

INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THE PIONEERS OF COUNTRY ROCK WITH THE BEST OF THE FLYING BURRITO BROTHERS

The Flying Burrito Brothers were one of the most important bands of the rock era. Though never a commercial success, its rootsy, countrifying influence has been felt from the Eagles to Garth Brooks, Dwight Yoakam to Uncle Tupelo, Steve Earle to Whiskeytown. If there was something called garage country rock (Gram Parsons and Chris Hillman called it “cosmic American music”), The Flying Burrito Brothers would be its patron saint.

The Best Of The Flying Burrito Brothers edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UME), released June 19, 2001, brings together 12 of the legendary group’s most popular tracks from its all-too-brief glory days. With each selection digitally remastered from the original master tapes, **The Best Of The Flying Burrito Brothers** serves as a concise “greatest hits” collection for a band that never had a hit single, a gold album or a Grammy but nevertheless left an incredible indelible influence on music.

By the time singer-songwriter-guitarists Parsons and Hillman met, the Byrds with Hillman had already carved a niche in the folk-rock scene. Though Parsons had few credits to his name, Byrds’ leader Roger McGuinn hired him in 1968. Parsons pushed the Byrds into a more country direction for Sweetheart Of The Rodeo then made plans for another band. When Hillman departed the Byrds, the two teamed with bassist Chris Ethridge and steel guitarist “Sneaky” Pete Kleinow, who turned that old-fashioned twang from early country records into something cool and hip.

Signed to A&M, their debut album, 1969’s The Gilded Palace Of Sin, from which come half of the tracks on this collection, was an epiphany, with “Christine’s Tune (aka Devil In Disguise),” “Hot Burrito #2,” “Do Right Woman” (originally cut by Aretha Franklin), “Dark End Of The Street,” “Sin City” and “Wheels.” For 1970’s Burrito Deluxe, personnel changes included adding former Byrds drummer Michael Clarke and multi-instrumentalist (future Eagle) Bernie Leadon. The album featured the honky-tonking “Lazy Days,” “Cody Cody” and the Mick Jagger/Keith Richards piece de resistance “Wild Horses.”

Then Parsons left for a solo career. On September 18, 1973, just two months before his 27th birthday, he died. **The Best Of The Flying Burrito Brothers** also features him on the classic non-LP single “Train Song,” “Break My Mind” (from the posthumous 1974 compilation

Close Up The Honky-Tonks) and Buck Owens' "Together Again" (recorded in 1970 and released six years later on the Gram Parsons/The Flying Burrito Brothers album Sleepless Nights).

Today, The Flying Burrito Brothers continue on, as a group and as a major thread in the tapestry of popular music.

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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