

# DONOVAN DONOVAN DONOVAN

mad john's escape  
man john came down from Birmingham very hastily  
and from Borstal he had ran  
he made it down to Torquay  
good boy mad john  
mad john holed up  
in an allotment shed by a railway siding  
in came the man for the watering can  
he didn't see john hiding  
good boy mad john  
mad john met jill in a transport cafe  
by the juke box loud  
and over double eggs chips and beans  
they made a solemn vow  
and jill paid the bill



Donovan is appearing at Varsity Indoor Arena Oct. 24

have you found the secret door  
to let you down to the earth's deep core  
you'll be back in time for tea  
with a diamond to show me  
skip-a-long sam  
come run jump skip-a-long sam  
a very happy man I am  
to know you are well and you're doing fine  
kind-of puts at rest my mind  
how's your brush and your lady fair  
not to mention your stained glass stair  
flower pot on window sill  
on top of honeycomb hill

## DONOVAN

by David McCaughna

Around 1964 when Bob Dylan was just beginning to receive widespread popularity, a young British folk singer called Donovan burst upon the musical scene. Donovan, with mellow voice and gentle air, was castigated as the 'British answer to Dylan.' He was considered by most North American music critics as a weak imitation of Dylan, lacking Dylan's rough, searing voice and unique, expressive songs. Today, after a great deal of progress, Donovan is considered by critics and audiences throughout the world as an important singer and song-writer, and, although not as influential as Dylan, a leader of his own genre.

Donovan's first song which became widely popular on this side of the Atlantic was "Universal Soldier," a pacific and poetic song, a plea against armed violence much more subtle and melodic than many of the preceding peace oriented songs. From "Universal Soldier" came a string of popular hits which displayed the constant development of Donovan. "Turquoise", "Colours", "Sunshine Superman", "Mellow Yellow", "There is a Mountain", and others have shown a steady growth both in poetic sensitivity and in musical adroitness.

His two-record album released last spring, "From A Flower To A Garden", is a beautiful, lyrical experience. Donovan's songs have a simple, graceful and loving air about them. In one of the records "For Little Ones", called in single release "Donovan-Donovan", he sings gentle, quiet songs and tales intended for children.

Donovan says that many of his songs are for "aging children", and indeed many of his followers could very easily be described as 'aging children', members of the Flower-Love generation who can appreciate the fantasy and magic in his songs.

Donovan in concert loses none of his power. In his recent record "Donovan in Concert", recorded at a concert given in Anaheim, California, the songs come across with the same still beauty that emanates from his studio recordings. Beside the old hits like "There is a Mountain," and "Mellow Yellow", this album includes a number of truly stunning new songs. "Young Girl Blues," to give but one example, is hauntingly evocative. Against a musical background which includes symbols and flutes Donovan weaves a beautiful piece of music. The only song on this album which is disappointing is a jazzy awful thing called "Preachin' Love."

Donovan started in the purely folk vein, very akin to Dylan, and moved to a more rock-blues field when it became fashionable about three years ago. His career can be closely paralleled to Dylan's though both have retained a distinct individuality. Songs like "Mellow Yellow", "Sunshine Superman," and "There is a Mountain" typify Donovan's flirtation with more popular music. But today, just as Dylan has returned somewhat to a previous period in his musical development so has Donovan, to a certain degree. Now he is back to the gentler, peaceful songs, but more intricate and closely aligned to nature than were the songs of his earlier period.

Sometimes music critic, Nat Hentoff, said of Donovan, "Perhaps there is no one category that can hold one such as Donovan."

It is difficult to categorize him. He is not a folk-singer in the traditional sense, and he is not really in the rock stream. Perhaps pop-folk is as close as we can come to a pat description of Donovan.

Donovan is a singer of the gentle, peaceful and the withdrawn. He uses images from nature constantly in his songs. Richard Goldstein, writing of Donovan in The World Journal Tribune, said, "The only image which comes to mind is one of total gentleness, beyond passivity." There is an almost childlike simplicity about Donovan's songs, yet they are always imaginative, sometimes wild and never prosaic. Describing himself, Donovan says, "I don't think I'm a folk singer at all. I think I'm just a contemporary writer."

Donovan's voice is completely opposite Dylan's. There is nothing raucous or harsh about him, he has a soft, distant and expressive voice. His songs are perfectly suited to his voice with its gentleness and tranquility. When Donovan songs are recorded by other artists they are usually very poor, as few singers have the voice to convey the silent, strange songs.

After the few early exceptions like "Universal Soldier," Donovan has moved away from notorious 'message songs.' As he puts it, "The word 'message' is for the older generation to use. The young just nod their heads 'I understand,' inside themselves . . . the words tell the story, the music makes it fly or soar like the sea." If one must search out a specific message or impression from Donovan's songs, then it would be the message of beauty in nature, in words, and in love.

someone singing

happy i yam  
all on a new day  
happy i yam  
people and flowers  
are one and the same  
all in a chain  
at the beginning of a new world  
someone's singing and I think it's me  
youth is winging  
and longs to be free  
and so you see  
love is only feeling feeling for you  
love is only feeling feeling for me

into your life there will come friends  
maybe a wife who to you sends  
love with no gain  
part of a chain  
at the giving birth of a new child  
someone's painting and I think it's me  
someone's living and oh gosh it's me  
and so you see  
love is only feeling feeling for you  
love is only feeling feeling for me

"I live in a tiny 16th century cottage painted lilac, in the middle of a thick wood in the country-side just outside London, with 18 chickens, 2 cats, a million moths, a small deer, rabbits, magpies, squirrels and the occasional growling Boeing 707, where everyday is Sunday except Sunday."



" . . . never seriously being attached to any one form of religion, I feel that God could not live in so many different temples. But I have discovered God to be the life force of all things and, therefore, the very fuel that made me live. I view with amusement the whole grand plan of sadness and joy with no particular name but Mother Nature. I am not an atheist — on the contrary I am a firm believer in the existence of a Supreme Being and really, what else can I do?"

"I abhor bad pop music and feel that the average 14-year-old girl listening to pop shares my feeling. I don't think I am singing above people's heads, more mirroring their thoughts. So as the established generation looks with distaste upon "new" people I look with pride on the "new" generation's growing understanding of beautiful things."

## Decide



## For Yourself

Would you rather sit back and count days on the calendar or go swimming and dancing any day of the month?

Would you rather wear dark, full skirts 5 days in a row or your sleekest clothes in the palest colors—even white?

Would you rather try to conceal a bulky package or tuck spares right in your purse?

Would you rather worry about "What do I do now?" or simply dispose by flushing away?

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