

# the rolling stones singles collection the london years

The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years is a definitive compilation that encapsulates the early musical journey of one of the most iconic rock bands in history. Released in 1989, this collection immortalizes the Rolling Stones' singles from their formative years, spanning from 1963 to 1971. The collection showcases the band's evolution in style, sound, and cultural impact, all while highlighting their status as rock legends. This article delves into the significance of the collection, its contents, and its lasting influence on music and popular culture.

## Background of the Rolling Stones

The Rolling Stones emerged in the early 1960s against the backdrop of a burgeoning rock and roll scene in the United Kingdom. Formed in London in 1962, the original lineup included Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Brian Jones, Bill Wyman, and Charlie Watts. Initially influenced by American blues, rock, and roll, the band quickly gained popularity with their energetic performances and rebellious image.

By the time they released their first single, "As Tears Go By," in 1964, the Rolling Stones had already begun to carve out a unique identity that set them apart from their contemporaries, particularly the Beatles. Their music often carried a raw edge, with lyrics that reflected a more cynical view of life and love, contributing to their appeal among the youth of the era.

## Overview of the Singles Collection

The Singles Collection: The London Years is a comprehensive anthology of the Rolling Stones' singles

released under the Decca Records label in the UK. It features 46 tracks, including A-sides, B-sides, and some non-album singles. The collection is notable for several reasons:

- It provides a chronological account of the band's output during their early years.
- It highlights the evolution of their musical style, from blues-inspired rock to psychedelic sounds and beyond.
- It contains rare tracks and B-sides that showcase the band's versatility.
- The collection serves as a historical document, reflecting the cultural zeitgeist of the 1960s and early 1970s.

## Track Listing

The collection is divided into two CDs, each featuring a selection of singles that defined the Rolling Stones' early sound. Below is a brief overview of the tracks included in the collection.

Disc 1:

1. "As Tears Go By"
2. "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"
3. "The Last Time"
4. "Get Off of My Cloud"
5. "19th Nervous Breakdown"
6. "Paint It Black"
7. "Have You Seen Your Mother, Baby, Standing in the Shadow?"
8. "Let's Spend the Night Together"
9. "Ruby Tuesday"
10. "Jumpin' Jack Flash"
11. "Street Fighting Man"
12. "Honky Tonk Women"
13. "You Can't Always Get What You Want"

Disc 2:

1. "Wild Horses"
2. "Brown Sugar"
3. "Bitch"
4. "Happy"
5. "Tumbling Dice"
6. "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It)"
7. "Angie"
8. "Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo (Heartbreaker)"
9. "It's All Over Now"
10. "The Under Assistant West Coast Promotion Man"
11. "Time Is on My Side"
12. "The Spider and the Fly"
13. "Out of Time"

This list is a mere glimpse into the legacy encapsulated by the collection, as each track tells a story and captures a moment in time that resonates with fans old and new.

## Significance of the Collection

The Singles Collection: The London Years is more than just a compilation of songs; it is a celebration of the Rolling Stones' impact on music and culture. Here are some of the reasons why this collection holds significant value:

## Cultural Influence

The Rolling Stones emerged as a voice of rebellion and youthful discontent in the 1960s. Their lyrics often touched upon themes of love, heartbreak, and societal issues, making them relatable to a

generation that was questioning authority and traditional values. The collection serves as a time capsule, reflecting the cultural shifts of the decade.

## **Musical Innovation**

The Stones were known for their willingness to experiment with various musical styles. Early tracks embraced rhythm and blues, while later singles incorporated elements of psychedelia, country, and rock. This collection showcases their evolution and willingness to push boundaries, influencing countless artists in the process.

## **Artistic Mastery**

The Rolling Stones are celebrated for their songwriting prowess, and many tracks in the collection were penned by the iconic duo of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. The collection highlights their ability to craft memorable melodies and poignant lyrics, solidifying their reputation as one of the greatest songwriting teams in music history.

## **Reception and Legacy**

Upon its release, the Singles Collection: The London Years was met with critical acclaim and commercial success. It appealed not only to longtime fans of the Rolling Stones but also introduced new listeners to their extensive catalog. The collection has since been regarded as an essential purchase for rock music aficionados and collectors alike.

Moreover, the collection has played a pivotal role in preserving the band's legacy. It has inspired numerous documentaries, books, and scholarly articles that analyze the Rolling Stones' contributions to music and culture. The singles continue to be played on radio stations worldwide, and the band's

influence is evident in contemporary music.

## The Rolling Stones Today

As of 2023, the Rolling Stones remain a formidable force in the music industry. Despite the passing of founding member Charlie Watts in 2021, the band continues to tour and create music, with Mick Jagger and Keith Richards leading the charge. Recent projects and collaborations demonstrate their ability to adapt to changing musical landscapes while remaining rooted in their rock and roll ethos.

The Singles Collection: The London Years remains a cornerstone of their discography, a testament to their early achievements, and a reminder of their enduring legacy in rock music history.

## Conclusion

The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years is a monumental compilation that captures the essence of a band that redefined rock music. From their early blues roots to their experimentation with various genres, this collection is a celebration of their artistry and cultural significance. It stands as a reminder of the band's impact on music, youth culture, and the ever-evolving landscape of popular music. As we reflect on the legacy of the Rolling Stones, it becomes clear that their contribution to music is not just historical; it is timeless, continuing to resonate with audiences around the world.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years'?

It's a compilation album that features all of The Rolling Stones' singles released in the UK during their time with Decca Records from 1963 to 1971.

**When was 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years' released?**

The collection was released on November 1, 1989.

**How many singles are included in 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years'?**

The collection includes 36 tracks, comprising A-sides and B-sides of their singles from that era.

**Which notable songs are featured in 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years'?**

It features iconic songs like 'Satisfaction', 'Paint It Black', 'Ruby Tuesday', and 'Jumpin' Jack Flash'.

**Is 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years' available in different formats?**

Yes, the collection is available on CD, vinyl, and digital formats.

**What is the significance of the London Years in The Rolling Stones' career?**

The London Years mark the band's rise to fame, showcasing their evolution from a blues cover band to international rock icons.

**Did 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years' receive any awards?**

While the collection itself did not win specific awards, many of the singles included are critically acclaimed and have received numerous accolades over the years.

## **Who produced the singles in 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years'?**

Most of the singles were produced by Andrew Oldham, who was the band's manager and producer during their early years.

## **What is the cover art of 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years' like?**

The cover art features a collage of the original single covers, showcasing the band's iconic logo and style.

## **Has 'The Rolling Stones Singles Collection: The London Years' been remastered?**

Yes, the collection has been remastered to improve sound quality, especially for its digital and vinyl re-releases.

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