

*From the*  
Stebbing  
Zodiac -Viscount  
**Music Vaults**  
*Volume Two*  
(1959 - 1967)

**RED HEWITT  
AND THE  
BUCCANEERS**

*(featuring Robbin' the Cradle)*

*With bonus tracks from other New Zealand Artists  
Embers, Fair Sect, Ian Saxon, Steve Ellis,  
Glendelles, Silhouettes, Mr. Lee Grant  
Wayne Daverne and Gray Bartlett Combo*

Produced by  
Gary Daverne



**A LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION**



**Alan (Red) Hewitt** was an Auckland, North Shore boy, a printer by trade. He entered his first talent quest (an Elvis Presley sound-alike) in 1956, which he eventually won.

Red formed his first band, in 1956 with an original line up of, Dick Rogers (lead guitar), Ian Bull and Brian McCrystal (rhythm guitars), Veronica Tierney (piano), Bill Edlam (bass) and Brian Murray (drums). **The Buccaneers** were born. For a time they made the North Shore Youth Club their home.

There were the inevitable personnel changes in the group and the best known line-up of the Buccaneers existed between 1958 and 1961 consisting of, left handed guitarist 'Red' on rhythm and vocals, Johnny Willetts (lead Guitar), Gary Daverne (piano and saxophone), (Johnny and Gary to later become foundation members of **The Embers**), Peter Cox (bass) and George Jones on Drums. This was the line up to record their first record, *Betty Lou's Got a New Pair of Shoes and The Girl in the Teddy Bear Coat*, at the May Road Community Hall, for Eldred Stebbing of **Zodiac Records**. Peter was originally a rhythm guitarist, but at this recording session, Eldred suggested that Peter tune his guitar lower and play a bass line.

This record had limited success and the group switched to the **Audion** label where they cut 6 tracks including their big hit, *Robbin' the Cradle* and *Beatnik Fly* for **The Buccaneers**. **Red Hewitt and the Buccaneers** were then to return to the **Zodiac** label for most of their future recordings.

Sadly, **Red (Alan) Hewitt** is no longer with us. He was a great man and a great performer, playing in his band right up to the week before he passed

away, in January 2006, having worked with a lot of fantastic musicians over his many years of playing.

Johnny and Peter are still playing and Gary plays some piano and still produces records, (having formed **Viscount Records**). He is an international conductor/arranger/composer and is resident conductor of the Auckland Symphony Orchestra. His saxophone playing days were over, many years ago. George Jones has passed away.

The original recording group did get together for a reunion in Auckland on three occasions, with drummer Allan Hodgson, a later member of the Buccaneers,

**Mandalay:** 15th and 16th March 1991

**Kingsgate:** May 15th 1992

**Milford reunion:** June 2002 at the Milford Cruising Club

**Red Hewitt and the Buccaneers**



**The Embers** were a band formed in 1961, by audition, to accompany singer, **Ronnie Sundin**. The initial line up was: Johnny Willets (lead guitar), Gary Daverne (piano/sax) both fresh out of **Red Hewitt and the Buccaneers**, Glyn Tucker (rhythm guitar/vocals – later to emerge as lead vocalist in **The Gremlins**), Keith Graham (bass guitar – later replaced by John (Yuk) Harrison) and Mike Kelly (drums).



The association with **Ronnie Sundin** lasted only a few weeks, the name **Embers** was adopted and Glyn took over the vocals, although in the early days **The Embers** were primarily an instrumental group. They were the first group to be resident band at the new **Shiralee** (later, the **Galaxie**) nightspot and became a number one band in Auckland.

It was while playing in **The Embers** that Gary founded **Viscount Records**, a one-man label with him being the sole owner, arranger and producer. *Rinky Dink* was the first song to be released on this new label, recorded at **Mascot Recording Studios**, in the now demolished, Pacific Building. After this initial recording, Gary worked out of **Zodiac Studios** in association with **Eldred Stebbing**, which remained a long-standing partnership to this day. The **Viscount** label had big hits with **The Sierras**, *The Crying Game*, **Cathy Howe** *Then He Kissed Me* and *He Doesn't Love Me*, **The Gendelles** *Sally Go Round The Roses* and *Popsicles and Icicles* and **The Gremlins** with *The Coming Generation*.

