

**The Shadows**  
**“Live At The BBC”**

**Parlophone 0190295624859 [CD, first issue] Released 26 October 2018**

**Parlophone 0190295495206 [CD, second issue] Released June 2019**

**Parlophone 0190295471842 [LP, limited edition of 500 copies] Released October 2019**

**THE SHADOWS** AT THE **LIVE BBC**



Tracks listed are mono except: \*stereo

*The Rise And Fall Of Flingel Bunt / The War Lord / I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Arthur / I Met A Girl / Shindig / Lady Penelope / Scotch On The Socks / Jigsaw / Tennessee Waltz / Bombay Duck / Lara's Theme / Snap, Crackle And How's Your Dad / The Wild Roses (Nobara Saku Michi) / Dear Old Mrs. Bell / Evening Glow / Naughty Nippon Nights / Apache / Nivram\* / Jungle Jam\* / Turn Around And Touch Me\* / Wonderful Land\**

Originally scheduled for late March 1999, more than 19 years later “Live At The BBC” finally got its well deserved release. In the meantime, Shadows fans already had the opportunity to collect five BBC tracks recorded by the group for “Saturday Club” in 1959 and 1960, released on the Cliff Richard & The Drifters / The Shadows double CD “Let Me Tell You Baby...It's Called Rock 'N' Roll!” (released in November 2012 by Rollercoaster Records): “Guitar Boogie”, “Driftin”, “Jet Black”, “Apache” and “Quatermaster's Stores”. The first of these was actually already available on the limited edition 10” LP of the same name as the double CD, released in October 2010 also by Rollercoaster Records.

In 1959 and 1960, more tracks were recorded for BBC radio, as well as in 1961, 1962 and 1963. However, the new album focuses on the period 1965 to 1973. 16 out of the 21 tracks feature the line-up of Hank, Bruce, Brian and John, so the picture for the front cover is well chosen. Also, apart from a few live clips of Cliff Richard & The Shadows from 1965 on the 1994 UK VHS video “The Hit List”, this is the first time any live recordings by this Shadows line-up have been officially released.

Some of the hits are featured, including “The Rise And Fall Of Flingel Bunt”, “The War Lord”, “I Met A Girl”, “Shindig”, “Apache” and “Wonderful Land”. The sound of the first of these is the closest to the original single version of all the officially released live versions, in my estimation. “Shindig” is quite brisk and has a shorter arrangement of under two minutes.

Tracks initially released exclusively on UK EP's have been very rarely performed live by the group. “Lady Penelope” is such an example, from the rare “Thunderbirds Are Go!” EP. The studio

arrangement is followed quite closely on this one.

Rare (and popular) B-sides also get a 'live' airing: "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Arthur" (including a second overdubbed electric rhythm guitar part by Bruce), "Scotch On The Socks" (featuring the echoing "Uhs") and "Bombay Duck" (featuring John's driving fuzz bass guitar).

So far, no tracks from the "Jigsaw" and "From Hank, Bruce, Brian And John" albums have ever been issued live (apart from "The Day I Met Marie"), that is until now. "Jigsaw" features an arranged ending, as opposed to the studio version, which fades out.

Also from the "Jigsaw" album is "Tennessee Waltz" which again has an arranged ending and features some power chords from Hank at the end, although they are not as heavy as on the studio version.

"Snap, Crackle And How's Your Dad" is taken at a more faster, swinging tempo and features two additional overdubbed electric guitar parts, one by Hank and one by Bruce. A piano is also featured, although it's not known who played it. It could have been played by Alan Hawkshaw, who played organ on the studio version or Norrie Paramor. An overdub by Hank, Bruce, Brian or John is also possible.

Also from the album "From Hank, Bruce, Brian And John" and faithful to the original studio arrangements are "The Wild Roses (Nobara Saku Michi)", "Evening Glow" and "Naughty Nippon Nights", this last one featuring an arranged ending.

"Lara's Theme" was performed live by The Shadows during the period 1967 to 1968 and was a huge favourite of John Rostill's. It was probably to be recorded for the album of film themes, which The Shadows started recording in December 1968, after Bruce had left the group, but which never got off the ground. The only completed recordings for this proposed album are "Slaughter On Tenth Avenue" (which was released as the first UK stereo single of the group in 1969) and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (which was first released on the UK compilation CD "The Shadows At Abbey Road" in 1997). "Lara's Theme" was eventually recorded by Hank for his eponymous first solo album in 1969, as well as other film themes. The arrangement of Hank's solo version is quite grand-sounding, thanks to Norrie Paramor's orchestral backing. The Shadows' arrangement on the other hand is more simple and intimate and also very dynamic sounding, thanks to Bruce's arpeggio runs.

The vocal A-side "Dear Old Mrs. Bell" is different to the single version, because it lacks Norrie Paramor's orchestral backing and features Hank playing the melody on guitar instead of the orchestra.

The last five tracks were recorded after The Shadows reformed in 1973, the line-up now comprising Hank, Bruce and Brian with John Farrar on second lead and rhythm guitar. For this occasion, Mo Foster was employed to play bass guitar.

