

Dougie Adams continues his exhaustive trawl through the recorded works of LARRY NORMAN, detailing the Jesus rock pioneer's recordings from 1993 to 2001. Larry makes a comment or two as well.

# **1988-93** Larry Norman, Stranded In Babylon (US Remix), Solid Rock / Sonrise (SRD-016), 1993

The main changes from the European version are that Larry has cut some verses from the bonus track "Under The Eyes" and edited out one verse from "Love Is A Commitment", shortened some of the instrumentals and come up with a different running order for the tracks. Still available on CD from Solid Rock.

### **1991** Larry Norman, Children Of Sorrow, Street Level Records (SLD-023), 1994

A pleasant live album released in aid of the CCPC child foster placement centre Larry has supported for years in Oregon. At the time of its release 'Children Of Sorrow' was the only album where you could find many of these songs on CD, a situation which no longer exists now. Nonetheless if you like hearing Larry live

you should like this one as he is in pretty good form whether it be on guitar or piano. Charly and Dan Cutrona drop by for two great songs, a smokin' "My Feet Are On The Rock" and an awesome "A Woman of God". Out of stock.

1992 Larry Norman, Totally Unplugged (Volume 1), Street Level Records (SLD-024), 1994

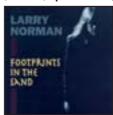


An edited document of Larry's first gig after his major heart attack earlier that year. Mr Norman is in amazingly good voice even if his health is not the best.

A couple of songs from 'Stranded In Babylon' are included amongst the greatest hits and sound amazing. But the highlight of this intimate and personal concert has to be his jaw-droppingly great cover of "Weight Of The

World". The cassette version had different songs and a different running order. No longer available.

# **1974-93** Larry Norman, Footprints In The Sand, Street Level Records (SLD-025) / (Holland) Spark Music (SK 7047), 1994



The first compilation album in quite a while. Comparable in quality with the 'White Blossoms From Black Roots' collection. These 16 songs are among

Larry's most personal and are mainly culled from the CD versions of 'Something New Under The Son', 'Home At Last' and 'Stranded In Babylon'. "If You Don't Love The Lord You'll Fall" and "I Hope I'll See You In Heaven" appear on CD for the first time. Deleted in its single CD format.

### **1993-94** Larry Norman, A Moment In Time, Street Level Records (SLD-026), 1994

10 new songs recorded in the studio, plus the live version of "Right Here In America" from 'Street Level' and a radio spot by Larry in support of the campaign to change the laws in Oregon to outlaw child pornography. These recordings were all demos or rough mixes for the 'Pushing Back The Darkness' album which was never finished. This collection compounds the trend of recent years suggesting that Larry has rediscovered his ability to write and perform again. Worth tracking down second hand copies for the chance to hear songs like "Long Hard Road", "Elvis Has Left The Building", "You Shall Be Saved" and "The Solid Rock". The last time Larry rocked this hard and sounded this bluesy was on 'Something New Under The Son'. The cassette version was different to the CD version. Both are out of stock. 

**1969-96** Larry Norman, Remixing This Planet, N-Soul Records (NSD 9936), 1996

Eight songs from Larry's seminal 'Upon This Rock', 'Only Visiting This Planet', 'So Long Ago The Garden' and 'In Another Land' get the remix treatment along with two newer classics, "If The Bombs Fall" and "God Part III". Larry is not the only person left wondering just what happened to his classic "UFO" after Virus decide to follow an X-Files sorta vibe and erase the very lyrics which made the song great in the first place! Elsewhere things are a bit hit and miss, but overall not bad. The remixes fall into one of three categories: dance, radio friendly pop,

revved up guitar rock. Scott Blackwell almost always hits the right spots on his five remixes. Still available on CD from Solid Rock.

#### 1972-88 Larry Norman, White Blossoms From Black Roots (Book One), Solid Rock (SRD-041), 1997

This time round Larry had more input on song selection and axed a number of slower songs from the first version and chose better mixes of some of the more recent songs. 12 songs in all plus Mark Heard's ghetto dub mix of "Soul On Fire". The new booklet slightly complicates things by giving many of the tracks subtitles like alternate rock remix or acoustic remix or live dance mix when in most cases these are the same mixes as featured on the original CD! Still available.

