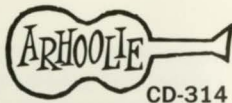


ROSE MADDOX

"Rose Of The West Coast Country"

Over 60 Minutes of Classic Country Music



1. **Philadelphia Lawyer** (Woody Guthrie) (2:35)
2. **Let Those Brown Eyes Smile At Me** (R.Nail) (2:45)
3. **Old Black Choo Choo** (3:00)
4. **Single Girl** (2:05)
5. **Dark As A Dungeon** (Merle Travis) (4:00)
6. **This Old House** (2:40)
7. **Sally Let Your Bangs Hang Down** (Rose Maddox) (2:35)
8. **Rusty Old Halo** (Merrill) (2:20)
9. **Dream Of The Miner's Child** (A. Jenkins) (3:00)
10. **Ashes Of Love** (Anglin, Anglin, & Wright) (2:00)
11. **Silver Threads And Golden Needles** (Rhodes & Reynolds) (1:50)
12. **Foggy Mountain Top** (A.P. Cater) (3:10)
13. **Amazing Grace** (5:00)
14. **Rocky Top** (F. & B. Bryant) (2:55)
15. **When God Dips His Love In My Heart** (2:42)
16. **I Can't Feel At Home Anymore** (3:11)
17. **Farther Along** (3:20)
18. **I'll Fly Away** (2:34)
19. **Kneel At The Cross** (2:27)
20. **Turn Your Radio On** (2:21)

Total time — 66:15

All selections previously released on Arhoolie LP/C 5024 & 5030.

Selections #1-14: Rose Maddox – vocals; Vern Williams – vocals and mandolin; Delbert Williams – vocals and rhythm guitar; Keith Little – vocals and banjo; J.D. Rhynes – bass; Ray Park – fiddle; Kraig Hutchens – lead guitar. Recorded September 20 & 21, 1980 at 1750 Arch Street, Berkeley, CA. Bob Shumaker – recording and mixing engineer.

Selections #15-20: Rose Maddox – vocals; Vern Williams – vocals and mandolin; Delbert Williams – vocals and guitar; Keith Little – vocals, banjo, guitar; Ed Neff – fiddle; Kevin Thompson – bass. Recorded November 20 & 21, 1982 at Bay Records, Alameda, CA. Michael Cogan – engineer.

Produced by Chris Strachwitz & Rose Maddox.

Cover by Beth Weil.

Cover photo by Craig Street – from left to right: Vern Williams, Keith Little, Delbert Williams, J.D. Rhynes, Rose Maddox, Kraig Hutchens, & Ray Park.

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ROSE MADDOX



ROSE OF THE WEST COAST COUNTRY



Over 60 Minutes of CLASSIC COUNTRY MUSIC



KTRB, Modesto, Ca. salutes

50 Years of Country
Music with

ROSE & FRED MADDOX

90 Minute Cassette
Arhoolie C-227

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10341 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, Ca. 94530 USA

This cassette, C-227 *Fred and Rose Maddox Talk about 50 Years in the Country Music Business*, brings you an hour and a half of oral history, including several acapella songs, from Rose and Fred Maddox, the main spokes in the wheel that made the Maddox Brothers and Rose "America's Most Colorful Hillbilly Band" during the 1940s and early 50s. Fred was the announcer for the family band when they were broadcasting regularly twice a day over KTRB from Modesto, California – in the heart of California's agricultural Central Valley. Fred was a natural MC with a southern accent as thick as it is delightful. Rose used to read the commercials and both have a delightful way of telling their family story.

Rose Maddox

Rose Maddox is one of the great pioneer women voices in Country Music. Only a few, like Sara and Maybelle Carter of the Carter Family, The Girls of the Golden West, Patsy Montana, Cousin Emmy, and the Coon Creek Girls, preceded her on record. Rose, who began her recording career in 1946 with the Maddox Brothers, along with her contemporary Molly O'Day, opened up the Country Music field for a whole generation of women singers. Kitty Wells followed a few years later with her 1952 hit "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels." Until those post World War II years it wasn't socially or economically feasible for women to make a living in the Country Music field. World War II (1941-45) had a lot to do with bringing about a spirit of independence for women. Through

employment in war-related jobs women became more economically and socially independent and made themselves heard and felt in the marketplace. Since then women have fully taken the opportunity to tell about their side of life through song and do it commercially outside the home.

Rose Maddox began her long performing career in 1937 when she first went on the air over radio station KTRB in Modesto, California with her brothers. Since then she has earned a living singing. Her remarkable and versatile voice can be solemn as on *Amazing Grace*; sentimental as on *Let Those Brown Eyes Smile At Me*; or lusty and extroverted as on *Sally Let Your Bangs Hang Down*. Whichever feeling Rose evokes, she sings with incredible power, conviction, timing, and a delightful sense of humor.

Born in Boaz, Alabama, Rose grew up in a poor share-cropping family. By the early 1930's, in the depths of the Great Depression, the family could no longer make ends meet and decided to move west. They walked and hitched rides on freight trains until they finally arrived in California in March of 1933. The whole family worked at various jobs, generally as farm workers picking whatever crops came into season and earning themselves the nickname "fruit tramps."

Charlie Maddox played five string banjo. Mother Lulla played mandolin and sang and all the kids picked up various instruments and started singing at an early age. With their first radio broadcasts, the popularity of the Maddox Brothers and Rose spread throughout the San Joaquin Valley of California. Their main audience was the many "Dust Bowl Refugees," who like themselves had recently re-settled in

California's Central Valley and surely appreciated the down home music the Maddox family served up.

