

## Featured Artist for May 2008 Neil (Leslie) Diamond MVD14 (The Essential Neil Diamond) and MVD23 (12 Songs)

One of my all-time favourite artists and, to this date, the greatest live act I have ever seen (listen to *He Ain't Heavy . . . He's My Brother* on MVD14). I have been a **Neil Diamond** fan since 1971, after the success of *Cracklin' Rosie* and *I am . . . I Said*.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, **Diamond** was one of the most successful pop music performers in the world. As of May 2005, he had sold 120 million records worldwide.

Though his record sales declined somewhat after the 1980s, **Diamond** continues to tour successfully, and maintains a very loyal following. **Diamond's** songs have been recorded by a vast array of performers from many different musical genres.

His UK top 10 records have been *Cracklin' Rosie* (No 3 in 1970), *Sweet Caroline* (No 8 in 1971), *I am . . . I Said* (No 4 in 1971) and *You Don't Bring Me Flowers* (No 5 in 1978).

Despite his lack of a UK No 1 single, he has written two No 1s for **The Monkees** (*I'm a Believer* in 1967) and **UB40** (*Red Red Wine* in 1983).

Just when the critics had written him off, he returned in 2005 with the album **12 Songs**, produced by Rick Rubin which became his biggest seller (excluding compilations) for 35 years and his first UK top 10 album for 22 years.

He is touring the UK this year at the age of 67 and all of his shows are already sold out. He is headlining this year's Glastonbury Festival and has a new album called **Home Before Dark** being released on May 6th 2008.

### Recommended Tracks

Other than the obvious singles:

- *Captain Of A Shipwreck* MVD23
- *Captain Sunshine* MVD14
- *Delirious Love* MVD23
- *Evermore* MVD23 (highly recommended!!)
- *Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon* MVD14
- *He Ain't Heavy . . . He's My Brother* (Live Version) MVD14
- *Play Me* MVD14
- *September Morn* MVD14

Roger Randall  
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