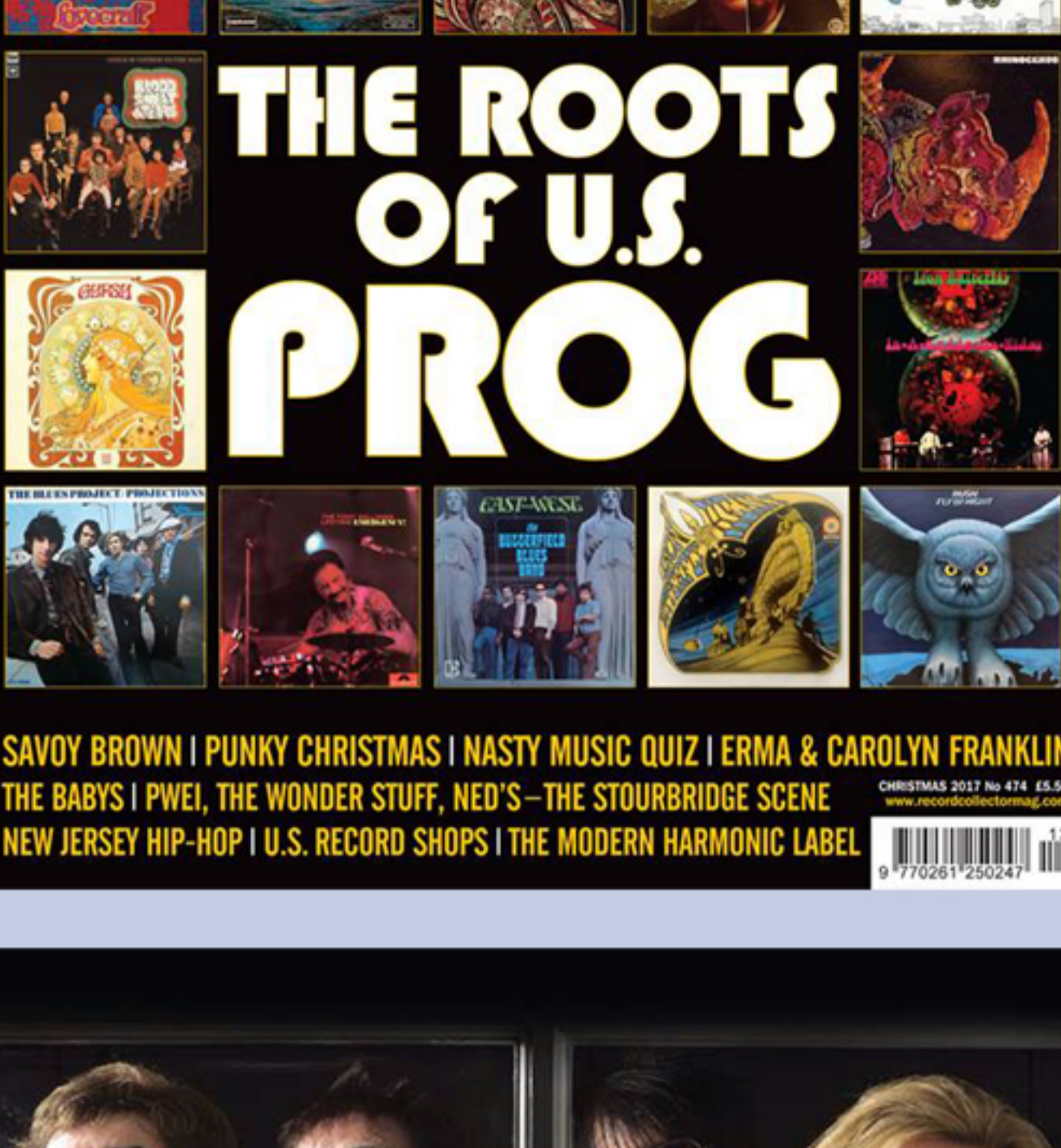


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SAVOY BROWN | PUNKY CHRISTMAS | NASTY MUSIC QUIZ | ERMA & CAROLYN FRANKLIN THE BABYS | PWEI, THE WONDER STUFF, NED'S—THE STOURBRIDGE SCENE NEW JERSEY HIP-HOP | U.S. RECORD SHOPS | THE MODERN HARMONIC LABEL

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ISN'T IT TIME?

In the shadow of star-spangled 70s AOR giants like Journey, the UK's contribution to transatlantic radio rock was limited to Foreigner and Fleetwood Mac. But there were pretenders to the crown, The Babys being the first among equals. Perambulating once again, Tim Jones is one of many adults rocked by Babys

The Babys are the British band that briefly vied with US chart-topping AOR acts like Boston, Journey, Styx and Toto...

created the stratified guitar lines integral to The Babys' signature sound. The classic line-up was in place and penned some impressive tunes...

the result was overproduced, but it was issued in January 1977. It failed to make the US Top 100, despite the kinetic, Trevor Rabin-esque single...