## **1976-94** Larry Norman, Gathered Moments: Somewhere In This Lifetime, Howling Dog Records (HDR-701), 1998

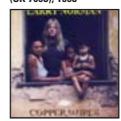
Compiled, produced and edited by Normaniacs-in-chief Terry Leskewich and John Wood, this is a collection of bootleg material which spans from the mid-'70s to the mid-'90s. Most of the songs are audience recordings of concerts but there are a few much sought after studio rarities on offer too. The sound quality and performances vary quite a bit, indeed a number of songs were improvised on the spot and hardly rank among Larry's best efforts and don't bear repeated listening. But then again there are a few songs from the unreleased 'Rough Mix' studio compilations and "Rock The Flock" makes its first appearance on disc after regularly wowing concert audiences in the previous couple of years. Perhaps the standout track is the piano vocal studio performance of "Parson Brown" (aka "Oh Death Where Is Thy Sting?"). Still available and mainly of interest to collectors and enthusiasts.

1998 Larry Norman & Beam, Shouting In The Storm - Flevo 2, Solid Rock (SRD-798) / (Holland) Spark Music (SK 7098), 1998

Another visit to the Flevo festival pays dividends. Backed by Beam for the second time that year, Larry shows that he's not living in the past as he delivers a set of tunes from recent albums and previously unheard songs with only a few oldies to supplement them. With Beam in pretty good form the new arrangements of "Six Sixty Six" and "Shot Down" almost transform those numbers into the category of new songs! Elsewhere the crowd gets really into the reggae tinged "Let It Go" while a rewritten

"Bombs" is almost as dramatic a finale in this set as "Messiah" was in the 1989 set. The cover of dc Talk's "Jesus Freak" doesn't come off as well as the studio rehearsal on 'Breathe In Breathe Out' or the tribute version. Overall pretty good and nice to have a live album with Larry backed by yet another intuitive and sympathetic backing band. There are two very slightly different American and European versions although both contain the same songs in the same order and have the same booklets. Out of stock in USA but still available in Europe through Spark.

1997-98 Larry Norman, Copper Wires, Solid Rock (SRD-800) / (Holland) Spark Music (SK 7093), 1998



Not exactly a bonafide new studio album but a very nice compilation of songs which were first posted on Larry's official website. Some

encouragingly good new songs rub shoulders with a few outstanding cover versions on a set that was recorded quickly in a couple of weeks. One of Larry's most accessible pop albums with an interesting use of cover versions: Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready", Pete Seeger's "Turn, Turn, Turn" and Dylan's "When He Returns" are all utilised to reiterate Larry's core message of previous decades; namely, that we need to be prepared for Christ's return.

LARRY'S COMMENTS: 'Copper Wires' refers to the physical conduits of communication in computers and telephones. A Christian magazine had said I once was a bright light but had become a dark cloud, that I had turned away from the Church, my friends and my family and they speculated that I had lost my musical ability and possibly my mind. They didn't call up my parents or my church or my friends to see if any of it was remotely factual. I had just financed a 50th wedding anniversary surprise party for my folks, bought my church a brand new sound system and curtains and given money to several friends who were having trouble. But maybe I have lost my ability and my mind. Only time will tell, right? So 'Copper Wires' is just my own communique to people, saying nothing at all about the gossip but going right back to the Garden of Eden and working my way up to modern times using my own new songs and other songs I really love. I end with "When He Returns" because that's where it really all ends, or rather begins anew, isn't it? And I

put on some bonus tracks from our first internet gig years before, which was one of the very first Christian internet concerts, or maybe even the very first. And I'm kind of saying, "You can use the copper wires to gossip about others, or you can use the copper wires to glorify God."

Still available from Solid Rock and in Europe from Spark. There is no noticeable difference between the American and European versions except that they have different picture discs and booklets.

1998 Larry Norman & Beam, Breathe In, Breathe Out (Double CD), Solid Rock (SRD-799), 1998



One of my favourite recent CDs from Larry. He cut this double album live in the studio in 10 hours as he rehearsed for his 1998 European tour with Beam. You

get the feeling that Larry has been waiting to team up with a band who are as able as Beam to follow his intuitive instructions like "do something psychedelic!" and they happily oblige. Beam seem as comfortable rocking out at full volume on epic versions of "Jesus Freak", "That's When Jesus Knew", "Friendship's End" and "I Wish We'd All Been Ready" as they are providing subtle acoustic backing on "Goodbye Farewell", a jammed version of "Like A Rolling Stone" or a little rock opera number "Is God Dead?" from the '60s. Some fans didn't like the couple of false starts, studio chat and second takes which were left in, but for me this is perhaps Larry's most enjoyable rock album ever. It might have been a genuine classic if he had put in a few fades, edits and added one or two overdubs. No longer available.

