

## Box Sets Provide Great Holiday Gift Ideas

### PLAYBACK

By Kevin O'Hare

It's pretty well known that CDs don't sell like they once did.

If you aren't sure about that, try walking by the boarded up independent record stores in your area or go into one of the large retail chains and see the shrinking shelf space being devoted to CDs these days.

That's not to say music isn't selling, but the physical formats are definitely slipping compared to downloads. The same could be said for those glitzy box sets the record labels used to churn out in huge numbers, mining their archives cheaply in the hope of a big dollar return.

But if there's one time of year when music and comedy box sets still move off the retail shelves quite well and enjoy strong online sales, it's the holiday season. The combination of collectibility, combined with classy packaging and rare music still can prove to be an irresistible force for gift buyers.

In alphabetical order, here are some capsule looks at several of the more notable box sets - sometimes CDs, sometimes DVDs, sometimes both - released of late that will likely make perfect presents for someone you're shopping for this season:

#### **"All You Need is Love," (MVD Visual). \$99.95 list.**

At the suggestion of John Lennon, Tony Palmer directed this film project on pop music, which was broadcast worldwide between 1976 and 1981. All 17 episodes can be found on this five-DVD set, which runs more than 14 hours.

The depth of music covered is staggering as the history of everything from jazz, blues, ragtime, folk, Vaudeville, rock and more is documented.

The programs include interview segments with some of the 20th Century's most notable players, including Lennon, Paul McCartney, Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, Benny Goodman, Big Crosby, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Eric Clapton and countless others.