

"God Save Us"/"Do the Oz"

Bill Elliot Elastic Oz Band

First appearance in trade magazines: July 10, 1971

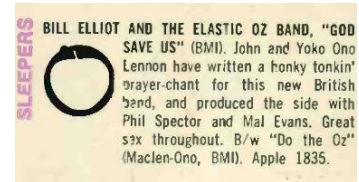
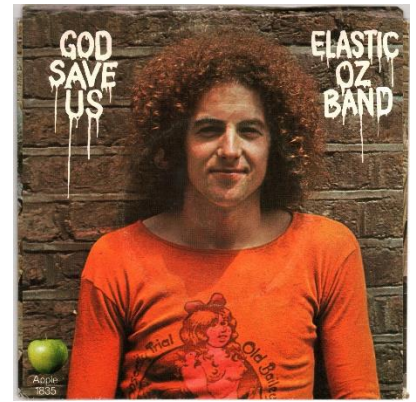
Label af1dj

Apple

P-1835

Apple label with "MFD. BY APPLE" on both sides.

Stereo promotional single with the same version of the A-side on both sides.



Factories: Los Angeles

The two labels are not *identical*, but they are nearly so.

BILL ELLIOT & ELASTIC OZ BAND (Apple 1835)

God Save Us (3:10) (Ono/Maclean, BMI—Lennon, Ono)

The fervor of an old rock outing polished through modern production charges this side with the vigor to make it a top forty blockbuster. Lennon lyric links some favorite things to fight for, and a heap of "God Save Us" fronds to make it a rallying song for progressives. Flip: "Do the Oz" (Same)

Label af1

Apple

1835

Apple label with "MFD. BY APPLE" on the full side.



Factories: Los Angeles

While copies from the other plants credit "APPLE" as one of the producers, the LA copies of the single replace "APPLE" with "John & Yoko & Phil Spector." The first copies (af1L) retained the "APPLE" credit on the A-side, while corrected copies (af2L) have the John, Yoko, Phil credit on both sides. All commercial copies from LA omit "Recorded in England" on the A-side label.



Factories: Jacksonville (with "Elastic Oz Band" twice)



Factories: Winchester

Picture Sleeve:

The front side of the sleeve depicts Bill Elliot, and the reverse side shows an image of the Elastic Oz band and one spectator. Apparently, these were: Louise Ferrier (Richard Neville's girlfriend, and Oz supporter since the first issue of the Australian Oz magazine in 1963; she appears on the covers of two issues – January and December 1968; she became a prominent curator in Australia) James Anderson (later wrote two novels and worked in photography) Pete Dodds (identity uncertain) (a member of Half Breed) Richard Neville (went on to write for the *Village Voice*, *New York*, and the *NY Times*) Charles Shaar Murray (guitar; went on to write for *New Musical Express* and many other publications) Felix Dennis (went on to found *Maxim* magazine, among other ventures) Diane (identity uncertain) (keyboards on the A-side) Bill Elliot (vocals; he became half of Splinter, who recorded for Dark Horse)

In the images, members of the band sport commemorative Oz T-shirts, some of which they had prepared for their appearance at their trial. What trial? Let's back up.



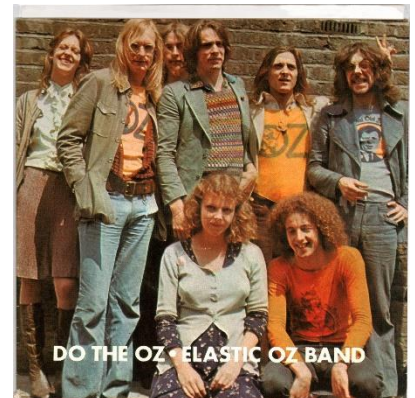
John & Yoko Aid 'Oz' Defense

NEW YORK—John and Yoko Lennon have joined the fight to save Oz, an underground British publication recently charged with violations of the Obscene Publications Act there. Rather than donate a sum of money to the legal fund to defend the publication, the Lennons wrote a song called "God Save Oz" which will be released here as "God Save Us." Bill Elliot is the feature vocalist on the recording, and he is accompanied by various members of the publication's staff collectively known as The Elastic Oz Band. All proceeds from the Apple release will be donated to the defense fund. John also contributed the studio time at Ascot where the tune was recorded, and has turned over for auction the piano on which he composed most of the music for the Beatles' "Sergeant Pepper" album. The British government has charged Oz with "conspiracy to corrupt and deprave the morals of the young" in a case stemming from the publication of two issues written by schoolchildren who had answered an