1979 Larry Norman, Live At The Mac, Solid Rock Illegal Noise Series (SRD-863), 1998

Without doubt this has to be by far the worst album Larry has put out. Randy Leyton, the original distributor of this bootleg, claims that the tape release attained legendary status. The Solid Rock newsletter is more dismissive, "It sucks", they warn. Basically this is a very poor quality audience recording of a show from Larry's 1979 tour backed by a band comprising of several of the leading lights from the Solid Rock label. It's hard to comment on the quality of the performance as the most striking thing about this CD is the amount of times the cheapo tape

recorder's microphone gets bumped or the tape gets chewed up! That said, the bonus track, "Lonely By Myself" recorded at another show and on a different tape recorder is stunning. Solid Rock's artwork also improves things and the front cover has Larry sitting just behind Jimmy Carter... yes, then President of the United States of America! Part of the thinking behind releasing this one seems to have been to make it available at a less ridicul ous price for the collectors who were trying to track down the original bootleg copies and paying inflated prices. Only 200 copies were pressed and Solid Rock are currently giving this away free to anyone also buying 'We Wish You A Larry Christmas'.

### 1967-83 Larry Norman & People!, We Wish You A Larry Christmas, Solid Rock Illegal Noise Series (SRD-864), 1998



This is another CD which started life as a bootleg, rounding up rare tracks from Larry's days in the seriously psychedelic '60s band People! plus

the rare "Blow In My Ear & I'll Follow You Anywhere" single by the Flies and the original mixes of a number of songs from the classic 'Upon This Rock' album on Capitol Records. All the tracks were carefully transferred from vinyl to CD with great care. The People! tracks may not be everyone's cup of tea but fans of Larry's early stuff will no doubt enjoy the Flies material and the alternate versions of the 'Upon This Rock' songs. A live performance of "Moses" from 1983 is included too as the last (unlisted) track. Still available and of interest to collectors rather than first time buyers.

**1974-93** Larry Norman, Home At Last/ Footprints In The Sand (Double CD), (Holland) Spark SK7099, 1998

Larry's Dutch distributors issued the albums as a special priced double CD (two for the price of one). Since five songs from 'Home At Last' are also on 'Footprints In The Sand' there are some complaints that duplication or repackaging of Larry's material has reached new heights! Well intentioned offer and 25 songs for £15 isn't bad going! Deleted in USA but available from Spark in Holland.

**1998** Larry Norman, The Vineyard (Double CD), Solid Rock Illegal Noise Series (SRD-865), 1999

Fantastic concert from March 1998 which sees

Larry trying out a few new and unreleased songs in both his sets on guitar and piano as well as playing a broad range of songs from the various decades of his career. Best of all is the fact that for the most part this is a great performance, rounded off with lots of funny stories, chat and inspired monologues. For the first time since 'Street Level' we are treated to the joys of Larry reciting a poem 'I Am Is' in concert. 'The Vineyard' succeeds where many other live albums fail, in that it manages to convey through the broad range of songs, the jokes and the prayers and preaching why a Larry Norman concert is more than just an entertaining night out. Deleted.

1969-85 Larry Norman, Rough Street Love Letter (Double CD), Solid Rock Illegal Noise Series (SRD-866), 1999

Four hard to come by LPs are crammed onto a double CD to compete with a growing number of bootleg CDR sales on the internet. The original nine song version of 'Street Level' shares a disc with 'Rough Mix 3 (Howling At The Moon)' while the second CD consists of 'Letter Of The Law' and 'Labor Of Love', two albums which mixed some hit and miss cover version of Tom Howard songs with odd little Larry Norman instrumentals. Even though they weren't the greatest albums in the world they still contained a number of nice performances such as "Where His Soul Touches Down" and "Let The Master Make It Right". 'Rough Mix 3' differs from the LP version (aka 'Barking At The Ooops') and collects various demos from 1979 to 1985. The bonus tracks caused a bit of a stir, a studio version of "A Woman Not A Maid" from the unreleased 'Rough Mix 2' album, accompanied by a succinct version of "Love On Haight Street" from 1969 (and the long-rumoured 'Rough Mix 1' album) with Randy Stonehill on guitar and harmony. Sold out.

