

----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



**79** **"NATURAL MAN"** ARTIST: **LOU RAWLS WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITERS: SANDY BARON, BOBBY HEBB PUBLISHER: BERESOFKY-HEBB UNLIMITED (BMI) TIME: 3:40 PRODUCER: MICHAEL LLOYD SPECIAL THANKS: JULIE CHESTER MGM K-14262, 1971

**79A** **"HIS SONG SHALL BE SUNG"** ARTIST: **LOU RAWLS** WRITERS: SANDY BARON, BOBBY HEBB PUBLISHER: BERESOFKY-HEBB UNLIMITED (BMI) TIME: 3:45

Julie Chester – who worked with Paramount’s music publishing company – brought Lou Rawls to MGM, and Mike Curb agreed to sign him. Bobby Hebb, who had a hit with his self-penned “Sunny” in 1966, wrote “Natural Man” with Sandy Baron and Rawls recorded it, backed by The Mike Curb Congregation.

The song was a crossover hit, reaching Top 20 on the Adult Contemporary, Rhythm and Blues and Hot 100 charts in *Billboard* in 1971. In addition, Lou Rawls won a Grammy for Male Vocalist in the Rhythm and Blues category for his performance of “Natural Man.”

----- { 1972 } -----

*“Billboard couldn’t honor a more ‘Natural Man.’ Thanks for my Grammy Award for that record.”*

—LOU RAWLS IN *BILLBOARD* MAGAZINE



**80** **"THIS MAGIC MOMENT"** ARTIST: **BILLY JOE ROYAL** WRITERS: DOC POMUS, MORT SHUMAN PUBLISHER: UNICHAPPELL MUSIC INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:45 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA MGM S7011, 1973

Billy Joe Royal grew up in Georgia and was part of The Georgia Jubilee with Ray Stevens, Freddy Weller, Joe South and Jerry Reed. Royal had pop hits with songs written by Joe South titled “Down In The Boondocks” in 1965 and “Cherry Hill Park” in 1969. “This Magic Moment,” written by the Brill Building team of Doc

Pomus and Mort Shuman, had been a hit for The Drifters in 1960 and Jay and The Americans in 1969 before Royal recorded it. Bill Lowery, the great record and music publisher from Atlanta, arranged for Billy Joe Royal to record for Curb during the early ’70s.

**81** **"BUTTERFLY"** ARTIST: **TRINI LOPEZ WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: DAVID, GERARD, BARNES, BERNET, CURB PUBLISHER: SABACTHANI MUSIC PUBLISHING/CHRYSALIS S.A. (ASCAP) TIME: 3:20 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA SPECIAL THANKS: DANIEL GERRARD, CAROLE CURB AND MERV GRIFFIN MGM G504, 1973

“Butterfly” was originally recorded by French artist Daniel Gerrard. Mike Curb wrote English lyrics to the song and produced it with Trini Lopez, whose recording of “If I Had A Hammer” reached number three on the

*Billboard* Hot 100 in 1963. Lopez left Reprise and joined MGM at the suggestion of Merv Griffin while Curb was president. Merv had performed before with The Mike Curb Congregation on his successful TV show.



**82** **"PACK MY BAGS"** ARTIST: **JIMMY WITHERSPOON** TIME: 4:04

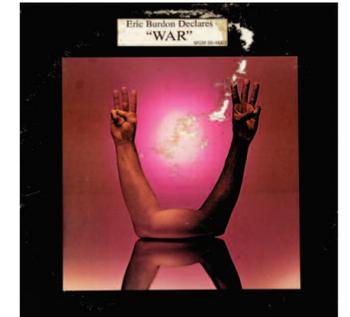
“The Spoon,” as he was known, made more than 200 albums during his career. Born in Arkansas in 1923, Jimmy Witherspoon served in the Merchant Marines during World War II, then joined The Jay McShann Band before performing with Big Joe Turner and T-Bone Walker. The singer’s first hit was “Tain’t Nobody’s Business” in 1952; later, he re-worked the LeRoy Carr song, “In The Evening When The Sun Goes Down.”



Jimmy Witherspoon

DISCOGRAPHY

In 1969, Witherspoon recorded an album with Harvey Mandel of Canned Heat, Danny Kalb of Blues Project, Barry Goldberg of Electric Flag and harmonica ace Charlie Musselwhite. The Spoon was with the same management firm that handled Eric Burdon and War; he sang on the Burdon album *Guilty* and toured with him, which led to Spoon recording for MGM.



**83** **"HOME COOKIN'"** ARTIST: **WAR AND ERIC BURDON** WRITER: PAPA DEE ALLEN, HAROLD BROWN, B.B. DICKERSON, LONNIE JORDAN, MILLER, OSKAR LEE OSKAR, HOWARD SCOTT PUBLISHER: FAR OUT MUSIC INC./ UNIVERSAL-POLYGRAM INTERNATIONAL (ASCAP) TIME: 4:11 PRODUCER: JERRY GOLDSTEIN MGM

This is an easy-going, blues-based number about missing the taste of comfort food back home. Burdon grew up in a working class family in Newcastle, England before retiring to California. He joined forces with the African-American group War, but they split after a

European tour in 1971. Burdon published his memoir, *I Used To Be An Animal, But I'm All Right Now*, in 1986.

The group War continued to record and had a total of 20 records on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart.

**84** **"I WISH WE'D ALL BEEN READY"** ARTIST: **LARRY NORMAN** WRITER: LARRY NORMAN PUBLISHER: BEECHWOOD MUSIC CORPORATION (BMI)/ ORDURE BLANC MUSIC PRODUCER: ROD EDWARDS, JON MILLER AND ROGER HAND 1972 MGM

Larry Norman is a pioneer in contemporary Christian music, which was called “Jesus Music” when he began his career. Norman’s group People was formed in San Jose, California, and had a Top 15 hit single with “I Love You (But The Words Won’t Come)” on Capitol in 1968. Norman left the group and was signed by Curb as a solo

artist to Verve, a subsidiary of MGM, while Mike Curb was president of the label. “I Wish We’d All Been Ready” was on Larry Norman’s debut album and became a standard in Christian music, covered by d.c. talk in the 1990s. Larry’s debut solo albums are considered the first contemporary Christian albums.



