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## BOBBY HEBB – THAT`S ALL I WANNA KNOW

TIN 00302

UPC: 750447004026

RELEASE: 24.10.2005

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Around the year 1962 Bobby Hebb recorded a single with Sylvia Robinson entitled "I Wanna Know", pressed under the duo moniker of "Bobby & Sylvia". Though there are literally over one hundred songs with that name, this one, was quite special, with the name, if not the sentiment, tucked inside the title of Bobby Hebb's third commercially released album, and pressed four decades after that 45 RPM.

**"That's All I Wanna Know" is the title of this long-awaited new album, and all you NEED to know comes from the man himself:**

*"There's a big difference between want and need; (there are) quite a few things we need that we aren't aware of, disguised as things that we want. Things we need we are usually able to receive, but we don't always get everything we want." Bobby Hebb*

This album's title is a variation of the James Carr / Roosevelt Jamison track, "That's What I Want To Know", and it is amazing and must be repeated that this is only the third album released (so far) by the "song a day man", a man who has written scores of tunes, Bobby Hebb.

It's not that Bobby doesn't have lots of albums in the vaults - he taped a full project in 2002 with his friend Bernard "Pretty" Purdie, tracked an orchestrated collection of tunes in the early 1980s, put together another album in the late 1970s at Fleetwood Recording in Revere, Massachusetts, and has publishing demos galore as well as enough very strong material in the Philips vaults to release the legitimate follow-up to the "Sunny" album.

**But tuition's release of "That's All I Wanna Know" in late 2005 is the first commercial release by Bobby Hebb since James Flemming Rasmussen produced "Love Games" for Epic Records in 1970, 35 years before the consumer could purchase a new collection of material by the man who wrote and sang "Sunny".**

Rüdiger Ladwig, who had released two volumes of "Sunny" cover versions on the Trocadero label, conceived this 13 song disc after he first met the artist during Bobby Hebb's June 2002 tour of Germany. "I had the idea doing an album when Bobby played "Cold Cold Night" live at Radio 1 in Berlin while promoting "A Collection of Various Interpretations Of Sunny, Part 2", Rüdiger noted.

Ladwig's general idea for this music, recorded in March of 2003 just as the Iraq war began, was to re-record earlier Bobby Hebb material, track the first ever "duet" of "Sunny" by the original artist, and follow Bobby's musical paths. From "Proud Woman", the Fred Burch/Skip Gibbs tune that Johnny Adams put on disc, to Hank Williams "Cold Cold Heart", which was in the repertoire of Roy Acuff, the man a thirteen year old Bobby Hebb toured with in the early 1950s, "That's All I Wanna Know", is an audio journey touching various aspects of this legendary performer's career.

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"Cold Cold Night" was written by Bobby and Phil Medley. Phil is most famous for "A Million To One", the hit for Jimmy Charles and Donny Osmond, as well as "Twist & Shout" (Shaking Up Baby...), which charted by The Isley Brothers in 1962 and The Beatles in 1964. This is the first time the Phil Medley/Bobby Hebb collaboration has ever been put on an album!

Since Lou Rawls won a Grammy with Bobby Hebb and Sandy Baron's classic, "A Natural Man", Hebb wanted to return the favour - so Bobby performs a Lou Rawls staple, "When Love Goes Wrong", in this collection. Song selection runs the gamut - contemporary music like "Willow Tree" (from the catalogue of Philadelphia's G. Love & Special Sauce) to the tried and true - a cover of Richard Shann's "Don't Tear Me Down", made famous by Charlie Rich.

"That's All I Wanna Know" also gives the world updates on Hebb's other chart recordings starting with a very funky reworking of "A Satisfied Mind", the song Roy Acuff loved to play. Joe "Red" Hayes/Jack Rhodes composed this popular title which hit for Porter Wagoner in 1955 and broke the Top 40 in America for Bobby in November of 1966. Also re-cut for this disc is the 1972 sleeper hit in the U.K., the fantastic "Love, Love, Love", composed by "Sunny" arranger Joe Renzetti and producer Jerry Ross. The Northern Soul classic charted in the U.K. six years after it was initially released. A surprise bonus is a re-make of Darryl Carter's "Bound By Love", a Philips 45 that came after "Sunny", but has yet to be on any album.

**This third full-length commercial release from Bobby Hebb also has the songwriter/interpreter playing with a new set of musicians, their names available in the credits, which gives the album a uniqueness and special vitality.**

Bobby discussed these new recordings on August 1, 2005, stating: *"My studies of life are basically represented here through different episodes – there are songs like these songs that help us to understand each other."*

#### A LITTLE BIT ABOUT BOBBY HEBB:

"Love Games" producer James Flemming Rasmussen says that when he thinks about Bobby Hebb *"I think of a wonderful human being, a warm and kind person with amazing talent. All that Bobby is - is so special"* - and that is so accurate. Walking through the lovely town of Rockport, Massachusetts on Cape Ann on a summer day with Mr. Hebb, it was amazing to see the amount of people who would wave to him and stop him in the street to chat. He could run for Mayor - if towns in Massachusetts had mayors! And that's a big part of why these recordings are so very special - because they have that up-tempo optimism which makes you feel happy when you hear the re-make of "Love Love Love" or what this writer feels is the next Northern Soul classic, the moving and very danceable "Don't Tear Me Down".



A niche musical movement like Northern Soul has lasted for decades, but the original "Love Love Love" launched from the early days of that scene in 1971 six years after the "Sunny" album was released. In search of more Hebb music the rabid Northern Soul fans discovered the Gamble & Huff gem, "You Want To Change Me". This new album should satisfy those on the dance floor who want to move and groove - and the two new versions of "Sunny", a duet in English and a duet in French (only available on the soon to be released CD-Single), are the first instances where the original songwriter/singer of the classic is singing with someone else. The French version features **Pat Appelton** of **De-Phazz** while the English is a duet with **Astrid North of Cultured Pearls**.

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Bobby had a dream 25-30 years ago, and in the dream Sylvia Robinson said: *"This is a hit for you, Mojo"* Sylvia telling Bobby (in his dream) how she wanted him to record the music, *"so that's how I did it."*

Bobby paused, and then added: *"In the Congo you would hear drums; this was done with a rhythmic expression, (But) that's still music. This is a form of communication -in my case I'm saying "relax".*

You can now relax to the long awaited third album from Bobby Hebb. It fits into all sorts of genres - the cool vibe of the Lounge set with their hip "Bachelor Pad" music; the pop fans who have waited 35 years for more tunes and emotions from Bobby Hebb, and those wonderful people who dance to Northern Soul - it is all here for all of them and more, and it's in glorious stereo.

Joe Viglione  
(Rock Journalist)