1997-99 Larry Norman, Father Touch (Double CD), Phydeaux Phan Klubb CD (PPK-001), 1999

The second disc can be dealt with quickly, it is an interview disc with Larry giving his views on the Godspell musical and appearing on Tim DeMoss's radio show on WZZD. The first disc collects together two songs from the 1997 internet gig, two hard-to-get-a-hold-of songs from recent tribute albums and some great new recordings of new songs like "Father Of All", "Dark Passage", "I Need A Touch" and "Near". Instrumental demos intended for future albums are tagged on at the end. Eight brand new songs, well recorded and appearing on CD for the first time. Deleted. Other items in the limited edition fan club

doggee bag included fridge magnets, bookmarks, button hole badges and free backstage passes to any Larry Norman concert anywhere on Planet Earth.

1969-71 Larry Norman & Randy Stonehill, The Cottage Tapes (Volume 1), Solid Rock (SRD-701), 2000

Alternate mixes from Larry's 'Street Level' and 'Bootleg' albums and selections from Randy's debut LP 'Born Twice' with a few bonus tracks thrown in for good measure. Essential! Still in stock at Solid Rock.

### **2000** Larry Norman, In The Beginning, Phydeaux Limited Edition Concert Series (PDX-200), 2000



Somebody in the office has obviously caught the bug for issuing different series of releases! After the Illegal Noise Series, Historical Archives Series, Phydeaux's

Retrospective Series here comes the limited edition concert series... and lo and behold Phydeaux has recently begun another one, the DUFBY series (Dug Up From The Back Yard!). Anyway, the limited edition series was aimed at the kind of Larry fan who likes to buy all the unofficial audience recording bootleg concerts. The idea is to press a small number of copies up from some of Larry's most notable concerts of the year and release a CD made from the top quality digital soundboard (mixing desk) recording. 'In The Beginning' captures Larry live at the Creation West 2000 festival. In the scorching heat Larry and his then new young lions backing band delivering a pretty hot set. While the song selection is a bit conservative with all the songs bar "God Part III" coming from 'Only Visiting This Planet', 'In Another Land' or 'Upon This Rock', this one was quite popular with the diehards on account of the band segment in which Larry (never one to do things by half measures) is supported by four lead guitarists plus some loud, crisp drums and thumping bass. Somehow, this band manage to sound louder and grungier than Beam did in 1998 when they backed Larry. The band are tight, loud and they rock hard and Larry's voice seems in good shape for most if not all of the set. Some of the monologue material is about 20 years old as well but all in all despite the age of the songs and the comedy routines this still sounds quite fresh and hard hitting. Once again, "Six Sixty Six" sounds magnificent with a rocking band accompanying Larry's world weary lyrics and vocals. Available from Solid Rock.

#### 1975-95

Larry Norman, Blarney Stone (Double CD), Phydeaux's DUFBY Series (PDX-203), 2000



Double CD with disc one coming from Trevor King and Paul Shaw's extensive archives. There are 10 tracks of great live versions of familiar songs taken from

various concerts and which hadn't been released before or even widely bootlegged. So we have Larry and bands in New Zealand in 1979 then Rotterdam in 1982 plus one track from his solo concert in Londonderry in 1995. Then there are four short vignette (or sample) tracks of songs included on the forthcoming 'Rough Diamonds Precious Jewels: The Belfast Bootlegs' four CD boxed set. The bonus disc, which was included at the last moment for no additional cost, focuses on the late Jon Linn's lead guitar work for Solid Rock Records and features tracks from albums like 'In Another Land', 'Something New Under The Son', 'The Sky Is Falling' plus a home recording of Jon bashfully talking Larry through one of his own compositions.

1974-89 Larry Norman, Sticks & Stones (Double CD), Phydeaux's DUFBY Series (PDX-204), 2000



Phydeaux selects some of Larry's favourite tracks on the numerous counterfeit CD's in circulation and puts them together here. The sound quality is

usually OK though in a few places the occasional song sounds very rough. Most of the songs have been sourced from videos such as "Face To Face", "Home At Last", "Brotherly Love Sisters Of Mercy" and "Illegal Observations". A couple of tracks are from the much sought after Chapel Lane LP 'Larry Norman & His Friends On Tour', 'Best Of The Second Trilogy' cassette and Royal Music's

long deleted 'Down Under' LP. Most long standing fans will have heard nearly all the music before and own most of the original videos and tapes. That said, it's still a nice compilation of rarities and the full length original recording of "Dear Malcolm, Dear Alwyn" is a welcome surprise and the demo versions of "Trinity" and fumbling live version of "That's What Love Is For" whet the appetite for the finished studio versions which are said to be languishing somewhere in the vaults.