**Mr Lee Grant** (Bogdan Kominowski) arrived in New Zealand in 1949 as a 5 year- old Polish immigrant, the family settling in Palmerston North, where he grew up appearing to be heading for a career in teaching. However, his other love, music, was to be his forte. His interest in music came when he joined a local band called the Cyclones. His first recording was on **Viscount**, *Do Doodle Do Doo* and *As Long As I Have You* recorded in 1965. To promote the record, he travelled to Auckland for an appearance on *Teen Scene*. It was while doing that show, he met reporter, Dianne Cadwallader. She decided to become his manager and groomed the 21 year old as a presentable soloist. She had him dressed by a Wellington fashion mogul and he quickly became New Zealand's Mr. Mod. Dianne was an astute manager and secured guest spots at *Teenarama* in Wellington, appearances on such shows as the *C'Mon* TV series and a recording contract with **HMV**. (Gary Daverne of **Viscount Records** at this time had gone overseas for an indefinite period). **Mr Lee Grant** had a number 1 hit with *Thanks to You*. He collected the 1967 Loxene Golden Disc Award, and the NEBOA Award for 'Entertainer Of The Year'. Under his birth name he later had a successful singing and acting career in Europe, starring in stage shows such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Elvis The Musical*, TV shows and the James Bond movie, *A View To A Kill*.





**Ian Saxon** was in the early sixties, an Auckland dance hall and nightclub compère. He would sing a few numbers with the big swing dance bands of the time. He met Gary Daverne (**Viscount Records**), a member of the newly formed **Embers**, when they performed together at downtown Auckland's popular, **Shiralee Niteclub**. He made his debut and only recording for **Viscount records** *He Gives Me Love* and *I'm Getting Better* sometime in early 1965.

Ian continued to compere mainly for the travelling NZ shows such as the *Miss New Zealand Show*, before joining the exodus of artists to Australia.

**The Fair Sect** were Auckland's first all female pop band formed in 1965 when teenage friends, Norma Stacey (drummer/vocalist) and Val Tapene (rhythm guitar) decided to form an all girl band. They placed an advert in the local paper to see if there were any others who may be interested in the venture. A number of replies were received and the successful candidates were Faye Reid (bass guitar) and Linda



Williams (lead guitar). Incidentally, Linda's' brother, John, was already established as lead guitarist in **Larry's Rebels**, a band that was to rise to national prominence. The Fair Sect made an appearance at the Shiralee nightclub, (later to become the Galaxie) in downtown Auckland, the exposure leading to a recording date with Gary Daverne and the recording of *Kimberly* and *Never Again* The group had several personnel changes and continued to record three more singles for other labels.

**Steve Ellis** arrived in New Zealand by boat from England in 1962. Having been involved with music back in England, he quickly made friends with one of his workmates, Errol Timbers, lead guitarist for **Terry Dean and The Nitebeats**.

Errol was able to introduce Steve into the local music scene and in some cases, perform a few numbers with the local musicians. As his interest in the local scene grew, he started up his own nite club, the 'Treble Clef', with of course **Terry Dean and The Nitebeats** as resident band. However, this venture was short lived, as council regulations made a fire escape, mandatory. The owners of the building refused to comply due to the expense involved, so the council duly withdrew the license to operate. Steve, although disappointed, still pursued his musical interests, and did eventually cut four recordings; *Love and sorrow* and *509* for the **Viscount** label and two for **Zodiac**.







**Graeme (Gray) Bartlett** originated from Auckland. He is a very popular country singer and has produced more than a dozen albums over the years, mostly by himself and a few with other artists, including **Brendan Dugan**. In 1961 he formed **The Graeme Bartlett Combo** of which Gary Daverne played piano. They recorded three singles one of which was the *The Wobbly*. The sound on this recording was achieved by completely dampening the piano strings with a blanket and adding tape echo. In 1963 Gray started his solo career, late in 1965 changing his name to **Gray Bartlett**. Gray still continues to perform and is well known in the New Zealand entertainment industry.

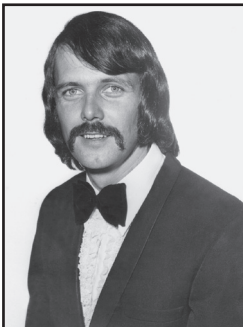


**The Glendelles** and **The Silhouettes** were stable mates for the **Viscount** recording outfit along with **Cathy Howe** and were often found involved in each others recordings. *Ring Ting a Ding* featured here, started its conception as a song for **The Glendelles**, accompanied by **The Silhouettes**, but unfortunately, problems arose with the vocals, so, Gary gave the backing tape to



Rex Bowmast (lead guitar) and asked if he could compose something to compliment what had already been recorded. This was the result, a catchy number that still sounds great after 45 years. The line up for this recording was Rex, Warren McKinman (rhythm), Richie Sims (bass) and Wayne Daverne drums).