"Apache" features two electric rhythm guitar parts, one by Bruce and one by John.

"Nivram" is interesting as it features Mo Foster's version of the bass guitar solo.

Another first is "Wonderful Land", which here for the first time features the orchestral backing synthesized with two instruments: actual synthesizers probably played and overdubbed by Brian and John Farrar on guitar with a synth-like effect.

Both sides of the sole single taken from the album "Rockin' With Curly Leads" are featured as well.

"Jungle Jam" is well over a minute shorter here, as compared to the studio version.

"Turn Around And Touch Me" features an overdubbed piano part by Brian. Hank's guitar sound on both tracks is more cleaner than on the studio versions.

Incidentally, the first CD issue of "Live At The BBC" incorrectly included the original EMI studio versions of both tracks. After a great number of fans noticed the error, Parlophone released a second CD issue in June 2019, including the correct BBC versions of the tracks. A limited edition LP of the album of only 500 copies was released in October 2019 and included the correct versions of "Jungle

Jam” and “Turn Around And Touch Me”.

The sound quality of all tracks is first-rate, as all recordings have been taken from the original master tapes.

The sleeve lists the recording date for each track, as well as the radio show for which it was recorded. The listing of the names of the radio shows has been debated by fans quite extensively. It has been discovered that “I Met A Girl” and “Shindig” were featured not on “Saturday Club”, but on the “Let The Good Times Roll” radio show. “Dear Old Mrs. Bell”, “Evening Glow” and “Naughty Nippon Nights” were featured on the “Dave Symonds Show” radio show, while the five tracks from 1973 were featured on the “Top Gear” radio show and the last four of those also on the “Sounds On Sunday” radio show, aired on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1974. All other tracks were featured on the “Saturday Club” radio show.

There are some other errors:

- “I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Arthur”: the composer credit of “Rostill” has one 'l' too many.
- “I Met A Girl” and “Shindig”: the recording date is the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1966, not the 30<sup>th</sup> of May.
- “Evening Glow”: the composer credit should be “Domei Suzuki” or just “Suzuki” in this case, not “Kusakawa” (misspelled as “Kasakawa”) and “Nakamura”, which belong to a different song with the same title as “Evening Glow”.
- “Dear Old Mrs. Bell”, “Evening Glow” and “Naughty Nippon Nights”: there are no hyphens printed between the name of the radio show and the date of recording .

The interview segments between Brian Matthew and Hank and Bruce before the tracks “The War Lord”, “I Met A Girl”, “Jigsaw”, “Tennessee Waltz”, “Lara's Theme”, “Snap, Crackle And How's Your Dad” and “Dear Old Mrs. Bell” and the interview segments between John Peel and Hank and Bruce before the tracks “Nivram”, “Jungle Jam”, “Turn Around And Touch Me” and “Wonderful Land” have been omitted. A pity, because they are quite amusing and include some interesting information about The Shadows' then-present activities.

Another omission I think, is the lack of any liner-notes, explaining the general background of the BBC recordings and track analysis. Perhaps it was thought that because the aforementioned Rollercoaster release included a comprehensive set of liner-notes with an explanation of the background, Parlophone didn't find it necessary to provide one.

All in all, a very worthwhile set for every devoted Shadows fan.

As I mentioned before, other tracks recorded for BBC radio exist, among them the following:

- “Jet Black”: recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1959, for edition 38 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Bongo Blues”, “Dooby Dooby Wah” and “Three-30-Blues”: recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1960, for edition 77 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Walk Don't Run”, “The Stranger” and “Driftin””: recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1960, for edition 110 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Shotgun”: recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 1961, for edition 120 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Midnight” and “Perfidia”: recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1961, for edition 141 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Wonderful Land” and “Stars Fell On Stockton”: recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 1962, for edition 183 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Dance On” and “The Boys”: recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1962, for edition 20 of “The Star Show”.
- “Nivram” and “Foot Tapper”: recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 1963, for edition 24 of “The Star Show”.

- “Nivram” (short version): recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1966, for edition 400 of “Saturday Club”.
- “Somewhere: recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1966, for “Let The Good Times Roll”.
- “Nivram” and “Deep Purple”: recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1966, for “Saturday Club”.
- “Stardust” and “Waiting For Rosie”: recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1967, for “Saturday Club”.
- “The Tokaido Line”: recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1967, for “Saturday Club”.
- “Apache” (second 1973 version), “Dance On”, “The Rise And Fall Of Flingel Bunt” and “The Frightened City”: recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1973, for “Sounds On Sunday”.

Also, a set of nine recordings by Marvin, Welch & Farrar:

- “Throw Down A Line”, “You're Burning Bridges” and “Faithful”: recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 1971, for edition 326 of “Top Of The Pops”.
- “Silvery Rain”, “Lady Of The Morning” and “Brownie Kentucky”: recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1971, for edition 349 of “Top Of The Pops”.
- “Marmaduke”, “Mr. Sun” and “Lonesome Mole”: recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1972, for edition 392 of “Top Of The Pops”.

Hopefully, all of these will be issued on a follow-up volume.

**Ivo Koers**