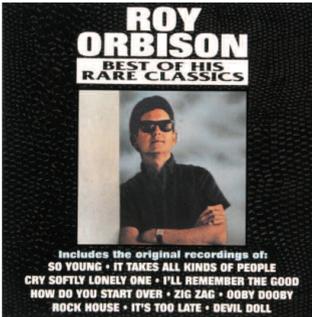
**85** **"JESUS IS"** ARTIST: **THE 2ND CHAPTER OF ACTS** WRITER: E. OVERSTREET PUBLISHER: LATTER RAIN MUSIC (ASCAP) TIME: 2:24 PRODUCER: BUCK HERRING SPECIAL THANKS: PAT BOONE MGM K14298

Pat Boone called Mike Curb about The 2nd Chapter of Acts, which featured a young teenager named Matthew Ward and his sisters Annie and Nelly. Curb had never met a young pop/rock act totally dedicated to Christian music until he met them. Buck Herring produced the record

“Jesus Is” with Matthew Ward singing lead, and it was released by Curb as their first single. The pioneering group went on to become a major artist in the field of contemporary Christian music.



{ MIKE CURB : 50 Years }



**86** **"IT TAKES ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE MOONSHINE WARS*) ARTIST: **ROY ORBISON WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: ROY ORBISON, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: EMI HASTINGS CATALOG INC./ BARBARA ORBISON MUSIC TIME: 3:21 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: WESLEY ROSE 1971

Mike Curb and Roy Orbison wrote "It Takes All Kinds Of People" at Curb's home. The song was finished quickly so Mike, Orbison and Orbison's wife, Barbara – who had never seen Elvis perform – decided to fly to Las Vegas. After the show, Elvis invited Roy backstage to

chat; Barbara and Mike went along and spent about 45 minutes with The King. The song was written for the film *The Moonshine Wars* (1970), directed by Richard Quine and with the screenplay by noted mystery novelist Elmore Leonard, who also wrote the novel by the same name.

**87** **"SANCTUS BENEDICTUS"** ARTIST: **LALO SCHIFRIN WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: LALO SCHIFRIN PUBLISHER: EMI HASTINGS MUSIC/SCHERZO MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:30 PRODUCER: LALO SCHIFRIN VERVE VK10663, 1971

Argentinean pianist and composer Lalo Schifrin studied sociology and law at the University of Buenos Aires, then attended the Paris Conservatoire where he studied classical music by day and performed jazz in the clubs at night. He moved to the United States in 1958 and worked with Dizzy Gillespie and Xavier Cugat. In 1964, he moved to Hollywood and wrote scores for *Mission: Impossible* and *Mannix* on TV and for films *Cool*

*Hand Luke*, *Bullitt*, *Dirty Harry*, *The Cincinnati Kid* and the *Amityville Horror*. Schifrin has written more than 100 scores, won four Grammys (and 21 nominations) and six Oscar nominations. "Sanctus Benedictus," backed by The Mike Curb Congregation, is a polyrhythmic piece from the liturgy that was originally released on the album *Rock Requiem*.



**88** **"GIVE MYSELF A PARTY"** ARTIST: **JEANNIE C. RILEY** WRITER: DON GIBSON PUBLISHER: SONY ACUFF ROSE MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:25 PRODUCER: JIM VIENNEAU SPECIAL THANKS: SHELBY SINGLETON MGM K14341

Curb signed Jeannie C. Riley – best known for her number one record "Harper Valley P.T.A." – and put out seven chart records. Her biggest MGM hit was "Give

Myself a Party," which was written by Don Gibson. Jeannie "was always willing to 'push the edge' and made a rockin' country record," said Curb.

**89** **"LONG HAIREd LOVER FROM LIVERPOOL"** ARTIST: **LITTLE JIMMY OSMOND WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: CHRISTOPHER KINGSLEY PUBLISHER: VIRGIN EAR MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:16 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND PERRY BOTKIN JR. SPECIAL THANKS: OLIVE OSMOND MGM K 14376, 1972

Jimmy Osmond was the youngest member of the Osmond family, so he was not part of the hit-making Osmonds. "Long Haired Lover From Liverpool" had been recorded by The Mike Curb Congregation but did not hit; Curb brought young Jimmy into the studio and produced this version. The song became a Top 40 hit on

the *Billboard* Hot 100 in America, but reached number one in England in 1972 and, at the end of that year, was declared the number one song for the entire year. Perry Botkin played a major role in arranging and co-producing this song.



Donny Osmond and Mike Curb



**90** **"IF SOMEONE EVER BREAKS YOUR HEART"** ARTIST: **DONNY OSMOND & THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: MIKE CURB & MACK DAVID PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 3:00

**90A** **"THEME FROM LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS*) ARTIST: **DONNY OSMOND** WRITER: MIKE CURB/ALAN OSMOND/MACK DAVID PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI)/POLYGRAM INTERNATIONAL PUB. INC. (ASCAP)/FAMOUS MUSIC (ASCAP)/ENSGN MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:24

**90B** **"OURS"** ARTIST: **DONNY OSMOND** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:46

**90C** **"PUPPY LOVE"** ARTIST: **DONNY OSMOND** WRITER: PAUL ANKA PUBLISHER: CHRYSALIS STANDARDS INC. (BMI) TIME: 3:03 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA SPECIAL THANKS: DON COSTA MGM K-14367, 1972

**90D** **"YOUNG LOVE"** ARTIST: **DONNY OSMOND** WRITER: CAROLE JOYNER, RIC CARTEY PUBLISHER: LOWERY MUSIC CO., INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:31 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA

**90E** **"I HAVE A DREAM"** ARTIST: **DONNY OSMOND** WRITERS: SOLOMON BURKE – K.S. H.S. BURKE PUBLISHERS: FIRST CENTRAL MUSIC COMPANY (BMI) KIDS MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 3:22 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA

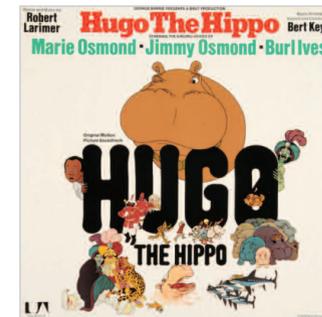
"Puppy Love" was a pivotal record for Donny Osmond as a solo artist. Don Costa and Mike Curb co-produced the song, which had been a big hit for Paul Anka in 1960. "Puppy Love" was the first number-one record any of the Osmonds had in Europe. It was Donny's fourth release as a solo artist, and it rose to number three on the *Billboard* Hot 100. Osmond was established as a superstar and teenage idol; he would eventually have 20 chart records in his solo career.

Donny won the *Dancing with the Stars* competition in 2009 and sang "Puppy Love" on

the last episode in front of almost 20 million viewers for the ABC show – almost 40 years after it had been a hit for him.

Curb wrote some of the Osmond's songs, including "Ours," "If Someone Ever Breaks Your Heart" and "Theme From *Last Of The Red Hot Lovers*," a 1973 film based on Neil Simon's Broadway play.

Donny Osmond was 16 when he sang his version of "Young Love" in 1973. Produced by Mike Curb, the song became a hit in the U.S. and then went on to become a number-one record for Donny in the United Kingdom.



