



**Johnny Cymbal**  
**Mr. Bass Man | The Acetates**



# Johnny Cymbal

## Mr. Bass Man

### The Acetates

1. **Go V. W. Go** (Johnny Cymbal).....2:16
2. **More Of You** (Johnny Cymbal).....2:15
3. **Who's Gonna Love Me** (Johnny Cymbal).....2:34
4. **Rover Boy** (Johnny Cymbal) .....2:45
5. **Outside My World** (Johnny Cymbal) .....3:02
6. **Summertime U.S.A.** (Johnny Cymbal) .....2:06
7. **Thanks A Lot** (Johnny Cymbal) .....2:18
8. **Teenage Heaven** (Johnny Cymbal - Jack Gale).....2:52
9. **I'll Still Love You** (Johnny Cymbal) .....2:05
10. **Slow Dancin' With Don** (Johnny Cymbal).....1:19
11. **Street Talk** (Johnny Cymbal).....1:12
12. **Don't Make A Mountain Out Of A Mole Hill** (Johnny Cymbal) .....1:59
13. **Mr. Bass Man (original demo)** (Johnny Cymbal).....1:34
14. **Mr. Bass Man (alternate version)** (Johnny Cymbal).....2:32

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### A NOTE ON SOUND QUALITY

Since compiling our repertoire, *...and more bears* has made a sustained commitment to quality at every level. This project contains transfers from acetates or transcriptions which may exhibit varying degrees of inherent surface noise. While clicks and background noise can be reduced by noise reduction systems such as CEDAR and No-Noise, it is often at the expense of the integrity of the original recording. We use such systems very discreetly, often eliminating or reducing defects in the original programmes. In the case of very old recordings or 'demo' acetates, which may be well worn, you may find the surface noise obtrusive. Be assured that we have used the best available source.

Please note that listening to vintage recordings on headphones will exaggerate tape hiss and other analogue defects.

The digital re-masters embodied in this compilation are

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*Johnny Cymbal* was born in Ochitree, Scotland, on February 3, 1945, but grew up in various locations as his parents first moved to Goderich, Ontario, then on to Cleveland, Ohio. Johnny started singing at 13 and taught himself the guitar. At 17 he was signed to MGM Records, the label shuttling him to Nashville, where he cut two singles. Unfortunately both flopped, ending the brief association.

Managed by Jack Gale, he cut further singles for several different labels and almost had an unexpected hit from a demo entitled *Bachelor Man*. He did score in 1963 on Kapp Records with *Mr. Bass Man*, which featured Ronnie Bright (Valentines, Cadillacs), his bass responding to Cymbal's high-pitched questions. However the follow-up, *Teenage Heaven*, stalled outside 'Billboard's' Pop Top 40 at number 58. He switched labels but nothing clicked at DCP, Columbia, Musicor nor Amaret, but nobody could say he didn't try or was given the opportunities. The labels gave Cymbal the shots because he had hit once and he possessed the talent to write and produce, and allowed him to use these skills on other artists.

But *Johnny Cymbal* still wanted success himself and began recording under various pseudonyms. His *Milk* sides for Buddah Records didn't fly but as *Derek* he had better luck. Derek, Cymbal's brother, played in his band, but the voice on record was Johnny's. As *Derek*, Johnny cut *Cinnamon* on Bang Records and watched it soar to number 11, eclipsing the success of *Mr. Bass Man*. This proved a very successful period



for Cymbal; he wrote *Mary In The Morning* for Elvis Presley and was also writing for Gene Pitney, Terri Gibbs, Mae West and the Partridge Family among others. **Derek's** follow-up, *Back Door Man* braked at number 59, and unfortunately subsequent recordings fared even worse. Further name changes occurred as Cymbal became **Taurus** in 1969 on Tower Records, and later **Brother John** on A&M. The recordings didn't sell well and he hooked up with Peggy Clinger and waxed duets as **Cymbal & Clinger**. He moved to Nashville and recorded occasional singles until the late '80s. Songwriting became his most financially successful occupation during these times and Cymbal's compositions regularly graced the country charts. The multi-talented artist died of a heart attack March 16, 1993, in Nashville, two years before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.