



# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

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## ARTIST TITLE

Various  
**The Johnson City Sessions, 1928-1929**  
Can You Sing Or Play Old-Time Music?

## LABEL CATALOG # PRICE-CODE EAN-CODE

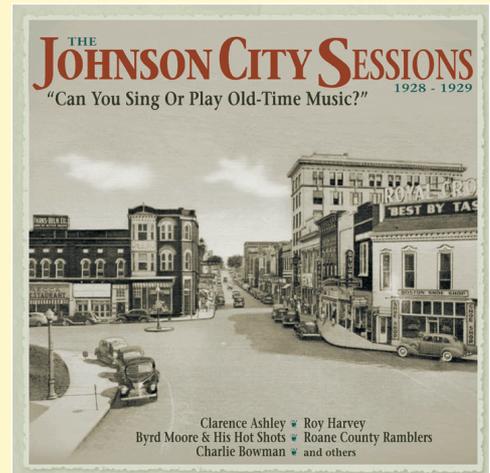
Bear Family Productions  
BCD 16083  
DK



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## FORMAT GENRE TRACKS PLAYING TIME

4-CD Box-Set (LP-size) + 136-page hardcover book  
Country / Historical  
100  
302:08



- A follow-up to BEAR FAMILY's wildly acclaimed, Grammy-nominated BRISTOL SESSIONS set!
- Classic early country music from the dawn of field recording!
- Expansively annotated and lavishly illustrated as only BEAR FAMILY can do!
- A true, under-regarded classic of early American music!

## INFORMATION

The famous 1927 Bristol Sessions, produced by VICTOR RECORDS in Bristol, Tennessee are known as 'The Big Bang Of Country Music.' But don't overlook the recordings made in nearby Johnson City by COLUMBIA RECORDS in October 1928 and October 1929. Collectively, the Johnson City recordings are regarded by scholars, collectors, and lovers of old-time music as a distinctive cross-section of Appalachian music, captured on the cusp of the Great Depression. Indeed, the final recordings of the 1929 session took place on October 24 - the infamous 'Black Thursday' when Wall Street crashed.

BEAR FAMILY RECORDS has gathered the entire issued output of the 1928-29 Johnson City sessions. This is the first time all 100 songs have been issued together... and the first time many have been heard since the Depression. The accompanying 136-page, LP-size hardcover book contains newly researched essays on the background to the sessions and the artists, with many rare and unpublished photographs. Also included are complete song lyrics and a detailed discography.

Three of these performances were chosen by the pioneering scholar Harry Smith for his 1952 compilation 'Anthology Of American Folk Music' - a seminal source for the urban folk revival of the 1950s and '60s: *The Coo-Coo Bird* by Clarence (Tom) Ashley, *Old Lady And The Devil* by Bill and Belle Reed, and *Down On Penny's Farm* by The Bentley Boys - the inspiration for Bob Dylan's *Hard Times In New York Town* and *Maggie's Farm*. Other gems include a topical best-seller of the Prohibition era, *When the Roses Bloom Again For The Bootlegger*, the Grant Brothers' *Tell It To Me*, revived by the Old Crow Medicine Show, and many more.

'Can You Sing Or Play Old-Time Music?' is packed with stringband tunes, ancient ballads, sacred songs, hillbilly blues and blue yodels - the entrancing musical world of old Appalachia.



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## TRACK LISTING

### CD 1:

**Shell Creek Quartet:** My Boyhood Days • Back Where The Old Home Stands • **Grant Brothers & Their Music:** When A Man Is Married • Goodbye My Honey – I'm Gone • Tell It To Me • Johnson Boy • **Roane County Ramblers:** Home Town Blues • Southern No. 111 • Step High Waltz • Tennessee Waltz • **Renus Rich & Carl Bradshaw:** Goodbye Sweetheart • Sleep Baby Sleep • **Clarence Green & Wise Brothers:** Pride Of The Ball • Kitty Waltz • **Clarence Green:** Johnson City Blues • Ninety-Nine Years In Jail • **Proximity String Quartet:** Lindy • Louise • **Greensboro Boys Quartet:** Sing Me A Song Of The Sunny South • Sweet Little Girl Of Mine • **Richard Harold:** The Battleship Maine • The Fisher's Maid • Sweet Bird • Mary Dear