**91** **"BEST DAY EVER MADE"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *HUGO THE HIPPO*) ARTIST: **BURL IVES** WRITER: ROBERT LARIMER PUBLISHER: BRUT MUSIC PUBLISHING (ASCAP) UNITED ARTISTS, 1976

Burl Ives was one of the greatest pop/folk singers of the 20th century who launched a career as part of the CBS radio show *The Wayfaring Stranger*. It was later in his career that he recorded many of his classic hits, including "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "A Little Bitty Tear."

Ives appeared in a number of movies, including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *East Of Eden* and *Hugo The Hippo*. The Hugo film also featured Jimmy and Marie Osmond, and Burl Ives sang the title song, "Best Day Ever Made."

----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



**92 "MY GUY"** ARTIST: **PETULA CLARK** WRITER: WILLIAM ROBINSON, JR. PUBLISHER: JOBETE MUSIC CO., INC. W/O EMI MUSIC PUBLISHING (ASCAP) TIME: 3:00 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA

Mary Wells had a number one hit in 1964 with "My Guy" on Motown; that same year, British act Petula Clark had her first single enter the chart. "Downtown" became a number one hit in 1965 and was followed by other chart-toppers like "I Know A Place," "My Love" and "Don't Sleep In The Subway." In 1972, Mike

Curb signed Petula Clark – a major star in England who had starred in a TV series and appeared in more than 20 movies – and he and Don Costa produced "My Guy," which brought Petula Clark back on the charts after a period of two and a half years with a top *Billboard* hit.

**93 "WEDDING SONG (THERE IS LOVE)"** ARTIST: **PETULA CLARK** WRITER: NOEL STOOKEY PUBLISHER: WB MUSIC CORP. (ASCAP) TIME: 3:12 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA MGM K 14431, 1971

"Wedding Song (There Is Love)" was written by Noel Paul Stukee of Peter, Paul and Mary and reached number 24 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in 1971. Mike Curb produced the song with Petula Clark in 1972, and it reached both the Adult

Contemporary and Hot 100 charts in *Billboard*, rising into the Top Ten. British-born Clark was a movie star before she began recording; she had her first hit in England in 1954.

**94 "I AIN'T NEVER"** ARTIST: **MEL TILLIS** WRITER: WEBB PIERCE, MEL TILLIS PUBLISHER: UNIVERSAL-CEDARWOOD PUBLISHING (BMI) TIME: 2:07 PRODUCER: JIM VIENNEAU SPECIAL THANKS: DICK FRANK MGM K 14418, 1972

Dick Frank, the attorney for Wesley Rose – whose Acuff-Rose Publishing Company published Hank Williams' songs – suggested that Curb sign his neighbor, Mel Tillis; Curb agreed.

Mel Tillis had his first chart record in 1958 for Columbia, and then moved over to Kapp until he signed with MGM in 1970. When they met, Curb encouraged him to record "I Ain't Never," a song Tillis had written that was a crossover hit for Webb Pierce in 1959. Curb loved Pierce's version and wanted Tillis to record the song with a rock beat. He considered it and agreed.

The record was produced by Jim Vienneau and released in the summer of 1972. It became Tillis's first number one

country record and was an important step in his career, which hit its peak when he was named Entertainer of the Year by the Country Music Association in 1976. Later, Tillis was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and also thanked Curb for signing him to his first meaningful contract.



Mike Curb and Mel Tillis



*"Mike, I'll never forget you signed me to my first meaningful record contract. Thanks for believing."*

—MEL TILLIS

----- { 1975 } -----

**94 "GONE (OUR ENDLESS LOVE)"** ARTIST: **BILLY WALKER AND THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: D. GLENN, B. WALKER PUBLISHER: ANNE-RACHEL CORPORATION/BEST WAY MUSIC (ASCAP) TIME: 2:55 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA MGM K14377, 1972

Mike Curb signed Billy Walker to MGM, and Billy had fourteen *Billboard* chart albums that included five Top Ten records. Nicknamed "The Tall Texan," Walker and Elvis Presley teamed up for a tour of Texas in 1955. Walker was a member of the "Big D Jamboree" in Dallas, the "Louisiana Hayride" and the "Ozark Jubilee" in

Springfield, Missouri, before he became a long-time member of the Grand Ole Opry; he joined in 1960, a year after he moved to Nashville. During the late 1960s he starred in a TV series, *Billy Walker's Country Caravan*. Billy had a *Billboard* hit with his duet with The Mike Curb Congregation, "Gone (Our Endless Love)."



**95 "DAISY A DAY"** ARTIST: **JUD STRUNK WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: JUD STRUNK PUBLISHER: SEVEN HIGH MUSIC, INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 2:46 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA SPECIAL THANKS: PIERRE COSSETTE AND BURT SUGARMAN MGM K 14463, 1973



Pierre Cosette, producer of the Grammy Awards on television, introduced Mike Curb to Jud Strunk, who was a regular on the popular television show *Rowan and Martin's Laugh In*. Curb and Don Costa produced "Daisy a Day" with the singer, and the song was a multi-format

hit, reaching number four on the Adult Contemporary, number 14 on the Hot 100 and number 33 on the Country Charts in *Billboard*. Strunk died in 1981 when the small private plane he was piloting crashed.

**96 "IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME, I'VE GOT THE PLACE"** ARTIST: **BROOK BENTON** WRITER: WILLIAM BACKER PUBLISHER: SHADA MUSIC, INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 2:50 PRODUCER: BILLY DAVIS FOR B COMPANY MUSIC, INC. MGM K 14440, 1972

Brook Benton was a great songwriter as well as a great singer; during his career he had four Gold records and 16 Top 20 singles. Influenced by Nat "King" Cole and Billy Eckstine, he first achieved success as a songwriter by penning "Looking Back" for Cole and "A Lover's Question" for Clyde McPhatter in 1958 (both co-written with Clyde Otis). Benton was signed to Mercury where he

and Otis wrote "It's Just A Matter Of Time," "Endlessly," "Thank You Pretty Baby" and "So Many Ways." Benton had a hit with Tony Joe White's "Rainy Night In Georgia" on Cotillion in 1970. "If You've Got The Time, I've Got The Place" was recorded for MGM after Mike Curb signed Brook to the company. Brook had 58 *Billboard* Hot 100 chart records, and this was his final hit.



