

CAPTAIN BEEFHEART

3CD
SET

TRANSMISSION IMPOSSIBLE

LEGENDARY BROADCASTS FROM THE 1960s, 1970s & 1980s



The man christened Don Van Vliet is still best known by his stage name Captain Beefheart. Conducting his musical work with a rotating ensemble of musicians called the Magic Band between 1965 and 1982, with whom he recorded 13 studio albums, his music blended rock, blues and psychedelia with avant-garde and contemporary experimental composition. Beefheart was also known for exercising an almost dictatorial control over his supporting musicians, and for constructing complicated myths about his life.

Noted for his powerful singing voice with its wide range, Van Vliet also played the harmonica, saxophone and numerous other wind instruments. The group drew attention with their cover of Bo Diddley's "Diddy Wah Diddy", which became a regional hit. It was followed by their acclaimed debut album *Safe as Milk*, released in 1967 on Buddah Records. The first disc in this set concentrates on this period of Beefheart's career, featuring a radio broadcast of a live performance at The Avalon Ballroom in 1966, and a number of other tracks from various radio sessions from 1967 and 1968.

By 1974, six albums in and frustrated by a lack of commercial success, Beefheart released two records of more conventional rock music that at the time were critically panned. This move, combined with not having been paid for a European tour and enduring Beefheart's less than benevolent behavior towards them, led the entire band to quit. Beefheart eventually formed a new Magic Band with a group of younger musicians. The second disc of this collection comes from this era and features a solid performance by a group who have at times been unfairly

dubbed 'The Tragic Band'; but as this broadcast attests, they were actually a solid unit of master musicians playing some quite extraordinary rock music - albeit music less challenging than Beefheart's previous fare.

Fast forward to 1980 and Beefheart has his original fan-base intact, following his critically acclaimed *Shiny Beast (Bat Chain Puller)* and *Doc At The Radar Station* albums - and is out on the road promoting the latter. Stopping off in January '81 at Vancouver's Commodore Ballroom, for a performance that again is the subject of an FM radio broadcast, this show from his late resurgence forms the basis of the third disc in this collection.

Beefheart would completely retire from music a year later to concentrate on his work in the areas of art and sculpture - ironically a venture which proved to be his most financially secure. His expressionist paintings and drawings command high prices, and have been exhibited in art galleries and museums across the world. Captain Beefheart died in 2010, having suffered from multiple sclerosis for many years.

His influence has rarely been rivaled and remains incalculable. Described variously as "...one of modern music's true innovators" with "...a singular body of work virtually unrivalled in its daring and fluid creativity", he achieved little commercial or mainstream critical success but sustained a cult following ever since making his earliest recordings - a following that has done nothing but increase since his passing.

DISC ONE 1. Down In The Bottom 2:39 (Burnett) 2. Don't Start Me Talkin' 2:16 (Williamson) 3. The Sun Is Shining 2:41 (Van Vliet) 4. Tupelo 4:23 (Hooker) 5. Somebody In My Home 2:53 (Burnett) 6. Old Folks' Boogie 3:22 (Green) 7. St. James Infirmary 6:18 (Primrose) 8. Evil (Is Going On) 2:36 (Burnett) 9. Harp Instrumental 3:15 (Van Vliet) 10. Somebody In My Home 2:40 (Burnett) 11. Sure 'Nuff 'N' Yes I Do 2:06 (Bermann, Van Vliet) 12. Call On Me 3:04 (Van Vliet) 13. Yellow Brick Road 1:33 (Bermann, Van Vliet) 14. Plastic Factory 2:55 (Bermann, Van Vliet) 15. Sure 'Nuff 'N' Yes I Do 2:47 (Bermann, Van Vliet) 16. Yellow Brick Road 2:54 (Bermann, Van Vliet) 17. Abba Zaba 3:36 (Van Vliet) 18. Kandy Korn 4:24 (Van Vliet)

RUN TIME: 56 MINUTES

Tracks 1 - 9 Radio Broadcast from The Avalon Ballroom, San Francisco, CA, 17th June 1966. Tracks 10 - 18 Various Radio Sessions 1967 & 1968

DISC TWO 1. Mirror Man 7:31 (Van Vliet) 2. Upon The My-O-My 3:17 (Van Vliet, Van Vliet, Di Martino) 3. Crazy Little Things 5:08 (Van Vliet) 4. Full Moon Hot Sun 4:21 (Van Vliet, Van Vliet, Di Martino) 5. Sugar Bowl 3:01 (Van Vliet, Van Vliet, Di Martino) 6. This Is The Day 7:58 (Van Vliet, Van Vliet, Di Martino) 7. Keep On Rubbing 4:59 (Van Vliet) 8. Be Your Dog 7:45 (Van Vliet) 9. Sweet Georgia Brown 4:44 (Bernie, Pinkard, Casey) 10. Abba Zaba 3:26 (Van Vliet) 11. Peaches 6:51 (Van Vliet, Van Vliet, Di Martino) 12. Peaches (Encore) 5:48 (Van Vliet, Van Vliet, Di Martino)

RUN TIME: 65 MINUTES

Live Radio Broadcast from The Cowtown Ballroom, Kansas City, MO, 22nd April 1974

DISC THREE 1. Nowadays A Woman's Gotta Hit A Man 4:03 2. Abba Zaba 3:10 3. Hot Head 4:14 4. Ashtray Heart 3:16 5. Dirty Blue Jean 3:41 6. Best Batch Yet 5:13 7. A Carrot Is As Close As A Rabbit Gets To A Diamond 2:14 8. Doctor Dark 2:58 9. Bat Chain Puller 5:45 10. Sheriff Of Hong Kong 6:46 11. Kandy Korn 4:51 12. Big Eyed Beans From Venus 5:34 13. When Big Joan Sets Up 6:18 14. Woe-Is-Uh-Me-Bop 2:23 15. Bellerin' Plain 3:48 16. Orange Claw Hammer 4:19 17. Hot Head 3:41 18. Ashtray Heart 3:45

RUN TIME: 76 MINUTES

All songs written by Van Vliet.

Tracks 1 - 12 Radio Broadcast from The Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver, Canada, 17th January 1981. Tracks 13 - 15 from Tubeworks WABX TV, Detroit, MI, 15th January 1971. Track 16 from a KWST FM Radio Show Broadcast With Frank Zappa, 1st November 1975.

Tracks 17 - 18 from Saturday Night Live, November 1980

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TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 194 MINUTES

