

**Steve Goodman**

**With Jethro Burns**

**November 1, 1977**

**Great Southeast Music Hall**

**Atlanta, GA**

**WKLS-FM Broadcast**

**DISC ONE:**  
**Red, Red Robin**  
**Banana Republics**  
**You're The Girl I Love**  
**I'm Attracted To You**  
**Video Tape**  
**Three-Legged Man**  
**Mind Your Own Business**  
**Between The Lines**  
**Rainbow Road**  
**Old Smoothies**  
**Moby Book**  
**I'll Fly Away**  
**Bandstand**

**DISC TWO:**  
**Yellow Coat**  
**Jesse's Jig (Rob's Romp, Beth's Bounce)**  
**Spoon River**  
**Is It True What They Say About Dixie?**  
**Donald and Lydia**  
**Turnpike Tom**  
**Door Number Three**  
**My Old Man**  
**The Auctioneer**  
**Just Lucky I Guess**

Thanks to Cal for the loan of the tape.

This fan-based project is for sharing only and is

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graphics by russell



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Ah, the foibles of performing music on the road.

At the end of October 1977, in the midst of a busy tour schedule to promote his just released “Say It in Private” LP, Steve Goodman showed up in Atlanta with Jethro Burns to play the Great Southeast Music Hall. But when they drove up to the hall, they noticed that it was dark and no one else was around. It turned out that someone had gotten signals crossed, and the gig was really scheduled for the following night. No matter, as the incident eventually led to one of Steve’s best unrecorded songs, the witty ditty “There’s No Business Like Show Business When There’s No Business.”

The 90-minute show on the enclosed two CDRs is from the following night, Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1977, and it demonstrates the opposite end of the problems that a musician can face on the road. The show, taken from a WKLS-FM broadcast, is the second set of the evening, and after two songs, Steve admits to the smaller audience that he’s in a different kind of bind:

“Folks, here comes the truth: I thought the last set was the one that was gonna be simulcast, so I did all this stuff from the new album. And sure enough, it’s this set. To me, this comes under the category, ‘It figures.’ So with your indulgence, I’ll do a couple of those songs again because some people have gone to great lengths to see that I get to sing them on the radio.”

Besides the question of duplicating songs, Steve also is in lesser voice during this show, having exhausted much of his vocal sweetness while performing the set that he mistakenly thought was going out on the airwaves. Consequently, throughout the show he consumes cough drops in an attempt to soften the hoarseness that is evident in his performance of quieter material.

Obviously, the show must go on, however. The situation is ripe with intrigue, and Steve (accompanied by Jethro) makes the best of it, digging more deeply into his repertoire and responding more than he usually does to requests for older and more obscure songs that are shouted from the audience. The result is the ability to hear rare live versions of Donnie Fritts’ “Rainbow Road,” John Prine’s “Donald and Lydia,” Hank Williams’ “Mind Your Own Business” and even Steve’s own “Between the Lines.”

Steve also cobbles together engaging medleys (or, perhaps more accurately stated, songs strung together without breaks for applause), going from “You’re the Girl I Love” to “I’m Attracted to You” (which he slyly notes has a Barry White flavor) to “Video Tape” to Shel Silverstein’s “Three-Legged Man.” And, astoundingly, he straddles polar opposites, linking the whisper-quiet “My Old Man” with a raucous version of Leroy Van Dyke’s “The Auctioneer.”

Goodman fans who are attentive to detail will recognize two cuts, “I’ll Fly Away/Bandstand” and “Turnpike Tom,” which appear on the live disk of the officially released, two-CD package “No Big Surprise: The Steve Goodman Anthology.” It’s interesting to hear, in this show, their original context.

The final amazement of this show is not what’s here but what is absent: “City of New Orleans.” Scarce, indeed, are concerts in which Steve does not play it, and in this case, his showmanship almost makes a listener forget that it’s missing. But the audacity of leaving out his signature song is just one more awe-inspiring piece of evidence of this magician’s ability to wave away adversity with his wand and pull out of his top hat another stellar night.