



## THE HEP STARS

OLGA LPO 04, DECEMBER 1966

KVÄLLSTOPPEN: Entered 27 December 1966, stayed on the chart for 5 weeks, peak position: 12.

NORWAY: Entered 25 January 1967, stayed on the chart for 21 weeks, peak position: 5.

FINLAND: Entered January 1967, stayed on the chart for 2 months, peak position: 3.

This album was awarded a gold record for sales of 25,000 copies.

With the exception of ›Wedding‹, the album was probably recorded during the period of August–December 1966, during the nights when the group had time off between engagements. The recordings were completed on the morning of Sunday, December 4. Later the same day, the sleeve photos for the album were taken. Pre-orders for *The Hep Stars* started coming in long before the record had been completed. 40,000 copies of the album were shipped to stores, and it was the first Swedish album to enter the *Kvällstoppen* sales chart (the very first album was The Beatles' *Rubber Soul*, a year earlier). Sleeve photo: Ulf H Holmstedt.

At least three tracks were left unreleased from these sessions: ›Rag Doll‹, originally a 1964 hit for The 4 Seasons (see recording no. 122, the CD single *Someday Someone*), and two versions of the song ›Someday Someone‹ (see recording nos. 121 and 123, the CD single *Someday Someone*), which was later reworked as ›Like You Used To Do‹ (see recording no. 58, the album *Popligan*).

A

49. *No Time* (Björn Ulvaeus – Martin Dean)

Recorded August 31, 1966.

The two groups The Hep Stars and the Hootenanny Singers had become friendly during 1966. At one point, when the two groups met up at a motel in the town of Skara, it was agreed that they should trade

songs. The Hootenanny Singers recorded a version of The Hep Stars' ›Sunny Girl‹ for their *Många ansikten/Many Faces* album, while The Hep Stars included Björn Ulvaeus' ›No Time‹ on their new album.

50. *The Birds In The Sky* (Berry Bjärenäs)

The first of two songwriting contributions by Per-Olov »Berry« Bjärenäs. At one point Berry had almost joined The Hep Stars as a singer, shortly before Svenne Hedlund became a member. Instead, he became a member of the group Vat 66, where one of the other members were Lelle Hegland's brother Bengt »Broz« Hegland. ›The Birds In The Sky‹ was later a hit for Vat 66, peaking at number four on *Tio i topp* and number 17 on *Kvällstoppen*.

*Consolation* [1] (Benny Andersson)

See recording no. 47, the single *Consolation / When My Blue Moon Turns To Gold Again*.

51. *Easy To Fool* (Berndt Öst – Peter Himmelstrand)

A collaboration between Berndt Öst, well-known member of a group called the Family Four, and journalist Peter Himmelstrand, who was one of the most prolific songwriters and lyricists in 1960s Sweden. The Hep Stars were offered ›Easy To Fool‹ while they were playing in the town of Karlstad in the summer of 1966.

52. *Sound Of Eve* (Benny Andersson)

The melody for ›Sound Of Eve‹ was written in the recording studio on October 25, 1966, while the rest of The Hep Stars were enjoying a concert by The Who. The lyrics were written a month later, on the same day that Benny got his driver's license. A year after the album's release, Benny stated that ›Sound Of Eve‹ was the best of all the songs he had written.

B

53. *Isn't It Easy To Say* (Benny Andersson – Björn Ulvaeus)

The very first songwriting collaboration between Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus. ›Isn't It Easy To Say‹ was composed in the town of Västervik the night before Midsummer Night's Eve 1966, after a party held by The Hep Stars and the Hootenanny Singers. Björn and Benny were originally planning on writing the song in the basement of the apartment building where the Ulvaeus family lived, but Björn's father felt that this would be too noisy. Instead, he gave the boys the keys to his office space at the paper mill, where he was employed. There, Björn and Benny wrote the tune for what was to become ›Isn't It Easy To Say‹. Björn had an idea for the lyrics, which Benny completed at a later date. Björn also remembers participating in the recording session, playing guitar.

In a newspaper interview, published in the spring of 1967, Benny was quoted as saying that he and Björn had written three songs together so far. It is not known what happened to the two other songs. Possibly, one of them could have been ›A Flower In My Garden‹, the next tune by the team to be made public. However, it would take until the autumn of 1968 before that song was recorded (see recording no. 107, the album *Songs We Sang 68*), which indicates that it wasn't written as early as 1966/1967.

During the summer of 1966, some reports stated that ›Isn't It Easy To Say‹ was to be The Hep Stars'