

**Album of the Month**  
**September 2007**

*The Complete Million Dollar Quartet*  
**Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash**  
**MVP12**

I had tried without success to buy this for August's Album of the Month ready for any programmes that might be produced to commemorate the 30 years of **Elvis'** death. It came the next week!

This CD is a fascinating jam session recorded in December 1956 when **Elvis** was home for Christmas. The excellent sleeve notes mention that **Elvis** met up with **Carl Perkins** and **Jerry Lee Lewis**, who was playing keyboards in **Carl's** band at the time, at Sun Records and **Johnny Cash** was summoned there by phone as well by Sam Phillips.

The CD contains the whole session in sequential order with **Elvis** singing from Track 5. Some tracks start off well and then tail off - on Track 34 *Brown-Eyed Handsome Man*, they forget the words or Track 26 *I Hear A Sweet Voice Calling*, their voices can't reach the high notes and they collapse with laughter! Other tracks really go for it - Track 11 *When The Saints Go Marching In*. I just loved listening to **Elvis** chatting away about he heard so-and-so sing a song in a particular way and then show the others how it was done. But far and away the most interesting tracks (11 - 18) are when **Elvis** takes off with a string of gospel songs.

But whilst **Elvis** is the prominent voice, the ensemble playing/singing is enjoyable too. **Elvis** sings backing vocals to **Jerry Lee Lewis** on Track 15 *Jesus Walked The Lonesome Valley* and **Jerry** has Tracks 42 - 46 to himself.

But because it is a jam session, this CD won't really work in a request show but play several tracks together with the conversations in between and it could be a really interesting piece in other programmes.

Valda  
4 September 2007