



THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 41

During that first season of *The Partridge Family*, David had more than enough things to worry about, without trying to sell his guitar playing as well!

For a start, he'd never cut a disc before.

He'd done plenty of singing, of course, but it had always been geared to 'live' performance on stage. So now he had a whole lot of new techniques to pick up. And he had to master them pretty fast.

You see, everything was on a very tight schedule. From the moment the pilot was accepted, it had to be action, action all the way. Because within three months the show would be on their air. And before they could even start filming, scripts had to be written, songs had to be composed, locations had to be arranged—not to mention a hundred and one little things that could tip the balance between success and failure.

And music was the first item on David's agenda. "I guess it might have helped some," he confessed, "if we'd have done a bit of filming first . . . That might've gotten me feeling relaxed. So it wouldn't have been quite so much a jump into the deep end!"

But he stressed that "Everyone was absolutely wonderful. They showed me round the studio and explained what everything was for. 'Cos they figured—and rightly too—that if I

knew the purpose of all these knobs, wires and booths, it might seem a bit more homey and I'd be able to relax some.

"Of course," he laughed, "most all of it went straight into one ear and out the other! Sure, I was fascinated by the whole set up. But it takes a while to really understand the mechanics of a recording studio. And besides, I was pretty nervous about what would happen when I finally got around to croaking into those mikes!"

But there was quite a lot to be done before David got round to laying vocal tracks. For one thing, only two or three possible numbers had been written for the show at this point. And Wes Farrell and the producers realised that it was vital to hit exactly the right style of music.

It couldn't be too heavy 'cos this was a family show, with a 'family' group making the music. But on the other hand, they didn't want it to be simply bubblegum 'froth' that wouldn't have any staying power.

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No, they were looking for something that would be fun to listen to and to dance to. But it also had to be the kind of music that folks would want to play over and over again.

Wes, Bob and Paul had quite a few meetings to discuss all this and to suss out one or two possibilities. And occasionally, David and Shirley were invited along so that they could give their opinions as singers.

Before too long, Wes had gotten together a series of songs that everyone reckoned to be pretty good—just right for this sort of show. There was one particularly bright, happy little number that everyone went away humming once they'd heard it a couple of times.

"I Think I Love You" was already on its way to becoming a smash hit . . .

This early pic of David was taken in the show's first season.