

CD1: 01. All That A Woman Should Be [0:03:24.38] 02. It's A Secret [0:03:17.56] 03. Can't Get Over Loving You [0:03:26.07] 04. Lana [0:03:41.11] 05. Just Can't Say Goodbye [0:04:21.11] 06. Baby Jump [0:04:13.22] 07. Sugar Mama [0:04:25.50] 08. We're OK [0:03:13.03] 09. Baby Ride My Train [0:03:24.50] 10. Gone To Malaya [0:04:45.03] 11. Heavy Foot Stomp [0:02:59.58] 12. Feels Like I'm In Love [0:03:21.35] 13. Sad Eyed Joe [0:02:52.73] 14. Brand New Car [0:03:48.60] 15. Going Down The Dusty Road [0:02:37.01] 16. Looking For My Girl [0:04:22.50] 17. My Girl And Me [0:04:28.62] 18. She Rowed [0:03:16.09] 19. Lovin' In The Alleys And Fightin' In The Streets [0:03:16.26] 20. Rocking On The Road [0:03:30.06] 21. See You Again [0:04:52.55] 22. Too Fast To Live And Too Young To Die CD2: 01. Demon [0:05:27.25] 02. Going Back Home [0:02:17.57] 03. [0:01:47.46] Hello Nadine [0:03:29.70] 04. Open Up [0:03:27.02] 05. Sur Le Pont D'Avignon [0:02:24.00] 06. Wild Love [0:03:13.47] 07. 46 And On [0:05:54.65] 08. Don't Let Go [0:02:56.73] 09. Goodtime Goodtime [0:03:01.54] 10. Hello It's You Again [0:06:29.56] 11. In The Summertime [0:03:34.47] 12. Maggie [0:04:13.48] 13. Mighty Man [0:04:48.53] 14. Peace In The Country [0:03:06.73] 15. Quiet Man [0:03:57.28] 16. You Better Leave That Whisky Alone [0:04:03.59] 17. Alright Alright [0:02:47.16] 18. Lady Rose [0:03:10.01] 19. Baby Let's Play House [0:02:53.74] 20. On a Sunday [0:03:19.13] 21. Tramp [0:05:01.74] CD3:

01. Cold Blue Excursion (Ray Dorset - solo) [0:04:13.49] 02. Northcote Arms [0:03:16.40] 03. San Francisco Bay Blues [0:03:41.37] 04. See Me [0:03:55.52] 05. The Man Behind The Piano [0:03:27.24] 06. Give Me Love [0:04:47.67] 07. Impala Saga [0:04:43.57] 08. Memoirs Of A Stockbroker [0:04:09.50] 09. My Friend [0:02:39.36] 10. Somebody Stole My Wife [0:03:00.11] 11. Sweet Mary Jane [0:02:43.14] 12. Johnny B. Badde [0:03:04.50] 13. There's A Man Going Round Taking Names [0:03:07.26] 14. Coming Back To You When The Time Comes [0:03:42.15] 15. Follow Me Down [0:03:20.22] 16. Simple Things [0:03:54.16] 17. You Don't Have To Be In The Army (To Fight In The War) [0:03:16.42] 18. Dust Pneumonia Blues [0:05:48.62] 19. Long Legged Woman Dressed In Black [0:02:56.39] 20. Movin' On [0:04:12.37] 21. She's Gone [0:05:24.09]

Wpisany przez bluesever Niedziela, 29 Lipiec 2012 17:14 - Zmieniony Poniedziałek, 20 Sierpień 2018 22:04

Mungo Jerry are one of rock's great one-hit successes. Outside of England, they're known for exactly one song, but that song, "In the Summertime," is a seasonal anthem known by listeners who weren't even born when it was released. Mungo Jerry was a solid blues outfit as well -- in fact, one suspects they were the kind of blues band that purists Alexis Korner and Cyril Davies would have loved, had they ever intersected -- and knew how to get the most out of their jug band sound, which helped them survive for decades.

