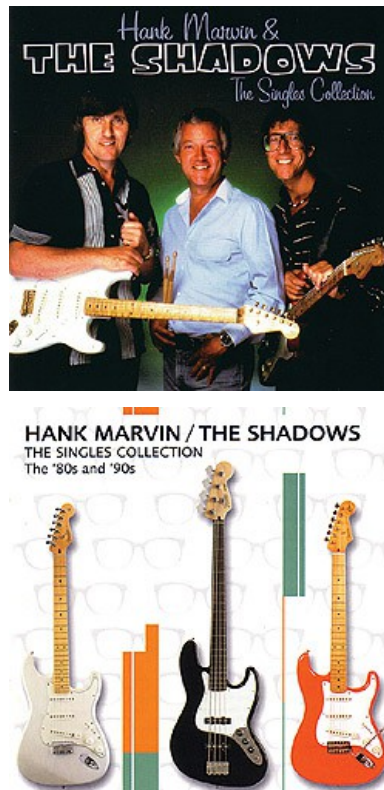


From: *Shadsfax* Issue 31 (2001) 6–7

**Hank Marvin & The Shadows
"The Singles Collection"**

Two issues: (i) Music Club MCCD 452 (ii) Crimson CRIMCD 302

Released March 2001



Equinoxe (Part V) / Mozart Forte / The Third Man / Telstar / Imagine: Woman / Don't Talk / The Trouble With Me Is You* / Treat Me Nice / The Theme From 'Missing' / The Hawk And The Dove* / Invisible Man* / Diamonds / Going Home / On A Night Like This / Moonlight Shadow / Dancing In The Dark / Themes from 'Eastenders' And 'Howards' Way' / Pulaski / Walking In The Air / Mountains Of The Moon / Shadowmix / We Are The Champions** / Wonderful Land****

* Hank Marvin

** Hank Marvin featuring Brian May

*** Hank Marvin featuring Mark Knopfler

A casual glance at the track-listing might suggest that "The Singles Collection" is just another run-of-the-mill Polydor compilation, but that is far from being the case. Every Shadsfaxer, indeed any fan who wants his/her Shadows in digital format, will need this new budget collection: it provides the first airing on CD for the only remaining undigitised track among the Polydor releases, the 7-inch remix of *Dancing In The Dark*, which has close affinities with the lengthier 12-inch version made available in 1998 on the CD "Guardian Angel Plus".

There are other reasons to put this 79 mins of music on your shopping-list. Informed sleeve-notes have been contributed by Michael Heatley, editor of "Record Buyer and Music Collector". (The Crimson issue, however, for sale in Woolworths and other chain-stores, dispenses with the annotation, preferring to use the lure of brightly-coloured Fender guitars.)

The finely judged programme is the work of our very own Uncle Tony: a properly ordered series of singles titles from 1980 through to 1989, with a judicious admixture of Hank Marvin tracks dating from 1982/83 and 1992/93. Those deserving special mention are the 7-inch edit of *Equinoxe*, and the remixed (single) version of *The Trouble With Me Is You*, along with the promo edits of *Going*

Home and We Are The Champions. Among numerous CD rarities is the rousing version of the Leiber/Stoller classic *Treat Me Nice* (on “Life In The Jungle”, now deleted).

Some tracks are faded prematurely by a few seconds (including *Dancing In The Dark*). This is common practice on CD with music of every description, and not by any means confined to discs bursting at the seams. It’s a shame though that *On A Night Like This*, with its neat finale, had to be stopped in its tracks at 2:33 in order to squeeze everything in. This sort of trick has been played before with Shads releases, remember how *Johnny Staccato* was cut down to size for the 1989 Pickwick “Shadows Collection” — from 3:50 to a measly 2:31?

Nevertheless, disappointing as the end result might be for those involved in the project, it is certainly the case that “The Singles Collection” is a very worthwhile set. These days many (most?) compilations do not appear to have a long shelf-life: definitely one (or two) to add to your collection sooner rather than later.

MC