

MILLS BROTHERS DISCOGRAPHY

Orchestra name, personnel, place/date of recording, matrix number, record label/catalogue number, and some relevant 78'/CD-reissues are entered for each title which is rendered exactly as printed on the first known label version (even when linguistic mistakes seem obvious).

It should be noted that label details/designs may differ when several pressings of the same catalogue number have been released.

Discographical set-up as originally laid out by Brian Rust.

As for Mills Brothers' voice range descriptions alt/ten/bar/bass, it goes without saying that these do not refer to musical instruments.

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Mills Brothers: Donald Mills, lead alto voice imitating trb. Herbert Mills, tenor voice imitating tpt. Harry Mills, baritone voice imitating tpt (and sometimes prob. bass). John Mills Jr., bass voice/four string guitar imitating bbs (and sometimes prob. trb).

Richmond, Indiana, November 26, 1930

GN-17312 Tiger Rag/"Way Down Home

Gennett test

Mills Brothers: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

Richmond, Indiana, August 11, 1931

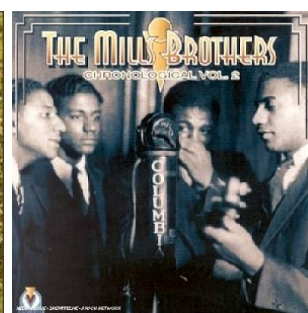
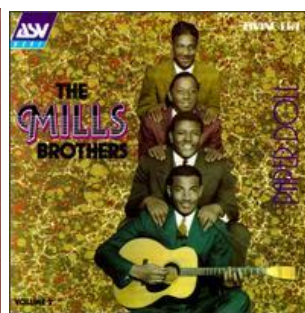
GN-17919 Title unknown

Gennett 20385

GN-17919-A -

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NOTE: This recording was made for Crosley Radio Corporation, 1329 Arlington Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. Gennett labels not yet inspected.



Photos probably from around this time

Mills Brothers: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

Prob. New York, October, 1931

? Nobody's Sweetheart

JSP CD301

? Tiger Rag

JSP CD301

NOTE: The purpose of these two recordings is not known. The tune arrangements are equal to those of the next session.

MILLS BROTHERS Novelty Quartet with Guitar: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

New York, October 9, 1931

E37288-A NOBODY'S SWEETHEART
E37289-A,-B TIGER RAG

Br 6197, 1229, 1415
Br 6197, 1229, 1415, 02020, Lucky 60013

NOTE: It is not known exactly which issues of E37289 that used takes -A and -B. Brian Rust shows recording date as given, other sources have October 10 or 12. US issue probably released November 5, 1931.



VICTOR YOUNG and the BRUNSWICK ORCHESTRA: Jack Purvis, tpt. Bunny Berigan, tpt. Tommy Dorsey, trb. Jimmy Dorsey and/or unknown, clt/alt. Joe Venuti and/or Harry Hoffman, vlms. Arthur Schutt, pno. Eddie Lang, gtr. Joe Tarto or Hank Stern, bbs. Chauncey Morehouse or Larry Gomar, dms. Bing Crosby, voc. Boswell Sisters (Connie Boswell, Helvetia Boswell, Martha Boswell), voc. Mills Brothers (Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr), voc. Frank Munn, vcl.

New York City, 10.00-12.00 a.m., Room 3, October 25, 1931

XE37321-A Gems From "George White's Scandals" - Part 2
That's Love (Boswell Sisters only)
That's Why Darkies Were Born (Munn only)
Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries (Mills
Brothers, Connie Boswell, Bing Crosby,
and Boswell Sisters)

Br 20102, BrE105, 85001, A-5107, Lucky J801, JSP CD301
Unissued

XE37321-B same

NOTE: Part 1 is not featuring Mills Brothers. XE masters are all 12". Lucky is a Japanese label. This recording has, later on, appeared omitting the Frank Munn part. Last title only also on Lucky J60199.



(Label photos of the Part 1 side)



Victor Young



Frank Munn



Thomas "Tommy" Dorsey

MILLS BROTHERS Novelty Quartet with Guitar: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

New York, November 25, 1931

E37391-A YOU RASCAL YOU
E37392-A BABY WON'T YOU PLEASE COME HOME

Br 6225, 1255, JSP CD301
Br 6225, 1255, JSP CD301, Ban 33254, Oriole 3034 (US),
Per 13081, Romeo 2408, Melotone 13221



NOTE: Other sources have recording date as November 1, c. November 4, or late November.

