

# I DRIVE

They came from Manchester in 1966 and were one of the last British bands to enter Germany on the Star Club trail. Fronted by singer Geoff Harrison of later "2066 & Then" and "Kin Ping Meh" fame, I DRIVE toured Germany up and down for four years. Playing the night clubs night by night from 8 pm to 3 am, they did the rock loud, fast, straight and - although having been in Germany for such a long time - very British.

In the late Sixties the German club scene died and so did live music, only a few chains associated venues survived; one of them in the deep South of Germany booked I Drive for a several-month-club-tour. They settled down and rented a small house in the country for loving and rehearsing, right in the middle of nowhere. From now on a strong following of fans even accompanied them on tours. A single was released in 1969 and sold at gigs: It showed that the former "beatgroup" had grown up the hard way to be a great heavy progressive outfit with the ability to make it on a bigger market. Geoff Harrison left in 1970 to start his own career. And the remaining quartet finally was discovered by a British manager, who had once worked for the Beatles. He installed the band in Munich, they earned their living as studio musicians and collected material for an album. I Drive was off the road from then on, only playing open air gigs from time to time. More than 30 tracks were recorded for the LP. One of those songs that didn't make it for release was an alternative version of "Before the devil", where the band played with the Munich Philharmonica Orchestra. When the masters were finally ready, the group did, what they weren't allowed to during the recording sessions: a live performance of the whole LP material in the studio. This live gig was recorded too and also vanished from the archives just as the non LP tracks. When the album was released in 1972 by a German major company I Drive had to realize that just a few copies had been pressed and distributed. There was no promotion at all from the company for reasons beyond the field of music and the control of the band.

Nevertheless the LP is a heavy and "speedy progressive" jewel with wonderful tunes that still shines on after twenty years and tells a lot about the group's live sound and power. I Drive couldn't stand the disappointment about the commercial failure of the LP and broke up shortly after the album release. There only was a small epilogue of the I Drive story: after a short-termed return of Geoff Harrison a three piece incarnation of I Drive toured Spain, releasing on single there before dying finally...

This set contains the I Drive LP (on CD1) as well as previously unreleased material (on CD2). Please handle carefully as the music cooks...