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RICHARD WEIZE ARCHIVES

Latch on with The

COCHRAN

BROTHERS





EDDIE and HANK
THE COCHRAN BROTHERS



Direction
AMERICANA CORP.
4527 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 27, Calif.


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COCHRAN

BROTHERS

It was as the 'Cochran Brothers' that Hank and Eddie Cochran (same last name but no relation) began their professional music careers. Billed as the Cochran Brothers, they first recorded professionally for EKKO and CASH RECORDS, toured extensively along the west coast and were featured regularly on regional TV. The lessons learned on the road, in the studio and in front of the TV cameras provided Hank and Eddie with the experience needed to shape their careers, first as the Cochran Brothers and later as solo artists. Both Hank and Eddie were to become prolific singers and songwriters; Hank in the field of country music with songs such as *I Fall To Pieces* and *Make The World Go Away*, Eddie in Rock and Roll with, amongst others, *C'mon Everybody* and *Summertime Blues*. This compilation brings together Hank and Eddie's finest early work as a duo and is a testament to their talent.


Garland Perry 'Hank' Cochran was born on August 2, 1935, in Isola, Mississippi. Being raised in an orphanage and later by his grandparents meant he had to grow up quickly. Still in his teens, he came to California and dreamt of being a professional musician. Ray Edward 'Eddie' Cochran was born on October 3, 1938, in Albert Lea, Minnesota. From a young age, his mind was set on mastering the guitar. When the Cochran family moved to Bell Gardens in the Los Angeles area Eddie



teamed up with local musicians and played in a number of bands. Hank, who was looking for a guitar player, and Eddie were brought together in late 1954 by local promoter, Jerry Capehart. They hit it off straight away. Although Hank, 19, was more than three years older than Eddie – quite a difference at that age – Hank saw the talent in Eddie and his desire to be a star which spoke of his ambition. They picked up making music easily and started performing as a country duo, the Cochran Brothers.


Hank and Eddie, who left school in January 1955, made regular appearances at dance halls and stage shows and were featured on television shows like 'The Hometown Jamboree' and 'The Town Hall Party.' The duo consequently became well known on the west coast and it was through Steve Stebbins' booking agency that the Cochran Brothers were scouted and earned an audition at EKKO RECORDS. EKKO was a small independent label specialised in Western Swing with its head office in Memphis and a small office in Los Angeles. On its roster were artists like Eddie Bond, Al Dexter, Riley Crabtree, Buddy Griffin and Jess Willard.

In April 1955 they recorded four songs in hillbilly style, which were all released. The first single, EKKO 1003, coupled *Mr Fiddle* backed with *Two Blue Singin'*



Stars. The second single, EKKO 1005, featured *Guilty Conscience* with *Your Tomorrows Never Come*. Both singles were met with enthusiasm by the music press and EKKO did some promotion around these releases in music magazines. Chart-wise, the songs did not perform well, unfortunately. On a side note: finally we have been able to establish the definite date of the session and the musicians involved by researching surviving Music Union session documents. The exact date of the session was Monday April 4, 1955 and we are now able to confirm that Billy Wright was on fiddle and not Harold Hensley. The other musicians, besides Hank and Eddie on vocals and guitars, were Jack Marshall, leader and guitar, George 'Junior' Stonebarger on steel guitar and Alan Barker on bass.

For this release we have chosen to bring together two versions of *Latch On*, as they showcase the versatility of the Cochran Brothers when handling the same material. Both versions were recorded early in 1956 during a demo session at Goldstar Studios. The first version sees Hank taking the lead vocals with some exciting guitar work from Eddie. The second take is a more rocking version of the song with Hank and Eddie sharing the vocals and again featuring a great guitar solo by Eddie. The couple is backed on both versions by Eddie's high school friend and musical collaborator for most of his career, Connie 'Guybo' Smith on standup bass.



The Cochran Brothers final session for EKKO took place in the spring of 1956, possibly April or May, and was heavily Rock and Roll-influenced. The session produced four songs of which only two were released at the time. The rocking *Tired 'n' Sleepy* was coupled with *Fool's Paradise* on EKKO 3001 and despite more good reviews sank without a trace. The final songs from the session, *Open The Door* and *Slow Down* were finally released in 1982 on a ROCKSTAR RECORDS LP titled 'The Young Eddie Cochran.' The musicians for this session, besides Hank and Eddie sharing vocal and guitar duties, were Les Taylor on piano, Roy Harte on drums and again Connie 'Guybo' Smith on standup bass.

Soon after their final session, the Cochran Brothers called it quits and both Hank and Eddie pursued solo careers. By all accounts it was an amicable parting. Hank consequently moved to country music capital Nashville to find fame as a songwriter; and within a year Eddie scored a national Top 20 hit on the LIBERTY label with *Sittin' In The Balcony* and was on his way to becoming a Rock and Roll star. Looking back at the quality of their earliest professional recordings as presented on this LP, their future success was just a matter of time.

Antoon van Olderen, January 2017



The Cochran Brothers on stage at Hollywood Jamboree, El Monte Stadium, 1956

The Cochran Brothers

April 4, 1955 (21:00 - 24:00) • Western Recorders, 6000 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California

*with **Eddie Cochran**: vocal/guitar; **Hank Cochran**: vocal/guitar, Jack Marshall: leader/guitar, George 'Junior' Stonebarger: steel guitar; Alan Barker: bass; Billy Wright: fiddle*

Mr. Fiddle

(R. Hall - C. Matthews)

Ekko 1003

Two Blue Singin' Stars

(C. Matthews)

Your Tomorrows Never Come

(L. Hayes - S. Harper)

Ekko 1005

Guilty Conscience

(Eddie & Hank Cochran)

Early 1956 • Gold Star Recording Studios, 6252 Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood, California

with Eddie Cochran: vocallguitar; Hank Cochran: vocallguitar, Connie 'Guybo' Smith: stand-up bass

Latch On (Version 1) unissued
(Ray Stanley - Dale Fitzsimmons)

Latch On (Version 2) ECSP 20
(Ray Stanley - Dale Fitzsimmons)

April/May 1956 • Western Recorders, 6000 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California

with Eddie Cochran: vocallguitar; Hank Cochran: vocallguitar, Connie 'Guybo' Smith: stand-up bass; Roy Harte: drums; Les Taylor: piano**

Tired & Sleepy* Ekko 3001
(Eddie Cochran - Hank Cochran - Jerry Capehart)

Fool's Paradise*
(Eddie Cochran - Hank Cochran - Jerry Capehart)

Slow Down RSR-LP 1006 (UK)
(Eddie Cochran - Hank Cochran - Jerry Capehart)

Open The Door
(Eddie Cochran - Hank Cochran - Jerry Capehart)



1. **Mr. Fiddle** 2:17
2. **Two Blue Singin' Stars** 2:32
3. **Your Tomorrow Never Comes** 2:12
4. **Guilty Conscience** 2:12
5. **Latch On** (version 1) 1:46
6. **Latch On** (version 2) 1:37
7. **Tired And Sleepy** 1:59
8. **Fool's Paradise** 2:03
9. **Slow Down** 1:58
10. **Open The Door** 2:02

Re-Issue Producer: Antoon van Olderen

Mastering: Peter J. Reynolds

Liner Notes: Antoon van Olderen

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