BING CROSBY with The Mills Brothers: Harry Lillis "Bing" Crosby, voc. Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr. Brunswick Studio Orchestra: Frank Guarante, tpt. Will Bradley, trb. Les Dreyer, alt. Bennie Krueger, alt/dir. Max Farley, ten. Fred Glickman, vln. Max Solowsky, vln. Joe Moresco, pno. Eddie Lang, gtr. Hank Stern, bbs. Larry Gomar, dms.

New York City, 04.40-05.35 p.m., Room 2, December 16, 1931

E37467-A DINAH

Br 6240, 6485, 1271, 01424, 02313, A-81096, 4840, A9202,
A9263, 03080, Col DO-1177, M273, CQ3797, DQ3474
Lucky 202, 60001, Decca BM03080
JSP CD301, Retrieval CD79054

E37467-B DINAH

NOTE: Some sources have Victor Young, dir.



Bennie Krueger

BING CROSBY and THE MILLS BROTHERS: Bing Crosby, voc. Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr. Victor Young directing ARC-Brunswick Studio Orchestra: Tommy Dorsey, trb. Jimmy Dorsey or Bennie Krueger, clt/alt. Les Dreyer, alt. Max Farley, ten. Joe Venuti or Harry Hoffman, vln. Joe Moresco, pno. Eddie Lang, gtr. Hank Stern, bbs. Stan King or Larry Gomar, dms.

New York, February 16, 1932

B11376-A SHINE

Br 6276, 6485, 1316, 1424, A-9240, A-9263, 4810, Col 4305-M, 4421-M, C-6280, DB1845, DO-1177, DQ3797, 297003, DW4968, GN5049, M-273, CQ3474, Lucky 60001

Session continues:

MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

B11377-A I HEARD

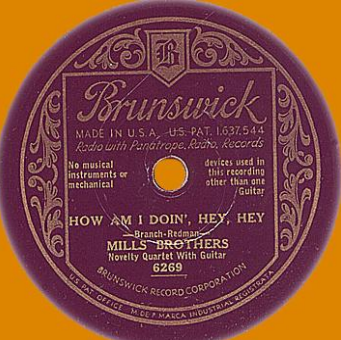
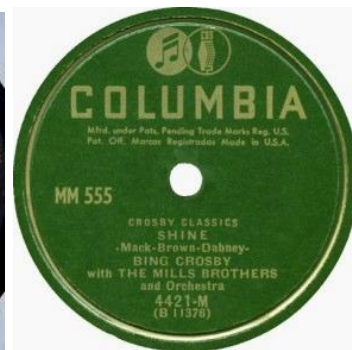
Br 6269, 01283, Cq 8400, Oriole 3008, Ban 33213, Mel 13180, Per 13059, Romeo 2382

B11378-A HOW AM I DOING, HEY HEY

Br 6269, 01283, Mel M-13179, Per 13058, Ban 33212, Rex 8896, Col DB1959, 297003, Oriole 3007, Romeo 2381

NOTE: Some sources have the recording date as February 29. On Col CQ3474, "SHINE" is titled "SPLENDORE". At least from this point on, the British produced Brunswick first releases carried the label inscription: "Novelty Male Quartet (later: Four Boys and a guitar). No musical instruments or mechanical devices used on this recording other than one guitar". This statement except for "Novelty Quartet" or "Four Boys and a guitar/Guitar" not printed on French or German labels.

Geoff Milne: "It was not a publicity stunt or ploy to induce record sales, but considered necessary to convince the purchaser that there were, in fact, no other musicians present. How necessary was amply illustrated by a report in the 'Melody Maker' (commenting upon the arrival of the first Mills Brothers records in England in 1932) that "everyone swears the tuba is played by Adrian Rollini". But no, all the sounds on each and every recording, except the guitar played by John, emanated from the throats of the quartet who must still rank as unique in the annals of show-business." On the label for "I Heard", composer credits also include Mills Brothers, while Kinkle states Don Redman as the sole composer/lyricist.



THE MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar/bass. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

New York, March 8, 1932

B11421-B ROCKIN' CHAIR

Br 6278, 1296, 2062, A9241, 82230, Romeo 2383,
Banner 33214, Mel 13181, Oriole 3009, Per 13060,
Parl (E) R.2563

B11422-A GOOD-BYE BLUES

Rejected

NOTE: In this performance of "Rockin' Chair", it actually sounds like Harry Mills singing the bass part while John Mills is doing the lyrics in the second chorus. One source has it that "Rockin' Chair" was remade on the following day, using the same Matrix No. Some sources have it that Matrix 11422 is used on Melotone, Banner, Oriole, Perfect, and Oriole (see next session).