"ISN'T IT TIME REMAINS AN INFECTIOUS SOUL-ROCK ANTHEM"



Tim Jones, happy with or without the Babys

Among the 10-tracker's other AOR cuts were the phased-drum opener, Looking For Love, the scintillating, radio-friendly Rodeo (think period UFO), and the burbling, Bad Company-esque Read My Stars...

As well as break early in 1977, the band were ushered into Los Angeles' Record Plant to work alongside Led Zeppelin/The Who/Bad Company producer, Ron Nevison. Over three months, they cut the 10-song rockers'n ballads Broken Heart, marked out by its stylised colour-tint artwork...

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grasp, Chrysalis re-teamed the band with Nevison, but there was disagreement on whether to focus on rockers or ballads. Consequently, Head First was recorded in a pressure-cooker environment...

through auditions for new members led to the recruitment in November '78 of two Americans: Beaville-signed keyboardist/guitarist/singer, Jonathan Cain, and Nasty Habit bassist, Ricky Phillips...

Desiring a new approach, looking and sound, the quintet set about crafting the nine-song Union Jacks, overturning the driving eight-note bass/Hammond of old for more synth puffs and electric percussion. They supported Alice Cooper early in 1979, moulding a new repertoire on the road...



The Babys? He ain't missing it at all

Darker Side Of Town spans and, while there were trademark tones to please fans, such as Postcard and Gonna Be Somebody, ongoing rowing between the following three...

John Waite's nonchalant with the UK, in 2010



I didn't have a copy of the songs Wally and I wrote, but he did. In 2012, he played the tape to me — songs like I'll Have Some Of That. Our new guitarist, Joey Sykes, ex-Meredith Brooks, is also a good writer...

Wally and myself. The four of us made a three-song demo video, and we were the first band to get a major deal with one. A load of record companies wanted to sign us...

the angle of the band, as did having Jonathan on keyboards. It's amazing the difference, how musicians are brought up in the US and Britain. In the UK, you just play... But it became easier for John, as he was just singing, and with the keyboards...

Tell us about the formation of The Babys. Our manager, Adrian Millar, was bounding me when I was in Strider, in 1974. He asked me for months to join this new band...

How did Jonathan Cain and Ricky Phillips' recruitment affect the band's dynamic? It changed a lot. John Waite and I played in that Bad Company style. But Ricky, like he does in Styx, was more of an eighth-note guy...

Is there anything else that hasn't gone into the PledgeMusic campaign so far that may come out? I have a lot of videos from the last five years, and the Holy Grail is the original quarter-inch demo tape that got The Babys their deal...

Tony Brock, Joey Sykes, John Bisaha, Wally Stocker



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to Australia to produce Jimmy Barnes, who was the first person that AC/DC asked to fill in (before Ad Rose). Then Keith Urban, before he went country. When he hit in the States I was like, wow! Then I started writing songs like Oh Yeah! They flipped and Raywatt. I'd love to write soundtrack, as I sang a couple of songs and played piano with The Babys...

band in California and the guitarist wanted to do their songs. When he put on Broken Heart, I was smitten. We did Midnight Rendezvous and Head First, and I've got boxes of cassettes from the 70s. I started singing at three and, from seven, I'd spend a couple of days each summer playing piano at our neighbour, Karen Carpenter's. She said, "You've got a future with your voice."

What about the break-up? John went off to do his thing, and I linked up with Rod (as did Stoker, before working with Air Supply, Humble Pie and Elton John). I was with Rod for 12 years and played with Jeff Beck, Tina Turner, Elton John, Roy Orbison. With Rod, we shared a dressing room — he was one of the boys. We had the biggest laugh, putting chickens and sheep in his bedroom. He was jumping up and down like a little girl once the chickens started flapping! Then I went

AC asked singer John Bisaha (ex-The Nameless) whether there had been a full consensus on the new collection's contents? "Yes. It's all the hits and a few new ones. We play two hours live, so it was just a case of recording the set. I joined in 2013, having done a lot of songwriting, as had Joey (fellow new recruit, alongside keyboardist Francesco Soglietti). What we got together for I'll Have Some Of That (issued in June 2014), a whole couple of songs, and we've been writing on and off ever since."

Were you a fan of The Babys? Yeah, from the age of 17, I was in a covers

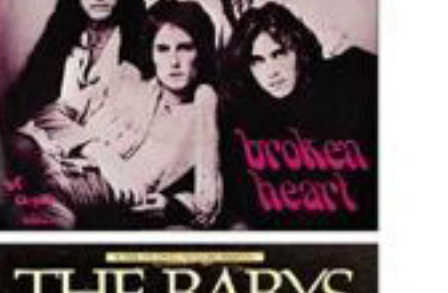
Top: Postcard promo 45, bottom, US radio promo LP

SELECT DISCOGRAPHY

Table listing UK Singles and EPs, including titles like 'Chrysalis CHR 1129' and 'Broken Heart' with prices in £.

Table listing UK Albums, including titles like 'The Babys', 'Broken Heart', 'Union Jacks', and 'On The Edge' with prices in £.

Albums, including titles like 'Live At The Tower Theatre, Philadelphia April 23 1977', 'I'll Have Some Of That', and 'The Best Of (CD)' with prices in £.



Top: Postcard promo 45, bottom, US radio promo LP