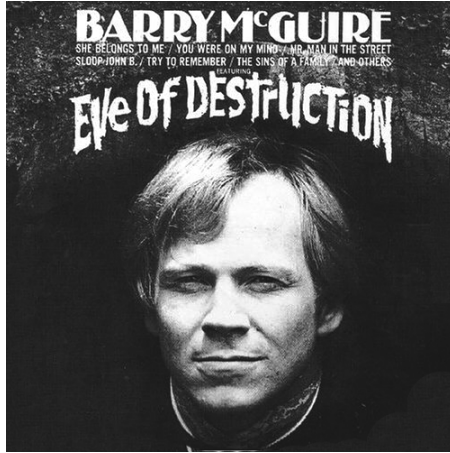




JUST FOR THE RECORD

by Dennis Barker



Barry McGuire: *Eve of Destruction*

*"McGuinn and McGuire just a-getting' higher in L.A.,
you know where that's at"*

John & Michelle Phillips

In Creeque Alley, an autobiographical narration which chronicles the formation of the Mama's and the Papa's, along with their friends from their early years in the music business, the Phillips', alternately describe (Roger) McGuinn and (Barry) McGuire, as "just a gettin', still a getting', and couldn't get no higher, eventually relenting with the line "just a catchin' fire". And, both would truly stoke the flames, McGuinn as front man for the iconoclastic folk rock band, the Byrds, and Barry McGuire, with the timeless, quintessential 1965's protest song "Eve of Destruction".

The eastern world, it is exploding, violence flarin', bullets loadin' As Paul Simon said, "after changes upon changes, we are more or less the same". And, more than 40 years later, his words still ring true. With America embroiled in 2 wars, and political struggles and violence breaking out across the middle east, *Eve of Destruction*, considered by many to be the epitome of war protest songs, rings unfortunately, as timely today as it was upon its 1965 release.

Although the Barry McGuire recording of "Eve of Destruction" is not the original interpretation of the song, a distinction which belongs to the Turtles, who picked up the P.F. Sloan penned tune for their "It Ain't Me Babe" album, the McGuire recording is universally considered to be "THE" version, reaching #1 on the Billboard charts. As do most artists, musician's also believe in "the happy accident", an idea that surely finds a home in McGuire's number one hit. "Eve of Destruction" was intended to be the "b" side of the McGuire composition, "What's Exactly The Matter With Me". Surrounded by a group of first rate studio musician's, including the songs author, P.F. Sloan, a first take, with a very edgy, rough McGuire vocal track was laid down, with intentions of later polishing the performance. Providentially, a copy of the raw recording was leaked to a radio station, and was getting air play by the next morning. Wanting to strike while it was hot, the records producer decided to put the record into immediate production. McGuire never finished his work on the vocals, and the record was released as it was. The events proved providential, as the tone was perfect for this apocalyptic commentary on war and civil rights.

Eve of Destruction would be Barry's last record to break the top 40. He would however, write several hits for other bands, including the Turtles & Herman's Hermits, appear in a few movies, and even drop trou, in the Broadway production of *hair*.

Barry's friends, the Mama's and Papa's, who owed Barry a great deal for his help securing a contract with Dunhill Records, would repay him by singing the backing vocals his 1965 album, "This Precious Time". The album includes Barry's lead vocals to their own composition, "California Dreamin'". They would later release their own version, using the same music tracts, replacing McGuire with their own vocals. The rest as they say.....

Barry McGuire, Eve Of Destruction

Dunhill #4009 (RELEASED July 1965)

Goldmine record album price guide values original copies of *Eve of Destruction*, with original cover & sleeve, in near mint condition, at \$12.00

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