

and excitement a military life could be. The hosts of the shows over the years were Charlie Applewhite, Jody McCrae, and Faron Young, and they each brought their own personality and enthusiasm to the country music audience. The range of stars appearing on "Country Style U.S.A." is sensational: Patsy Cline, Hank Snow, the Jordanaires, Hank Garland, Buck Owens, Eddy Arnold, Skeeter Davis, Jim Reeves, the Carter Sisters & Mother Maybelle, Marty Robbins, Ray Price, Ernest Tubb, Ferlin Husky, June Webb, Roy Acuff, Webb Pierce, Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs, Johnny Cash, Pee Wee King, Kitty Wells, and Don Gibson. The shows were strictly low-budget, with minimum staging and lighting, and all were filmed in black and white. Even so, if you can get past the down-home, "aw, shucks" corniness of some of the scripted scenes, the real joy is hearing honest-to-goodness early country music by some of the biggest stars in the Nashville scene of the day.

— T.J. McGrath (Woodbridge, CT)

### THE DONOVAN CONCERT: LIVE IN L.A. MVD Visual MVDV4592 (2007)

In many ways Donovan, the original hippie minstrel with the painted guitar, long-flowing locks and frocks, and a kaleidoscope of tunes about love, peace, and favorite shirts, has not changed very much since the late 60s. That is actually a good thing, as any artist who has a back catalog of songs such as "There Is a Mountain," "Happiness Runs," "Catch the Wind," "Sunshine Superman," "Season of the Witch," "Hurdy Gurdy Man," and "Mellow Yellow" should perform these timeless classics. In many ways Donovan Phillips Leitch is the 60s in living, breathing form, and he is not only aware of it, but revels in his role as human time machine.

Filmed at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, California, in January 2007, the concert filmed for this DVD was a benefit for the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness Based Education and World Peace. As ironic as it may be that the director of such dark, violent films and series as *Eraserhead*, *The Elephant Man*, "Twin Peaks," and *Blue Velvet* should have such an organization that promotes transcen-

dental meditation; he's definitely found a friend in Donovan. With an introduction by Lynch himself, Donovan launches straightaway into an evening of the aforementioned classic songs. In between he keeps up a running narration of the history behind the songs as well as their place in history. Anyone who has seen any of Roger McGuinn's recent shows knows the formula, yet Donovan somehow makes it all seem more real and tangible. He tells tales of being on the road with the "Gypsy Davy" or how he wrote "Hurdy Gurdy Man" while in India to study meditation with "three Beatles, a Beach Boy, and Mia Farrow." He also tells how George Harrison actually contributed a verse that was never recorded, and then performs the song, including the missing verse. To hear him tell these stories while sitting cross-legged on a round platform stage is truly a flashback. He is backed by double bassist Tom Mansi and percussionist Stewart Lawrence for many of the songs, while a running slide and video show reminds the audience of both their youth and his. Donovan's daughter Astrella Celeste also performs a duet with her dad on her own composition, "Dream," and then rejoins him, along with said Beach Boy, Mike Love, on the show closer, "Mellow Yellow." With a read blessing by Lynch, this most unlikely pairing was off, leaving a full house in standing ovation.

Strangely, the four songs that were omitted from the main concert footage for the PBS broadcast: "Lalena," "Sand & Foam (Mexico)," "There Is an Ocean," and "The Illusion," are included as bonus tracks, rather than being restored to their original running order. This makes the accompanying stories out of order from the rest of the show's chronology. The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 x 1 High Definition recording is also a bit of a problem. On some digital players and screens the images have a lot of "noise" breakup, while on other digital players fed to non-high-definition (traditional) television screens, the image takes on a visible dot pattern. The sound, however, is excellent, and the only fault with the performance is that he didn't play "Atlantis," which he usually still includes in most of his recent live shows.

— Lahri Bond (Leverett, MA)



## MAGNESS

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of this writing, she hadn't yet chosen a title. And she doesn't want to give much away about the contents, but Magness did reveal that there will be covers of Candi Staton and Little Milton, along with several original songs.

"I've always just put my head down and worked," said Magness, who, after 16 years, reconnected with her daughter and now is a strong presence around her five-year-old grandson. "But I never thought recognition would come. I've always been the long-shot kid. Being signed to Alligator is a really big deal. And those Blues Foundation awards, well, I never thought that would be me getting anything like that. And it's happened at a time when a lot of venues and festivals have gone away. These are hard times for the arts and live musicians. But I'm going to tour to support the new album. I'll even be playing for the soldiers in Iraq. I just keep moving and don't stop. I don't know any other way."

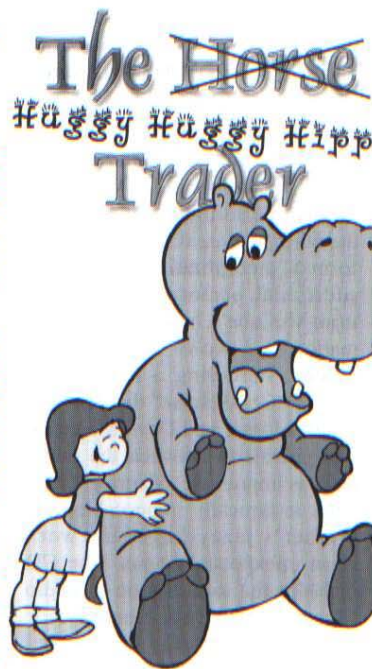
## Ms. Steaks

#134, p. 24-27 - Some misspellings in the Ray Wylie Hubbard article: The correct spellings are Larry Groce, Allen Damron, Michael Martin Murphey.

#134, p. 44 - In the Jake Schepps review, we misspelled Ryan Drickery's name.

#134, p. 54 - The photo identified as "Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez" is really Chip Taylor and Kendel Carson, whose debut recording, *Rearview Mirror Tears*, came out on Taylor's Train Wreck label in early 2007.

#133, p. 43 - Vinyl Valhalla: The first De Danann album was available on CD briefly in the 80s as an import from Europe, but according to the author's interview with Frankie Gavin in 1991, it was by then unavailable. So for the purposes of the Vinyl Valhalla column we consider it as not having been available in the U.S. There are a few corrections and typos: Len Graham and the late Joe Holmes were northerners from County Antrim, not southerners. The tune "Cathleen Hehirs" [sic] is a single jig, not a reel as stated in the column. County Clare was misspelled. There is some debate over whether "Tripping Up the Stairs" is an original tune or not. (Thanks to Bill Ochs for the corrections.)



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