



BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

TEL +49(0)4748 - 82 16 16 • FAX +49(0)4748 - 82 16 20 • E-MAIL sandra.wohlers@bear-family.de

ARTIST TITLE

**Merle Haggard
The Troubadour**



LABEL
CATALOG #
PRICE-CODE
EAN-CODE

Bear Family Records
BCD 17250
DK



ISBN-CODE
FORMAT
GENRE
TRACKS
PLAYING TIME

978-3-89916-679-8
4-CD Box-Set (LP-size) + 68-page hardcover book
Country/Outlaw
111
338:12



- Merle Haggard's overlooked and underappreciated MCA recordings capture the great country singer-songwriter reemerging from his mid-career crossroads.
- 111 tracks spanning from 1976 to 1981, covering eight LPs plus the 'lost' album later sold to CBS.
- Four unissued songs, including the recently discovered original recording of *Troubadour*.
- Three songs never on album, including *The Bull And The Beaver*, his #8 country duet with Leona Williams.
- Both hit singles from the 'Bronco Billy' soundtrack, including *Misery And Gin* and Haggard's chart-topping duet with Clint Eastwood, *Bar Room Buddies*.
- Lavish 68-page hardcover book with rare photos and an extensive essay covering Haggard's MCA years.

INFORMATION

His celebrated, career-defining 11-year run with CAPITOL RECORDS behind him, Merle Haggard was in a creative lull and pondering retirement when he signed with MCA. But after taking a six-month hiatus from performing, a refreshed and newly confident Haggard triumphantly returned to the footlights and the recording studios. His singing voice now mellowed into a comfortable baritone, and his newly retooled lineup of the Strangers could effortlessly shift from country to swing to down-home blues without hesitation. More importantly, an inspired Haggard began writing great songs again.

This 4-CD collection gathers every existing master that Haggard recorded for MCA RECORDS between 1976 and 1981. Among the highlights:

- 'My Farewell To Elvis,' Haggard's heartfelt tribute to his musical contemporary Elvis Presley.
- 'Serving 190 Proof,' the critically acclaimed, semi-autobiographical 1979 album that signaled Haggard's future musical direction.
- 'Back To The Barrooms,' the 1980 Jimmy Bowen-produced classic that yielded Haggard's chart-topping single *I Think I'll Just Stay Here And Drink* and *Leonard*, his homage to a troubled friend, country stylist Tommy Collins.
- 'Rainbow Stew,' a breathtaking October 1980 live set performed at Anaheim Stadium in front of more than 30,000 cheering fans, and
- 'Songs For The Mama That Tried,' an affectionate 1981 album of country gospel songs dedicated to his elderly mother.



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The set also includes *It's All In The Game* and unreleased MCA material that CBS later acquired and parceled out among three EPIC albums.

Many great songs are associated with Haggard's MCA years, and they're all here: *Ramblin' Fever*, *From Graceland To The Promised Land*, *I'm Always On A Mountain When I Fall*, *It's Been A Great Afternoon*, *Red Bandana*, *Footlights*, and *My Own Kind Of Hat*.

Produced with the singer's cooperation, 'Troubadour' includes a lavishly illustrated, full-sized book featuring Dave Samuelson's essay on the MCA era and a master sessionography.

TRACK LISTING

CD 1: Troubadour • I Think It's Gone Forever • If We're Not Back In Love By Monday • Ramblin' Fever • When My Blue Moon Turns To Gold Again • Ghost Story • Set Me Free • Love Somebody To Death • Ain't Your Memory Got No Pride At All • My Love For You • The Last Letter • From Graceland To The Promised Land • Blue Christmas • Are You Lonesome Tonight • In The Ghetto • Don't Be Cruel • Jailhouse Rock • Love Me Tender • That's All Right (Mama) • Heartbreak Hotel • Blue Suede Shoes • Merle's Farewell To Elvis • I'm Always On A Mountain When I Fall • Life Of A Rodeo Cowboy • It's Been A Great Afternoon • Love Me When You Can • There Won't Be Another Now • Don't You Ever Get Tired (Of Hurting Me) • There Ain't No Good Chain Gang • The Dream • The Immigrant • Mama, I've Got To Go To Memphis

CD 2: The Bull And The Beaver (& **Leona Williams**) • I'm Getting' High (& **Leona Williams**) • Red Bandana • Driftwood • Sing A Family Song • Footlights • Got Lonely Too Early This Morning • Heaven Was A Drink Of Wine • I Can't Get Away • My Own Kind Of Hat • I Didn't Mean To Love You • Roses In The Winter • I Must Have Done Something Bad • The Way I Am • Wake Up • Sky-Bo • No One To Sing For (But The Band) • Remember Me (I'm The One Who Loves You) • Life's Just Not The Way It Used To Be • Where Have You Been • Take Me Back And Try Me One More Time • I'll Always Be Glad To Take You Back • It Makes No Difference Now • It's Been So Long Darlin' • Misery And Gin • Bar Room Buddies (& **Clint Eastwood**) • You Babe

CD 3: My Life's Been Grand • Tell Me Something Bad About Tulsa • Love Keeps Hanging On • It's All In The Game • Why Can't I Cry • Bleachers • Love Don't Hurt Every Time • Susie • Pennies From Heaven • Make-Up And Faded Blue Jeans • Ever Changing Woman • Help Save The Wild Life • Leonard • I Don't Want To Sober Up Tonight • Dealing With The Devil • Can't Break The Habit • Lay Your Hands On My Heart • Back To The Barrooms Again • Our Paths May Never Cross • I Don't Have Any More Love Songs • I Think I'll Just Stay Here And Drink • I Don't Want To Sober Up Tonight • The New Cocaine Blues • Easy Come, Easy Go • Easy Come, Easy Go (alt)

CD 4: When God Comes And Gathers His Jewels • Supper Time • He Walks With Me • Softly And Tenderly • Why Me • Where No One Stands Alone • One Day At A Time • What A Friend We Have In Jesus • Swing Low Sweet Chariot • The Old Rugged Cross • Keep On The Sunny Side • The Fightin' Side Of Me • If We Make It Through December • Misery And Gin • I Think I'll Just Stay Here And Drink • Back To The Barrooms Again • Our Paths May Never Cross • Medley: The Running Kind / I'm A Lonesome Fugitive • Rainbow Stew • Blue Yodel #9 • Dealing With The Devil • Fiddle Breakdown • Sing Me Back Home • **BONUS:** Pearl Beer • The Man In The Mask • The Legend Begins (narration) • The Breaking Of Silver (narration)



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BCD 16749 FK • ISBN: 978-3-89916-329-2

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