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Best Of Bob & Ray, Volume 1



Synopsis

This 4-CD set contains 79 Bob & Ray bits, including Wally Ballou visits historic Sturdley House; Rudolph & Irma's Dance Studio; Wing Po, itinerant philosopher; Anxiety; Biff Burns in the Sports Room; old time announcer, Kent Lyle Birdley; Grand Motel; Artie Schermerhorn investigates defective ice cube trays, The McBeeBee Twins, plus 8 episodes of Garish Summit. For a detailed list of tracks go to BobandRay.com/catalog.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Here's the thing about Bob & Ray: You have to hear them to appreciate them. Unlike, say, the sketches of Monty Python or the scripts of the best Woody Allen films, which are funny even if you haven't seen the original performances, what makes any given Bob & Ray sketch come to life is their droll, dry delivery. The fact that neither are particularly good at creating distinguishable characters--every female character Ray Goulding does sounds exactly the same, and Bob's standard "voicing" from his how personal is generally just a gruffer version of himself--is all part of the charm. They're two regular guys doing very traditional 40's/50's style sketch comedy featuring characters that aren't that far out of the mainstream. The closest contemporary example of this kind of humor are the sketches performed by Garrison Keillor and Company on A Prairie Home Companion. But I'll take Bob & Ray and Keillor every day. Surprising, this works, and this collection from their public radio series featured the two old soft-shoe comics enveloping these old-school bits like a comfortable pair of slippers. Words that might otherwise seem forced, cliched and--well, unfunny on the page come to comic life with their delivery. Neither man tries exceptionally hard, and that's the appeal of their act. It's unforced, gentle, G-rated comedy that has no place in today's world

of caustic, vulgar, self-centered parody-of-the-moment comedy that dominates the airwaves these days. If you're under 50 and/or your definition of funny radio is Howard Stern and the typical FM-radio shock jock, then these programs are not for you. But if you like radio comedy that is intelligent and gentle on the ears, give these collections a try. My only knock on this particular collection is that they some of the shows out of original broadcast order--this is particularly evident when listening to the Garish Summit episodes.

Bob & Ray's routines are timeless and always funny. I'm afraid the younger generation (our kids) won't appreciate the really good humor which have made these guys unique because they aren't familiar with the old radio and TV shows where most of their good material came from. I laugh over and over listening to their shows repeatedly!

The voices and zany routines of Bob and Ray brought back many fond memories as well as many new laughs. I currently own two eight CD collections and expect to purchase more, I continue to listen and laugh at these great entertainers.

THE FIRST CD OF THE 4 CD SET WAS DEFECTIVE. THE DC GOT TO TRACK 14 AND LOCKED. IT WAS NOT WORTH SENDING IT BACK SO I JUST GOT IT FROM I TUNES. I ORDERED THE SECOND VOLUME AND IT WAS FINE. SO FUNNY. I WILL BE ORDERING VOLUMES 3 AND 4 SOON.

Imagine the greatest generation on acid. Great voices, great characters, and always delivered with great subtlety and nuance. My favorite comedy act.

Sadly, these recordings, made for PBS don;t have the spontaneity of the broadcast sketches, and are a disappointment. I will turn these over to the Laguna Beach Public Library.

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