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Classic Bob & Ray, Volume 1



Synopsis

This 4-CD set contains 74 Bob & Ray routines including Wally Ballou at the Fire Engine Factory; Grub, The Story of Food; Mary McGoon's Recipe for Frozen Ginger Ale Salad; Mr. Trace, Keener Than Most Persons; One Fella's Family; Aunt Penny's Sunlit Kitchens; Your Sanitation Department in Action; Bob & Ray Grand National Spelling Bee; Lawrence Fectenberger, Interstellar Officer Candidate; Webley Webster's Book Review; Matt Neffer, Boy Spotwelder; What the Tune Is, and many more. For a detailed list of tracks go to BobandRay.com/catalog.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bob [Elliott] & Ray [Goulding], legendary American humorists, are loved by fans and by fellow humorists, comedians and broadcasters. Bob & Ray's 40-year career began at WHDH, Boston. Bob was a disc jockey, and Ray a newscaster. When the Red Sox games were delayed on account of rain, they began to amuse each other to fill the time. Soon they had a daily show of their own, "Matinee with Bob & Ray," an improvised, madcap exercise in controlled chaos. Over their long career, they created more than a hundred characters, all played by Bob or Ray: Ace reporter Wally Ballou, winner of 17 awards for diction; Mary McGoon, whose recipe for frozen ginger ale salad prefigures Martha Stewart; Biff Burns in the sports room; Webley Webster; Barry Campbell, a third rate actor with an ego the size of the universe; Mary Backstayge, Noble Wife whose pals travel the world in search of goofy adventure. Their humor is subtle, dry, intelligent and clean but never treacly. Bob & Ray have a keen ear for language, how it is used and misused by the con artists, hucksters and hustlers who populate radio and television, even today. Their humor is timeless. Bob & Ray's satire of soap operas, game shows, radio shrinks and other self-appointed "experts," and

commercials, is as pertinent today as it was in 1946 when they began. They belong in the pantheon of American humor, alongside Mark Twain, George Ade, Will Rogers, S. J. Pearlman, Kurt Vonnegut and Garrison Keillor. In 1951 NBC brought them to New York for a daily 15-minute television program, and network radio shows including, Monitor. Over the next thirty years they appeared on every major network, and on three powerful New York radio stations. They finished their radio career on public radio with the "The Bob & Ray Public Radio Show" (1982-2004), and two sold-out, farewell appearances at Carnegie Hall (1984). All of these performances have been preserved on CDs from BobandRay.com. Bob & Ray have won three Peabody Awards and three Grammy nominations, as well as many other prestigious honors. For more information about Bob and Ray, and for detailed track listings, visit our website at bobandray.com (just copy and paste into your browser as this is not a link.)

For me, and since about 1953, when I first began watching and listening to Bob and Ray, just about everything they do and have ever done starts at 5 stars and works its way upward. I exaggerate a bit, but they are, to my mind, the two funniest people who ever walked the earth, though I admit it takes a quirky mind to think so. You need a taste for this kind of humor. You can't develop it. Nothing this bizarre can be developed in a single lifetime. But if you're fortunate enough to have been born with it, you're in for an almost forbidden amount and quality of pleasure. Here's a letter I wrote to Bob a short while ago, on his 88th birthday, I believe. Dear Bob, First, of course, I want to wish you a very enjoyable birthday and a very healthy, satisfying and joyful year. Many more of them, in fact. But beyond that, I want to tell you that with the possible exception of my wife, my children and J.S. Bach, you and Ray have given me over the years--about 60 of them--more unalloyed joy, certainly more uncontrollable laughter than anything and anyone, still with us or long past. I first encountered you and Ray on your ABC television program in the 50s, when I was a teenager (I'm 74 now, a retired literature prof.). My brother and I would literally roll on the floor, holding our sides with laughter, from start to finish: Charley Choo, Kim Kimonos, The alert attendant, On Top It's All Smokey, This is Your Bed, Wilbur Boomer; You made it, now lie in it, What's A Line (I think he rickshaw operaytah). These are all part of my adolescence, probably the very best thing about it, though admittedly they didn't have much competition at that afflicted stage of my life. The following day, after each program, my friend Fred and I would go over the entire previous evening's program, laughing all over again and often getting ourselves kicked out of high school class for our raucousness. Some 45 - 50 years later, I came across your tapes and CDs in a bookstore in Vermont, and my life, already much improved, took a distinct upward turn. I bought them all over the

next several years and have heard them all more than once, never tiring of them, laughing as hard and painfully as ever. After I lost my way on the road on several occasions, distracted by laughter, and nearly had an accident or two, I had to promise my wife I wouldn't listen to these recordings in the car. I did, but I cheat. I can't stay away, and neither can I resist recounting the funniest lines and routines to her, though I know she doesn't find them funny (what does she know?) and though she has begged me to stop. I can't. No more than I can stop praising and thanking you and Ray (posthumously; what a terrible loss, his early death) for your unique and remarkable senses of humor and for the immeasurable joy you've brought me over the years. Over here, Todd. In Haifa, Israel. With gratitude and real affection. Bill

If you know Bob and Ray's works, you'll love this collection of radio program recordings. I do and I did.

Love these guys. This is an excellent collection.

Four CDs filled with brilliant comedic moments from the years of Bob and Ray radio shows from the 40s, 50s and 60s. Hilarious stuff!

The person who received this set likes Bob and Ray very much. It is classic comedy and fun for the whole family.

I need to get more of the sets.

It's great that the recordings of Bob & Ray span their entire career. Their creativity throughout those years is so amazing that, outside of topical references, it is difficult to pinpoint when exactly the separate bits were done. After listening to many of their recordings, it is much clearer to me now how much Firesign Theatre was influenced by Bob & Ray, especially the live radio of the "Dear Friends" album. In this day and age, when humor has sunk literally into the toilet, it is great to have examples of what real talent and creativity were in the past.

Bought this for my mother. (Her new car has a CD player but no tape player, so she can't play her old Bob & Ray tapes.) Put the disc in the player and got an error message. Tried it in the player in my car and got an error message. I can't say they're defective, but it's very disappointing that it

won't play in a car stereo, since that's the entire reason for buying it.

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