

Darlene Love – The Sound Of Love Very Best (2011)

Written by bluelover

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01 – No Other Love 02 – He's A Rebel 03 – My Heart Beat A Little Bit Fas 04 – He's Sure The Boy I Love 05 – Why do Lovers Break Each Other 06 – (Today I Met) The Boy I'm Gonn 07 – Not Too Young to Get Married 08 – Wait 'Til My Bobby Gets Home 09 – Run Run Runaway [play](#) 10 – A Fine, Fine Boy 11 – Strange Love [play](#) 12 – Stumble And Fall 13 – (He's A) Quiet Guy 14 – A Long Way To Be Happy 15 – That's When The Tears Start 16 – Good Good Lovin' 17 – Lord, If You're A Woman

If any individual singer could be called the voice of Philles, it would be Darlene Love. Spector used her powerful, distinctive voice as lead singer on a number of tunes by such groups as Bob B. Soxx & the Blue Jeans and the Crystals, as well as recording such songs as the hit Today I Met The Boy I m Gonna Marry under her name.

Fifty years ago, legendary producer Phil Spector established his own record label Philles, and a new sound began to ring out of radio speakers across America. The sound Spector created lush, resonant, and dramatic, blending the sentimental swoon of string sections with the excitement of rock and roll was so different, so instantly recognizable, it earned its own name: The Wall of Sound. Through the 1960s, with songs like Be My Baby, Then He Kissed Me, Walking in the Rain, and Da Doo Ron Ron, he ruled the pop charts and made artists like Darlene Love, The Crystals and The Ronettes household names. For twenty years, no new collections of these artists, Philles s most successful, have been released, and only a limited amount of the tracks have been available digitally. The newly remastered greatest hits collections contain the best and most iconic recordings by these artists, and their familiarity will be sure to strike a chord with fans both young and old.

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With the Philles catalog now in the licensing hands of Sony Legacy and EMI, the fiftieth anniversary of the label's 1961 founding is being celebrated with a new round of reissues. First out of the gate are remastered best-of collections for the Ronettes, Crystals, Darlene Love and Phil Spector. This 17-track Darlene Love collection proves that while Ronnie Spector (nee Veronica Bennett) may have been Spector's greatest heartthrob, Darlene Love was his vocal MVP. As the lead vocalist on key singles by Bob B. Soxx and the Blue Jeans, the Blossoms (both under their own name, and as the West Coast version of the Crystals), and solo singles, not to mention her work with the Blossoms as go-to backing vocalists, Love's voice was as important an element of the Wall of Sound as the Wrecking Crew's drums, guitars, pianos and basses.

Included here are tunes by the Crystals, Bob B. Soxx and the Blue Jeans (though not their first hit, "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah," on which Bobby Sheen sang lead), the Blossoms, and solo sides. This collection mostly duplicates the track line-up of ABKCO's out-of-print 1992 Best of Darlene Love, dropping "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah" and a pre-Dixie Cups version of "Chapel of Love," and adding four titles: the Blossoms' "No Other Love," "That's When the Tears Start" and "Good Good Lovin'," and Love's "Strange Love." A couple of her lower charting singles (the pre-Philles "Son-in-Law" with the Blossoms, and the 1992 soundtrack single "All Alone on Christmas") are absent, but more puzzlingly, neither the earlier or current collection includes Love's signature holiday pièce de résistance, "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)."

Though all this material has been previously released, several of Love's solo tracks went unissued at the time of their recording, turning up a decade later on rarities anthologies. Among these are "Run Run Runaway," "A Long Way to Be Happy," and the brilliant Poncia and Andreoli song, "Strange Love." Fleshing out her post-Philles career is a soulful 1965 turn on Van McCoy's "That's When the Tears Start" (produced by Reprise staffer Jimmy Bowen) and a 1975 session with Phil Spector on Mann and Weil's "Lord, If You're a Woman." As with the other volumes in this series, this isn't the vault discovery fans are waiting for, and the lack of stereo (except tracks 16 and 17) will vex long-time collectors, but with ABKCO's earlier best-of out of print, this is a welcome return to retail of Love's classic sides. --- hyperbolium.com

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