Elvin Bishop Group - Party Till The Cows Come Home (1969)

CD1: Elvin Bishop Group
01.The Things That I Used to Do
02.Tulsa Shuffle
03.Sweet Potato
04.How Much More
05.Dad Gum Ya Hide, Boy
06.Honey Bee
07.Prisoner of Love
08.Don't Fight It (Feel It)
09.I Just Can't Go On
10.So Good
11.Crazy 'Bout You Baby
12.So Fine
13.Party till the Cows Come Home
14.Hogbottom
15.Be With Me
16.As the Years Go Passing By

CD2: Elvin Bishop Band
01.Rock My Soul
02.Holler and Shout
03.Let It Shine
04.Don't Mind If I Do
05.Rock Bottom
06.Last Mile
07.Have a Good Time
08.Wings of a Bird
09.Old Man Trouble
10.Out Behind the Barn
11.Stomp
Bonus Tracks:
12.Stealin' Watermelons
13.So Fine (Live)
14.Party till the Cows Come Home (Live)

Bass – Art Stavro (tracks: 1-1 To 1-7), Bill Meeker (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Kip Maercklein (tracks: 1-8 To 2-11) Drums – John Chambers (tracks: 1-1 To 1-16, 2-11) Guest, Backing Vocals – Clydie King (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Delaney And Bonnie (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Gloria Jones (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Jo Baker (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Perry Welsh (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Shirley Matthews (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Vanetta Fields (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Guest, Clarinet – Jim Gordon (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Guest, Congas – Chepito Areas (tracks: 1-11, 1-14), Micke Carabello (tracks: 1-11, 1-14) Guest, Fiddle [Solo] – Bobby Bruce (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Guest, Harmonica – Perry Welsh (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Guest, Percussion – Milt Holland (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Guest, Rhythm Guitar – Delaney Bramlett (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Guest, Slide Guitar – Delaney Bramlett (tracks: 2-6) Guest, Tenor Saxophone – Dennis Marcellino (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Mel Ellison (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Ron Stallings (tracks: 2-2) Guest, Timbales – Chepito Areas (tracks: 1-11, 1-14), Micke Carabello (tracks: 1-11, 1-14) Guest, Vocals – Anita Pointer (tracks: 1-9, 1-10, 1-15), June Pointer (tracks: 1-9, 1-10, 1-15), Patricia Pointer (tracks: 1-9, 1-10, 1-15), Perry Welsh (2) (tracks: 1-12), Ron Stallings (tracks: 2-2) Guitar – Elvin Bishop (tracks: 1-1 To 1-16) Harp – Applejack (tracks: 1-1 To 1-7) Lead Guitar – Elvin Bishop (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Lead Vocals – Elvin Bishop (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11), Jo Baker (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Organ – Stephen Miller* (tracks: 1-1 To 2-11) Percussion – Jo Baker (tracks: 1-8 To 1-16) Piano – Alberto Gianquinto (tracks: 1-1 To 1-7), Stephen Miller (tracks: 1-8 To 2-11) Rhythm Guitar – Elvin Bishop (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Slide Guitar – Elvin Bishop (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Strings [Arranged And Conducted By] – Jim Gordon (tracks: 2-1 To 2-11) Vocals – Elvin Bishop (tracks: 1-1 To 1-7, 1-12), Jo Baker (tracks: 1-8 To 1-16), Stephen Miller (tracks: 1-8 To 1-16)

This double CD combines Elvin Bishop's first three albums (variously credited to the Elvin Bishop Group and the Elvin Bishop Band) on to two discs. Containing 1969's Elvin Bishop Group, 1970s Feel It!, and 1972's Rock My Soul, it has virtually everything he recorded for Fillmore and Epic in the late 1960s and early 1970s, serving as an overview of his entire early career as a bandleader. Also included are three bonus tracks: one, "Stealin' Watermelons," from a non-LP single, and two other live performances from the various-artists compilation album Last Days of the Fillmore. Although they have their merits, these are erratic albums in which Bishop didn't stick solely to the electric blues-rock he'd made his name with in the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. Instead, these also dig into soul and R&B, as well as what can only be called (on some of his vocal numbers) comedy. He relinquished most of the lead vocal duties to Jo Baker starting with the second album, and this saw an improvement in the sound and material, though even at its best, it's just okay, early-'70s-period soul-rock. As this includes everything from his first three albums plus bonus material in one neat, two-CD package, one might think that it's a preferable alternative to the Sundazed reissues of the same records, which puts them on three separate CDs, the first two of which offer the same three bonus tracks as this Acadia compilation does. It's not quite so, however, as the Sundazed version of Rock My Soul has a bonus track, the outtake "Sit and Wonder," that isn't on Party Till the Cows Come Home. ---Richie Unterberger, AllMusic Review

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