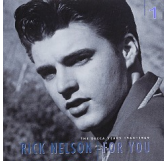


Ricky Nelson – For You (Decca Years) 1963-69 (2008)



Disc: 1 01. You Don't Love Me Anymore 02. I Got A Woman 03. What Comes Next? 04. Everytime I See You Smiling [play](#) 05. Everytime I Think About You 06. For Your Sweet Love 07. Gypsy Woman 08. I Will Follow You 09. Let's Talk The Whole Thing Over 10. One Boy Too Late 11. Pick Up The Pieces 12. String Along 13. You're Free To Go 14. Hello Mister Happiness 15. That Same Old Feeling 16. Down Home 17. I Rise, I Fall 18. (I'd Be) A Legend In My Time 19. Fools Rush In 20. Just Take A Moment 21. That's All She Wrote 22. For You 23. Hey There, Little Miss Tease 24. The Nearness Of You 25. My Old Flame 26. Love Is The Sweetest Thing 27. I Wonder (If Your Love - - -. Will Ever Belong To Me) 28. Be My Love 29. The Very Thought Of You Disc: 2

01. Dinah 02. I'll Get You Yet 03. I Don't Wanna Love You 04. Just A Little Bit Sweet 05. I Love You More Than You Know 06. The Loneliest Sound 07. You'll Never Fall In Love Again 08. Lonely Corner 09. Just Relax 10. There's Nothing I Can Say 11. I've Been Lookin' 12. That's Why I Love You Like I Do 13. A Happy Guy 14. In My Dreams 15. Don't Breathe A Word 16. I'm Talking About You 17. Yesterday's Love 18. Live And Learn 19. Liz 20. I Tried 21. I'm A Fool 22. Stop, Look, And Listen 23. From A Distance 24. When The Chips Are Down 25. Ladies Choice 26. Only The Young 27. Mean Old World 28. Since I Don't Have You 29. Say You Love Me 30. Love And Kisses 31. Love And Kisses Movie Promo 1 32. Love And Kisses Movie Promo 2 33. Love And Kisses Movie Promo 3 34. Love And Kisses Movie Promo 4 35. Love And Kisses Movie Promo 5 36. Love And Kisses Movie Promo 6

Disc: 3

01. I'm Not Ready For You Yet 02. It's Beginning To Hurt 03. My Blue Heaven 04. How Does It Go? 05. You Don't Know Me 06. Come Out Dancin' 07. I Know A Place 08. Love Is Where You Find It 09. I Should Have Loved You More 10. I Paid For Loving You 11. Raincoat In The River 12. I Catch Myself Crying 13. Our Own Funny Way 14. I Need You 15. Try To Remember

[play](#)

16. More 17. Stop The World (And Let Me Off) 18. Your Kind Of Lovin' 19. Freedom And Liberty 20. Fire Breathin' Dragon 21. Louisiana Man 22. Congratulations 23. Truck Drivin' Man 24. No Vacancy 25. Hello Walls 26. Night Train To Memphis 27. I'm A Fool To Care 28. You Just Can't Quit 29. Here I Am 30. Bright Lights And Country Music 31. Kentucky Means Paradise 32. Welcome To My World

Disc: 4

01. Alone 02. Big Chief Buffalo Nickel - - -. (The Desert Blues) 03. Peddler Man 04. Blue Moon Of Kentucky 05. Mystery Train 06. You Win Again 07. (I Heard That) Lonesome - - -.

Whistle Blow 08. The Bridge Washed Out 09. Take These Chains From My Heart 10. Things You Gave Me 11. (Standing) On The Outside Lookin' In 12. Helpless - -. (with backing vocals) 13. Funny How Time Slips Away 14. Take A City Bride 15. Salty Dog 16. Walkin' Down The Line 17. It Doesn't Matter Anymore 18. They Don't Give Medals - - -. (To Yesterday's Heroes) 19. Take A Broken Heart 20. Try To See It My Way 21. Freedom And Liberty 22. I'm Called Lonely 23. Suzanne On A Sunday Morning 24. Moonshine 25. Helpless - - -. (without backing vocals)

Disc: 5

01. Reason To Believe 02. Marshmallow Skies 03. I Wonder If Louise Is Home 04. Georgia On My Mind 05. Barefoot Boy 06. Dream Weaver 07. Baby Close Its Eyes 08. Don't Make Promises 09. Daydream 10. Don't Blame It On Your Wife 11. Promenade In Green

[play](#)

12. Three Day Eternity 13. The Lady Stayed With Me 14. I Think It's Gonna Rain Today 15. When The Sun Shined Its Face On Me 16. So Long Dad / - -. Love Story (Reprise) 17. Wait Till Next Year 18. For Emily Wherever I Find Her 19. Without Her 20. Stop By My Window 21. Hello To The Wind (Bonjour le vent) - -. With Kris Nelson 22. Love Story 23. Lady Came From Baltimore 24. I Think It's Gonna Rain Today 25. She Belongs To Me 26. Promises 27. Easy To Be Free 28. If You Gotta Go, Go Now 29. Promises