World War II saw all the brothers drafted into the service and Rose was left on her own. She tried to get a job with Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys but Mr. Wills was apparently unwilling to even grant her an audition. This made Rose so mad that she went up to him and said: "Mr. Wills, when my brothers get back from the service, I'm gonna put you out of business." Years later Bob Wills told this story to a San Diego ballroom operator shortly after the Maddox Brothers & Rose had packed the place and Wills told the promoter: "You know, she damn near did!"

When the war ended and all the brothers returned home Rose and the boys picked up where they'd left off. Their popularity quickly soared thanks to regular radio broadcasts and a recording

contract with the small but very aggressive 4 Star Record Company. The Maddox Brothers and Rose were perhaps the hottest band on the West Coast and were justly billed as "The Most Colorful Hillbilly Band in America."

By the early 1950s the band was recording for Columbia. Unfortunately, in an effort to attract a larger audience, the company tried to tone down the incredible exuberance of the group, and the records, although more widely distributed, never reached the popularity of the earlier ones. In 1956 the band broke up and Rose went on to a solo career. After several records for smaller labels, including one for San Francisco Bay Area radio and TV personality Black Jack Wayne, she landed a contract with Capitol Records in 1959. Her solo disc of *Sing A Little Song Of Heartache* stayed in the Top Ten of the C&W charts for

over 4 months, and two duets she recorded with Buck Owens, *Mental Cruelty* and *Loose Talk*, did likewise. In the early 1960s Rose recorded with Bluegrass legends Bill Monroe and Don Reno.

Before her contract with Capitol ended in 1965 the company had issued five LPs by Rose Maddox. In the late 1960s Rose recorded for Uni and in the 1970s the Takoma label released her "Reckless Love and Bold Adventure" album.

In recent years Rose Maddox has been making regular appearances not only in Country night clubs and dance halls, but also at Folk and Bluegrass Festivals all over the country. For these recordings she is backed by one of the finest Bluegrass bands on the West Coast, The Vern Williams Band. Vern, an Arkansas native, is known for his high tenor voice and distinctive mandolin playing. On several of the selections Vern is re-united

with his former partner and fellow Arkansan Ray Park on fiddle. In addition to being a fine fiddler, Ray also sings, plays guitar, and writes country songs. The younger members of the Vern Williams Band are solidly devoted to the traditional Bluegrass and Country sounds and so it's no wonder that these recordings present Rose Maddox at her very best. Selections 15-20, all gospel songs, were recorded in honor and memory of Rose's son Donnie Maddox who died on August 1, 1982. Gospel songs have always been an integral part of Rose Maddox's repertoire. As a child in Alabama and California Rose sang these songs with her family. The Maddox Brothers and Rose recorded many Gospel songs and performed them on their radio programs and live shows.

Gospel songs sound best when sung in trio or quartet style. For the past several years Rose

Maddox has worked shows with Vern Williams and his fine band and together have appeared at many festivals and club dates. Vern and his band have played many benefits for Rose Maddox, helping to pay her hospital bills. They joined Rose to sing at her son's funeral. Their long friendship, fine voices, similar rural southern backgrounds, and total devotion to their musical traditions, make these recording sessions so special.

As I update these notes in late 1990 for the re-release of these wonderful recordings, Rose Maddox is making a strong, extraordinary return to performing after an almost fatal heart attack in 1989. Rose just made an appearance at the 30th Anniversary Party for Arhoolie Records held in September 1990. She surprised us all by giving a powerful and delightful performance including her yodeling on "Mule Skinner Blues"! She was off to England in October and you can see for

yourself how Rose is still the Queen and Rose of West Coast Country. Rose's appearances at the Arhoolie 25th and 30th Anniversary Parties are available on the two Arhoolie Videos (each 2 hours long) covering these musically varied and fascinating concerts. (\$30 each plus \$3.00 shipping). Besides being a great singer, Rose is also a wonderful story teller. A few years ago she did a long interview program on KTRB along with her brother Fred Maddox who with his delightful pure Alabama drawl used to do all the announcing during those radio days in the 40s. To my ears their talking, reminiscing, and acapella song bits were as delightful as their commercial music and so I issued the 90 minute tape with Rose and Fred Maddox on Arhoolie cassette #227. We also plan to re-issue the early sides by the Maddox Brothers and Rose, both their commercial recordings and

radio broadcasts, from the late 1940s and early 50s, on a CD soon. In the meanwhile I hope you enjoy this hour long program of Rose at her best and we will be glad to forward any letters or cards to her.

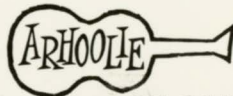
(Chris Strachwitz
- 1981, 1983, & 1990)

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ROSE MADDOX

Rose of the West Coast Country



CD-314

Over 60 Minutes of Classic **COUNTRY MUSIC**

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3. Old Black Choo Choo
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16. I Can't Feel At Home Anymore
17. Farther Along
18. I'll Fly Away
19. Kneel At The Cross
20. Turn Your Radio On
21. Beautiful Bouquet
22. Take Me In The Lifeboat
23. Swing Low Sweet Chariot

Total time: 66:15



Rose Maddox is one of the great pioneer women of Country Music. Her performances and recordings with the Maddox Brothers, "The Most Colorful Hillbilly Band in America," from 1937 until the early 1950's helped open up the Country Music field to future generations of female singers. In the 1950's Rose launched a successful solo career that included duets with Buck Owens and recordings with Bluegrass legends Bill Monroe and Don Reno. She hasn't stopped since!

These recordings of Rose's favorite Country, Bluegrass, and Gospel songs were made in 1980 & 1982 with long-time friends and frequent back-up musicians Vern Williams and his band, including Ray Park, Keith Little, and Kraig Hutchens. This is pure Country Music with delightful solo, duet, and even trio vocals along with some of the best pickers around.

All selections previously released on Arhoolie LP/C 5024 & 5030.

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