Mungo Jerry were formed in 1970 by singer/guitarist Ray Dorset (born March 21, 1946), who had a fascination with early rock & roll sounds, as well as skiffle and blues. The other original members were Mike Cole on upright bass; Paul King on guitar, kazoo, and jug; Joe Rush playing washboard; and Colin Earl at the keyboards. Dorset and Earl had first hooked up in the Good Earth, a group with a mixed rock & roll and blues sound that cut some tracks for the mid-priced Saga label, none of which sold. Cole, King, and Rush came aboard and the lineup was complete. The name Mungo Jerry -- from a T.S. Eliot poem -- came next, with a contract from Pye Records.

The quartet had a pleasing, low-key jug band sound, folk-like but also bluesy, which was unusual in 1969, a time when most British bands that were into blues were shooting for high-wattage virtuosity. They sounded less like Cream or Blind Faith and a lot more like Jesse Fuller or Tampa Red, or even Piano Red (aka Dr. Feelgood). Mungo Jerry became one of the very first acts placed on the Pye label's new Dawn Records imprint, a progressive label that was intended to update Pye's image. In May of 1970, following an appearance at the Newcastle Hollywood Festival, their debut single, "In the Summertime," written by Ray Dorset, was released. The record, an easygoing, catchy skiffle-like piece reflecting the mood of the season in its title and the sexual ethos of the late '60s was an instant hit, shooting to number one in England in only two weeks and riding the charts for much of the summer. Concerts and television appearances followed in profusion, although the most often seen among the latter is a performance mimed to the single. It was a Top Ten hit in America, riding the charts for weeks, and was a success in practically every country in which it was released, ultimately selling between eight and 16 million copies around the world.

A self-titled debut album was rush-released that summer to capitalize on the hit. By the time the LP was recorded, washboard-player Rush was gone, and Cole had left by the time the record was issued, the beginning of a dizzying series of personnel changes. The group's second single, "Baby Jump," was a chart-topper in England but didn't fare as well overseas, and heralded a second album, Electronically Tested, which was followed by a third, You Don't Have to Be in the Army, that same year, with a parallel U.S. release, Memoirs of a Stockbroker (Janus Records). "Maggie," "Johnny B Badde," "Mighty Man," "Lady Rose," and "You Don't Have to Be in the Army to Fight in the War" all charted in England and got decent, if not spectacular, airplay at various other points around the globe.

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The membership of Mungo Jerry began coming apart almost from the outset of their success. Cole, who was replaced by John Godfrey, was followed out of the lineup by King and Earl, although their exit was somewhat more acrimonious. They attempted to take the name Mungo Jerry, but Dorset, as the singer, guitarist, and songwriter, held onto the name. Instead, King and Earl cut solo albums for Pye and went on the road as the King Earl Boogie Band with former bandmate Rush in the lineup. Meanwhile, Dorset recruited keyboard player Jon Pope and drummer Tim Reeves for Mungo Jerry.

Essentially, from 1972 onward, Dorset was Mungo Jerry, even more than Ian Anderson was Jethro Tull. Drummer Paul Hancox (ex-Chicken Shack), bassist (and future Ozzy Osbourne alumnus) Bob Daisley, and keyboard man John Cook passed through, as did piano player Ian Milne and guitarist Dick Middleton, and that was just during the band's time on Pye through 1975. In the later '70s, when the band was signed to Polydor, original members Earl and Rush were back in the lineup. Earl and King later formed a group called Skeleton Crew.

Mungo Jerry's chart hits stopped coming, but they continued to attract audiences on-stage everywhere from Eastern Europe to the Middle East. Ironically, Dorset found himself unable to emerge from the shadow of his group's identity. His solo albums, including 1987's A Case for the Blues, featuring Peter Green on guitar, failed to attract any attention. Decades after the band's founding, Mungo Jerry, which could consist of any lineup from a quartet down to Dorset with taped accompaniment, continued to work on-stage and "In the Summertime" remained their signature tune. Reggae singer Shaggy recorded a cover version of "In the Summertime" in 1995, which hit the charts worldwide, and in 2010 Dorset re-recorded it (as Mungo Jerry & Bluestone featuring MC Skibadee) to celebrate the song's 40th anniversary. Occasional albums have appeared under the Mungo Jerry name in the 21st century, including 2001's Candy Dreams, 2003's Adults Only, 2007's Naked - From the Heart and When She Comes, She Runs All Over Me, and 2012's Cool Jesus. ---Bruce Eder, allmusic.com

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