### CD 2:

**Bowman Sisters:** My Old Kentucky Home • Swanee River • **Charlie Bowman & His Brothers:** Roll On Buddy • Gonna Raise The Ruckus Tonight • **Bill & Belle Reed:** You Shall Be Free • Old Lady And The Devil • **The Reed Children:** I'll Be All Smiles Tonight • I Once Did Have A Sweetheart • **McVay & Johnson:** Ain't Going To Lay My Armor Down • I'll Be Ready When The Bridegroom Comes • **Earl Shirkey & Roy Harper:** Steamboat Man • When The Roses Bloom For The Bootlegger • Poor Little Joe • We Parted At The Gate • **George Roark:** I Ain't A Bit Drunk • My Old Coon Dog • **Ed Helton Singers:** A Storm On The Sea (The Sinking Of The Steamship Vestris) • My Old Cottage Home • **Garland Brothers & Grinstead:** Just Over The River • Beautiful • **McCartt Brothers & Patterson:** Green Valley Waltz • Over The Sea Waltz • **Blalock & Yates:** Morning Star Waltz • Pride Of The Ball • **Jack Jackson:** Flat Tire Blues • My Alabama Home

### CD 3:

**George Wade & Francum Braswell:** Think A Little • When We Go A Courtin' • **Jack Jackson:** In Our Little Home Sweet Home • I'm Just A Black Sheep • **Roane County Ramblers:** Free A Little Bird – 1930 Model • Johnson City Rag • Callahan Rag • Alabama Trot • **Wyatt & Brandon:** Evalina • Lover's Farewell • **Roy Harvey & Leonard Copeland:** Just Pickin' • Beckley Rag • Underneath The Sugar Moon • Lonesome Weary Blues • **The Spindale Quartet:** Sweet Peace The Gift Of God's Love • God Will Take Care Of You • Face To Face • Lift Him Up • **Earl Shirkey & Roy Harper:** The Virginian Strike Of '23 • The Policeman's Little Child • My Yodeling Sweetheart • I'm Longing To Belong To Someone • We Have Moonshine In The West Virginia Hills • A Hobo's Pal • **Moatsville String Ticklers:** The West Virginia Hills • Moatsville Blues

### CD 4:

**Weaver Brothers:** You Came Back To Me • Prison Sorrows • **Byrd Moore & His Hot Shots:** Frankie Silvers • The Hills Of Tennessee • Careless Love • Three Men Went A Hunting • **Bateman Sacred Quartet:** Nothing Like Old Time Religion • Some Day • **Fred Richards:** My Katie • Danville Blues • **Clarence Ashley:** Dark Holler Blues • The Coo-Coo Bird • Little Sadie • Naomi Wise • **The Bentley Boys:** Down On Penny's Farm • Henhouse Blues • **Bowman Sisters:** Railroad Take Me Back • Old Lonesome Blues • **Ephraim Woodie & The Henpecked Husbands:** Last Gold Dollar • The Fatal Courtship • **Ira & Eugene Yates:** Powder And Paint • Sarah Jane • **Ellis Williams:** Buttermilk Blues • Smokey Blues



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## ALSO AVAILABLE

### VARIOUS

**The Bristol Sessions 1927 - 1928**

**The Big Bang Of Country Music**

5-CD Box-Set (LP-size) with 120-page hardcover book  
BCD 16094 EK

### CD 1: Ernest V. Stoneman - E. Kahle Brewer - Walter Mooney:

The Dying Girl's Farewell • Tell Mother I Will Meet Her • Ernest V. Stoneman - Miss Irma Frost - Uncle Eck Dunford: The Mountaineer's Courtship • Ernest V. Stoneman - Miss Irma Frost: Midnight On The Stormy Deep • Ernest V. Stoneman & His Dixie Mountaineers: Sweeping Through The Gates • I Know My Name Is There • Are You Washed In The Blood? • No More Good-Byes • The Resurrection (Takes 1 & 2) • I Am Resolved (Takes 1 & 2) • Ernest Phipps and His Holiness Quartet: I Want To Go Where Jesus Is • Do, Lord, Remember Me • Old Ship Of Zion • Jesus Getting Us Ready For That Great Day • Happy In Prison • Don't Grieve After Me • Uncle Eck Dunford - Hattie Stoneman: What Will I Do, For My Money's All Gone • Uncle Eck Dunford: The Whip-poor-will's Song • Skip To Ma Lou, My Darling • Uncle Eck Dunford - Ernest Stoneman: Barney McCoy • Blue Ridge Corn Shuckers: Old Time Corn Shuckin', Parts 1 & 2

