

**THE BEST OF PETER ALLEN FEATURES “I HONESTLY LOVE YOU,”
“I GO TO RIO” AND “DON’T CRY OUT LOUD”**

When Peter Allen died of complications from AIDS in 1992, at the age of 48, pop music lost a great songwriter. Having penned hits for Olivia Newton-John (“I Honestly Love You”), Christopher Cross (the Oscar-winning “Arthur’s Theme (Best That You Can Do)”), Pablo Cruise (“I Go To Rio”), Rita Coolidge (“I’d Rather Leave While I’m In Love”) and Melissa Manchester (“Don’t Cry Out Loud”), he had earned the respect of his peers. But Allen was also a consummate performer and his albums were adult contemporary hits and modest pop crossover successes, too.

Eleven of his most engaging recordings, including his versions of “I Honestly Love You,” “I Go To Rio” and “Don’t Cry Out Loud,” have been brought together on **The Best Of Peter Allen** edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UME), released March 27, 2001. Spanning his four original A&M albums from 1974-1980, each selection has been digitally remastered from the original master tapes. Boasting producers such as David Foster, Marvin Hamlisch and Mike Post, these tracks find Allen at his best, straddling a fine line between cabaret and pop, between Bette Midler and Billy Joel.

Judy Garland not only discovered Allen while performing in Hong Kong in a duo which became her opening act but introduced him to daughter Liza Minnelli, whom he married in 1967. The year they separated, 1970, he made his solo debut at the Bitter End in Greenwich Village, began collaborations with Jeff Barry and Carole Bayer Sager, and started recording his own albums. In 1974, he co-wrote “I Honestly Love You” and Newton-John took it to #1. Now signed to A&M, Allen’s third album, Continental American, included “I Honestly Love You” as well as “Everything Old Is New Again” and his cover of “Just A Gigolo.”

In 1976 came Taught By Experts, which featured the standard “The More I See You” plus the Allen originals “Quiet Please, There’s A Lady On Stage” and “I Go To Rio” (Allen’s version was a chart-topping single in his native Australia). After a double-live album, 1979’s I Could Have Been A Sailor starred the title track, “Don’t Cry Out Loud” and “I’d Rather Leave While I’m In Love.” His final A&M album, 1980’s Bi Coastal, included the title track and “Fly Away,” his biggest U.S. solo single.

Allen would subsequently enjoy further success--co-writing the #1 pop hit and Academy Award-winning theme song for Arthur (which co-starred ex-wife Minnelli) and recording a handful of adult contemporary hits. But his time on stage would be tragically cut short. His songs and his performances, however, will continue to be heard for a long, long time.

The series **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** features new “best of” albums from the most significant music artists of the past century.

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