

**BACHARACH PERFORMS BACHARACH ON WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW:  
BURT BACHARACH CLASSICS**

"The Look Of Love: The Songs Of Burt Bacharach And Hal David" opened on Broadway in May. Within the last few years he has teamed with Elvis Costello and performed in an Austin Powers flick, and the 75-year-old is currently collaborating with Dr. Dre. Having penned dozens of immortal hits for every imaginable kind of artist, Bacharach may be the most covered contemporary songwriter. But the icon has also recorded his own songs--and the best of those gems are heard on **What The World Needs Now: Burt Bacharach Classics** (A&M/UME), released August 5, 2003.

The 23 selections, each digitally remastered from the original master tapes, are culled mostly from his solo albums for A&M. From his 1965 debut, Hitmaker!, to his last studio album of the period, 1979's Woman, his catalog represents arguably the best instrumental pop of the '60s and '70s. His recordings gave him an opportunity to stretch the boundaries of the original arrangements and find his own musical voice, one different from the hit versions of his songs.

The hits he and lyricist David wrote for Dionne Warwick, performed by Bacharach on **What The World Needs Now**, are "Do You Know The Way To San Jose?," "Walk On By," "I Say A Little Prayer," "Message To Michael," "I'll Never Fall In Love Again" and "Promises, Promises" (from the Tony- and Grammy-winning musical). "What The World Needs Now Is Love" hit for Jackie DeShannon. "This Guy's In Love With You" introduced trumpeter Herb Alpert as a vocalist. The album also includes "(There's) Always Something There To Remind Me," "A House Is Not A Home," "Reach Out For Me" and "Any Day Now."

Bacharach took home an Oscar for the B.J. Thomas hit "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head" from Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid and a Grammy for the title track to Alfie. Another movie hit, from Casino Royale, was Dusty Springfield's version of "The Look Of Love" (recently reprised in the Tom Hanks/Leonardo DiCaprio film Catch Me If You Can). "Nikki" has a TV connection as the '70s theme for ABC's Movie Of The Week.

There has always been a gentle brokenhearted charm in the few vocals he's recorded. "Make It Easy On Yourself," "Something Big" and the Carpenters' hit "(They Long To Be) Close To You" are among his best. Though for "One Less Bell To Answer" he called on Cissy Houston, Whitney's mother.

The late '70s found him exploring a more jazzy direction, exemplified by "Futures" and "New York Lady." But **What The World Needs Now** returns to pop to close with a live medley of "Don't Make Me Over," "Anyone Who Had A Heart," "Wives And Lovers," "24 Hours From Tulsa" and "What's New Pussycat?"

In the Great American Songbook, Burt Bacharach's name is writ large.

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