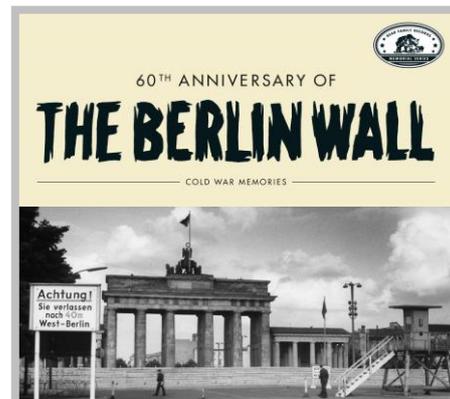


BEAR FAMILY RECORDS



PRODUCT INFO (CD) June 4, 2021

Artist **Various Artists**
Title **Bear Family Records Memorial Series:
60th Anniversary Of The Berlin Wall – Cold War Memories**
Label **Bear Family Productions**
Catalog no. **BCD17610**
EAN-Code **5397102176104** Price code: AR
Format **1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet**
Genre **Pop, Jazz**
No. of tracks **34** approx. 79:00 min.
Release date **June 4, 2021**



**BEAR FAMILY
PRODUCTIONS** 

INFO:

- To commemorate the event of the beginning of building the Berlin Wall on August 13, 1961, Bear Family releases this extraordinary compilation of historical recordings!
- On the 60th anniversary of the construction of the Wall, Bear Family looks back on the escalation of the Cold War from the perspective of the Western Allies with audio samples.
- The construction of the Wall within Germany by the GDR regime also deepened the gap between East and West internationally.
- Producer Marc Mittelacher selected 34 hand-picked recordings from the years 1949 - 1962, including historic voice recordings, to describe the emotional state and viewpoint, especially of the US Americans.
- In addition to well-known songs and performers, the CD album provides true rarities and some German-language recordings.
- Audio documents illustrate the role and function of AFN, the U.S. military station in Germany, during the Cold War.
- The luxuriously designed edition appeals to both, those interested in history and music collectors, and aims to do its part to commemorate a historic event and low point in the confrontation between the political power blocs.
- Music expert Bill Dahl from Chicago has written the stirring liner notes from a US-American's perspective on the events in Berlin.
- The fine booklet includes many rare photos and illustrations.

Cold War Memories

The arms race between East and West had already begun toward the end of World War 2. In order to end the war in the Pacific and to avoid a loss-making invasion of Japan, the US military demonstrated its power by dropping two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki - for the Soviet Union and its vassal states a clear signal of US military strength. The demarcation line between the Soviet and Western Allied occupation zones stretched lengthwise through Germany, which thus became the deploying area for a military conflict that was growing more likely. In order to stop the unbroken flow of refugees from the GDR to the West, and on the instructions of the Soviet Union, work began on August 13, 1961 on the Berlin Wall and the fortification of the 1378 km long German-German border. The Cold War experienced another stage of escalation. In Berlin, Soviet and Western Allied tanks faced each other directly. To document the feelings of the people - here from a Western Allied point of view - we go back to 1949 and the foundation of two German states under the control of the USA and the Soviet Union. With the politically manifested division of Germany, the preliminary history of the construction of the Wall began. What did it feel like to be locked up and locked out? On the other hand, what was the Communist hunt in the West like? What did the G.I.s in Germany expect and feel? Here are the answers!

BEAR FAMILY RECORDS



Songs, music and sound documents

We've gathered mostly American but also English and German recordings on the subject, backed up by historical audio documents that include radio recordings, newsreel soundtracks, John F. Kennedy's CONELRAD statement, and the now-famous quote from a press conference where G.D.R. Council of State Chairman, Walter Ulbricht spread the lie "No one has any intention of building a wall." For their part, a series of excerpts from 1961 AFN (American Forces Network) broadcasts from Berlin document the culture and feel of the era and provide insight into the station's propagandist function as well.

Musically, we go back to 1949, when both German states were founded - documented here by the first recording of the GDR national anthem. The beautiful melody may evoke "Eastalgie" feelings, but here it is meant to stand as a memorial to the events.

