

Tribute to a Reggae Legend

(PUT 303 Liner Notes)

To many, Bob Marley is the most important and influential musician of the modern era. *Time* magazine chose his *Exodus* LP as the best album of the 20th century. Bob Marley's music has spread to every corner of the globe and become a magnet for sufferers and sophisticates who long for meaning, wisdom and a great groove.

Marley said he "started out wailing" long before moving to the tough streets of Kingston, Jamaica, where he joined forces with Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston, two of the original Wailers. In 1970, The Wailers and sound genius Lee "Scratch" Perry teamed up with Aston and Carlton Barrett on bass and drums to forge a thunderous rebel musical style. Bob's talent, drive and charisma soon led him to become the focal point of the group. Although Marley, Tosh and Livingston went their separate ways in 1974, Marley and the Barrett Brothers, with new backing by the powerful female vocals of The I-Three, kept the name Bob Marley and the Wailers. Together, they recorded seven studio LPs and logged impressive tours that exposed reggae worldwide.

Today, Bob Marley is universally beloved and his music and image can be found from teeming urban centers to remote indigenous outposts. And, he has become an inspiration for musicians throughout the developing and developed world.



1. Three Plus Is This Love

Here's a classic serving of the "Jahwaiian" style, a musical amalgam of Hawaiian singing and instruments with reggae that has become a top-selling genre there. It's no surprise that indigenous musicians on tropical islands around the world have been inspired by Marley's lilting reggae rhythms and powerful songs.

The popular Hawaiian group Three Plus first took the island by storm in 1999 with the album *Honey Baby*. Ukulele and keyboard player Marcus Malepea provides a swinging musical base for lead singer Tanoa Kapana to wrap his soulful voice around on this frequently covered Marley song. This version originally appeared on their second CD, *Three Plus For You*. Three Plus has shared the stage with Jamaican stars Third World, Inner Circle, Maxi Priest and Morgan Heritage along the way. Marley's lyrics prove that he could craft masterful love songs.

2. Robi Kahakalau Do It Twice

Fluent in seven languages, Robi Kahakalau, a third-generation Hawaiian musician, was born and raised in Germany and moved to Hawaii in 1980. She was an Hawaiian language instructor at the University of Hawaii when she got her big break in the music business by becoming the lead female singer for the popular Hawaiian Style Band. Kahakalau's 1995 solo project, *Sistah Robi*, landed her atop the local charts, increasing her reputation as an outstanding vocalist. She has worked with many of the island's best singers and instrumentalists including the Makaha Sons, Cyril Pahinui and Hapa, and even played at Carnegie Hall.

This little-known song was written when Marley briefly returned to his birthplace at Nine Mile.

3. Rebelution Natural Mystic

Rebelution came together in the beachside town of Isla Vista, California in 2004. Tough, tight reggae sounds and non-stop live shows drove their growing popularity, culminating in their successful first CD, *Courage to Grow*, in 2007. The band returned in 2009 with the follow-up *Bright Side of Life*.

Rebelution is fronted by Eric Rachmany, whose sparkling guitar lines are reminiscent of Carlos Santana. Marley Williams' boss bass, the flowing keyboard of Rory Carey and Wesley Finley's jazzy percussion round out this innovative young band.

Rebelution recorded this fresh version of one of Bob's most popular songs exclusively for this project.

4. Caracol Could You Be Loved

Caracol emerged onto the Quebec music scene in 2001 as half of the duo DobaCaracol. With their seductive blend of African rhythms, reggae grooves and Francophone pop, Doba- Caracol released a number of hit songs. In 2008, the Montreal-based singer-songwriter released her first solo album *L'Arbre aux parfums*, which featured ample influences from Jamaican rocksteady and reggae combined with catchy, folkly pop sung mostly in French.

"Could You Be Loved" first appeared on the 1980 album *Uprising*, the last of Marley's releases before his death. Caracol's version was recorded for this collection. Its lyrics reflect Marley's understanding of the challenges of life and love.

5. Céu

Concrete Jungle

Brazilian artist Céu has exploded internationally since releasing her 2005 self-titled CD, which earned her a Latin Grammy nomination for Best New Artist in 2006. Céu's father, a respected composer, arranger and musicologist in São Paulo, schooled his daughter in the theories of their country's classic composers. Trained on the acoustic guitar, Céu was soon playing with many of Brazil's top musicians. She briefly lived in New York City where she met and recorded with top Brazilian musician and sound sculptor Antonio Pinto.

Bob Marley has had an enormous impact on Brazilian music. Céu's soft, leisurely style captivates on this song about the search for love amidst the challenges of living in the modern world.

6. Rocky Dawuni

Sun Is Shining

Rocky Dawuni has been called "Ghana's Bob Marley" and he's been an African musical force since his 1996 debut album *The Movement*. In 1999, he embarked on his first U.S. tour and settled in Los Angeles. His annual independence concert, Splash, established in honor of Ghana's Independence Day, is held in LA every March 6th.

Dawuni founded Africa Live, a non-profit created to preserve, restore and reinvigorate the Ghanaian music scene while promoting music education and appreciation in schools. It also provides artists with access to instruments, venues and professional production assistance, furthering appreciation for traditional West African music throughout the world.