**Wayne Daverne** was drummer/vocalist for **The Silhouettes** and **The Sierras**. On leaving these groups he had a successful career as a solo singer and in musical theatre, often backed by his brother Gary on piano, or as the orchestra conductor. Gary produced *Taking' It Easy* and *She Came Out of the Cold* while they were both in London, recorded in 1967 at the **Abbey Road Studios** with **The Johnny Arthey Orchestra** and vocal backings from **The Ladybirds**. These tracks were never released and rescued from a well worn acetate.



*Notes by Dennis Shearer and Gary Daverne*

**Digitally remastered from various sources:  
Engineered by Larry Killip  
Produced by Gary Daverne  
Executive Producer: Eldred Stebbing**

All tracks were recorded at Stebbing, Saratoga Ave Studios, Herne Bay Auckland.

*Except for*

Tracks 16 and 17 that were recorded in the May Road Community Hall

Tracks: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 21, which were recorded at Mascot Recording Studios, in the now demolished, Pacific Buildings.

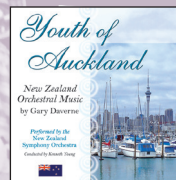
Tracks 32 and 33 recorded at Abbey Road Studios, London.

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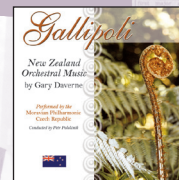
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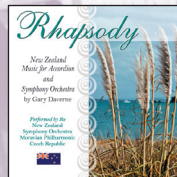
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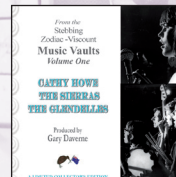
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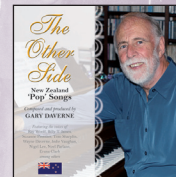
Rhapsody  
Cat: VISC104



Music Vaults Vol.1  
Cat: VISC105



Jingles  
Cat: VISC106



The Other Side  
Cat: VISC107

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# *From The Stebbing Zodiac - Viscount*

## **Music Vaults Volume Two**

### **1959 - 1967**

#### ***Red Hewitt and the Buccaneers***

1. **Robbin' The Cradle** (Bellus)
2. **Someday** (Hodges)
3. **Pretend** (Douglas/Parman/La Vere)
4. **D.J. Blues** (Hewitt/Stepheson)
5. **I Believe** (Drake/Shirl/Graham/Stillman)
6. **Tennessee Waltz** (King/Stewart)
7. **Midnight Special** (Traditional)
8. **Beatnik Fly** (King/Paris)
9. **Boston** (Crewel/Slay)
10. **Blues Stay Away From Me** (Delmore/Raney/Glover)
11. **Way Down Yonder in New Orleans** (Layton/Creamer)
12. **Dreamin'** (DeVorzon/Ellis)
13. **Is A Bluebird Blue?** (Penn)
14. **Goofus** (King/Harold/Kahn)
15. **The Girl in the Teddy Bear Coat** (Hewitt)
16. **Betty Lou's got a New Pair of Shoes** (Freeman)
17. **Girl With a Story in Her Eyes** (Roberts)
18. **I Don't Care** (Unknown)
19. **Traveling Man** (Fuller)
20. **Half Breed** (Loudermilk)

#### ***Bonus Tracks from other New Zealand Artists***

21. **Rinky Dink** (Cortez)
  - *The Embers* (Organ : Leo Cassins)
22. **As Long As I Have You** (Elgin/Ragovoy)
  - *Mr. Lee Grant with The Sierras*
23. **Doo Doodle Do Do** (Stephens)
  - *Mr. Lee Grant with The Sierras*
24. **He Gives Me Love** (Skylar-Simon)
  - *Ian Saxon and The Creditors*
25. **I'm Getting Better** (Bruce)
  - *Ian Saxon and The Creditors*
26. **Never Again** (Randazze/Hart)
  - *The Fair Sect*
27. **Kimberly** (Turner)
  - *The Fair Sect*
28. **Love and Sorrow** (Timbers/Ellis)
  - *Steve Ellis with The Tallismen*
29. **509** (Logan)
  - *Steve Ellis with The Tallismen*
30. **The Wobbly** (G. Daverne)
  - *The Graeme Bartlett Combo*
31. **Ring Ting A-Ding** (G. Daverne/Bowmast)
  - *The Silhouettes and The Glendelles*
32. **Taking' It Easy** (Unknown)
  - *Wayne Daverne*
33. **She Came Out of the Cold** (Iveys Traveling Man)
  - *Wayne Daverne*