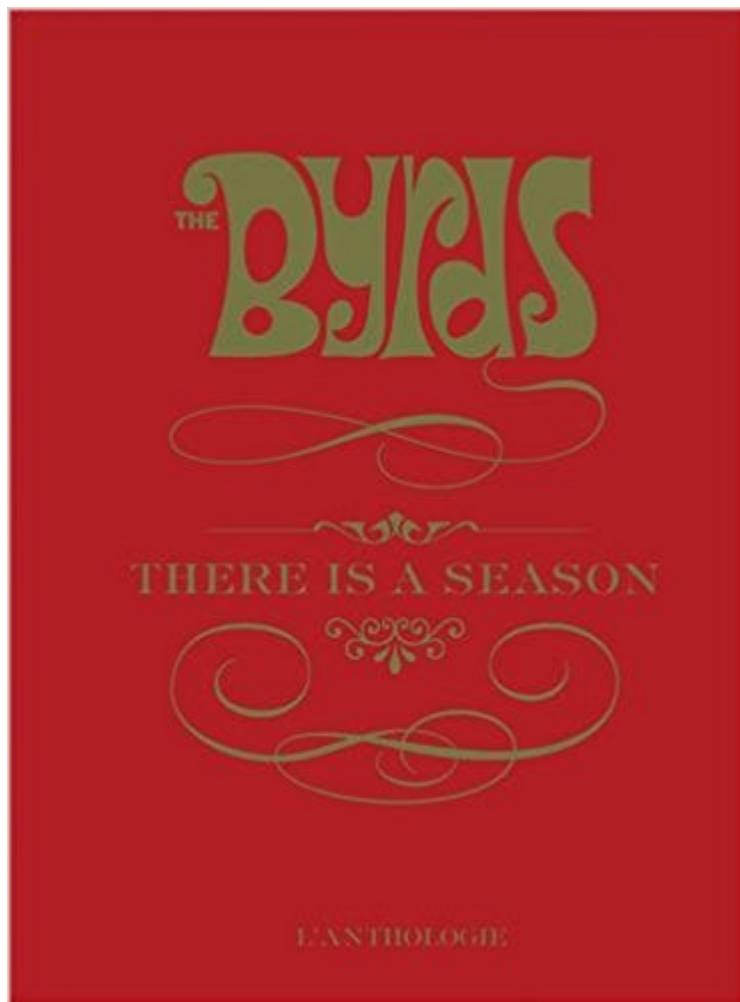


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The Byrds: There Is A Season



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's just about impossible to overstate the influence The Byrds had on contemporary pop music in the sixties and early seventies. After putting the twelve string jingle-jangle into Bob Dylan's Mr Tamborine Man, one could hear that sound clear across the Atlantic as The Beatles, particularly George Harrison picked up on it on Rubber Soul. Listen to Harrison's composition If I Needed Someone and you can't help but think of The Byrds. The love affair continued on into Revolver. The Lennon/McCartney song And Your Bird Can Sing owes a debt to Roger McGuinn's It Won't Be Wrong. Listen to George Harrison's compositions I Want To Tell You and Taxman, both are indelibly stamped with The Byrds signature twelve string sound. The influence doesn't end with The Beatles. It continued to be felt and heard by everyone from Van Morrison on Brown Eyed Girl to Donovan's Sunshine Superman to The Kinks A Well Respected Man and The Turtles I Only Want To Be With You and eventually back to Dylan himself as he embarked on his classic Nashville Skyline album. And the most obvious Byrd devotee Tom Petty kicked off his career with An American Girl, a song that many thought actually was recorded by The Byrds. This box set gives both first time listener and Byrd aficionado an in-depth overview of their vast and varied body of work. From their PreFlight origins to their folk-rock emergence of Mr. Tamborine Man and Turn Turn Turn to the raga-rock thunder of Eight Miles High and Fifth Dimension to the Nashville West incarnation of Sweetheart of The Rodeo and Dr Byrds & Mr Hyde. It's all here. Listen and think back to the days when McGuinn and company were blazing a new path and so many were born to follow.

Great box set. Great music good quality and great liner notes

I got this box set for my birthday (an early gift), and I greedily opened it. Just based on the packaging, this is well worth the money. As for everyone who says that why bother when most Byrds fans have the 1990 box set - I don't! I'm 27 and I was 10 when the set came out, so that's a not a great argument. If you don't have the 1990 box set or you want a complete overview of the band, this is a fantastic set. The music drops in quality on disc four, as others noted because McGuinn just wasn't the writer Gene Clark or David Crosby was (or Gram Parsons), but some of the songs and at least the music hold up well. It also has two fine Gene Clark tunes from the ill-fated 1973 reunion album, which Clark took seriously, but the others didn't. The Byrds remain underappreciated to this day possibly because they branched out so much and didn't stick to one style. It's also possible because after "Eight Miles High" their commercial sales dried up, so classic rock radio isn't as apt to play them as, say, the Doors, who always kept strong sales even when they didn't have hit singles. It doesn't matter if they are underappreciated in the end. Although this is disheartening, at least enough people know that The Byrds are one of the best rock band America ever produced. Enough know because Columbia produced this beautifully designed set and they probably won't make a bundle from it. The bonus DVD is great too because it's the original five Byrds singing some of their best songs. The sound is excellant on this set, and Gene Clark does get a stronger representation on this box set, which he deserves because he was their best songwriter. In all, a great box and, along with the DVD, it's essential for Byrds fans if you want better sound than the 1990 box or just want a fuller overview.

Many others have talked about the importance of the Byrds and the influence of their music. If you are interested at all, buy this set. I won't repeat all of that, but I did want to add my vote for this being a great set. It is much more than a history of the Byrds, a time piece about the 60's and 70's, or a tribute to the members. It is exceptional and quintessentially American music, most of which has aged very well. I have the original Byrds boxed set and I bought this anyway for the new tracks on it and the DVD. I am not disappointed! It is a great set and a bargain for new or old fans.

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