THE MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

New York, March 15, 1932

B11491-A GOOD-BYE BLUES

Br 6278, 01296, 1415, A9241, Ban 33212, Romeo 2381,
Col DB1947, Per 13058, Melotone M-13179, Oriole 3007

NOTE: JSP CD301 informs that matrix No. 11422 is the released take, yet the Columbia D.B.1947/Brunswick 1415 labels indicates that matrix No. 11491 is used. "Good-bye Blues" was Mills Brothers' radio theme song.



VICTOR YOUNG & BRUNSWICK ORCHESTRA: Frank Munn, voc. Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr. Connie Boswell, voc. Fran Frey, voc. Connie Boswell, Helvetia Boswell, Martha Boswell, voc. trio. Victor Young & Brunswick Orchestra: Likely Bob Effros, tpt. Mannie Klein, tpt. Tommy Dorsey, trb. Jimmy Dorsey, clt/alt. Bennie Krueger, alt/c-mel. Larry Binyon, ten. Joe Venuti, vln. Jacques Renard, vln. Arthur Schutt, pno. Eddie Lang, gtr. Joe Tarto, sbs. Larry Gomar, dms/vib.

New York City, April 14, 1932

BX11704-A OK AMERICA - Part 2
My Romance (Munn only)
The Old Man of the Mountain (Mills Brothers,
Connie Boswell, Fran Frey, Boswell Sisters) Br 20112, BrE109, BrG A-5114, JSP CD301

NOTE: This is a 12" master. Matrixes 11705-11707 are not by Mills Brothers. Second title also on Lucky J60199. Some sources have it that Mills Brothers are also on OK AMERICA - Part 1, which is incorrect.



(Label photo of the Part 1 side)



Boswell Sisters

Session continues:

Mills Brothers: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

B11708-A	Chinatown, My Chinatown	Br 6305, 01331, Ban 33215, Per 13061, Parl (E) R.2563, Melotone M-13182, Rex 8925, Per 13061, Odeon 284035, Col M129 (Jap), Oriole 3010, Romeo 2382
B11709-A	SWEET SUE - JUST YOU	Br 6330, 01305, A9266, (F)A9266, Mel M-13181, Rex 8872, Banner 33214, Oriole (US) 3009, Per 13060, Romeo 2383, Br 6305, 01305, Ban 33213, JSP CD301, Col DO1184, Oriole 3008, Mel 13180, Per 13059, Romeo 2382
B11710-A	LOVELESS LOVE	Br 6330, 01331, A9266, (F)A9266, Per 13057, Ban 33211, Odeon 284035, Cq 8400, Har 1001, Oriole 3006, Rex 8872, Col DB1947, DO1151297003, Romeo 2380, Mel 13178
B11711-A	St. Louis Blues	

NOTE: As for the first side above, some sources have matrix BX11720-A and date of recording April 18 or April 19. Part one is not featuring Mills Brothers. As for Fran Frey, during the 20'ties he was vocalist and alto saxophonist with George Olsen and his Music (a famous dance band of the period); from early 30'ties, Frey was with Ben Selvin.





CRISCO PRESENTS THE MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

New York, c. April 1932

5108-B Good-bye Blues

Crisco Advertising Record (HoW) unnumbered, Ristic 51, MFC-9, JSP CD301, JSP CD902, Sunbeam MFC9 (LP), Music Box Theatre Vol. 3, Nostalgia Arts NOCX 3010, Sandy Hook SH-2044 (LP)

NOTE: This track is a radio commercial for the Crisco Company and released on a 4-inch cardboard Durium record. Crisco was introduced by Procter & Gamble in 1911, to provide an economical alternative to animal fats and butter. Crisco launched their first radio advertisements in 1923 with the advent of commercial broadcasts. The announcer states, "Crisco, the all vegetable shortening which digest so easily presents the Mills Brothers singing their famous theme song 'Goodbye Blues'. There's no tuba, saxophone, trumpet or trombone. The only instrument used is a guitar. All effects are achieved vocally. Unknown six months ago, the Mills Brothers today are internationally famous for having introduced a new rhythm and a new type of vocal harmony. We invite you to tune in and hear them at 7.15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time every Tuesday and Thursday evening over the Columbia Broadcasting System."



