

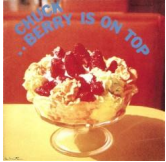
## Chuck Berry - Berry Is on Top (1959)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 03 September 2016 13:19 - Last Updated Friday, 29 December 2017 22:28

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## Chuck Berry - Berry Is on Top (1959)



*A1 Almost Grown 2:21 A2 Carol 2:21 A3 Maybellene 2:27 A4 Sweet Little Rock & Roller 2:39 A5 Anthony Boy 2:26 A6 Johnny B. Goode 2:30 B1 Little Queenie 2:36 B2 Jo Jo Gunne 2:49 B3 Roll Over Beethoven 2:30 B4 Around And Around 2:20 B5 Hey Pedro 2:18 B6 Blues For Hawaiians 2:25* Bass Guitar – George "Harmonica" Smith, Willie Dixon Drums – Eddie Hardy, Fred Below, Jasper Thomas Guitar – Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry Lead Vocals – Chuck Berry Maracas – Jerome Green Piano – Johnnie Johnson, Lafayette Leake

If you had to sweat all of Chuck Berry's early albums on Chess (and some, but not all, of his subsequent greatest-hits packages), this would be the one to own. The song lineup is exemplary, cobbling together classics like "Maybellene," "Carol," "Sweet Little Rock & Roller," "Little Queenie," "Roll Over Beethoven," "Around and Around," "Johnny B. Goode," and "Almost Grown." With the addition of the Latin-flavored "Hey Pedro," the steel guitar workout "Blues for Hawaiians," "Anthony Boy," and "Jo Jo Gunne," this serves as almost a mini-greatest-hits package in and of itself. While this may be merely a collection of singles and album ballast (as were most rock & roll LPs of the 1950s and early '60s), it ends up being the most perfectly realized of Chuck Berry's career. ---Cub Koda, Rovi

Chuck Berry is an American original. Celebrating six decades in the music business, this East St. Louis native initially captivated millions of kids in the '50s with his first recordings like "Maybellene" and "Roll Over Beethoven." He drove the rockers mad with his famous guitar licks, poetic lyrics and dynamic presence on stage. Introduced to Chess Records by fellow blues rocker Muddy Waters, Berry hit a goldmine immediately with his arsenal of tunes that he presented to Phil and Leonard Chess.

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A lot of these great songs became top charting singles which culminated in the release of his masterful third album *Berry Is On Top* in 1959. The classic 12-track album is highlighted by the monumental cuts "Johnny B. Goode," "Roll Over Beethoven" and "Maybellene," plus more powerhouse recordings like "Carol," "Sweet Little Rock & Roller," "Little Queenie," "Around and Around" and "Jo Jo Gunne."

Chuck Berry was more than a rock 'n roll genius. He was a natural poet. He could rhyme. He could compose lyrically two and three minute musical stories about the everyday man and woman, about the struggles of being a teenager, about romance, about cars, about faraway places, about dancing, and most notably about rock 'n rollin.' His unconventional approach to music was unlike that of anyone before him. --- musicdirect.com

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