

ice

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## daily news flash

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Greetings!

For decades, **Spencer Davis** has taken heat for having named his British Invasion band the **Spencer Davis Group**. One critic likened it to calling the **Beatles** the **Ringo Starr Group** — all because Davis recognized an outsized talent in a 15-year-old named **Stevie Winwood**. But Davis was the man in charge of the band that bore his name, and that comes through clearly on *The Spencer Davis Group: Gimme Some Lovin' — Live 1966*, an archive DVD that arrived March 15 from Music Video Distributors (MVD).

The date in the title is slightly misleading in that the DVD is split between a 1966 television-studio performance featuring the Winwood-era band and a German documentary shot in 1967 as bandleader Davis put together a new lineup that would continue the string of SDG hits for a time, though only on the U.K. side of the Atlantic.

The television performance takes place in a Helsinki studio, complete with Finnish subtitles for the song lyrics, and catches the band running through the following set: "When I Come Home," "Dust My Blues," "Mean Woman Blues," "Together Till the End of Time," "I'm a Man," "Georgia on My Mind," "Gimme Some Lovin'" and "Keep on Running." Winwood, looking and sounding incredibly assured for someone only 18 years old, handles lead vocals on all but "Dust My Blues," an **Elmore James** song in Davis' repertoire since his days as a university lecturer who sang blues in student clubs.

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## what's new

## APRIL PREVIEW

New releases from **Fischerspooner**, **Ben Folds**, **Garbage**, **the Flaming Lips**, and **Elvis Costello and the Imposters** DVD. Vault releases from **Frank Sinatra**, **Genesis**, **Screaming Trees**, **Roy Orbison**, **Woody Guthrie** and **Leadbelly** and **Nat King Cole** DVD.

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Davis, Winwood, bass-playing brother **Muff Winwood** and drummer **Pete York** also sit down for an interview with their Finnish hosts, which allows Davis a chance to talk about the rigors of keeping a band on the road and his love for American blues and Appalachian string music.

The documentary from the following year finds Davis and York working with new guitarist **Phil Sawyer** and keyboard player **Eddie Hardin**. Sawyer would only stay in the band long enough to play on the combined Spencer Davis Group-**Traffic** soundtrack for *Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush* and the *Our New Face On LP* (both 1968). Hardin, another teenage discovery, would continue to work with various permutations of the band and share songwriting credits with Davis until the SDG's demise after the *Gluggo* and *Living in a Back Street* albums in 1973-74.

Highlights in the documentary include performance footage from the Marquee Club, rehearsal and sessions, and chance encounters with a friendly **Mitch Mitchell** and a camera-shy **Mick Jagger**.

— *Bill Wasserzieher*, **ICE** Contributor

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