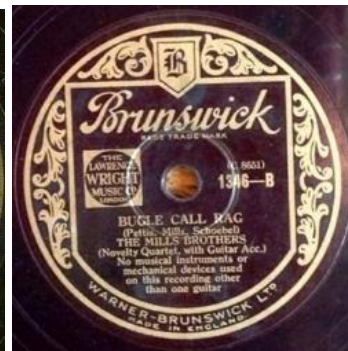
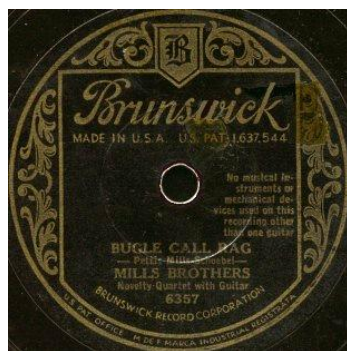
MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

Chicago, June 30, 1932

C8650-1 THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN
C8651-1 BUGLE CALL RAG

Br 6357, 1346, Odeon 284061
Br 6357, 1346, (F)A9296, Ban 33215, Mel M-13182,
Rex 8896, Per 13061, Oriole 3010, Romeo 2384

NOTE: European issues sometimes labelled MILLS BROTHERS' NOVELTY QUARTET, also later on. Other sources have recording date as May 1, late May, or May.



MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

Chicago, July, 1932

C8663-1 The Old Man Of The Mountain
C8664-1 IT DON'T MEAN A THING
C8665-1 CONEY ISLAND WASHBOARD

JSP CD302
Br 6377, 01363
Br 6377, 01363, Melotone M-13178, Oriole 3006,
Per 13057, Ban 33211, Romeo 2380

NOTE: C8663 seems to be a remake of C8650 due to John Mills Jr., by mistake singing "The Old Man *in* the Mountain" on the latter. Other sources have recording date as June 1, early June, or June.



Mills Brothers: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

Hollywood, ca. July/August, 1932

? Tiger Rag

Film sound track, JSP CD301

NOTE: On October 14th, 1932, the movie "The Big Broadcast" was premiered at the New York Paramount Theatre. As well as being the boys' screen debut, Bing Crosby also appeared in his first starring role (not wanting to mislead anyone about who was numero uno, Paramount had him play a radio crooner named Bing Crosby).

The film was set around a radio station, and although most of the filming was done in Hollywood, the various radio acts themselves were shot in New York and slotted into the finished product at a later date. It worked well and introduced the quartet visually to millions of people who had not experienced them on stage and were only familiar with their performance through the phonograph.

Among others, Cab Calloway & his band and Boswell Sisters were also seen/heard.

A Danish companion piece (by Palladium/Frede Skaarup Film 1934) was "København, Kalundborg og - ?" starring Ludvig Brandstrup and Ib Schønberg. A very poor imitation indeed, however, sensationally introducing the first ever filmed sequences of Louis Armstrong (backed by an orchestra assembled in Europe).



The New York Times, Oct. 16, 1932



MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.
New York, November 21, 1932

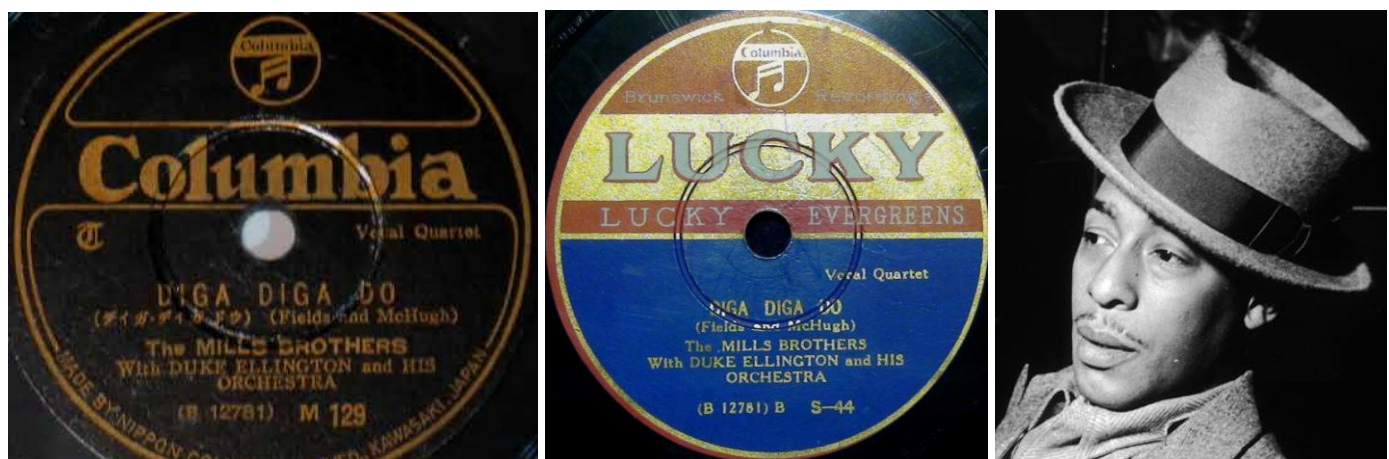
B12626-A DIRT DISHIN' DAISY Br 6430
B12626-B DIRT DISHIN' DAISY Br 6430, 1419, Ban 33255, Per 13082, Oriole 3035, Melotone M-13222, Col DO-1128, Romeo 2409, JSP CD302
B12627-A GIT ALONG Br 6430, 1419, Col DO-1128, JSP CD302

