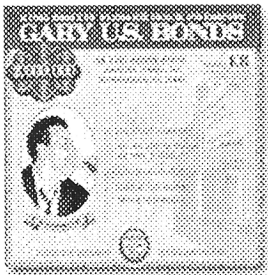


The Norwalk Times

In an ongoing effort to keep our customers abreast of new product, Norwalk is now providing helpful reviews of select CD and DVD releases for each month. We hope that these write-ups provide additional information and insight into these releases, so that they may help customers in placing their orders. If you would like to see anything specific reviewed here, or you would like additional recommendations, please feel free to contact any of the reviewing authors directly. Enjoy!



KBF88058



King Biscuit Presents

GARY U.S. BONDS



When it came to rowdy R&B songs that gave the kids an opportunity to jump, shout, and clap their hands... **Gary U.S. Bonds** delivered the goods. He'll always be remembered for songs like "Quarter To Three", which defined that party genre that also produced hits like "Double Shot Of My Baby's Love" and "Louie Louie". For that brief time in the early 60s, Bonds was a hit. He wouldn't be back in the spotlight for nearly twenty years.

In 1981 something significant happened to this virtually washed up soul singer. Longtime fan **Bruce Springsteen** co-produced, performed on, and penned songs for the Bonds comeback splash *Dedication*. *Dedication* also featured songs of **Bob Dylan**, the **Beatles**, **Jackson Browne**, and *Sopranos* star **Steve Van Zandt** (who also contributed heavily to the project). The album did so well that a follow up churned out even better results (with more Springsteen backing) as *On The Line* became his modern masterpiece. Sadly, the trend did not continue, and by 1984 he found his productivity lacked any consistent public interest. Miraculously, the sixty-year-old polished up his trademark smile as he returned to Asbury Park's famed Stone Pony for a King Biscuit Flower Hour taping. It makes sense New Jersey may hold his most loyal following these days, and so he hit the stage like someone a third his age. Housed in a beautiful slip case made to look like an official government bond, *King Biscuit Flower Hour Presents Gary U.S. Bonds* had me sold on the contents before the shrink wrap came off. As for those contents... Opening with the Cajun-style "Jole Blon", Bonds energetically rips through a triple dose of Springsteen songs written especially for him. "Rendezvous" (later appearing on Springsteens Tracks box set as one that got away), "Out Of Work" (with a plea to "Mr. President...whoever you are..." as the election of 2000 had not yet been decided) and "Dedication". "Bring Her Back" shines as the one track that Bonds co-wrote. Even Van Zandt's "Daddy's Come Home" pulls off the portrayal of emotion from the original studio version. Ironically, it's not his standard "Quarter To Three" that steals the show. **Louis Jordan's** "I Want You To Be My Baby" sneaks in as the rambunctious crowd favorite, sung at a pace that makes me stop for breath just listening to it.

Bonds never really lost what he had. The only thing that withered away was the wavering attention span toward pop artists making a generational career transition. Not many are successful and some tend to make things worse by misrepresenting themselves in territory that they don't know anything about. Perhaps another comeback would be in order for this man who just won't quit despite being looked over far too many times. The K.B.F.H. has officially helped prove that this man can still rock the house. In Bonds we trust. - **Chet E.**

TOP FIVE RELATIVE RELEASES

Gary U.S. Bonds
Quarter To Three /
Twist Up Calypso

The Coasters
50 Coastin' Hits

Dion
Runaround Sue:
Best Of The Rest

Bruce Springsteen
18 Tracks

Various Artists
Cover Me