

# Music Around The World

By Lou Vlangas

It amazes me how music impacts us all. Even with the world in a frenzy, music is still a strong international language. It seems when we put on a record and sit back and relax, our thoughts are generally on the music that is being played.

It's hard to think about anything else when you are singing along to your favorite tune, or just enjoying the music. We use music as a tool to cope with many things. I personally use music to cope with pain or that bad day I have occasionally. I turn on the music and most times I forget what was bothering me.

Since the Internet has come into play, much more music is available at our fingertips. I learned a lot about music growing up, however my knowledge of music has seriously expanded since online music. I believe that the world has become more diversified due to the internet.

People can be seen sharing their music now. Many musicians can get their music out for the world to hear.

If we could only convince world leaders to trade music with one another, it would certainly be a different world. Can you imagine that? "The World Conference" would then have a vinyl music show! That's a funny thought. Could Keystone Records Collectors host such a show? I would certainly like to showcase that one.



More on the serious side. If you are reading this, music has impacted your life. We, at the Pennsylvania Music Expo, take music very seriously. I see behind the scenes the passion that the dealers have at our shows. None of us is going to make a million dollars selling records, however we really enjoy when one of our patrons pick a record out of our bin and say "I've been looking for this forever". It makes us feel fantastic and there is no price on feeling that way. A lot of work goes into the show and the rewards are excellent.

Music is more popular today than ever. That is why I call it the "International Language". It's something we all understand.



# KEYNOTES

PUBLISHED BY KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS  
P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster PA 17605 | 717-898-1246 | recordcollectors.org

AUGUST 2020  
ISSUE #240  
Inside...  
♣ Show Operation Changes  
♣ July Show in the Books  
♣ Westmoreland Doo-Wop  
♣ Music Around the World  
...and more!

## Show Operation Changes

For the foreseeable future we will be in three separate rooms with only 25 people at a time (including dealers.) There could be possible waiting lines to enter. Below are the changes for each show for the foreseeable future.

For the foreseeable future, **when we host a show**, there are a few changes.

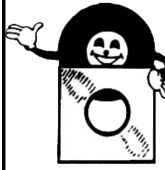
- \* Temperature monitoring will be taken by Spooky Nook Sports – LANCO staff and KRC staff
- \* Everyone (dealers, helpers and shoppers) MUST wear a mask, at all times inside. Bring one with you.
- \*The show will take place in one of the larger rooms in the facility (96' x 180' with 60' ceiling) – allowing for plenty of social distancing. (Vendors should expect a longer load-in, due to a greater distance to the room.)
- \*Entrance/exit is only through the main entrance area (double set of doors.)
- \*There is no consumption of food in the building. (except at the round tables in the area immediately outside our show room area.)

*If you are uncomfortable or do not want to comply with these guidelines, we ask that you sit the show and not attend.*

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

2014 was when I thought that the **Pennsylvania Music Expo** might fade out of existence, due to declining attendance and vinyl tanking. Then it came back, bringing younger collectors saving a bundle over 180 gram virgin vinyl reissues of proven artists. Again, earlier this year, with the COVID-19 ordeal, I thought that this might be the culprit to eliminate our event.

However, as good as it has been since our founding so many years ago, we are still going strong. Perhaps it is word of mouth or social media or something else. Whatever reason, attendance continues to be strong. Of course there's always room for more people!



*Derek*  
**B. Derek Shaw**  
KEY-NOTES Editor  
and Communications  
bdshaw73@gmail.com

## SCENES FROM OUR JULY PENNSYLVANIA MUSIC EXPO



## The July Show is in the Books

By Gay Williams

The Spooky Nook Sports – LANCO staff and your KRC Officer Team worked together to reopen our monthly **Pennsylvania Music Expos** with the safety of the members and customers the main concern. Our relocation in the complex to a larger field (96' x 150') with 60 foot high ceilings allows for social distancing, proper ventilation and room for all our dealers. Everyone complied with the governor's request to wear a face mask at all times while in the facility. A separate dining area was set up in the lobby outside the show field.

We welcomed back many of the regular vendors and customers and a few new dealers set up their inventory. The KRC facebook page brought in some curious customers who joined the club and will be returning for future shows.

Over the last several months, dealers were able to acquire some interesting new merchandise and reported a very successful show. They were pleased with the new field, the set up, and how the COVID-19 restrictions were handled with no interruption to them or their customers. We received some welcomed coverage from WGAL 8 who visited and filmed a piece for their nightly news.

For the foreseeable future our show will be held in this safe environment. Join us to set up, sell and shop. We will be taking the same precautions to keep you safe. If you have any concerns please call the hotline at 717-898-1246 and Lou will return your call.



