



# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

TEL +49(0)4748 - 82 16 16 • FAX +49(0)4748 - 82 16 20 • E-MAIL b2b@bear-family.de

## ARTIST TITLE

**George Jones**  
**Birth Of A Legend**  
The *Truly* Complete Starday and Mercury  
Recordings 1954-1961

LABEL  
CATALOG #  
PRICE-CODE  
EAN-CODE

Bear Family Productions  
BCD 16100  
FK



5 397102 161001

FORMAT

6-CD Box-Set (LP-size)  
with 172-page hardcover book

GENRE

Country, Rockabilly

TRACKS

200

PLAYING TIME

477:54 min.



**Not available for export  
to countries outside the EU!**

**His fans and country music lovers have been asking for this definite set  
with George Jones' early STARDAY and MERCURY recordings for years.**

- One of BEAR FAMILY's most requested sets ... ever!
- The beginning of the greatest career in country music.
- All of George Jones' classic early recordings, including *Why Baby Why*, *White Lightning*, *Treasure Of Love*, *Window Up Above*, *Tender Years*, and twenty more charted hits!
- More than 20 previously unissued takes and songs!
- Includes the Thumper Jones rockabilly single and all of George Jones' soundalike recordings for DIXIE!
- All the era's duets with Jeanette Hicks, Bobbie Ellison, Margie Singleton, Virginia Spurlock, as well as harmony vocals by Sonny Burns, Darrell McCall, James O'Gwynn, Floyd Robinson, and Donny Young (aka Johnny Paycheck).
- Exhaustive newly researched biography and discography!
- 6 CDs with a 172-page book, featuring photos from the Jones' family's personal scrapbook!

## How It Happened

Almost from the beginning of BEAR FAMILY forty years ago, there has been a steady flow of requests to reissue all of George Jones' STARDAY and MERCURY recordings. They've been issued and reissued on scattershot compilations on myriad labels, sometimes re-channeled into fake stereo, sometimes overdubbed, sometimes edited, and usually without any logic behind the compilation. As a first step, BEAR FAMILY founder Richard Weize asked Otto Kitsinger, Don Roy and Dave Sax to try to take the first shot at a discography of George Jones' early recordings. That was more than twenty years ago.

After the success of BEAR FAMILY's anthologies of Jones' UNITED ARTISTS and MUSICOR recordings, we decided to take another shot at making sense of the frustrating tape logs and session contracts from Jones' earliest sessions. Then we tried to fill in the multitude of missing pieces, and figure out who owned what. And then we commissioned Kevin Coffey to write what is surely the definitive account of Jones' early years. Finally, we contacted the George Jones estate for their photos. The result: the last word on the early recordings of the first name in country music.



# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

TEL +49(0)4748 - 82 16 16 • FAX +49(0)4748 - 82 16 20 • E-MAIL [b2b@bear-family.de](mailto:b2b@bear-family.de)

## Why It Happened

The reason for the years of work behind this set is that it represents the beginning of George Jones ... the greatest singer in country music history. Here he's young and vibrant with everything to prove and nothing to lose. Over the course of seven years, we hear him become the singer we know so well. There were occasional dead ends, like the infamous rockabilly single he recorded as Thumper Jones and the soundalike discs he recorded for DIXIE, and there were some unworthy songs that were forced upon him or he forced upon himself, but there were also classic George Jones recordings, on a par with anything else in country music history. We hear the raw, unbridled Texas honky tonk sound give way to classic Nashville. Above all, we hear country music's greatest singer discover himself.

## The Result

These recordings have never been heard complete and in sequence before. In painstakingly cross-checking, we found unreleased takes and even a few unreleased songs, including little-heard numbers from George Jones' first sessions in the living room studio of STARDAY RECORDS founder Jack Starns. From there, we take in seven turbulent years that saw George Jones become the gold-standard country music vocalist, setting the stage for another forty years of hits. Truly, one of the essential sets in country music, for historical reasons as much as the pure enjoyment of hearing the genre's greatest stylist at the top of his game.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

### GEORGE JONES

#### **She Thinks I Still Care**

The Complete United Artists Recordings 1962 - 1964

5-CD Box-Set (LP-size) with 48-page-book • BCD 16818

#### **Walk Through This World With Me**

The Complete Musicor Recordings 1965 - 1971 (Part 1)

5-CD Box-Set (LP-size) with 48-page-book • BCD 16928

#### **A Good Year For The Roses**

The Complete Musicor Recordings 1965 - 1971 (Part 2)

4-CD Box-Set (LP-size) with 52-page-book • BCD 16929

#### **Heartbreak Hotel**

Gonna Shake This Shack Tonight

1-CD digipac with 48-page-booklet • BCD 16858

### GEORGE JONES & GENE PITNEY

CD with 20-page booklet • BCD 15790



# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

TEL +49(0)4748 - 82 16 16 • FAX +49(0)4748 - 82 16 20 • E-MAIL [b2b@bear-family.de](mailto:b2b@bear-family.de)

## TRACKLISTING

### CD 1:

No Money In This Deal • No Money In This Deal (alt) • For Sale Or For Lease (take 1) • For Sale Or For Lease (take 2) • Play It Cool Man - Play It Cool • You're In My Heart • If You Were Mine • Wrong About You • You All Goodnight • Hold Everything • Hold Everything (alt) • Heartbroken Me • Heartbroken Me (2) • Let Him Know • My Sweet Imogene • What's Wrong With You • What's Wrong With You (alt) • Painless Heart • Still Hurtin' • Settle Down • Dancing Mexican Boy • Why Baby Why • Mexican Boogie (Boogie Woogie Mexican Boy) • What Am I Worth • Seasons Of My Heart • Seasons Of My Heart (alt) • What Am I Worth (remake) • It's OK • Your Heart • Dancing Mexican Boy (alt) • You Never Thought • I'm Ragged But I'm Right

