




BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

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SHIPPING DATE: OKTOBER 29, 2007 (estimated)

STREET DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2007

ARTIST	BENNY BARNES
TITLE	Poor Man's Riches The Complete 1950s Recordings
LABEL	Bear Family Records
CATALOG #	BCD 16517
PRICE-CODE	AH
EAN-CODE	 4 000127 165176
ISBN-CODE	978-3-89916-345-2
FORMAT	CD with 48-page booklet
GENRE	Country / Rockabilly
TRACKS	33
PLAYING TIME	76:40



KEY SELLING POINTS

- Complete 1950s recordings by this overlooked Texas artist
- All of his rare Dixie EPs
- His tribute record to Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper, *Gold Records In The Snow*
- His version of *Beggar To A King*, which inspired Hank Snow's 1961 hit version
- His rockabilly classic *You Gotta Pay*

SALES NOTES

"I thought Benny was a fine singer. He was a great artist with a fine stage act. I never could understand why he didn't make it big."

Producer H.W. 'Pappy' Daily on Benny Barnes

East Texas country singer Benny Barnes scored a huge hit in 1956 with only his second record, *Poor Man's Riches*, cut for the legendary Starday label, and would quickly graduate from the beer joints of his native Beaumont (where he often shared the stage with George Jones) to the national spotlight of the Louisiana Hayride. He was boyishly handsome, had convincing stage presence, and an instantly recognizable vocal style that melded influences like George Jones and Lefty Frizzell with that of his early idol, Hank Snow. He had defied current trends and record industry wisdom by hitting with a hard country performance at a time when rock 'n' roll had threatened to consume everything in its path.

But there are no sure bets in the record business, as Barnes would bitterly learn when neither these advantages nor the patronage of a major label, Mercury, would help him find a follow-up hit to *Poor Man's Riches*. While Barnes would release many more singles over the next 25 years, by the time of his death in 1987, he was essentially forgotten by the country music business.

In this overdue retrospective, Bear Family gathers together Benny Barnes' complete 1950s recordings, most reissued from the original master tapes for the first time, including two previously unissued performances. It was a prolific four

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years for Barnes, commencing with a couple of early acoustic demos, and continuing through his singles for Starday, Mercury, Dixie, Faith, D, and finally back to Mercury at the close of the decade. Though there were a few definite missteps during this period, it's equally undeniable that Barnes's talent deserved wider recognition than it received – then and now.

The CD comes with a newly researched biography of Barnes by Andrew Brown, rare photos, and a discography.

TRACK LISTING

CD:

1. You Gotta Pay
2. Poor Man's Riches
3. King For A Day
4. No Fault Of Mine
5. Train of Love
6. Your Old Standby
7. My Babe (demo)
8. Last Message
9. A Nickel's Worth Of Dreams
10. I Walk the Line
11. Tangled Mind
12. No Fault Of Mine (demo)
13. Penalty
14. Heads You Win (Tails I Lose)
15. Mine, All Mine
16. Conscience I'm Guilty
17. Happy Little Bluebird
18. Beggar To A King
19. I Got It Made
20. Once Again
21. Those Who Know
22. Poor Old Me
23. My Arms Are A House
24. Lonely Street
25. Moon Over My Shoulder
26. There You Go
27. Fastest Gun Alive
28. Gold Records In The Snow
29. Give My Love to Rose
30. Stolen Moments
31. These Hands
32. Take The World (But Give Me Jesus)
33. Talking To The Lord