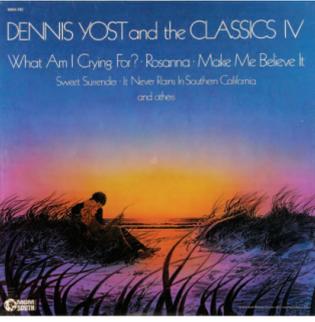
**97 "I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU"** ARTIST: **MEL CARTER** WRITER: AL DUBIN/HARRY WARREN PUBLISHER: WARNER BROS. INC. (ASCAP)



Mel Carter had a very successful career, primarily recording pop/R&B songs such as "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me," a Top 10 record in the mid '60s. His recording of "I Only Have Eyes For You" featured Mel's interpretation of the classic recording by The Flamingos,

which was a Top Five hit on the R&B chart and number 11 on the Hot 100 in *Billboard* in 1959. Mel's recording was his eleventh and final chart record on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and a Top 40 single on the *Billboard* Adult Contemporary chart.

{ MIKE CURB : 50 Years }



**98** **"WHAT AM I CRYING FOR"** ARTIST: **DENNIS YOST AND THE CLASSICS IV** WRITER: BUIE & COBB  
PUBLISHER: SONY/ATV SONGS LLC TIME: 3:01 PRODUCER: BUDDY BUIE SPECIAL THANKS: BILL LOWREY AND KARL  
ENGEMANN MGM SOUTH MSH-702, 1972

The Classics IV, led by vocalist Dennis Yost, had their biggest hits, "Spooky," "Stormy" and "Traces" before they joined the MGM family. All of those hits were written by Buddy Buie and J.R. Cobb, the same duo who wrote "What Am I Crying For." The group joined MGM/South, the label formed in the early 1970s by Bill

Lowrey and Karl Engemann in Atlanta with MGM, headed by Mike Curb. This song reached Top Ten on the Adult Contemporary and Top 40 on the Hot 100 Charts in *Billboard*. After The Classics IV disbanded, former members Buie, Cobb and Dean Daughtry formed The Atlanta Rhythm Section.

**98** **"PINBALL WIZARD/ SEE ME, FEEL ME"** ARTIST: **NEW SEEKERS** WRITER: PETER TOWNSEND  
PUBLISHER: CAREERS-BMG MUSIC PUBLISHING INC. O/B/O TOWSER TUNES INC./ ABKCO MUSIC INC./FABULOUS MUSIC  
LTD. TIME: 3:23 PRODUCER: MICHAEL LLOYD MGM MV 10709, 1973

The New Seekers had the hit "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing (In Perfect Harmony)," which later became a Coke commercial. In 1973 they joined the MGM family, recording on Verve. Their first release was "Come Softly To Me," a re-make of the hit originally

record by The Fleetwoods. Their next single was "Pinball Wizard," which had been a hit for The Who from their rock opera, *Tommy*. The New Seekers' version reached *Billboard's* Hot 100 and Adult Contemporary charts in 1973.



**102** **"A PRAYER"/"OH HAPPY DAY"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE THING WITH TWO HEADS*) ARTIST: **JERRY BUTLER** WRITER: JERRY BUTLER, S.F. BROWN III PUBLISHER: BUTLER MUSIC, INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 3:12 PRODUCER: MICHAEL VINER MGM, 1972

*The Thing With Two Heads* was a sci-fi comedy starring Ray Milland, Roosevelt Grier, Don Marshall and Roger Perry that attempted to confront racism when it was released in 1972. The plot involved the head of a bigoted white doctor (Ray Milland) being attached to the body of a

black man (Roosevelt Grier) on Death Row. The "problem" came when the inmate's head remained attached as well. In this movie, noted soul singer Jerry Butler – a founding member of The Impressions with Curtis Mayfield – sang "A Prayer."



**100** **"FOOL'S PARADISE"** ARTIST: **SYLVERS** WRITER: LEON SYLVERS III PUBLISHER: UNICHAPPELL MUSIC, INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 2:28 PRODUCER: JERRY BUTLER SPECIAL THANKS: JERRY BUTLER PRIDE PR 1001, 1972

**101** **"MISDEMEANOR"** ARTIST: **FOSTER SYLVERS** WRITER: LEON F. SYLVERS III PUBLISHER: CHAPPELL & CO. O/B/O DOTTED LION MUSIC TIME: 2:36 PRODUCER: KEG JOHNSON SPECIAL THANKS: MICHAEL VINER PRIDE PR 1031, 1973

The Sylvers was a family group from Memphis who began as a quartet known as The Little Angels. In the early 1970s, the group was living in the Watts section of Los Angeles; by 1971, they were called The Sylvers and had added three more family members – Foster, Edmund and Ricky – to create a seven-member group. The group signed with Pride, an MGM subsidiary, in 1972. "Fool's Paradise" was released, reaching the Top 15 on the

Rhythm and Blues chart and hitting the Hot 100. Curb released "Misdemeanor" by Foster Sylvers on MGM's Pride label and the recording climbed to the Top Ten on the Rhythm and Blues chart and Top 25 on the Hot 100. Foster Sylvers and The Sylvers combined to have 10 chart records on the *Billboard* Hot 100, including their number one hit, "Boogie Fever."

**103** **"BONGO ROCK"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE THING WITH TWO HEADS*) ARTIST: **THE INCREDIBLE BONGO BAND** WRITER: A. EGNOIAN, EPPS PUBLISHER: DRIVE-IN MUSIC CO., INC. TIME: 2:26 PRODUCER: MICHAEL VINER AND PERRY BOTKIN, JR. MGM K 14588, 1973

The Incredible Bongo Band was a studio band for The Sylvers. After "Bongo Rock" hit, a live group was formed for touring. This song was originally a hit by Preston Epps in 1959; in 1973 producers Michael Viner and Perry Botkin Jr. revived it. The song reached several genres; it rose to number 35 on the Adult Contemporary, number 42 on the Rhythm and Blues and number 57 on the Hot 100 charts in *Billboard*.

The group first recorded the song "Bongolia" for the soundtrack album *The Thing With Two Heads*. After hearing the concept of re-recording major instrumental hits, Curb agreed to finance the recording session with the understanding that Perry Botkin Jr. would co-produce the album. Curb gives Botkin much of the credit for the success of his song "Burning Bridges" by The

Mike Curb Congregation. Also, "Apache 65" was Curb's first chart record by his high school band The Arrows and the first chart record for Curb's own Sidewalk label. The amazing thing for the band happened years later when DJ Kool Herk used "Bongo Rock" and "Apache 65" by the Incredible Bongo Band as the foundation for his new style of DJ-ing, which he put into practice at the Havaloo Club in the Bronx. It was there that he took a second copy of the record and used it to repeat the percussion break, extending the section and sending the dancers into raptures. According to articles in the *New York Times* and other historians, this music was a major factor in the start of hip-hop, backbeats and loop-based, sample-driven music.