Dawuni's version of the Marley classic "Sun Is Shining" was recorded for this collection.

7. Freshlyground

Africa Unite

"Africa Unite" is one of the most impactful songs from the 1979 album *Survival*. It also featured "Zimbabwe" and these two anthems helped invigorate Africa's efforts toward collective action. Marley's performances in Africa and his themes of self-determination helped inspire Africans in their struggles for independence and against apartheid.

Fronted by singer Zolani Mahola, Freshlyground consists of seven multi-talented musicians from South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The success of their 2002 debut CD *Jika Jika* made them one of South Africa's most popular groups. Their 2005 hit song "Doo Be Doo" became the most played tune in the country and, in 2006, the group won the MTV Europe Award for Best African Act. The group's international impact has increased since they began touring in Europe and North America in recent years.

Recorded especially for this collection, Freshlyground's upbeat version marks a poignant musical homecoming for this classic call for African unity.

8. Northern Lights feat. Jonathan Edwards

Waiting In Vain

A highly accomplished veteran string band that purposefully plays outside the box, Northern Lights boasts strong American musical roots. They have released 11 discs, from *Take You to the Sky* in 1990 to 2008's *One Day*, with one reviewer gushing that their music is "hot enough to peel the paint off your walls." Their accessible blend of bluegrass instrumentation with swing, gospel, soul, rock, country and other traditional American styles has helped them develop a solid fan base. Add reggae and their usual high lonesome sound gets a special lift and lilt.

Throughout their illustrious career, Northern Lights has taken its music to concert halls and festivals near and far, from the Newport Folk Festival to the Kennedy Center. Here they tackle Marley's ode to unrequited love, which originally appeared on the 1977 classic *Exodus*.

9. Julie Crochetière

Mellow Mood

The catchy, easy skanker "Mellow Mood" was first recorded by Bob Marley and the Wailers in 1973. It was the title track of I-Three singer Judy Mowatt's 1975 debut album and it became her biggest solo hit. For Montreal's Julie Crochetière, covering "Mellow Mood" was a chance to indulge her fascination with the 70s: "It's an era that truly inspires me in terms of musicality and vibe in the records that came out of it."

Crochetière got her start with pop group Sugar Jones before co-producing and independently releasing her first EP, *Café*. This selection appeared on her first album, *A Better Place*, which also spawned the hit video "Precious Love." She is also helping spearhead *Play It Forward*, a series of concerts intended to raise funds to encourage children across Canada to study music.

10. Funkadesi

Real Situation

Fellow longtime Chicagoan Barack Obama once observed "Funkadesi really knows how to get fired up... There's a lot of funk in that desi!" They mix Indian *bhangra* with Latin and Caribbean rhythms, which isn't unusual given that the band members' diverse backgrounds include Indian, Jamaican, Latin, Euro-pean and African heritage.

This cut, originally on Marley's album *Uprising*, is from Funkadesi's 2003 CD *It's About Time*. Marley emphasizes his concern with the fatalism imposed by war and politics.

11. Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars No Woman No Cry

This intensely personal version was recorded for this collection by true sufferers who experienced a real life exodus as they fled war in their homeland. Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars was formed by musicians who had been exiled to various refugee camps during the fierce civil war that laid waste to the country from 1991 to 2002. Their efforts to use music as a relief from a life of struggle was the subject of a fascinating documentary and they have gained international renown for their spirited fusion of traditional West African music, roots reggae and rhythmic traditional folk music.

This recording is a tribute to the deeply philosophical Marley, who seemed to understand trials and tribulations as few other musicians do. Their unflinching spirit and joyful sound celebrates the optimism in all of us and they sing from the hard-won space of the old Jamaican proverb "who feels it and knows it."

12. Playing for Change One Love

We complete our journey with "One Love," one of Marley's best loved songs. Its optimistic chorus "let's get together and feel all right" points to his search for ways of unifying people in a world filled with conflict.

Playing for Change is a unique project created by producer Mark Johnson to unite the world by mixing the field recordings of street musicians and popular stars into giant global jams. This stunning cover highlights the universal power of music to dissolve differences.

To give a sense of the global scope of this recording, featured artists include: Keb' Mo'-vocals (USA), Mermans Kenkosenki-vocals (The Congo), Tal Ben Ari "Tula"-vocals (Israel), Vusi Mahlasela-vocals (South Africa), Sinamuva-choir vocals (South Africa), Bhekani Memela-choir arrangement (South Africa), Martin Machapa-vocals, choir arrangements (South Africa), The Exile Brothers-vocals (India), Vinaya, Saindhavi and Krithikaa Shurajit-vocals (India), Roberto Luti-national guitar (Italy), Menyatso Nathole-electric guitar (South Africa), Gabriel Thobeiane-congas (South Africa), Clayton Gibb-banjo (USA), Surrendra Shrestha-tablas (Nepal), Junior Kissangwa Mbouta-drums (The Congo), William Aura-bass guitar (Nepal), Louis Mhlanga-guitar (Zimbabwe), Tara Bir Tuladhar-sitar (Nepal), Venkat-shaker (India), Rajhesh Vaidhya-veena (India).

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