1981-2000 Larry Norman, Rough Diamonds, Precious Jewels: The Belfast Bootlegs 1981-2000 (4 CD Boxed Set), (Northern Ireland) Romanian Relief Records, 2001



Another release which comes courtesy of Trevor King and Paul Shaw's archives. Nearly 90 tracks selected from some

legendary Belfast concerts spanning the years 1981-2000 and all soundboard (or mixing desk) recordings. Larry rocking with various bands and performing solo on guitar and piano. A treasure trove of rare performances and previously unreleased songs in addition to some definitive performances of well known numbers. Released a couple of weeks after we went to press (mid-February). Has the look of being the kind of release which will reaffirm Larry's status as a legendary songwriter and performer and rekindle fans' enthusiasm for Larry's live work... even though the amount of live material available is often close to saturation point.

1999-2000 Larry Norman,

Tourniquet, currently awaiting release in 2001 In December 2000, 20 CDR copies of this forthcoming album were sold to collectors. There are no more copies left at the moment so don't bother pestering Solid Rock for a copy! This is Larry's first "official" album since 'Stranded In Babylon' and there are high hopes that it will gain mainstream distribution in America as well as in Europe's Christian

bookshops. Many of the 11 songs have appeared on recent live albums and the limited edition Solid Rock CDs of demos and rough mixes. One of the conditions attached to buying a rare CDR copy was that you couldn't discuss the contents with anyone else, but I've heard that the song selection is great and there are a number of fantastic new recordings on offer with a good mix of well produced ballads and loud rock and roll with articulate lyrics on a variety of topics. Can't wait till I get my hands on a copy. Just to confuse things further there is a possibility that when it is officially released this album might be called 'Behind The Curtain' even though it is surely very different from the album of that title which was first mentioned for a 1986 release.

LARRY'S COMMENTS: 'Tourniquet' contains many of the songs I've been working on for the last few years. It's not a finished statement because I'm still working on other songs which complement its message. I don't really want to talk about it because I feel I've always said too much in advance in the past. Sometimes I've talked about albums which I ended up not releasing, which is the same problem Neil Young had. And Lennon. And even Dylan. When you're really passionate about music it's hard to keep your mouth shut because you want to share your excitement with others. But it's just a real bad idea to talk about projects in advance so I'm trying not to do that anymore.

□ The two parts of this annotated discography were compiled and written by Dougie Adam, who works as a probationary parish assistant with St Clement's & St Ninian's parish churches in Wallyford and Musselburgh, Scotland. Dougie acknowledges the help of Larry Norman, Kerry Hopkins (Larry's assistant at Solid Rock) and the following collectors from around the world: Robert Temorshuizen, Mike Rohlinger, Gunnar Lorens Lien and Paul Shaw. Thanks to Jonathon Isaacs and Alasdair Munro for lending Dougie some of their Larry Norman rarities for our pictures.

#### READ RERUN

LARRY NORMAN WEBSITES:

www.mindspring.com/~jconarro

www.larrvnorman.com

Cross Rhythms 17, October/November 1993 Cross Rhythms 38, April/May 1997

#### AN EXTENDED

VERSION OF LARRY NORMAN'S DISCOGRAPHY INCLUDING PROMOS, SINGLES, ALBUMS BY OTHER ARTIST TO WHICH LARRY CONTRIBUTED, COMPILATIONS AND VIDEOS IS PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE CROSS RHYTHMS WEBSITE: WWW.crossrhythms.co.uk

#### **BUYING LARRY'S MUSIC:**

from: Romanian Relief Records, 139 Plantation Road, Portadown, County Armagh, Northern Ireland, BT63 5NN
All other CDs listed as still available can be ordered from www.larrynorman.com or by mail order from:
Solid Rock Records, 3760 Market Street NE - PMB # 306, Salem, Oregon 97301, United States of America.
or from Spark Music distributed by:
GMI Music Partners BV, PO Box 420, 6900 AK Zevenaar,

Rough Diamonds, Precious Jewels 4 CD boxed set is available

# (The Phriends of Phydeaux fans' site) www.mts.net/~pwpeters/larry/ (Paul Peters' fan site) http://users.ev1.net/~botheja (Jim Bothel's unofficial site with links to Robert Temorshuizen's near exhaustive discography) www.one-way.org/jesusmusic/norman.htm

(great site on early Jesus Movement artists and bands)

(The official site... not updated as often as it used to be)