----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----



**104** **"TODAY I STARTED LOVING YOU AGAIN"** ARTIST: **KENNY ROGERS**  
WRITER: MERLE HAGGARD, BONNIE OWENS PUBLISHER: SONY/ATV TREE PUBLISHING  
TIME: 3:02 PRODUCER: KENNY ROGERS SPECIAL THANKS: LELAND ROGERS JOLLY  
ROGERS J 1004, 1972

Mike Curb agreed that MGM would be a partner in Kenny Rogers' label, Jolly Rogers, and Rogers recorded the song "Today I Started Loving You Again" from



Mike Curb and Kenny Rogers were inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame together.

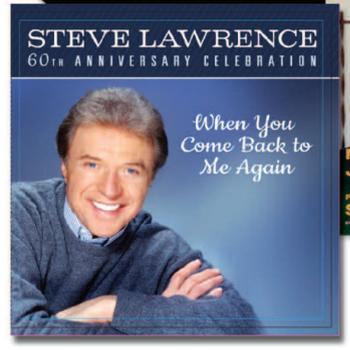
a Merle Haggard album. Curb called Haggard and asked if he was going to release it as a single, but Merle said Kenny could use it.

Rogers had recorded "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town" – which crossed to country radio – but he had never had a purely country record until "Today I Started Loving You Again." After Curb left MGM, Rogers moved to United Artists, where he recorded a string of hits like "Lucille," "The Gambler" and "Coward Of The County."

**IN MEMORY OF EYDIE GORME**  
**"IT WAS A GOOD TIME"**



Mike Curb with Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme



The Mike Curb Congregation had the opportunity to perform with Steve & Eydie, Sammy Davis Jr. and other artists at major hotels such as Caesar's Palace.

**105** **"LIVING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *LOST HORIZON*) ARTIST: **TONY BENNETT WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION**  
WRITER: BURT BACHARACH, HAL DAVID PUBLISHER: WB MUSIC CORP. O/B/O NEW HIDDEN VALLEY MUSIC/ CASA DAVID/ COLGEMS-EMI MUSIC INC. TIME: 3:19 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA SPECIAL THANKS: DERRICK BOULTON VERVE MV 10690, 1973

**105A** **"MY LOVE"** ARTIST: **TONY BENNETT** WRITER: PAUL MCCARTNEY, LINDA MCCARTNEY PUBLISHER: MPL COMMUNICATIONS (ASCAP) TIME: 3:05

The 1973 film *Lost Horizon* was a re-make of the 1937 movie *Lost Horizon of Shangri-La*; both were based on the novel by James Hilton. "Living Together, Growing Together" came from that film.

While Curb was president of Verve, he signed Tony Bennett to the prestigious jazz label. Bennett wanted to do what Sammy Davis Jr. had done – record a hit song from a movie. This was in 1972 and Bennett had not had a record on the pop charts for five years... his biggest hit, "I Left My Heart In San Francisco" had been released in 1962.

Burt Bacharach and Hal David wrote "Living Together, Growing Together," which Mike Curb and Don Costa produced. The single reached the *Billboard* Singles chart. The next year, Bennett's record "Tell Her It's Snowing" reached the Top 40 on the Adult Contemporary chart.



Mike Curb and Tony Bennett



**106** **"HALLELUJAH"** ARTIST: **STEVE & EYDIE WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITERS: KOBI OSHRAT, SHIMRIT ORR PUBLISHER: GOGLY MUSIC PUBLISHERS (ACUM) ALL RIGHTS ADMINISTERED BY INTERSONG-USA, INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 3:24 PRODUCER: MICHAEL LLOYD AND MIKE CURB WARNER/CURB 1979

**106A** **"WE CAN MAKE IT TOGETHER"** ARTIST: **STEVE & EYDIE WITH THE OSMONDS** WRITER: ALAN OSMOND PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC PUBLISHING CO. (BMI) TIME: 3:15

**106B** **"IT WAS A GOOD TIME"** ARTIST: **EYDIE GORME** WRITER: MIKE CURB/MACK DAVID/MAURICE JARRE PUBLISHER: METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER, INC. RIGHTS ASSIGNED TO EMI CATALOGUE PARTNERSHIP. ALL RIGHTS CONTROLLED AND ADMINISTERED BY EMI FEIST CATALOG INC.

**106C** **"THE LAST RUN"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *THE LAST RUN*) ARTIST: **STEVE LAWRENCE** WRITERS: MACK DAVID, JERRY GOLDSMITH, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: SHINKO MUSIC PUBLISHING/EMI AFFILIATED CATALOG TIME: 2:12 PRODUCERS: DON COSTA AND MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: JESSE KAYE MGM K14288 1972

Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme met and married while both were cast members of *The Tonight Show* in the early 1950s. Eydie's biggest hit for MGM was "It Was A Good Time" written by Mike Curb and Mack David. "We Can Make It Together" was recorded by Steve & Eydie with The Osmonds and The Mike Curb Congregation and was a Top Ten Adult Contemporary hit.

The film *The Last Run* starred George C. Scott; the title song was composed by Jerry Goldsmith and Mike Curb and performed by Steve Lawrence. Steve Lawrence's first number one hit was "Go Away, Little Girl" in 1962. "Hallelujah" was Steve and Eydie's last chart record in 1979.

Curb said that "Steve and Eydie are definitely two of the most incredibly gifted artists and two of the best friends I have ever had a chance to work with. The saddest moment in our 50th year was the loss of one of the greatest singers in the history of the music business, Eydie Gorme, on August 11, 2013. Remarkably, in 2014 Curb released a very special newly recorded album by Steve Lawrence which contained background vocals by Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood.

----- { MIKE CURB : 50 Years } -----

**107** **"IT WAS A GOOD TIME"** (FROM THE SHOW *LIZA WITH A Z*) ARTIST: **LIZA MINNELLI** WRITER: MIKE CURB, MACK DAVID, MAURICE JARRE PUBLISHER: EMI FEIST CATALOG INC. TIME: 2:36 PRODUCER: ANDREW KAZDIN SPECIAL THANKS: MACK DAVID COLUMBIA 4-45715, 1972

"It Was A Good Time" was written by Mike Curb, Mack David and Maurice Jarre for the movie *Ryan's Daughter*. The 1960 film starred Robert Mitchum, Sarah Miles, Trevor Howard, and Leo McKern. Curb had produced the song for Eydie Gorme, which hit the

Adult Contemporary chart in 1971 and rose to number 23. While working on her TV special, *Liza With A Z*, Minnelli assembled a video montage of her mother, Judy Garland. She heard Gorme's recording of "It Was A Good Time" and decided to sing that song to the video montage at the end of the show, which won an Emmy. The song fit the moment, and Minnelli made it part of her concerts.

