

**NEW COMPILATION THE BEST OF THE NEVILLE BROTHERS PRESENTS THE
FAVORITE TRACKS OF NEW ORLEANS' FIRST FAMILY OF FUNK**

The Neville Brothers are one of America's most treasured musical institutions--New Orleans' First Family of Funk. Aaron, Arthur, Charles and Cyril meld R&B, soul, rock, doo wop, traditional folk, Native American music, and bayou blues into their own unmistakable gumbo. The Best Of The Neville Brothers edition of 20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection (A&M/UM^e), released June 8, 2004, features a dozen of their most popular recordings, each digitally remastered, spanning the group's six A&M albums (one in 1981, the others from 1989-96).

The brothers had enjoyed success individually and in other groups before coming together in 1977. After an album on another label, the quartet signed with A&M on the enthusiastic recommendation of Bette Midler, who had caught them grooving hard at their Tipitina's home base.

With veteran jazz producer Joel Dorn at the helm, the Nevilles' first A&M album, 1981's Fiyo On The Bayou, augmented the brothers with the likes of Whitney and Cissy Houston as background vocalists and saxophonist David "Fathead" Newman. "Fire On The Bayou," the Cajun Mardi Gras of "Hey Pocky Way" and the traditional New Orleans R&B of the medley "Brother John/Iko Iko" captured the vibe of the Big Easy.

After a few years away from the label, the Nevilles returned to cut the brilliant 1989 album Yellow Moon with producer Daniel Lanois. The set boasted a tremendously atmospheric title track as well as a spine-chilling reprise of Sam Cooke's immortal "A Change Is Gonna Come," and "Sister Rosa," their heartfelt tribute to civil rights pioneer Rosa

Parks. The next year brought Brother's Keeper, with the mysterious "Brother Blood" and a Neville-ized treatment of Leonard Cohen's "Bird On A Wire." Steve Miller's "Fly Like An Eagle" was similarly revitalized on 1992's Family Groove.

"Voodoo" and the reggae-infused "Let My People Go/Get Up Stand Up" hail from the Nevilles' incendiary 1994 concert disc Live From Planet Earth. Bill Withers' bluesy "Ain't No Sunshine" was revived for their 1996 set Mitakuye Oyasin Oyasin/All My Relations. Then, once again, the siblings moved on to another label.

Most recently, The Neville Brothers have been working in their new New Orleans studio, aptly named Neville Neville Land, on the first new material they have cut together since 1998. A new album is expected in 2004.

The series **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection**, featuring new "best of" albums from the most significant music artists of the past century, is the most successful single artist series in music history.

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