

DAVID Sings for YOU!

THE WHOLE TRUE STORY!

PART 2

WHEN DAVID CASSIDY was signed to play the role of "Keith Partridge" on ABC-TV's *The Partridge Family* series, neither the people at Screen Gems (who are in charge of producing the show) nor the people at Bell Records (who are in charge of producing the soundtrack LP based on *The Partridge Family* series) knew that David could sing! In fact, if it hadn't been for David's mom—actress-singer Evelyn Ward—it is highly unlikely that David Cassidy would be making *Partridge Family* records today!! Evelyn knew that, aside from always wanting to be an actor, one of her son's most cherished desires was to make records.

"David, you've simply got to tell someone at Screen Gems that you can sing," she pressured him—and pressured him and pressured him! And finally David got up his nerve and approached those elusive "powers that be" (roughly translated, that means ". . . the people who really run things") and, ultimately, independent record producer Wes Farrell heard David sing, flipped for his voice and took him into the studio to cut what turned out to be one smash-hit record after another!

WATCHING DAVID GROW

It's common practice for studio musicians and singers to be used to make the soundtrack music you hear on many TV shows and (if a TV show releases a long-playing record album) that you later hear on the show's LP. When Wes Farrell agreed to do *The Partridge Family* albums for Bell Records, he believed that—to the best of his knowledge—Shirley Jones was the only member of the *Partridge Family* cast who could sing.

"Wow—was I ever surprised when I heard David sing!" Wes recalls. "Actually, he played acoustic guitar—just a few chords—and sang in Paul Witt's office, and I couldn't really tell whether he was good or bad—so I made him come over to Western Studios, where I cut all my west coast records. I put up a mike and set David out in the studio. I gave him a lead sheet and explained to him I'd be playing some back-up tracks and that he should just join the melody line and sing along. Well, man," Wes continues, "like they say—the rest is history! That kid ain't stopped singing yet!!"



Wes was overjoyed with David's singing for more than one reason. Having David to sing lead and Shirley to sing any necessary girl's parts plus background harmonies meant that—for the most part—Wes wouldn't have to go scouting around for a bunch of studio people and create a phony "*Partridge Family* sound".

Since Susan Dey, Danny Bonaduce, Suzanne Crough and Jeremy Gelbwaks are primarily in the acting side of show business, none are polished enough (yet) to join in on the *Partridge Family* LPs. Nonetheless, it is David, far and away, who makes *The Partridge Family* "sound" what it is—the biggest bonanza of the record business since the Monkees! And since David first started working on records last September, he has, in the words of Wes Farrell, "Come a long, long way."

"Meanwhile, I keep building more and more around David," Wes explains. "It's incredible to watch him grow. So many artists learn how to do something and learn how to do it well, and then they're hesitant to move on to the next phase. Not David! When it comes to music, he's just like me—what we've already cut is in the past. The only thing that matters is what the future holds!"

And David works harder on his music than anyone will ever know. Aside from making himself available every Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to way after 12 midnight when Wes (who is a New Yorker) is in Hollywood cutting records, David also meets with Wes every evening for an hour or two to discuss various songs that he (David) is working on.

DAVID THE COMPOSER

Yep—it won't be long before you'll be seeing the name *David Cassidy* on more and more of the composer credits you read on each of *The Partridge Family* recordings. For instance, on the latest PF LP *Up To Date*, band six of side one *Lay It On The Line* was written by David and Wes. David has written a lot of songs. In fact, he's been writing them since he was 16 years old, but he's never really completed one. And it was with Wes' help that he learned what songwriting is all about.

"We'd meet in my suite at the Beverly Hills Hotel every evening while we were cutting *Up To Date*," Wes recalls.