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Con Hunley's Earliest Recordings Re-released On IMMI Records' The First Time From Studio B

Album Will Be In Stores Sept. 27

IMMI Records is headed your way with a treasure chest full of golden oldies from one of the music industry's most unique vocal stylists. It's Con Hunley's The First Time From Studio B, a collection of the great country soul singer's earliest recordings. The album will be available in Wal-Marts, K-marts and at conhunley.com on Sept. 27.

Originally released in the late 1970s as a series of vinyl singles, this 11-song treasury showcases all the raw emotional power of the man who would soon light up the charts with such incandescent hits as "Weekend Friend," "You've Still Got A Place In My Heart," "What's New With You" and "Oh Girl."

Hunley was singing and playing piano at the Corner Lounge in Knoxville, Tennessee, when he met a stockbroker by the name of Sam Kirkpatrick, who frequently came to hear him sing. In turn, it was Kirkpatrick who introduced Hunley to Larry Morton, lead guitarist for Danny Davis & The Nashville Brass and his singer-songwriter wife Ann Morton. They were so bowled over by Hunley's husky, intimate singing style that they organized Prairie Dust Records to bring his music to a national audience.

Larry Morton elected to produce Hunley's records at RCA Records' historic Studio B in Nashville, the incubator of hits for Eddy Arnold, Dolly Parton, Charley Pride and dozens of other superstars. "Just before the red recording light came on," Hunley recalls, "they told me I was standing right where Elvis stood when he recorded. Talk about 'all shook up!"

Not all the stardust in the famous studio, however, was from the past. Among the A-team players backing Hunley on the sessions were legendary guitarists Harold Bradley and Grady Martin and a particularly gifted fellow vocalist destined to carve out her own award-winning niche in country music, Janie Fricke.

"The first single on Prairie Dust Records," Hunley continues, "was 'Misery Loves Company.' As soon as it was mastered and pressed, I brought a box of singles home to Knoxville and drove straight to Bobby Denton at WIVK Radio to see if he would play it. He took it right into the studio and put it on the air. I rushed outside to my car and turned the radio on, and there it was! I have never been the same since." Nor have his fans.

On the strength of those Prairie Dust singles, Warner Bros. Records soon came calling to sign Hunley, and suddenly this "local boy" was a national phenomenon.

Illustrated with never-before-released publicity photos for those original sessions, The First Time From Studio B features Hunley's first three chart singles—"Pick Up The Pieces," "I'll Always Remember That Song" and "Breaking Up Is Hard ToDo" — plus "Misery Loves Company," "Loving You Is A Habit I Can't Break," "Columbus Stockade Blues," "It Looks Like A Good Night For Drinking," "Deep In The Arms Of Texas," "Never Felt More Like I'm Dying," "Look At Me, Loving You Again" and "Woman To Man, Man To Woman." Producer Morton remixed all the recordings for this special package.

Next up from IMMI Records are five albums of re-releases from Hunley's Warner Bros. period and another album of his brand new material. Sweet Memories, Hunley's current CD, demonstrated soundly that he remains one of the most dynamic vocalists in country music. As Music Row magazine summarized it, "Man, this guy can wail!"

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A press page with downloadable photos and audio clips is available at conhunley.com/press.htm.