Rick Nelson was one of the very biggest of the '50s teen idols, so it took awhile for him to attain the same level of critical respectability as other early rock greats. Yet now the consensus is that he made some of the finest pop/rock recordings of his era. Sure, he had more promotional push than any other rock musician of the '50s; no, he wasn't the greatest singer; and yes, Elvis, Gene Vincent, Carl Perkins, and others rocked harder. But Nelson was extraordinarily consistent during the first five years of his recording career, crafting pleasant pop-rockabilly hybrids with ace session players and projecting an archetype of the sensitive, reticent young adult with his accomplished vocals. He also played a somewhat underestimated role in rock & roll's absorption into mainstream America -- how bad could rock be if it was featured on one of America's favorite family situation comedies on a weekly basis?

Nelson entered professional entertainment before his tenth birthday, when he appeared with father Ozzie (once a jazz musician), mother Harriet, and brother David on a radio comedy series based around the family. By the early '50s, the series was on television, and Ricky grew into a teenager in public. He was just the right age to have his life turned around by rock & roll in 1956 and started his recording career almost accidentally the following year. The story's sometimes been told that he had no professional singing ambitions until he recorded his debut single to impress a girlfriend. The single, a cover of Fats Domino's "I'm Walkin'" that went to number four, was helped immensely (as all of his early singles would be) by plugs on the Ozzie & Harriet TV show.

So far the script was adhering to the Pat Boone teen idol prototype -- a whitewash of an R&B hit stealing the thunder from the pop audience, sung by a young, good-looking fella with barely any musical experience to speak of. What happened next was easy to predict commercially but surprisingly satisfying musically as well. Nelson was a fairly hip kid who preferred the rockabilly of Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley to the fodder dished out for teen idols, and over the next five years he would offer his own brand of rockabilly music, albeit one with some smooth Hollywood production touches and occasional pure pop ballads. Nelson recruited one of the greatest early rock guitarists, James Burton, to supply authentic licks (another great guitarist, Joe Maphis, played on some early sides). Some of his best and toughest songs ("Believe What You Say," "It's Late") were written by Johnny and/or Dorsey Burnette, who had previously been in one of the best rockabilly combos, the Johnny Burnette Rock 'n Roll Trio. Ricky could rock pretty hard when he wanted to, as on "Be-Bop Baby" and "Stood Up," though in a polished fashion that wasn't quite as wild and threatening as rockabilly's Southern originators.

Nelson really hit his stride, though, with mid-tempo numbers and ballads that provided a more secure niche for his calm vocals and narrow range. From 1957 to 1962, he was about the highest-selling singer in the U.S. except for Elvis, making the Top 40 about 30 times. "Poor Little Fool" and "Lonesome Town" (1958) were early indications of his ballad style; in the early '60s, "Travelin' Man," "Young World," "Teen Age Idol," and other hits pointed to a more countrified, mature style as he honed in on his 21st birthday (by which time he would shorten his billing from "Ricky" to "Rick"). He could still play rockabilly from time to time, the most memorable example being "Hello, Mary Lou" (co-written by Gene Pitney), with its electrifying James Burton solos.

Nelson was lured away from the Imperial label by a mammoth 20-year contract with Decca in 1963 (which would be terminated prematurely in the mid-'70s), and for a year or so the hits continued, at a less frenetic pace. Early-1964's "For You," however, would be his last big smash of the '60s. The fault wasn't all the Beatles and changing music trends -- on both singles and albums, much of the material was either substandard pop or dusty Tin Pan Alley standards, although isolated tracks still generated some sparks. He wasn't exactly starving, as he continued to appear on Ozzie and Harriet. But by the mid-'60s even that institution was declining in popularity, leading to its cancellation in 1966.

Nelson had a strong country feel to much of his material from the beginning, and by the late '60s it was becoming dominant. He covered straight country material by the likes of Willie Nelson and Doug Kershaw and formed one of the earliest country-rock groups, the Stone Canyon Band, with musicians who had played (or would play) with Poco, Buck Owens, Little Feat, and Roger McGuinn. A cover of Bob Dylan's "She Belongs to Me" made the Top 40 in

1970, but his country-rock outings attracted more critical acclaim than commercial success, until 1972's "Garden Party." A rare self-composed number, based around the frosty reception granted his contemporary material at a rock & roll oldies show, it became his last Top Ten hit.

Nelson would continue to record off and on for the next dozen years and toured constantly, yet he was unable to capitalize on his assets. A big part of the problem was that although Nelson wanted to play contemporary music, he didn't write much of his own material, which was a basic precept of self-respecting rock acts after the advent of the Beatles. Nor did he tap into good outside compositions, and there's little of interest on the albums he recorded over the last decade or so of his life. He died (along with his fiancée) in a private plane crash on December 31, 1985, on his way to a New Year's Eve gig in Dallas, at the age of 45. --- Richie Unterberger, allmusic.com

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