

= Triangle ( The Beau Brummels album ) =

Triangle is the fourth studio album by American rock band The Beau Brummels . Produced by Lenny Waronker and released in July 1967 , it was the band 's first album to include songs that vocalist Sal Valentino and guitarist Ron Elliott composed together . The band incorporated fantasy elements and surreal characters into the album 's song titles and lyrics , and worked with a variety of session musicians to create Triangle 's psychedelic musical style . The Beau Brummels were reduced to a trio ? Valentino , Elliott , and Ron Meagher ? at the time Triangle was recorded , as former group members Don Irving ( guitars ) and John Petersen ( drums ) left the band following the release of the group 's previous album , Beau Brummels ' 66 .

Triangle reached number 197 on the Billboard 200 albums chart and received mostly positive reviews ; critics commended Elliott as a songwriter and compared Valentino 's vocals to those of Bob Dylan . The single " Magic Hollow " was ranked one of " The 100 Greatest Psychedelic Classics " in a 1997 issue of Mojo magazine . Warner Japan released this album as WPCP @-@ 5252 in 1993 . Collectors ' Choice Music reissued the album in 2002 .

= = Background = =

In July 1966 , the Beau Brummels released their third album , and first with Warner Bros. Records . Titled Beau Brummels ' 66 , the album was a collection of cover songs and was a commercial disappointment . Critics questioned Warner Brothers ' decision to not release the band 's original material , which had been recorded by the band in early 1966 as their previous label , Autumn Records , collapsed . These recordings eventually appeared on the 2005 compilation album San Fran Sessions . Following the release of Beau Brummels ' 66 , guitarist Don Irving left the group when he received an induction notice into the armed forces . Drummer John Petersen quit to join pop rock band Harpers Bizarre . By early 1967 , the three remaining members ? vocalist Sal Valentino , guitarist Ron Elliott , and bassist Ron Meagher ? quit touring to focus on studio work . For their next album , Triangle , the band met with Warner Bros. producer Lenny Waronker , who gave the band freedom to resume recording original material . According to Elliott , " Lenny Waronker wanted to do something creative , and I was up for that . " During the album 's recording sessions , Meagher left the group when he was called to active duty in the Army Reserves .

= = Composition = =

Valentino said Triangle was partially inspired by several day trips he took to the California Palace of the Legion of Honor , a fine art museum in San Francisco . He admired the collection of 17th century Flemish portraits and landscape paintings at the museum , from which dark yet incandescent hues emanated . Elliott described the album as a " mythological cartoon about love written from some weird spaces " , and explained it as " sort of a mood swing into the world that was around us at the time . It was sort of dissolving into this drug culture . So the music became very ethereal , mystic , and mysterious " . In contrast with the band 's generally straightforward recordings for the Autumn label , Triangle 's lyrics are more abstract , containing Tolkienesque fantasy elements and dream @-@ like characters , such as the gypsy in " Only Dreaming Now " , the " Painter of Women " , " The Keeper of Time " , and " The Wolf of Velvet Fortune " , as well as the destination of " Magic Hollow " .

Elliott , the band 's principal composer , sought to move away from the formulaic songs that Autumn Records wanted . Having regained artistic freedom in the studio , and with the band no longer touring , Elliott and Valentino focused on creating an album of songs which were written and recorded specifically for that purpose . The resulting sessions for Triangle saw Elliott and Valentino collaborate as songwriters for the first time . Four of the album 's tracks were written by Elliott with frequent collaborator Bob Durand . The album also contained the Randy Newman composition " Old Kentucky Home " and a cover version of Merle Travis 's " Nine Pound Hammer " , both of which hinted at the country rock direction explored more heavily by the band on their 1968 album , Bradley

's Barn . Session musicians included guitarist James Burton , drummer Jim Gordon , bassist Carol Kaye , and Van Dyke Parks , who played harpsichord on " Magic Hollow " , adding to the album 's psychedelic musical style . Elliott returned the favor , playing guitar on Parks ' 1968 debut album , Song Cycle . Triangle also features strings , brass , accordion , woodwinds , and numerous types of percussion .

= = Release and reception = =

Released in July 1967 , Triangle spent two weeks on the Billboard 200 albums chart , peaking at number 197 . Though not a commercial success , the album gained an underground following and received critical acclaim . Sal Valentino 's " expressive " vocals were compared to those of Bob Dylan by Crawdaddy ! ' s Paul Williams in 1968 and by Perfect Sound Forever 's Steve Cooper in 2004 . A 2007 review in Electric Roulette stated that Valentino 's voice resembles Gene Clark of The Byrds , " but superior in tone and emotion " . Williams , Cooper , and Allmusic 's Stansted Montfichet praised Ron Elliott as a songwriter , with Montfichet adding that Elliott 's " lyrical imagery ... is particularly striking " in the songs " Only Dreaming Now " , " Painter of Women " , and " The Wolf of Velvet Fortune " . Australian journalist and author Lillian Roxon wrote in her 1969 Rock Encyclopedia that Triangle " was the album that astonished everyone and blew a million minds " . Music journalist Jon Savage named the song " Magic Hollow " in his list of the " 100 Greatest Psychedelic Classics " in the June 1997 issue of Mojo magazine . In 2006 , Joel Selvin of the San Francisco Chronicle called the album a " cult classic " , while SF Weekly 's Justin F. Farrar remarked that it " has aged far more gracefully than that almighty concept record from ' 67 , Sgt. Pepper 's [ Lonely Hearts Club Band ] . " Brendan McGrath of The Rising Storm wrote in a 2007 review that " Triangle has everything : it 's a tightly produced country record that is rooted in rock ; it 's straight and folksy and underlined by psychedelic imagery " . Author Tom Moon selected the album for his 2008 book , 1 @, @ 000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die , in which he wrote that Triangle " captured the crisscrossing events of 1967 " and was " the rare bridge between the sunny straightforwardness of mid @-@ 60s pop and the fuzzy opaqueness of psychedelia " . During a 2005 broadcast of Fresh Air , National Public Radio 's Ken Tucker said that Triangle comes " perilously close to stuffy art rock . " The album was re @-@ released in 2002 by Collectors ' Choice Music . Kim Cooper of Scram magazine said the reissue was " long overdue " and noted that " the remaster really brings out the arrangements ' complexity " .

= = Chart performance = =

= = Track listing = =

= = = Side One = = =

= = = Side Two = = =

= = Personnel = =