

The Kinks - Come Dancing With The Kinks: The Best Of The Kinks 1977-1986 (1986)

Written by bluesever

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01. *You Really Got Me (Live)* 03:37 02. *Destroyer* 03:47 03. *(Wish I Could Fly Like) Superman* 03:36 04. *Juke Box Music* 03:46 05. *A Rock 'N' Roll Fantasy* 05:00 06. *Come Dancing* 03:55 07. *Do It Again* 04:11 08. *Better Things* 02:58 09. *Lola (Live)* 05:39 10. *Low Budget* 03:49 11. *Long Distance* 05:23 12. *Heart Of Gold* 04:03 13. *Don't Forget To Dance* 04:40 14. *Living On A Thin Line* 04:10 15. *Father Christmas* 03:43 16. *Celluloid Heroes (Live)* 07:25
Bass – Jim Rodford Drums – Mick Avory Keyboards – Ian Gibbons, John Gosling, Ray Davies Keyboards [Additional] – Nick Newell Lead Guitar, Backing Vocals – Dave Davies Lead Vocals, Guitar – Ray Davies Saxophone – Nick Newell Synthesizer, Piano – Ray Davies

Originally released as a double-album set in 1986, just after the Kinks had their last run at chart success, *Come Dancing With the Kinks (The Best of the Kinks 1977-1986)* does an excellent job of summarizing their stadium rock and AOR radio favorites on Arista. It leaves no single or radio favorite behind, while adding such terrific obscurities as "Long Distance" (originally only released as a bonus track on the *State of Confusion* cassette; the early '80s were a completely different world than the late '80s), the non-LP single "Father Christmas," the wonderfully sentimental album track "Better Things" (a close, upbeat cousin to Dylan's "Forever Young"), and the charming "Heart of Gold." In addition to these, there are live takes of "You Really Got Me" and "Lola" taken from the fine *One From the Road* album. It winds up being a representative selection of the Kinks' time as stadium warriors. They may have released some good albums during this period -- and *Misfits* and *Low Budget* are close to great -- but listeners looking for the bare essentials from this period will not be disappointed with this first-rate collection. [Three songs -- "Catch Me Now I'm Falling" plus the title tracks to *Misfits* and *Sleepwalker* -- were dropped from the CD reissue of *Come Dancing* in order to have it fit the running time of a late-'80s compact disc.] --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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