

# PRIVATE EYE'S BLUE RECORD



Featuring the recorded voices of  
Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, William Rushton,  
Barry Humphries, John Glashan,  
John Wells, Richard Ingrams



TRA 131

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## BARRIE MCKENZIE'S CHUNDER SONG (The old Pacific Sea)

THE EARLS COURT BLUES— inspired by the Nicholas Garland and Barry Humphries Comic Strip. Words and music by Barry Humphries. Arrangements and Guitar Accompaniment Billy Boyle. Other Guitar arrangements and accompaniment by Jeremy Taylor.

Author's note: The word 'chunder' dates from the days when Pommy miscreants were transported in frail wooden vessels to penal servitude in Australia. In the event of nausea on heavy seas, the afflicted person would shout 'Watch under' as an ominous courtesy to those on lower decks. The word has since been abbreviated to the simple and expressive . . . 'chunder'.

## THE LAZARUS GROSSBUM AEOLIAN ENSEMBLE

In the late autumn of 1873, Brahms went to stay with his aunt, the Countess Wilhelmina von Hölzing-Tödbad. It was here, under the yellowing elms in the Schlosspark that he was inspired to write the lovely and lyrical song-cycle "*Der Wagner is ein alter Puff.*" A fact which need not detain us here.

It was almost a hundred years later, in the spring of 1904, that Lazarus Grossbum, later Lord Courtenay-Whithering-Gramehartliheugh of Pume, who was staying in Baden-Baden, was to hear the strains of the Bavarian marching song "*I' voegli duorch die Wold*", played on that occasion by Schwülibert Geilhuber und seine Syphilisten:

*"Umpah umpah umpahpah  
Umpahpah Umpahpah  
Umpah umpah umpahpah  
Umpah umpah pah"*

Sensing at once the crescent seeds of National Socialism, Grossbum fled the country, curtailing his holiday by three days.

On his return to England he founded the Grossbum Satirical Quartet. This was intended, in his own words "to adumbrate the atmosphere of Cheltenham in the Forties". Variousy acclaimed by critics as "an innovation" and as "an elaborate tax dodge", the Quartet included Ludwig Grossbum (Violin), Ethel Grossbum (Flute), Archibald Grossbum (Washboard Continuo), Amanda Grossbum (Histrionic Effects) and Leonard Threbbis (Vibes). Frequently delighting private audiences with their spirited and virtuoso fingering as well as their unexpected introduction of impromptu movements, they were widely held responsible for the collapse of Sir Oswald Mosely's *Sans-Culottes* in 1949. It was in 1951 that they were joined by Monsieur Fantasque "Blancmange Roll" de Bourbon-Rossini (Maraccas) and assumed the title of the Lazarus Grossbum Aeolian Ensemble.

Their tragic death during a performance of the 1812 Overture came as a joy and a delight to music lovers the world over. Though they performed at thousands of concerts throughout Reigate, it is a tragedy that no recording of their work survives today.

E. V. Nødstrøm

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120-122 Marylebone Lane, London, W.1



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Side One

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Side Two

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