

Brian Wilson's ***Songwriter 1969–1982 (Sexy Intellectual 574; ★★★★★)*** is a credible followup to *Songwriter 1962–1969*. Wilson's influence had already been leaving its mark on a band increasingly dependent on his creativity. What this second part does is show how Wilson's genius—which would include collaborations with lyricists such as Van Dyke Parks and Jack Rieley—was continuously put to the test, his needed songs becoming like a factory for brothers Carl and Dennis Wilson, Al Jardine and cousin Mike Love. The most fascinating music in the band's history, created between the years 1969 and 1973—including the complex albums *Friends*, *Sunflower*, *Surf's Up*, *Holland* and *Carl And The Passions So Tough*—also showcased the writing strengths of the other band members. As Brian Wilson's mental and physical health continued to decline, the remainder of the DVD is a sad recap of a band turning into an oldies act. The tributes to Wilson in later years are given only cursory attention due to its cutoff date of 1982. Revealing input comes via session player Hal Blaine, manager Fred Vail, as well as friends Mark Volman and Danny Hutton.

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