



BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

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SHIPPING DATE: JANUARY 17, 2005

ARTIST	VARIOUS
TITLE	Town Hall Party
LABEL	Bear Family Records
CATALOG #	BCD 16729
PRICE-CODE	AH
ISBN-CODE	3-89916-091-6
EAN-CODE	 4000127167293
FORMAT	CD
GENRE	Country
TRACKS	12
PLAYING TIME	32:13



SALES NOTES

'Town Hall Party' was among the first of the country music shows to be seen on U.S. television, making its debut in early 1952 and running until early 1961. Staged every Saturday in a theatre in Compton, a suburb of Los Angeles, the stage was made up to look like an old barn, thus continuing the traditions of the various live shows that were first heard on the radio airwaves three decades earlier.

Although Nashville was fast establishing itself as the commercial home of country music, the West Coast had a vast, ready audience for such a show. The area had first become the new home for the Dust Bowl migrants of the 1930s and, a few years later during the war years, a further influx was made up of workers seeking jobs in the munitions and defence plants. These were all people who loved country music and, consequently, a brand new country scene was born with its own sound, artists, clubs, record labels, radio shows and, in due course, television programmes.

'Town Hall Party' was created with its own cast of regular performers and musicians, boasting a house that was virtually a 'who's who' of the West Coast scene comprising such as such as Joe Maphis, Merle Travis, Skeets McDonald, Johnny Bond and Tommy Duncan. Jay Stewart (who later hosted the TV quiz show 'Let's Make a Deal'), and Tex Ritter were the MCs. The weekly show presented an equally impressive guest list, attracted both by the show's tremendous popularity but also by the fact that fledgling television was becoming a vitally important media for exposing their talents to brand new audiences. Among the many guests to appear included Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Eddie Cochran, The Collins Kids, Freddie Hart, Wanda Jackson, George Jones, Merle Lindsay, Bob Luman, Carl Perkins, Jim Reeves, Marty Robbins, Hank Snow and Gene Vincent,

With an audience numbering up to 2000, 'Town Hall Party' was first broadcasted live over local radio station KFI, but reached a greater audience when NBC syndicated the show on radio. The broadcast was extended to three hours when KTTV-TV televised the show. The show was so popular that, in 1958, Columbia Records issued the 'Town Hall Party' album featuring various cast members.

Now 'Town Hall Party' is reborn on DVD. Launched in 2002, this continuing DVD series present both individual artists' performances, compiled from different appearances on 'Town Hall Party', and complete cast shows selected from specific dates. Completely remastered, and presented with full colour booklets, these releases fully captured the atmosphere, artistry and sounds of a bygone country music age.

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TRACK LISTING

1. **Joe Maphis & The Town Hall Band:** Town Hall Shuffle
2. **The Collins Kids:** Just Because
3. **Freddie Hart:** Lonesome Love
4. **Dortha Wright:** Cold, Cold Heart
5. **Johnny Bond:** Oklahoma Waltz
6. **Jenks Tex Carman:** Each Minute Seems A Million Years
7. **Joe Maphis & The Town Hall Band:** Tennessee Two Step
8. **Tex Ritter:** Wagon Wheels
9. **Les 'Carrot Top' Anderson:** My Little Red Wagon
10. **Joe & Rose Lee Maphis:** Sweeter Than The Flowers
11. **Bobby Charles:** Kentucky Waltz
12. **Entire Cast:** Wait For The Light To Shine

ALSO AVAILABLE:

TITLE	NUMBER	FORMAT
Johnny Cash At 'Town Hall Party'	BVD 20001 AT	DVD
Eddie Cochran At 'Town Hall Party'	BVD 20002 AT	DVD
Gene Vincent At 'Town Hall Party'	BVD 20003 AT	DVD
Bob Luman At 'Town Hall Party'	BVD 20004 AT	DVD
The Collins Kids At 'Town Hall Party' Vol.1	BVD 20005 AT	DVD
The Collins Kids At 'Town Hall Party' Vol.2	BVD 20010 AT	DVD
The Collins Kids At 'Town Hall Party' Vol.3	BVD 20015 AT	DVD
Jenks Tex Carman At 'Town Hall Party'	BVD 20006 AT	DVD
Marty Robbins At 'Town Hall Party'	BVD 20007 AT	DVD
Halloween At 'Town Hall Party' October 31, 1959	BVD 20026 AT	DVD
'Town Hall Party' November 6, 1954	BVD 20027 AT	DVD
'Town Hall Party' November 29, 1958	BVD 20028 AT	DVD
'Town Hall Party' June 6, 1959	BVD 20029 AT	DVD
'Town Hall Party' February 14, 1959	BVD 20030 AT	DVD
'Town Hall Party' August 8, 1959	BVD 20031 AT	DVD
'Town Hall Party' November 15, 1958	BVD 20032 AT	DVD