advertisement to contribute articles. Oz views itself as "the only magazine in the country to consistently and constructively analyze the tensions between the freak/drop-out community and the militant left, the only publication attempting to develop a theory from such antagonism" and thus the schoolchildren published were urged to submit items based on an idea of totally free expression. Written evidence submitted by the prosecution quoted from two headmasters of large London schools, disturbed by the free distribution of the issues to "young and immature adolescents." An expensive and prolonged series of hearings and trials is anticipated in the case and the Lennons' contributions are expected to aid in the cost to the publication to a large degree.

BILL ELLIOT AND THE ELASTIC OZ BAND— GOD SAVE US (3:10)

(Prod. John, Yoko, Mal Evans, Phil Spector) (Writers: Lennon-Ono) (Ono/Maclean, BMI)—More of that positive thinking of faith and hope set to a driving rock beat and a potent vocal workout. Should put the John Lennon group way up the Hot 100. Flip: "The Oz" (3:09) (Ono/Maclean, BMI), Apple 1835



With “Oz” being a nickname for Australia, it makes sense that Neville and others started the magazine in Australia. Approximately two years after their second Australian obscenity trial, Neville and Ferrier moved to London, where they rebooted *Oz* as what became a countercultural magazine. Helping to sell the magazine was the hip artwork of Martin Sharp (who designed two album covers for Cream). By 1970, record companies (including Apple) were advertising in the magazine. Then an interesting idea arose to have secondary-school teenagers create the content for an issue. That issue, number 28 in the series, was picked up by Scotland Yard’s Obscene Publications Squad, and its three editors – Neville, Anderson, and Dennis – were arrested and sent to trial.



Famously, they misinterpreted the expression “school kids issue” to mean that the magazine was being targeted for and sold to children. John Lennon joined protests in their favor and decided to create a record that would serve as a fundraiser. John explained that by contract he could not make a record of that nature under his own name, so the musicians (including John and Yoko, Klaus Voormann, Jim Keltner, Bill Elliot and Pete Dodds of the band called Half Breed, Phil Kenzie [sax], Dave Coxhill [sax] and Geoff Driscoll [sax]) would have to call themselves something else. A parody of “Plastic Ono Band,” they were the “Elastic Oz Band.” John and Yoko sing on the B-side. Mal Evans completed work on the A-side, and Phil Spector provided the finishing touches.

Apple advertised the single in *Oz* magazine with a paste-up of the public outcry against the harsh sentences that the judge handed to Neville, Anderson, and Dennis. So, after a brief period of incarceration, the editors were set free, and their conviction was vacated.



GOD SAVE US ELASTIC OZ BAND

DO THE OZ ELASTIC OZ BAND

Every major country has a screw in it's side in England it's OZ. OZ is England's foremost underground newspaper. OZ is on trial for it's life. John & Yoko have written and helped produce this record the proceeds of which are going to OZ for legal fees. The entire British Underground is in trouble. It needs your help—please listen.

GOD SAVE OZ

Written by Lennon/Ono
Produced by John, Yoko, Mal Evans and Phil Spector
APPLE 135

GOD SAVE US ELASTIC OZ BAND

OUTCRY AS OZ EDITORS ARE JAILED
Labour MPs attack 'act of revenge'

FURY OVER OZ JAILINGS
Angry MPs join the wave of protest

OZ: OBSCENE! BUT WHY THE FEROCIOUS SENTENCES?

Oz sentences — Labour MPs sign protest

MPs condemn OZ goings as 'Establishment revenge'

Fury as three editors are jailed

STORM OVER OZ SENTENCES

Apple are donating royalties on this record to the Oz Obscenity Fund