### CD 2: Johnson Brothers: The Jealous Sweetheart (Takes 1 & 2)

• A Passing Policeman • Just A Message From Carolina • Blind Alfred Reed: The Wreck Of The Virginian (Takes 1 & 2) • I Mean To Live For Jesus • You Must Unload • Walking In The Way With Jesus (Takes 1 & 2) • Johnson Brothers With Tennessee Wildcats: Two Brothers Are We • The Soldier's Poor Little Boy • Johnson Brothers: I Want To See My Mother (Ten Thousand Miles Away) • El Watson: Pot Licker Blues • Narrow Gauge Blues • B.F. Shelton: Cold Penitentiary Blues • Oh Molly Dear • Pretty Polly • Darling Cora • Alfred G. Karnes: Called To The Foreign Field • I Am Bound For The Promised Land • Where We'll Never Grow Old • When They Ring The Golden Bells • To The Work • J.P. Nester: Train On The Island • Black-Eyed Susie • Bull Mountain Moonshiners: Johnny Goodwin

### CD 3: The Carter Family: Bury Me Under The Weeping Willow

• Little Log Cabin By The Sea • The Poor Orphan Child • The Storms Are On The Ocean • Single Girl, Married Girl • The Wandering Boy • Alcoa Quartet: Remember Me, O Mighty One • I'm Redeemed • Henry Whitter: Henry Whitter's Fox Chase • Rain Crow Bill • The Shelor Family: Big Bend Gal • Suzanna Gal • Sandy River Belle (Takes & 1 & 2) • Billy Grimes, The Rover • Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Baker: The Newmarket Wreck • On The Banks Of The Sunny Tennessee • Jimmie Rodgers: The Soldier's Sweetheart • Sleep Baby Sleep • Tenneva Ramblers: The Longest Train I Ever Saw • Sweet Heaven When I Die • Miss 'Liza, Poor Gal • West Virginia Coon Hunters: Greasy String • Your Blue Eyes Run Me Crazy • Tennessee Mountaineers: Standing On The Promises • At The River

CD 4: Smyth County Ramblers: My Name Is Ticklish Reuben • Way Down In Alabama • Alfred G. Karnes: Do Not Wait 'Till I'm Laid 'Neath The Clay • The Days Of My Childhood Plays • We Shall All Be Reunited • Ernest Phipps and his Holiness Singers: If The Light Has Gone Out In Your Soul • Went Up In The Clouds Of Heaven • I Know That Jesus Set Me Free • Shine On Me • Bright Tomorrow • A Little Talk With Jesus • Howard - Peak (The Blind Musicians): I Cannot Be Your Sweetheart • Three Black Sheep • Clarence Greene: Good-night Darling • Little Bunch Of Roses • The Stoneman Family: The Broken-Hearted Lover • Uncle Eck Dunford: Angeline, The Baker • Old Shoes And Leggin's • The Stoneman Family: We Parted By The Riverside • Ernest Stoneman's Dixie Mountaineers: Down To Jordan And Be Saved • There's A Light Lit Up In Galilee • The Stoneman Family: Going Up The Mountain After Liquor, Parts 1 & 2 • The Spanish Merchant's Daughter • Too Late

CD 5: Stamps Quartet: I'll Be Happy • Like The Rainbow • Because I Love Him • Come To The Savior • Do Your Best, Then Wear A Smile • We Shall Reach Home • Smith Brothers: My Mother Is Waiting For Me In Heaven Above • She Has Climbed The Golden Stair • Palmer Sisters: We'll Sing On That Shore • Singing The Story Of Grace • Help Me To Find The Way • He'll Be With Me • Tarter & Gay: Brownie Blues • Unknown Blues • Carolina Twins: Where Is My Mamma? • When You Go A'Courtin' • I Sat Upon The River Bank • New Orleans Is The Town I Like Best • She Tells Me That I Am Sweet • Mr. Brown, Here I Come • Shortbuckle Roark & Family: I Truly Understand, You Love Another Man • My Mother's Hands

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