----- { 1973 } -----

*"Dearest Mike,...It was a party just to be near you...."*

—LIZA MINNELLI



DISCOGRAPHY

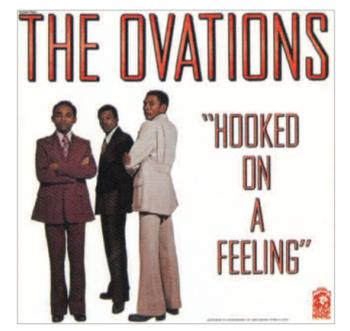
**108** **"HAVING A PARTY"** ARTIST: **THE OVATIONS** WRITER: SAM COOKE PUBLISHER: ABKCO MUSIC, INC. (BMI) SPECIAL THANKS: GENE LUCHESSI AND EDDIE RAY

Eddie Ray, the African-American executive at Capitol who became a mentor to the young Mike Curb, moved to Memphis in the early 1970s and set up a school to teach young black students about the music business.

Luchessi were partners in the Sounds of Memphis label, and Curb signed an agreement to distribute their records. The Ovations released "Touching Me" in mid-1972, and it reached the R&B and Hot 100 charts in *Billboard*.

In Memphis, Ray found a group whose lead singer, Louis Williams, sounded remarkably like Sam Cooke, so he contacted Curb at MGM. Eddie Ray and Gene

Later, Curb moved over to MGM, where they had a number seven hit with a medley of Sam Cooke songs entitled "Having A Party."



**109** **"SPIDERS AND SNAKES"** ARTIST: **JIM STAFFORD** WRITER: JIM STAFFORD, DAVID BELLAMY PUBLISHER: FAMOUS MUSIC LLC (ASCAP) ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USED BY PERMISSION. TIME: 3:05 PRODUCERS: PHIL GERNHARD AND LOBO SPECIAL THANKS: PHIL GERNHARD MGM K 14648, 1973



**109A** **"THE WILDWOOD WEED"** ARTIST: **JIM STAFFORD** WRITER: JIM STAFFORD, DON BOWMAN PUBLISHER: FAMOUS MUSIC CORP. (ASCAP/ENIGN MUSIC/PARODY PUBLISHING (BMI) TIME: 2:40 PRODUCER: PHIL GERNHARD

Jim Stafford, a Florida native, was touring with Howard Bellamy as his roadie; Howard's brother, David, was a co-writer on "Spiders And Snakes," which reached the Country, the Adult Contemporary and hit number 3 on the Hot 100 charts in *Billboard*. After this hit, Stafford hosted a summer

TV variety show. Curb first met Phil Gernhard in 1973 when he brought this recording of "Spiders And Snakes" to MGM. Gernhard was later involved in a number of Curb records, including those by Tim McGraw and Jo Dee Messina.

**110** **"ONE TIN SOLDIER"** ARTIST: **COVEN** WRITER: LAMBERT/POTTER PUBLISHER: CENTS AND PENCE MUSIQUE COMPANY (BMI) TIME: 3:14

Coven – comprised of Jinx Dawson, Oz, Christopher Nelson, John Hobbs and Steve Ross – was a pop/rock group from Chicago that Mike Curb signed to MGM. Curb worked closely with Tom Laughlin on the *Billy Jack* movies, beginning with *The Born Losers*, and the recording

of "One Tin Soldier" came from the movie *The Legend Of Billy Jack*. This recording has the distinction of being one of the few records in history to hit the charts on two separate labels, both Warner and MGM.



**111** **"PAPER ROSES"** ARTIST: **MARIE OSMOND** WRITER: J. TORRE, FRED SPIELMAN PUBLISHER: LEWIS MUSIC C/O MUSIC SALES CORPORATION (ASCAP) TIME: 2:38 PRODUCER: SONNY JAMES SPECIAL THANKS: DON OVENS AND SONNY JAMES KOLOB K 14609, 1973



Marie Osmond wanted to be a country artist, so Mike Curb decided to have her record in Nashville with superstar country producer Sonny James. Osmond and James recorded the song "Paper Roses," which had been a hit for Anita Bryant in 1960.

Marie Osmond's record went number one Country,

number one Adult Contemporary, and number five on the Hot 100 charts. Ironically, her follow-up record was "In My Little Corner Of The World," which had also been Anita Bryant's follow-up to "Paper Roses" back in 1960. Marie Osmond would go on to have 23 charts singles as a solo artist, in addition to her seven chart singles with Donny

{ MIKE CURB : 50 Years }

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**112A** **"THE CANDY MAN"** ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR. WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: LESLIE BRICUSSE, ANTHONY NEWLEY PUBLISHER: TARADAM MUSIC INC. (BMI) TIME: 3:05 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA SPECIAL THANKS: SY MARSH MGM K 14320, 1971

**112A** **"LEGEND IN MY TIME"** ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** WRITER: DON GIBSON PUBLISHER: ACUFF-ROSE PUBLISHING, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:40 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA

**112B** **"MOVIN' ON UP"** (FROM THE TELEVISION SHOW *THE JEFFERSONS*) ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR. AND THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: JEFF BARRY/JEANNETTE DUBOIS PUBLISHER: EMI BELFAST MUSIC, INC. (BMI)

**112C** **"TIME TO RIDE THEME"** ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** WRITER: MIKE CURB, MACK DAVID PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI)

**112D** **"CHICO AND THE MAN"** ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** WRITER: JOSE FELICIANO PUBLISHER: J&H PUBLISHING CO. (ASCAP) TIME: 2:35 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA

**112E** **"BARETTA'S THEME"** ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** WRITERS: DAVE GRUSIN, MORGAN AMES PUBLISHER: LEEDS MUSIC CORP. (ASCAP)/DUCHESS MUSIC CORP. (BMI) TIME: 2:23

**112F** **"SHAFT"** (SHAFT'S BIG SCORE) ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** WITH ISAAC HAYES WRITER: ISAAC HAYES PUBLISHER: IRVING MUSIC INC. (BMI) TIME: 3:49 PRODUCER: ISAAC HAYES SPECIAL THANKS: AL BELL MGM SE 4832, 1971

**112G** **"FIRST MEETING"** (FROM SHAFT'S BIG SCORE) WRITER: GORDON PARKS PUBLISHER: EMI FEIST CATALOG, INC. (ASCAP)

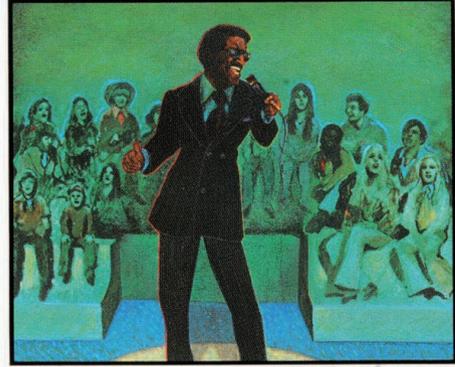
**112H** **"PEOPLE TREE"** ARTIST: **SAMMY DAVIS JR. AND THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITERS: LESLIE BRICUSSE, ANTHONY NEWLEY PUBLISHER: TARADAM MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:25 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA

Sammy Davis Jr. played a major role at MGM Records during the time Mike Curb was president – especially with "The Candy Man," the biggest hit of his career. "The Candy Man," from the film *Willy Wonka And The Chocolate Factory*, was recorded by The Mike Curb Congregation as the follow-up to their hit "Burning Bridges," but "Candy Man" did not initially hit. Curb had signed Sammy Davis Jr., who was looking for a hit but didn't like rock n' roll; he thought the production on "Candy Man" was too rock-oriented. In fact, he didn't even like the song, telling Curb "It's horrible. It's a timmy-two-shoes, it's white bread, cutems, there's no romance." But

Mike convinced him to record it with his Congregation, using Frank Sinatra's recording of "High Hopes" as an inspiration. The result was a record that went number one on both the *Billboard* Hot 100 and Adult Contemporary charts and became Davis's signature song. "Movin' On Up" by Sammy Davis Jr. became the theme song for *The Jeffersons*, a popular comedy on the CBS television network that ran from 1975 until 1985. Davis also recorded "Keep Your Eye On The Sparrow" – the theme song from *Baretta* – and "Chico And The Man" from the show by the same name, which was his last chart record.



*Best Of*  
**SAMMY DAVIS, JR.**  
*And The*  
**MIKE CURB CONGREGATION**



**Includes:**  
THE CANDY MAN • THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC • SNAP YOUR FINGERS  
SONG AND DANCE MAN • SINGING IN THE RAIN • SHOWTIME  
MOVIN' ON UP • KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE SPARROW  
THE PEOPLE TREE • THOSE WERE THE DAYS • I CAN DO THAT

{ 1972 }

*"That (Candy Man's) Gold – don't forget it. I waited 43 years for that, but I must tell you that it took the talents of a lot of people... first of all, the belief that Mike Curb had."*

—SAMMY DAVIS JR.



Mike Curb and Sammy Davis Jr.



Mike Curb produced Sammy Davis' hit recording of the remake of Gene Kelly's classic song "Singing In The Rain". Gene Kelly and Mike Curb performed the song together on the national CBS Glen Campbell television show.

{ MIKE CURB : 50 Years }



**113** **"THIS MAGIC MOMENT"** ARTIST: **RICHARD ROUNDTREE** WRITER: DOC POMUS, MORT SHUMAN PUBLISHER: HILL & RANGE SONGS, INC./QUINTET MUSIC, INC./TREDLAW MUSIC, INC./FREDDY BIENSTOCK MUSIC, INC. (BMI) UNICHAPPELL MUSIC INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:45 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

**113A** **"SO MUCH IN LOVE"** ARTIST: **RICHARD ROUNDTREE** WRITER: W. JACKSON, R. STRAIGIS, G. WILLIAMS PUBLISHER: ABKCO MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:06 SPECIAL THANKS: GORDON PARKS ARTISTS OF AMERICA AOA-115, 1971

The soundtrack to the movie *Shaft*, starring Richard Roundtree, was released in 1971 by Memphis-based artist Isaac Hayes on Enterprise, in association with MGM. Mike Curb and his sister, Carole, recommended Hayes to Jim Aubrey and the producer of *Shaft*. The album by

Hayes was nominated for Grammys in the Album of the Year category and the single for Record of the Year.

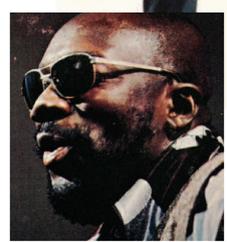
Curb approached Sammy Davis Jr. about doing a vocal for *Shaft*. Davis agreed, and the song won an Academy Award for Original Song from a Movie.

"This soundtrack would not have been possible without the incredible talent of Issac Hayes and Al Bell, who was president of Stax Records at the time," said Curb.

Richard Roundtree also starred in the sequel, *Shaft's Big Score*, in 1972 and in *Shaft In Africa* in 1973. Roundtree recorded several singles; "This Magic Moment," produced by Mike Curb, was his biggest hit on the *Billboard* R&B chart in 1976.



Mike Curb and Al Bell



Isaac Hayes

{ 1976 }

"Thank you for making Shaft possible."

—ISSAC HAYES

{ 1976 }

*"If Mike had not worked with us to produce the film soundtrack to Shaft, and the money that we made on it which out-grossed the film, then I'm here to tell you that there never would have been a Wattstax. That was because of Mike Curb."*

—AL BELL, CO-OWNER, STAX RECORDS AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF MOTOWN RECORDS

DISCOGRAPHY

**114** **"QUEEN OF THE SILVER DOLLAR"** ARTIST: **DOYLE HOLLY** WRITER: SHEL SILVERSTEIN PUBLISHER: EVIL EYE MUSIC, INC. (BMI) TIME: 3:24 PRODUCER: KEN MANSFIELD SPECIAL THANKS: KEN MANSFIELD

Mike Curb created a distribution partnership with Andy Williams' Barnaby Records label. Shortly afterward, Ken Mansfield recommended signing Doyle Holly, who was a member of Buck Owens' band The Buckaroos.

Holly, originally from Oklahoma, had seven *Billboard* chart singles, with his biggest hit being "Queen Of The Silver Dollar."



**115** **"FOR YOUR LOVE"** ARTIST: **CHRISTOPHER PAUL AND SHAWN KING** WRITER: ED TOWNSEND PUBLISHER: BEECHWOOD MUSIC COMPANY (BMI) TIME: 2:54 SPECIAL THANKS: KARL ENGEMANN AND NEIL BOGART



Mike Curb produced "For Your Love" for Neil Bogart's Casablanca record label. Christopher Paul and Shawn Engemann were the son and daughter of Karl Engemann, the long-time manager of Marie Osmond and a very successful A&R executive at Capitol Records. Shawn is married to the famous talk show

host, Larry King.

Throughout his career, Curb has always believed in co-ventures with other labels. Records that Curb has been involved in are represented on more than 100 different labels.

