

Discography of the Davis Label

The Davis Record label was formed in 1947 in New York City by Joe Davis. The label recorded pop, jazz, R&B, Latin and gospel. Subsidiary labels included Beacon, Celebrity, Jay-Dee and Joe Davis. The address of the company in 1955 was 441 West 49th Street, New York 19, N.Y.

Prior to forming Davis Records, Joe Davis tried to revive the legendary Gennett Label. The Gennett Record label was formed originally in 1918 as a division of the Starr Piano Company in Richmond Indiana. In the early 20's, the label started recording the early jazz bands that were performing in Chicago. Gennett made the first recordings of Ferd "Jellyroll" Morton, King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band with Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke and the Wolverines. The first recording of "Stardust" was made by its author Hoagy Carmichael in the Gennett Richmond studio. Because of the depression by 1932 the Gennett Record label was shut down. In the late 30's and early 40's, the historical importance of these seminal jazz recordings was recognized and Gennett Records were being hunted down and treasured by collectors. The only copy ever found of King Oliver's Gennett recording of "Zulu's Ball" sold for several thousand dollars in the 1930's. With the increased interest in Gennett, Joe Davis revived the label name in 1944 with the backing of the Starr Piano Company. The recordings, pressed by Starr in Richmond, were primarily forgettable dance and pop releases, in addition to party records with raunchy lyrics. This revived Gennett label died a quick death but Davis stayed in the record business.

After Gennett, Joe Davis recorded mostly New York vocal groups and raunchy party records. Because of limited distribution the records put out by Davis were only local northeast hits if they were hits at all. The albums issued on the Davis record label covered the gamut, risqué party records, comedy, Dixieland, blues, gospel and children's records. The only album that has much collector interest is JD-109, the album by Otis Blackwell. Otis Blackwell was the writer of "Don't Be Cruel", "All Shook Up", "Great Balls of Fire", "Handy Man", "Return to Sender" and many others. On the Davis album he sings self penned blues.

The fine New York group sounds, Davis recorded was issued on a compilation album on the subsidiary Celebrity. This album which was titled "World Famous Rhythm and Blues Groups" is extremely rare and in demand by group sound collectors. The album features some of the finest NY vocal group sounds, all of which were recorded between 1953 and 1956. Davis also had the Beacon label that again recorded raunchy material.

Davis Records 100 Series Discography:

The Davis label was gold with black printing. A script "davis" above the center hole

JD-101 - A Little Spice - Faye Richmonde [1957] If I Can't sell It, I'll Keep Sittin; on It/The Dentist Song/Naggin' Will Not Hold a Man/She's Nine Months Gone from Home/Handy Andy/I Want a Man to Gimme Some Luck//Come Up and See Me Anytime/Find Out What They Like, and How They Like It/Keep Your Nose Out of Mama's Business/If You Can't Get Five, take Two/Never Brag About Your Man/My Man O'War

JD-102 - I Love You Truly - Henry Haywood [1957]

JD-103 - Piano Moods - Frank Signorelli [1957]

JD-104 - Piano Cocktail - Erskine Butterfield [1957]

JD-105 - Dixieland Heaven - Lee Castle [1957] Stars and Stripes Forever/Alabama Blues/Birmingham Special/Save It, Pretty Mama/Trombone Jitters/Feeling Sentimental/My Wild Irish Rose/Fair Jennie's Lament/Dixieland Mambo/On the Banks of the Wabash/Mood in Blue/When the Saints Go Marching In

JD-106 - Pizza Party - Joe Biviano [5/57]Tarantella/Maria Mari/Pizza Pie Polka/Vieni Sul Mar/Mama/Too Fat Polka/Beer Barrel Polka/Ciribiribin/La Spagnola/Funiculi, Funicula/O Sole Mio/La Sorella

JD-107 - To My Wife - Jim Tyler [1957] Whispering/Always/When You and I Were Sweet Sixteen/Let Me Call You Sweetheart/Sweetheart of All My Dreams/Silver Threads Among the Gold/I'll Always Be in Love With You/Love's Old Sweet Song/I Love You/Try a Little Tenderness/I Love You Truly/When I Grow Too Old to Dream