*"A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of music collecting"*

#240 August 2020  
PUBLISHED BY KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS  
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## KRC in 2020

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

## SPOOKY NOOK SPORTS - LANCO

FLIERS ARE AVAILABLE - TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!  
ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.  
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS A SHOW, WHEN WARRANTED.Doo-Wop in Westmoreland County, Pa.  
By Ellis McCutcheon, Ed. D.

**Editors Note:** This article (in its entirety), with several pictures added, appeared in the Fall 2018 issue of *Westmoreland History*, a magazine published by the Westmoreland County (PA) Historical Society.

The decade following World War Two brought considerable social change to the United States. The large venues that sponsored the big bands of the Thirties began to dry up, while small nightclubs emerged in urban areas. As big bands slowly disappeared, they were replaced by small groups of entertainers that could fit comfortably into the smaller venues. The economy was good, adults had money to spend on entertainment, and teenagers often had enough pocket change to buy 45s. However, they weren't interested in the music of their parents.



Vocal and instrumental quartets proliferated. It was a time of experimentation in the record industry. Numerous tiny record companies started up, especially in America's larger cities. Many of them took chances on the young vocal groups that sprang up in urban neighborhoods, singing songs that teenagers from the Fifties could relate to. It was a small risk. The groups consisted of inner city kids who knew next to nothing about legal contracts, and were willing to sign almost anything in order to hear their records played on the radio.

## HOW TO REACH US...

www.recordcollectors.org

Keystone Record Collectors

717-898-1246 CALL ANYTIME!



## KEY NOTES

Issue #240 - August 2020

EDITOR, GRAPHICS and LAYOUT: **B. Derek Shaw**  
CONTRIBUTORS: **Jack Shue, Ellis (Lynn) McCutcheon,**  
**C.J. Huss, Lou Vlangas, Gay Williams, Dan Wolfe**PROOFREADING: **Jack Shue**PHOTOS/GRAPHICS: **Marlyn Kauffman**, other sources  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster, PA 17605  
NEWS/PHOTOS/IDEAS: 329 Rathton Road, York, PA 17403-3933  
bdshaw73@gmail.com(Deadline for KEY NOTES#241 is September 13<sup>th</sup>)Names in **bold** are members of the Keystone Record Collectors

The popularity of records depended heavily on how frequently radio stations played them. Pittsburgh stations with stronger signals, like KDKA and KQV, played most of the Doo-wop records that became national hits (such as those mentioned above). However, it is important to understand that doo-wop was competing for airtime with teen heartthrob singers like Fabian, Paul Anka, and Frankie Avalon, as well as rockers like Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Chuck Berry. Doo-woppers also faced stiff competition from various rock instrumentalists like Duane Eddy, the Virtues and Link Wray. As if that was not enough, KDKA and KQV were also trying to appeal to adult listeners, so Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Johnny Mathis were getting airtime as well. These powerful stations easily reached the eastern-most parts of Westmoreland County. Kids growing up in Ligonier, Laughlintown and Donegal roughly between 1955 and the early sixties, the hey-day of doo-wop, were familiar with the big doo-wop hits because they could hear them on KDKA.

However, it fell to the smaller stations with weaker signals, to promote hard core doo-wop. WAMO, home of the legendary Pittsburgh DJ, Porky Chedwick, catered to a black audience, and played records by doo-wop groups that were not commonly heard on



the larger stations. Bob Livorio had a Saturday morning show on WKPA in New Kensington that featured records by groups like the Dubs, the Velours, the Five Keys and the Flamingos that escaped the play lists of the larger stations.

"Mad Mike" played rare doo-wop records and had a large following on WZUM, but according to one source, he did not do record hops in Westmoreland County, at least not regularly. WPSL in Monroeville had a show dedicated to rare doo-wop tunes. WMCK in McKeesport had Terry Lee with a nightly program that consisted mostly of beautiful doo-wop ballads, many of which, like "Love Call" by the Ebonairs, and "Love You So Bad" by the Empires, were never hits.



Consequently, I believe that doo-wop had a larger following in the western side of the county than it did in the eastern part. I can't prove this, but I think kids at that time growing up east of Latrobe had difficulty picking up these smaller stations, so they followed the path of least resistance and turned to KDKA and KQV. Some of the DJs from the small stations did appear at record hops, but because they were based in Allegheny County, they rarely ventured much farther into

(Continued on page 5)

PENNSYLVANIA  
MUSIC EXP

Westmoreland County than the Red Rooster, a teen dance club near Greensburg. Porky Chedwick did hundreds of record hops in and around Pittsburgh, but, to my knowledge his only regular gig in our county was at the Manor American Legion. He also appeared at Harry's Danceland in Latrobe at least once. Bob Livorio's Saturday morning show had a large following, but New Kensington is in the extreme Northwest corner of the county, and most of his listeners lived in the Allegheny River towns in that area.

