

BALLADEER CHRIS DE BURGH'S BEST-KNOWN TRACKS COMPILED ON NEW COLLECTION; FROM "THE LADY IN RED" TO "DON'T PAY THE FERRYMAN"

Despite 17 albums, the latest being 2004's The Road To Freedom, and international sales of 45 million copies, singer-songwriter Chris de Burgh's work has for years only been available in the U.S. via imports. A '70s folk-based troubadour who reached pop stardom in the '80s but refused to sacrifice his family life to crack the American market, today de Burgh--still married to the inspiration for his biggest hit, "The Lady In Red," and with one of his three children, Rosanna Davison, crowned Miss World 2003--is once again a much-admired cult figure with a loyal fan base around the world.

The Best Of Chris de Burgh edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UM^e), released July 20, 2004, brings together 12 of his best-loved recordings, each digitally remastered.

After graduating from Dublin's Trinity College, de Burgh moved to London to pursue a music career. Signed to A&M in 1974, he toured as Supertramp's opening act before releasing Far Beyond These Castle Walls the following year. His second album, 1976's Spanish Train And Other Stories, yielded "A Spaceman Came Traveling," a Christmas perennial in various parts of the world. Yet de Burgh would not break into the U.K. charts until a 1981 compilation that set the stage for the success of 1982's The Getaway, whose dramatic "Don't Pay The Ferryman" peaked at #30 U.K. and #34 U.S., aided by video exposure on the still-new MTV. **The Best Of Chris de Burgh** also includes the album's similarly aquatic-themed "Ship To Shore" and "Where Peaceful Waters Flow."

His follow-up, 1984's Man On The Line, featured the up-tempo electric rocker "High On Emotion," #1 across Europe. But

1986's Into The Light yielded de Burgh's biggest and most beloved hit in the elegant ballad "The Lady In Red." A tribute to wife Diane, the ode to grown-up romance was #1 U.K. and #3 U.S., and remains an enduring pop standard. Also heard on **The Best Of Chris de Burgh** are the album's "Fire On The Water," "One Word (Straight To The Heart)" and "Fatal Hesitation."

De Burgh's next album, Flying Colours, entered the British charts at #1 upon its 1988 release, spawning a #3 U.K. hit in the sensitive love song "Missing You," and including "Sailing Away" and "Tender Hands." But without touring the U.S. the album didn't fare well here, and de Burgh and A&M parted ways. In 2004, still eschewing trendiness and the fickleness of fame nearly 30 years after his debut album, de Burgh remains an island of inspiration for singer-songwriters everywhere.

The series **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection**, featuring new "best of" albums from the most significant music artists of the past century, is the most successful single artist series in music history.

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