JD-108 - For Men Only - Faye Richmonde [1957] You Ought to See Her Box/Mama's Well Has Done Gone Dry/Where Can I Find a Cherry For My Banana Split/If You Can't Control Your Man/Slow Up Papa/It Was Hard When I Kissed Her Goodbye/Meat Man Pete/I Ain't Your Man, Mister/Fly Rooster/My Daddy/Lookin' For a Permanent Man/What's Your Price?/Gotta Have a Man of My Own

JD-109 - Singin' the Blues - Otis Blackwell [1957] Daddy Rollin' Stone/Tears, Tears, Tears/On That Power Line/Don't Know How I Love You/Go Away Mr. Blues/Ain't Got No Time/You Move Me, Baby! //My Poor Broken Heart/Let the Daddy Hold You/You're My Love/I'm Standing at the Doorway to Your Heart/I'm Comin' Back/My Josephine/I'm Travelin' On

JD-110 - Mr. Honky Tonk - Eddie "Piano" Miller [1958] Red River Valley/My Wild Irish Rose/Black and White Rag/You Tell Me Your Dream/Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey/After the Ball/On the Banks of the Wabash/Spread a Little Sunshine/The Bowery/My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon/Oh Susanna/Tavern in the Town/Gypsy Love Song/Darling Clementine/Look for Me in Tennessee/Comrades/Old Grey Mare/Little Annie Rooney/At a Georgia Camp Meeting/On a Bicycle Built For Two/Merry Widow Waltz/When You Were Sweet Sixteen/Sweet Rosie O'Grady/There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight

JD-111 - Toyland Parade - Various Artists [1958] Percy, the Pale-Faced Polar Bear/Sleepy Little Cowboy/Toyland Jubilee/Daddy's Little Girl/Palsy Walsy Land/March Time/Every Little Piggy's Got a Curly Tail/Daddy's Little Boy/Penguins on Parade/Be Good to Your Father and Mother/Easter Bunny Day/Mommy's Little Angel/Circus on Parade

JD-112 - Confidential - Angellina [1958] Vice Versa/It's Gonna Be a Long Hard Winter/I'm a Virgin, But I'm on the Verge/Electrician Blues/Working Girl/You've Got to Use Some Science/All the Girls Like Big Dick/Shake Your Can/Chiropractor Blues/Sell Your Proposition While It's Hot/What a Man!/He Forgot His Rubbers

JD-113 - Hymns - Dardanelle And Turner [1958] Holy, Holy, Holy/Lord Almighty/Work, For the Night is Coming/Just as I Am/God Be With You/I Need Thee Every Hour/Rescue the Perishing/Rock of Ages/What a Friend We Have in Jesus/Bringing in the Sheaves/Faith o Our Fathers/Stand Up for Jesus/Fairest Lord Jesus/Jesus, Lover of My Soul/Lead, Kindly Light/Abide With Me/Onward Christian Soldiers

JD-114 - Let's Waltz - Joe Biviano [1/58] Beautiful Dreamer/Dreaming/I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls/Little Annie Rooney/Dark Eyes/Merry Widow Waltz/Ciribiribin/Aye-Aye-Aye/Band Played On/On the Bowery/My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon/On a Bicycle Built for Two/She May Have Seen Better Days/Home on the Range/Red River Valley/Comrades/Seeing Nellie Home/Come Back to Erin/Comin' Thru the Rye/Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms/Rose of Tralee/In the Gloaming/Aloha/Long, Long Ago/Home Sweet Home/Oh Dem Golden Slippers/In the Evening by the Moonlight/Swing Low Sweet Chariot/My Old Kentucky Home/Darling Nellie Gray/Sweet and Low/Annie Laurie/Good Night Ladies

JD-115 - Italian Favorites - Joe Biviano [1958] Maria, Mari/Ciribiribin/Donna e' Mobile/O Marenariello/Il Bacio/Funicula Torna a Surriento,Libiano.La Spagnola/Mattinata/Vieni Sul Mar/A' Franchesa

JD-116 - Girlesque - Faye Richmonde [1959] Tony's Got Hot Nuts/My Pussy Belongs to Daddy/The Swelling of the Organ, the Coming of the Bride/Now They're both Satisfied With Their Baby/My Sweet Harmony Man/My Right Hand Man/A Cooking Lesson//You Can't Have It, Unless I Give It to You/I'll Keep It Turned Toward the wall/My Monie Operator Man/Got to Have It All the Time/Sadie's Still Got the Rag On/It's Smart to be Smutty/What Long Hair on Your Pussy

