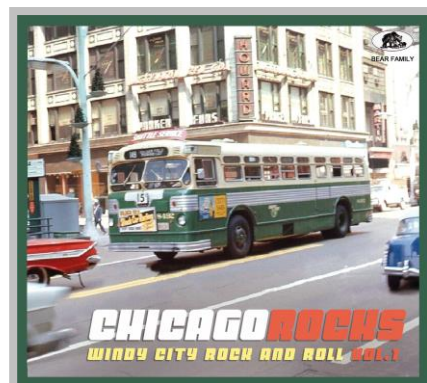


# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS



PRODUCTINFO (CD) November 7, 2025

Artist **Various Artists**  
Title **Chicago Rocks, Vol. 1**  
**Windy City Rock And Roll**  
Label Bear Family Records  
Catalog no. BCD17771 Price code: AR  
EAN-Code 4000127177711  
Format 1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet  
Genre Rock 'n' Roll, Rockabilly  
No. of tracks 35 approx. 79:00 min.  
Release date November 7, 2025



BEAR FAMILY  
RECORDS 

## INFO:

- **The beginning of a new, compact CD-series on Bear Family.**
- **For the first time, Chicago's astonishingly rich early rock history is being explored, long before bands like The Shadows of Knight, the Buckingham's, or The Cryin' Shames emerged on the scene and transformed the Windy City into a rock hotspot in the mid-to-late '60s.**
- **Chicago music historian Bill Dahl comprehensively tells the story of rockabilly and rock 'n' roll from the far north of the USA, of artists who copied Elvis and of truly original musicians and recordings.**
- **Featuring artists such as Ralph Donner, Steve King, Hayden Thompson, Hank Mizell, and Eddie Clearwater, as well as many other surprises.**
- **Detailed liner notes in the extensive illustrated booklet, discographic information, and historical recordings remastered from the best available sources!**

Chicago's vast and glorious legacy as a teeming postwar hub for blues, soul, and doo-wop has been documented exhaustively. But what of the Windy City's indigenous early rock and roll scene, long before The Buckingham's, Cryan' Shames, New Colony Six, Shadows of Knight, and American Breed established a recognizable mid-'60s Chicago rock movement? It's barely been seriously examined at all, so this collection sets that longtime injustice straight. This first volume of 'Chicago Rocks' gathers some of the finest rock and roll the city had to offer from the mid-'50s through the early '60s, its contents a river comprised of several tributaries. First, a stream of Elvis-influenced rockabillys waxed sides for local labels. At the same time, a squad of homegrown teen idol-style rockers emerged, starring at youth-focused clubs, small arenas, roller rinks, and high school hops. Lounge bands - their members somewhat older, their approach more polished - jumped into the rock and roll fray, and a handful of white doo-woppers entered the mix. Then the Twist exploded; from conventioner-oriented Rush Street to the outlying suburbs, everyone was Twisting, the city's musical cadre enthusiastically embracing the national craze. The set leads with Elvis soundalike Ral Donner - the only early Chicago rocker to achieve national stardom--and storms through fellow young stars Ron Haydock (a dead ringer for Gene Vincent), Ronnie Rice, Tobin Matthews, and Steve King, transplanted rockabillys Hayden Thompson, Hank Mizell, Benny Ingram, Eddie Cash, Wayne Worley, and Frank Deaton, lounge-style entertainers Tony Smith and His Aristocrats and Bill Skully and The Dynatones, and Chuck Berry doppelganger Clear Water (aka Eddy Clearwater), with plenty of surprises along the way. Even it hasn't received proper critical recognition, Chicago hosted plenty of exciting rock and roll action during the idiom's formative years. It's finally time to explore it!

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## TRACKLISTING:

### CD:

**Rai Donner:** I Got Burned    **Ron Haydock and The Boppers:** 99 Chicks    **Steve King and The Echelons:** Satan Is Her Name  
**Tony Bellus:** Robbin' The Cradle    **Clear Water:** Cool Water    **Steve Schickel:** Leave My Sideburns Be    **Tobin Matthews:** Think It Over  
**Benny Ingram:** Jello Sal    **J. Mikel with The Hepcats:** Bettyjean Rock    **George Torrens and The Maybees:** TR-3    **The Deltones:** Early Morning Rock    **The Mark IV:** (Make With) The Shake    **Phil Orsi & His Little Kings:** Come On Everybody    **Hank Mizell:** Jungle Rock  
**Ernie Daro:** Rock Tonight    **Hayden Thompson:** Brown Eyed Handsome Man    **The Tazmen:** Easy Pickin'    **Lennie LaCour:** Rock-N-Roll Romance  
**Penny Smith:** I've Got News For You    **Wayne Worley and His Worley Birds:** Red Headed Woman    **Eddie Cash:** Stormy Weather  
**Carl Bonafede & The Gem-Tones:** Were Wolf    **Eddy Bell and The Bel-Aires:** Knock, Knock, Knock (Knocking On My Door)  
**Ronnie Rice:** T.N.T.    **Larry Dale and The King Notes:** Crying Over You    **Bill Skully and The Dynatones:** Rockin' & Rollin' In Love  
**Tony Smith and His Aristocrats:** Wiggle Waggle Walk    **The Millionaires:** Rock And A Half    **Frank Deaton and The Mad Lads:** Just A Little Bit More  
**Elwood Twinkie:** Cinderella Twist    **Dicky Stop:** Class Cutter    **Robby and The Troubadours:** Long Tall Sally  
**Hugh Barrett and The Victors:** There Was Fungus Among Us    **Billy Prager & His Caravans:** Do It Bop  
**The Regulars and The Galaxies:** Ride Your Horse

## ALSO AVAILABLE:

### Jimmy Reed: Rocks

BCD17572 AR  
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet  
EAN: 5397102175725



### Bo Diddley: Rocks

BCD17551 AR  
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet  
EAN: 4000127175519



### Various Artists: The House Of Horrors

BCD17755 AB  
1-CD with 16-page booklet  
EAN: 4000127177551



### Ike Turner: Rocks

BCD17679 AR  
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet  
EAN: 4000127176790



### Various Artists: That'll Flat Git It! Vol. 10 Rockabilly From The Vaults Of Chess Records

BCD16123 AH  
1-CD with 52-page booklet  
EAN: 4000127161239



### Various Artists: That'll Flat Git It! Vol. 46 Rockabilly & Rock'n'Roll From The Vaults Of Chess, Checker & Argo Records

BCD17684 AR  
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet  
EAN: 4000127176844



### Various Artists: That'll Flat Git It! Vol. 35 Rockabilly & Rock'n'Roll From The Vaults Of Mercury & Limelight Records

BCD17604 AR  
1-CD (Digipak) with 28-page booklet  
EAN: 5397102176043



### Various Artists: That'll Flat Git It! Vol. 11 Rockabilly From The Vaults Of Mercury Records

BCD16101 AH  
1-CD with 40-page booklet  
EAN: 4000127161017