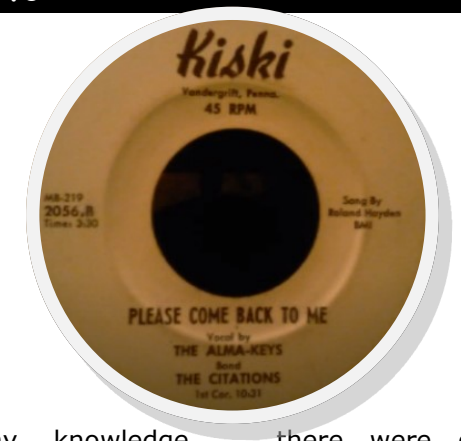
In addition to the locally famous DJs who were on the radio, there were local DJs who collected doo-wop records and played them at the smaller venues. Record hops at Norwin High School and in Irwin at the rec center featured local DJs like Mark (the Lark) Minerva, Jack Silvis, and Jeff Antonish. I know these three guys played a lot of doo-wop records because I remember hearing them. I'm guessing that there were many more local DJs who had regular gigs at other Westmoreland high schools and recreation centers scattered throughout the county.

Jack Silvis remembered doing record hops in the Irwin area, often bringing in doo-wop groups like the Condors and the Laurels, both from McKeesport, and the LaRells, from Pittsburgh. Jack told me that these groups, and others like them, would line up two or three record hops in the same evening. They typically would show up, sing their latest record, get paid \$25, then, out the door to the next venue, repeating the process. Jack fondly recalled some of the most requested songs that Westmoreland teenagers wanted to hear back then: "In the Still of the Night," by the Five Satins; "There's a Moon Out Tonight," by the Capris; "Chapel of Dreams," by the Dubs; "A Thousand Miles Away," by the Heartbeats; "Shout," by the Isley Brothers; and almost any of the big hits by the Platters.

## Consumers or Producers?



In the 1950s in southwestern Pennsylvania, local records were produced by our giant county next door and consumed by teenagers throughout the tri-state area, including Westmoreland County. I think the reason for this stemmed from the fact that much of Westmoreland at that time was still rural. It had no really large cities, nothing to rival Pittsburgh. Furthermore, "The Burgh"'s largest suburbs were much bigger than Greensburg, which, according to Wikipedia, had a 1960 population of just over 17,000. As noted above, doo-wop originated in the cities and their largest suburbs. Westmoreland teenagers in the Fifties were consumers of doo-wop records, including many that were made only a few miles to our west.



To my knowledge there were only two doo-wop records actually made in Westmoreland County, both on the tiny Kiski label, located in Vandergrift. In May of 1962 the Alma Keys recorded "Please Come Back to Me," backed with "Jumpin' Twist." The group consisted of Roland Hayden, Richard Hayden, Lloyd Hayden, James Kemp, and William Kemp. At about the same time Tawni Sims (with an unknown group) made "Will You Please Be Mine," backed with "Goodbye My Love." A year or two later Kiski moved out of the county to North Apollo, and released two more doo-wop records, one by the Renditions and one by the Chevrons. All of these records are extremely rare, but the Alma Keys record has reached legendary status. According to one source, mint condition copies are worth \$250 to \$350.

A List of Great Doo-Wop Records  
Made by Pittsburgh Area Groups

1. Cloudburst - Orlandos - Cindy
2. Miss You - Holidays - Robbee
3. You Must Be True - El Venos - Vik
4. Everybody Knew - LaRells - Robbee
5. I Remember When - Cameos - Matador
6. Day By Day - Capitols - Gateway
7. Let Me Love You - George Goodman the Headliners - Val
8. Another Night Alone - Janet Deane (with the Skyliners) - Gateway
9. Lonely Heart - Enchantments - Romac
10. The Time - Del Pris - Varbee
11. If You Love Me - Altairs (George Benson singing lead) - Amy
12. Oh But She Did - El Capris - Bullseye
13. Jitterbug - Blanders - Smash
14. Caused By You - Twiliters - Nix
15. Please Come Back - Mon Claires - Joey
16. No Doubt About It - Smoothtones - Jem
17. Moonlight - Dynamics - Impala

PENNSYLVANIA  
MUSIC EXPRemaining 2020 show dates:  
(if/when we are able to host a show)  
9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13