Roy Orbison – The Soul Of Rock And Roll (4CD Boxset) (2008)



Disc One – Into the 1950s 01. Ooby Dooby – Teen Kings 02. Hey Miss Fannie – Wink Westerners 03. True Love Goodbye – Teen Kings 04. Empty Cup And A Broken Date – Teen Kings 05. Tryin' To Get To You – Teen Kings 06. Tutti Frutti

p

07. Overton Park Shell Concert Advertisement 08. Ooby Dooby 09. Cat Called Domino 10. Go Go Go 11. Rockhouse 12. Guitar Pull Medley 13. You're My Baby 14. Mean Little Mama 15. Problem Child 16. One More Time 17. You're Gonna Cry 18. It's Too Late 19. Sweet And Easy To Love 20. This Kind Of Love 21. Claudette 22. You Tell Me 23. Night Owl 24. Bad Cat 25. I Give Up 26. Love Struck 27. Baby Don't Stop

play

28. Defeated 29. Love Storm 30. Almost Eighteen 31. With The Bug 32. Pretty One Disc Two – Into the 1960s

01. Uptown 02. Only The Lonely 03. Blue Angel

<u>play</u>

04. In Dreams 05. Running Scared 06. I'm Hurtin' 07. I'd Be A Legend In My Time 08. Love Hurts 09. Lana 10. Crying 11. Candy Man 12. Night Life 13. They Call You Gigolette 14. Let The Good Times Roll 15. Blue Bayou

play

16. Wedding Day 17. Dream Baby 18. Evergreen 19. Working For The Man 20. Crowd 21. Leah 22. Actress 23. Borne On the Wind 24. Falling 25. Indian Wedding 26. Shahdaroba 27. All I Have To Do Is Dream 28. Mama 29. Pretty Paper

Disc Three - Into the 1970s

01. Mean Woman Blues 02. What'd I Say 03. It's Over 04. Oh Pretty Woman 05. Yo Te Amo Maria 06. Goodnight 07. Say You're My Girl 08. Ride Away 09. Crawling Back play

10. Breakin' Up Is Breakin' My Heart 11. Too Soon To Know 12. Communication Breakdown 13. Walk On 14. So Young 15. Blue Rain (Coming Down) 16. Big As I Can Dream 17. Pistolero 18. Fastest Guitar Alive 19. Precious 20. Unchained Melody 21. Land Of 1000 Dances 22. Blues In My Mind

play

23. Born To Love Me 24. That Lovin' You Feelin' Again – Orbison, Roy & Emmylou Harris 25. Hound Dog Man

Disc Four - Into the 1980s

01. Coming Home 02. Waymore's Blues - Orbison, Roy & Johnny Cash/Jerry Lee Lewis/Carl

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Perkins 03. Oh Pretty Woman

play

04. In Dreams 05. Not Alone Any More – Traveling Wilburys 06. You Got It 07. She's A Mystery To Me 08. California Blue 09. Love So Beautiful 10. All I Can Do Is Dream You 11. Oh Pretty Woman 12. Heartbreak Radio 13. You're The One 14. Crying – Orbison, Roy & K.D. Lang

play

15. After The Love Has Gone 16. I Drove All Night 17. Wild Hearts Run Out Of Time 18. You May Feel Me Crying 19. Life Fades Away 20. It's Over 21. We'll Take The Night

Here is, bar none, the most all-inclusive anthology ever assembled to honor the greatest singer ever considered to be a "Rock and Roll artist." But Roy Kelton Orbison was so much more: behind his ever-present sunglasses and beneath his shock of raven-black hair, clad in black, he was rock's Mystery Man, the possessor of the most glorious voice ever to soar on such signature songs as "Only The Lonely," "In Dreams," "Running Scared," "Crying" and "Oh, Pretty Woman," to cite a mere handful of his Top Ten hits.

As Orbison's widow, Barbara, who is also this collection's Executive Producer, points out in her loving annotation contained in this four-CD package: "For the first time, you will have a chance to hear Roy's first recording to the last time he ever sang--Dec. 4, 1988, in Akron, Ohio. Roy recorded for several different labels [including 15 covered in this 107-song collection] and toured the world many, many times--we have numerous unreleased masters [specifically, 12 in this package] and live performances included in this box set to make it truly special." – Editorial Reviews

Roy Kelton Orbison departed this earth in 1988. This permanently be-shaded man of mystery was only 52 and had only, despite a career resuscitation towards the very end of his life, success between the late 50s and early 60s. Yet, like a true giant, his shadow was huge and his influence keenly felt by at least two generations of popular musicians. So, for any young people who have yet to discover exactly what spell 'The Big O' - the slightly sinister figure with the quavering voice - held over his peers you are directed to download, purchase, borrow or just plain pilfer this glorious box set. It holds the key to the man's majesty and will also serve as a timely reminder for anybody who forgot just how amazing he was.

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Following a fairly standard career in rockabilly in his native Texas (scoring an early hit with the fun, if lightweight, Ooby Dooby), in 1957 after meeting writer Joe Melson, he gave the world the dramatic rock ballad. Up until this point rock 'n' roll was a metaphor for hedonism, good times and raucous fun. With Only The Lonely (1960), his second single on Fred Foster's Monument label (and backed by the Everly Brothers), Orbison introduced the tragic, lonely figure whose misery fuelled his astounding haunted voice. Almost operatic in their intensity, Roy's vocals drove a series of mini epics into the top ten. Blue Angel; Running Scared; Crying (Roy did a lot of crying in his songs); Dream Baby; In Dreams and of course, the career-defining zenith (written with Bill Dees), Oh Pretty Woman. The latter even bucked the trend of Beatlemania by knocking the Fab Four off the top spot in the States. Indeed, Roy was close pals with the Liverpool boys, leading to his recruitment by George Harrison in the 80s into the Travelling Wilburys.

Naturally, such a mannered confection could not weather the storms of psychedelia and changing trends and despite an enduring popularity in middle and eastern Europe his popularity waned. Added to this was a whole heap of personal woe (his first wife's demise, followed by two of their children). By the 70s he was down to ill-advised shots at disco and aborted reunions with his old label. Luckily most of this period is passed over on this set in favour of the last stage of his career. Luckily the use of In Dreams in David Lynch's Blue Velvet, his adoption by Harrison, Jeff Lynne et al as well as his famous 1987 Black And White Night TV special (where he was joined by Bruce Springsteen among many others) meant that mere months before his death he reached his apotheosis. The posthumous Mystery Girl, featuring the lovely She's A Mystery To Me, penned by Bono and The Edge, was that true rarity: a really fine final album.

The Soul Of Rock And Roll has it all. The faltering rockabilly sides, the tear-soaked slices of genius and his wondrous rebirth. He may have been the strangest looking dude to have toted a guitar, but he truly was the epitomisation of rock's sensitive side. He will always be the Big O. ---Chris Jones, BBC Review

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