The communist hunt taking place in the U.S. at the same time is underscored by songs from Little Jimmy Dickens, The Kavaliers, and Lulu Belle & Scotty. Comedy was a propaganda ace up the USA's sleeve. Thus, countless so-called novelty records were released on the subject. We have selected the catchiest ones, including Dickie Goodman's *Berlin Top Ten*, Spencer & Spencer's *Russian Band Stand*. Bo Diddley addresses *Mr. Khrushchev* directly. In 1961, rock 'n' roll was still "in", as evidenced by *Rockin' Behind The Iron Curtain*. Miss Toni Fisher hits the nail on the head with *West Of The Wall*.

In addition, other Cold War themes are touched upon, such as espionage, the feared nuclear missile attacks, and the threat of World War III, which was just averted.

There are a few German recordings as well. Marlene Dietrich, for example, still has a suitcase in Berlin and the dance orchestras of Kurt Edelhagen and Hazy Osterwald deal with the subject instrumentally, while jazz greats like Dave Brubeck and Benny Goodman find themselves at the *Brandenburg Gate* and in the *Mission To Moscow*.

From a purely musical point of view, just a fine music selection, but embedded in a serious and threatening political background.

A great piece of German history - a great piece of world history!

TRACKLISTING:

CD:

AFN Berlin Radio Intro: Frolic At Five (November 17, 1961) **Little Jimmy Dickens:** The Locked God Outside The Iron Curtain
Radio Excerpt: Construction Of The Berlin Wall, August 1961 **Dickie Goodman:** Berlin Top Ten **Marlene Dietrich:** Ich hab' noch einen Koffer in Berlin
Excerpt From U.S. Newsreel: Russians restrict passage of Americans to East Berlin **Spencer & Spencer:** Russian Band Stand
Hazy Osterwald Sextet: Na Zdrowje **Kurt Edelhagen And His Orchestra:** Berlin Melody **Dave Brubeck Quartet:** Brandenburg Gate
Peter Scott Peters: Fallout Shelter **John F. Kennedy:** JFK Endorses CORNELRAD **Prescott Reed:** Russia, Russia (Lay That Missile Down)
Movie Trailer: Rocket Attack U.S.A. **Dickie Harrell:** Rocket Racket **Lester Lanin And His Orchestra:** Russian Roulette
Lulu Belle & Scotty: I'm No Communist **The Kavaliers:** Get That Communist Joe **Vido Musso And His Orchestra:** Russian Lullaby
The Dellwoods a.k.a. The Sweet Sick-Teens: Agnes (The Teenage Russian Spy) **The Original Checkmates:** The Spy
The Moontrekkers: Dance Legless, Russian **Excerpts from U.S. Newsreel:** East Berliners Jump To Freedom And Cross The Berlin Wall To Escape
Toni Fisher: West Of The Wall **Moe Koffman Quartet:** Koko-Mamey **The Zanies:** Russian Roulette
AFN Berlin Radio: Excerpts from AFN Radio Berlin (November 17, 1961) **Bo Diddley:** Mr. Khrushchev **The Crown City Four:** Watch World War III (On Pay TV)
Benny Goodman Orchestra: Mission To Moscow **Bobby Marchan And The Clowns:** Rockin' Behind The Iron Curtain (single version)
Solistenvereinigung des Deutschlandsenders, Helmut Koch und das Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin: Auferstanden aus Ruinen (The Original National Anthem of the GDR) **Walter Ulbricht:** Excerpt from press conference, East Berlin, June 15, 1961 („Niemand hat die Absicht eine Mauer zu errichten")
AFN Berlin Radio: Closing (November 17, 1961)

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Various Artists:

Bear Family Records Memorial Series:
James Dean - Rebel With A Cause



BCD17571 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet
EAN: 5397102175718

Various Artists:

Atomic Platters - Cold War Music
From The Golden Age Of Homeland Security



BCD16065 FM
5-CD/1-DVD Box (LP-size) with 292-page
Hardcover book
EAN: 4000127160652

Various Artists:

Battleground Korea - Songs and Sounds of
America's Forgotten War



BCD17518 CL
4-CD Box (LP-size) with 168-page hardcover book
EAN: 5397102175183

