and Cliff: When I Hold You • Buck Owens: Can't Take Your Love Outta This Boy • Billy Kaundart: I Removed Your Ring • Larry Bryant: Keep Right On Tryin' • Buck Owens: Tired Of Livin' • Joe Hall: Cold Hearted Woman • Owen Charles: Stage Coach • Rip Goodman and Marcia: If I Could Only Tell You • George Latta: Our Hearts • Buck Owens: Til These Dreams Come True • Billy and Cliff: Living Up To My Name • Don Markham & The Marksmen: Goose, Pt. 1 • Bonnie Owens: Just For The Children's Sake • Wally Lewis: My Baby Walks All Over Me • Wynne Stewart: Playboy • Al Brumley: Someone's Gonna Get Hurt • Jackie Kelley: Door Of Temptation • Billy Mize: I'm Sorry Too • Bill Woods: I Got A Chance With You • Buck Owens: I Want You So • Fuzzy Owen: Your Every Thing (I Wish That She Could Be) • Bonnie Blue Bell: I Never Thought • Jan Howard: What Time Tomorrow • George Rich: Drivin' Away My Blues • Bill Woods: Ask Me No Questions • Fuzzy Owen: Beware Of A Stranger • Skeets McDonald: Keep Her Off Your Mind • Dave Stogner: Yes Sir • Harlan Howard: Fun On The Freeway • Cliff Crofford: A Night For Love • The Farmer Boys: Someone To Love • Buck Owens: Come Back To Me