NOTE: Take A of first title said to be misspelled "Dirt Dichin' Daisy" on some copies of Br 6430. As for Matrix 12627, JSP CD302 states take -B.



THE MILLS BROTHERS With DUKE ELLINGTON & HIS FAMOUS ORCHESTRA: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr. Arthur Whetsel, Cootie Williams, Freddy Jenkins, tpts. Joe Nanton, Lawrence Brown, trbs. Juan Tizol, v-trb. Barney Bigard, clt/ten. Johnny Hodges, sop/alt. Otto Hardwick, alt/bsx. Harry Carney, clt/alt/bar. Duke Ellington, pno/dir. Fred Guy, bjo/gtr. Wellman Braud, sbs. Sonny Greer, dms.

New York, December 22, 1932
B12781-A DIGA DIGA DOO Br 6519, 01520, A-9396, A-82230, A-500258, 4635, 4825, Col M129 (Jap), DO-1129, Lucky 60012 (Jap), Dec M-30355 CBS 88082, Col OL6770, Sutton 270, Classics CD626, Broadway Intermission BR118, Masters of Jazz MJCD1305, JSP CD302, JSP CDJSP936, Col CDCK57763, Jazz Archives CD157652
B12781-B DIGA DIGA DOO Lucky S-44 (Jap), Col CK66372 [CD]),



Johnny Hodges, soprano sax soloist



Duke Ellington and his Orchestra. Duke Ellington did lend a great helping hand in promoting Mills Brothers' career.

Session continues:

THE MILLS BROTHERS: Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr.

B12782-A I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BUT LOVE Br 6519, 01520, A-9396, Lucky 60012

NOTE: Geoff Milne: "Jack Kapp, Brunswick's 'no expense spared' A&R director, habitually paired stellar attractions on the same disc. The astute Kapp knew instinctively the best way to present a song on record, thus earning the respect of the artistes under his direction, including the Mills Brothers. But then, working with the four boys must have been a recording manager's dream since after a run through of a number, it was rare for them to need a second take of a recording." These two titles originally from the Broadway musical "Blackbirds of 1928". The Japanese label Lucky was owned by Columbia.



Mills Brothers, Cab Calloway with Don Redman and His Orchestra: Cab Calloway, voc. Donald Mills, alt. Herbert Mills, ten. Harry Mills, bar. John Mills Jr., bass/gtr. Shirley Clay, Langston Curl, Sidney de Paris, tpt. Claude Jones, Fred Robinson, Benny Morton, trb. Don Redman, alt/dir. Edward Inge, Rupert Cole, clt/alt. Robert Carroll, ten. Horace Henderson, pno. Talcott Reeves, bjo/gtr. Bob Ysaguirre, bbs/sbs. Manzie Johnson, dms/vib.

New York, December 29, 1932

B12811-A Doin' The New Low Down

Br 6517, 01518, A9395, A-500256, Col DO-1143

NOTE: Matrix B12810-A, is the same title, however, by Bill Robinson and the Redman Orchestra only. Reverse of Br 01518 by Ethel Waters with Duke Ellington. This title originally from the Broadway musical "Blackbirds of 1928".



Cab Calloway



Don Redman



Don Redman and His Orchestra



Don Redman and His Orchestra