



### Simon & Garfunkel “The Columbia Studio Recordings 1964-1970” Columbia/Legacy Records

Apart from Greatest Hits collections, this is Columbia/Legacy’s second attempt to fully reprise *phase one* of the career of Simon & Garfunkel as a multi-disc assembly. In this instance, and chronologically, their five albums – “**Wednesday Morning 3A.M.**,” “**Sound of Silence**,” “**Rosemary, Parsley, Sage & Thyme**,” “**Bookends**” and “**Bridge Over Troubled Water**” have been re-mastered and are presented in their [original] entirety, with each disc containing previously unreleased bonus tracks. In fact Columbia/Legacy has made the five albums available as individual discs, or as a box set. The box set discs are housed in card facsimiles of the original artwork. In total, the five discs contain 71 cuts, and 9 of the 13 bonus tracks are previously unreleased. Four bonus cuts on this collection – “Bleecker Street” [alternate version], “Blues Run The Game,” “You Don’t Know Where Your Interest Lies” and “Feuilles-O” - first appeared on the 1997 three CD Simon & Garfunkel set “**Old Friends**” and now assume the identity *rare* – whatever that means ! Four years down the road, this revision gives lie to that claim that “**Old Friends**” was *The Ultimate Simon & Garfunkel Collection* [Ed. Note. According to a 1997 packaging sticker that is what it was]. Of the 59 tracks on “**Old Friends**,” a total of 15 tracks were previously unreleased, with 10 coming from previously unheard *live* recordings. It’s rumoured that 2002 will see the release of an early career *live* Simon & Garfunkel album, “**Live At Carnegie Hall**.” Two of that decade of *live* cuts, were taken from this promised concert recording.

In terms of an entity, this set gives witness to the evolution of the duo’s sound from the choir boy enthusiasm and acoustic innocence of “**Wednesday Morning 3A.M.**,” through the electrically enhanced take of “Sound Of Silence” on the album of the same name, to the parting of the ways hinted at in “The Only Living Boy In New York” from “**Bridge Over Troubled Water**.” The lyric of the latter song addresses Tom – Garfunkel’s identity in the pre S&G duo Tom & Jerry – and continues with “*I know your part’ll go fine, Fly down to Mexico.*” Down in Mexico, Garfunkel played the part of Captain Natelly in the Mike Nichols directed movie “**Catch 22**” [1970]. And let’s not forget the awesome production standard set by Messrs. Halee, Simon and Garfunkel on their fifth and final album.

And what of those 9 previously unreleased cuts, you ask ? Well, truth to tell six are alternate versions of songs that appeared on the original albums, which leaves us with the residue - “Barbiallyen,” “Rose Of Aberdeen” and “Roving Gambler.” All are traditional songs and were recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1970. According to the legend, Paul had purchased a new twelve-string guitar and brought it to the studio for a try out. The three *off the cuff* demo tracks were the result. “Barbiallyen” is also known as “Barbara Allen.” The 76-page liner booklet features reproductions of the lyrics, as well as the original sleeve notes and new assessments of these discs. There’s little benefit in going into a track by track diatribe of the contents of the albums, since these are historically well known recordings. Suffice to enquire, what else lies hidden in the CBS Simon & Garfunkel cupboard that has yet to see the light of day?

[**Footnotes.** In Tom And Jerry, Garfunkel was known as Tom Graph. In 1967 Mike Nichols directed the movie “**The Graduate**” which featured a soundtrack by Simon & Garfunkel and incidental music by Dave Grusin. It was rumoured at one stage that Simon and Garfunkel were going to make a traditional folk song album. Don’t the three-traditional *off the cuff* tracks kind of make you wonder?]

Folkwax Rating 9 out of 10

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 12/01