**116** **"I WISH THAT I HAD LOVED YOU BETTER"** ARTIST: **EDDY ARNOLD** WRITER: CHICK RAINS PUBLISHER: ALLEY MUSIC CORP./ TRIO MUSIC COMPANY, INC./ TWIN FORKS MUSIC, INC. TIME: 2:50 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB AND DON COSTA MGM M3G 4961, 1974

**116A** **"BUTTERFLY"** ARTIST: **EDDY ARNOLD** WRITER: CURB, DAVID, GERARD, BARNES, BERNET PUBLISHER: SABACTHANI MUSIC PUBLISHING/CHRYSALIS S.A. (ASCAP) TIME: 2:58 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB, DON COSTA

**116B** **"OH, OH, I'M FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN"** ARTIST: **EDDY ARNOLD** WRITER: A. HOFFMAN, D. MANNING, M. MARKWELL PUBLISHER: PLANETARY MUSIC PUBLISHING CORP. (ASCAP) TIME: 2:30 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB, DON COSTA

Eddy Arnold spent 25 years recording for RCA before signing with MGM in 1972 at the encouragement of Mike Curb. Mike's group had once opened for Arnold in San Jose, California. The two struck up a friendship and Arnold eventually agreed to sign with MGM if he could record in Los Angeles.

Curb and Don Costa produced Arnold, backed by an orchestra and The Mike Curb Congregation. Arnold had 10 chart singles with Curb, including "I Wish That I Had Loved You Better" (his most successful on the *Billboard* chart), "Oh, Oh, I'm Falling In Love," and "Butterfly," which Curb co-wrote.



Mike Curb, Eddy Arnold and *Billboard* historian Joel Whitburn presenting Eddy with the seven decade Artist of the Century Award

{ MIKE CURB : 50 Years }

DISCOGRAPHY



**147** **"ZIG ZAG"** (FROM THE MOTION PICTURE *ZIG ZAG*) ARTIST: **ROY ORBISON WITH THE MIKE CURB CONGREGATION** WRITER: GUY HEMRIC, BOB ENDERS, MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: EMI HASTINGS MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:50 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: BOB ENDERS MGM 15E-21ST

*Zig Zag* was directed by Richard Colla and starred George Kennedy and Eli Wallach in 1970. The plot involved a man diagnosed with a brain tumor who arranges his own death so his wife can collect the insurance money, but then discovers the diagnosis was wrong.

The title song was written by Guy Hemric, Bob Enders and Mike Curb. "Roy Orbison did a 'Pretty Woman' interpretation," said Curb. "Bob Enders was the producer of the movie and had the idea of what he wanted the theme to be, so he joined us in writing the song."

**148** **"HANG ON IN THERE BABY"** ARTIST: **JOHNNY BRISTOL** WRITER: RON TYSON, JAMES BATTON PUBLISHER: © 1981 ENSIGN MUSIC (BMI)/ DAJOYE MUSIC (BMI) ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USED BY PERMISSION. TIME: 3:21 PRODUCER: JOHNNY BRISTOL MGM M 14715, 1974

Johnny Bristol began his recording career in 1960 as part of Johnny and Jackie (Beavers), who recorded the original version of "Someday We'll Be Together" in 1961; this became a major hit for The Supremes when they released it in 1979. Bristol was a successful songwriter who wrote "Love Me For A Reason," which was a Top 10

hit for The Osmonds. When Bristol wrote "Hang On In There, Baby," he told Mike Curb that he'd like to record it himself. The song reached number eight on *Billboard's* Hot 100 chart, and number two on the Rhythm and Blues chart in 1974.



Mike Curb with Donny and Marie Osmond



**149** **"I'M LEAVING IT ALL UP TO YOU"** ARTIST: **DONNY & MARIE OSMOND** WRITER: DON HARRIS, DEWEY TERRY, JR. PUBLISHERS: SONY/ATV SONGS LLC (BMI) TIME: 2:49 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: GEORGE OSMOND MGM M14735, 1974

**149A** **"TAKE ME BACK AGAIN"** ARTIST: **DONNY & MARIE OSMOND** WRITER: MIKE CURB PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:49 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

**149B** **"A DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT"** ARTIST: **DONNY & MARIE OSMOND** WRITER: MIKE CURB AND MACK DAVID PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 2:18 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

**149C** **"MORNING SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN"** ARTIST: **DONNY & MARIE OSMOND** WRITER: LARRY STOCK, DICK MANNING PUBLISHER: WARNER BROS. INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 3:02 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

**149D** **"MAKE THE WORLD GO AWAY"** ARTIST: **DONNY & MARIE OSMOND** WRITER: HANK COCHRAN PUBLISHER: SONY TREE PUBLISHING CO., INC. (BMI) TIME: 2:48 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

"I'm Leavin' It All Up To You" was originally recorded by Don and Dewey, then Dale and Grace, before Donny Osmond recorded it. When Donny returned later to sing the harmony, his voice had changed. Donny's sister, Marie, sang harmony and added her voice throughout the song, and Curb billed them "Donny and Marie."

This debut single of Donny and Marie

reached the number one position on the Adult Contemporary chart, number four on the Hot 100 and number 17 on the Country chart in 1974. It began a series of hit recordings for Donny and Marie that included "Morning Side Of The Mountain" and "Deep Purple," and which led to their successful TV variety show on ABC from 1976-1979.

{ 1999 }

**120** **"LOVE ME FOR A REASON"** ARTIST: **THE OSMONDS** WRITER: JOHN BRISTOL, JR., WADE BROWN, JR., DAVID JONES PUBLISHER: JOBETE MUSIC COMPANY, INC. (ASCAP) TIME: 4:02 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB SPECIAL THANKS: H. B. BARNUM MGM M14746, 1974

**120A** **"THE PROUD ONE"** ARTIST: **THE OSMONDS** WRITER: BOB GAUDIO, BOB CREWE PUBLISHER: LONGITUDE MUSIC CO. (BMI)/SEASONS FOUR MUSIC (BMI) TIME: 3:03 PRODUCER: MIKE CURB

**120B** **"LET ME IN"** ARTIST: **THE OSMONDS** WRITER: ALAN OSMOND, WAYNE OSMOND, MERRILL OSMOND PUBLISHER: MIKE CURB MUSIC CO. (BMI) TIME: 3:37

"Love Me For A Reason" was the first Osmonds record that reached number one in England. The song was the group's tenth chart record in the United States, reaching number two on the Adult Contemporary chart and Top 10 on the Hot 100.

The Osmonds also had an incredible tour of England. "They were like the Beatles," said Curb, remembering how the group was mobbed by fans during their time there.

"The Proud One" was written by Bob Gaudio and Bob Crewe and reached number one on the *Billboard* chart. Mike Curb produced "The Proud One" and "Love Me For A Reason."

While Curb was producing "Love Me For A Reason," the songwriter Johnny Bristol played another song he wrote for Curb, "Hang On In There Baby." Mike liked it so much that he signed Johnny Bristol as an artist, and the record became a major hit.

*"You know what really blew me away about Mike Curb? He had an amazing ear for hearing a song and knowing it was going to be a hit. He just kept coming up with these number one songs for us."*

-MARIE OSMOND