### CD 2:

I'm Ragged But I'm Right (alt) • You Gotta Be My Baby (take 1) • You Gotta Be My Baby (take 2) • You Gotta Be My Baby (take 3) • I've Got Five Dollars And It's Saturday Night • Run Boy • Heartbreak Hotel (short ending) • Yes I Know Why • 'Cause I Love You • You Gotta Be My Baby • Rock It • Rock It (alt) • How Come It • Boat Of Life • Taggin' Along • Yearning (& Jeannette Hicks) • Yearning (alt) (& Jeannette Hicks) • I'm With The Wrong One (& Jeannette Hicks) • Sweet Dreams • I Take The Chance (& Jeannette Hicks) • Any Old Time • Gonna Come Get You • Gonna Come Get You (alt) • Just One More • No Money In This Deal • I'm With The Wrong One (edit) (& Jeannette Hicks) • I'm With The Wrong One (& Jeannette Hicks) • You're Running Wild • Singing The Blues • Wasted Words • One Woman Man • Before I Met You • Go Away With Me • Radio Spot 1, 1956 • Radio Spot 2, 1956 • Radio Spot 3, 1956

### CD 3:

You're Back Again • Don't Stop The Music • (That's) All I Want To Do • Uh, Uh, No • Uh, Uh, No (alt) • Cup Of Loneliness • Cup Of Loneliness (alt) • Please Take The Devil Out Of Me • Giveaway Girl • Too Much Water • Flame In My Heart (& Virginia Spurlock) • No, No, Never • Don't Do This To Me • Hearts In My Dreams • Tall Tall Trees • No Use To Cry • One Is A Lonely Number • That's The Way I Feel • Frozen Heart • Never Been So Weary • Maybe Next Christmas • New Baby For Christmas • Wandering Soul • If You Want To Wear A Crown • (I) Gotta Talk To Your Heart • Nothing Can Stop Me • I Always Wind Up Losing • Color Of The Blues • Eskimo Pie • Maybe Little Baby • Rain Rain (Rain Keeps Fallin') • (I Believe) The Good Old Bible • We'll Understand It (Farther Along

### CD 4:

I'm Gonna Burn Your Playhouse Down • Will The Circle Be Unbroken • Life To Go (1) • Jesus Wants Me • My Lord Has Called Me • All By Yourself • Deep In The Heart Of A Fool • Last Night (& Bobbie Ellison) • Now Tell Me (take 1) (& Bobbie Ellison) • Now Tell Me (take 2) (& Bobbie Ellison) • Now Tell Me (take 3) (& Bobbie Ellison) • Now Tell Me (take 4) (& Bobbie Ellison) • Treasure Of Love • White Lightnin' • Long Time To Forget • If I Don't Love You (Grits Ain't Groceries) • Stay On Board • The Likes Of You • There's Gonna Be One • Into My Arms Again • Who Shot Sam • Mr. Fool • Candy Hearts (undubbed) • Candy Hearts • Have Mercy On Me • If You Believe • Big Harlan Taylor • Someone Sweet To Love • Everything Ain't Right • Relief Is Just A Swallow Away • Time Lock • Money To Burn • Talk To Me Lonesome Heart

### CD 5:

Your Old Standby • Watcha Gonna Do • Accidentally On Purpose • Vitamins L-O-V-E • The Last Town I Painted • Revenoer Man • Sparkling Brown Eyes • The First One • You Better Treat Your Man Right • Out Of Control • Glad To Let Her Go • You're Still On My Mind • Just Little Boy Blue • Tarnished Angel • Slave Lover • Why Baby Why • Poor Man's Riches • Heartaches By The Number • I Love You Because • Oh Lonesome Me • (I'll Be There) If You Ever Want Me • If You've Got The Money (I've Got The Time) • I Walk The Line • It's Been So Long • Just One More • You Gotta Be My Baby • Life To Go • Settin' The Woods On Fire • Window Shopping • Howlin' At The Moon • There'll Be No Teardrops Tonight • Hey Good Lookin' • Half As Much

### CD 6:

Nobody's Lonesome For Me • Cold, Cold Heart • Why Don't You Love Me • Honky Tonkin' • Jambalaya (On The Bayou) • I Can't Help It • Family Bible • The Window Up Above • I Wouldn't Know About That • With Half A Heart • Aching Breaking Heart • Battle Of Love • Tender Years • When My Heart Hurts No More • Did I Ever Tell You (& Margie Singleton) • Not Even Friends (& Margie Singleton) • I Want To Be Where You're Gonna Be (& Margie Singleton) • Waltz Of The Angels (& Margie Singleton) • Are You Mine (& Margie Singleton) • One Excuse Is As Good As Another (& Margie Singleton) • Yearning (& Margie Singleton) • Looking Back To See (& Margie Singleton) • One By One (& Margie Singleton) • If You Don't Somebody Else Will (& Margie Singleton) • When Two Worlds Collide (& Margie Singleton) • Baby (You've Got What It Takes) (& Margie Singleton) • Talk About Lovin' (& Margie Singleton) • I Don't Hear You (& Margie Singleton) • Why Baby Why (edited version) • Seasons Of My Heart (remake) • Heartbreak Hotel (long edit) • Arlie Duff: Let Me Be Your Salty Dog • Arlie Duff: Back To The Country