JD-117 - Treasure Chest - Captain Kidd [1959]

JD-118 - Party Girl - Nancy Steele [1959]

JD-119 - Solo Para Hombres - Lana Del Rio [1959] La Vaca Pinta/Como We

JD-120 - Sexarama - Miss Dee [1959] It's What's Up Front That Counts/Oh! What a Jock/She Sits on His Lap and Bawls/She Kissed Him in the Hallway and He Shot Across the Street/I'm Wild About That Thing/He Broke It Off Inside of Her//How Far Should a Girl Go?/Mrs. Kanner's Can/Sweet Fat Mama/Things Are Soft for Gramdma/For Men Only/Hey, Mr. Ice Man

JD-121 - Mother's Favorite Waltzes - Joe Biviano [1959]

JD-122 - Humoresque - Saul Peter [1959]

JD-123 - Confession - Hermanos Mercado [1959]

JD-124 - For Women Only - Saul Peter [1959] OOoo Have I Got Hot Nuts for You!/The Horse with the Hansom Behind/Ants in Her Pants/Tessie the Teaser/He's the Queen of Fire Island/Don't Let Your Business Fall Off/She

Loves Her Peter/The Girl on Father's Chest/How Do Worms Make Love?/Get Your Mind Out of the Gutter/A Rag, a Bone, a Hunk of Hair/Limericks That Sing

JD-1001 - Exotica - Various Artists [1959]

Celebrity Record Label Discography:

The Celebrity label is black with silver printing. "CELEBRITY" in a silver half circle with a star above the logo.

CEL-1000/CEL-206 - World Famous Rhythm and Blues Groups - Various Artists [1959] This album is sometimes listed as CEL-1000 and other times CEL-206. Any documented sales I have seen list the record as CEL-206. Whether this record was ever CEL-1000 is unknown. The original cover was red, white and blue and titled "World Famous Rhythm and Blues Groups". Around 1974 the record was reissued with a light blue/dark blue cover as "Good Old Oldies by Rhythm and Blues Groups" as Davis Records LP-206 but the record inside the cover was the Celebrity CEL-206 record with the original title. Smoke From Your Cigarette - Mellows/Yesterday's Memories - Mellows/I Still Care - Mellows/The Meaning of Love - Goldentones/Love is True - Chestnuts/Forever I Vow - Chestnuts/Love Me Tender - Sparrows //Okay Baby - Pyramids/Be Faithful - Crickets/The Man From the Moon - Crickets/Your Love - Crickets/Truthfully - Deep River Boys/Somebody's Lyin' - Millionaires/Dreamin' and Dreamin' - Scaletones

Beacon Record Label Discography

301 - Spicy Songs From the Fifties - Various Artists [?]

Davis Records 200 Series Discography:

LP-201

LP-202

LP-203

LP-204

LP-205

LP-206 - Good Old Oldies by Rhythm and Blues Groups - Various Artists [1974] Reissue of Celebrity 206 with a new title on the cover but the original title on the Celebrity record inside. Smoke From Your Cigarette - Mellows/Yesterday's Memories - Mellows/I Still Care - Mellows/The Meaning of Love - Goldentones/Love is True - Chestnuts/Forever I Vow - Chestnuts/Love Me Tender - Sparrows //Okay Baby - Pyramids/Be Faithful - Crickets/The Man From the Moon - Crickets/Your Love - Crickets/Truthfully - Deep River Boys/Somebody's Lyin' - Millionaires/Dreamin' and Dreamin' - Scaletones

Related Records:

Flyright FLY-575 - Singin' the Blues - Otis Blackwell [1981] This is the United Kingdom reissue of Davis JD-109. Daddy Rollin' Stone/Tears, Tears, Tears/On That Power Line/Don't Know How I Love You/Go Away Mr. Blues/Ain't Got No Time/You Move Me, Baby! //My Poor Broken Heart/Let the Daddy Hold You/You're My Love/I'm Standing at the Doorway to Your Heart/I'm Comin' Back Back/My Josephine/I'm Travelin' On