

STRAWBERRY LETTER 23/THE VERY BEST OF THE BROTHERS JOHNSON
INCLUDES FUNK CLASSICS "I'LL BE GOOD TO YOU," "STOMP!,"
"STRAWBERRY LETTER 23" AND "GET THE FUNK OUT MA FACE"

The Brothers Johnson, funk superstars of the '70s and '80s, whose first four albums were certified platinum, are back together again. After more than a decade during which they neither recorded or toured together, singer-guitarist George (a.k.a. Lightnin' Licks) and singer-bassist Louis (a.k.a. Thunder Thumbs) staged a reunion concert in 2002 at Hollywood's House of Blues. Now, as the duo prepares to unleash unreleased vintage tracks plus new songs, **Strawberry Letter 23/The Very Best Of The Brothers Johnson** (A&M/UME), released June 3, 2003, offers their largest and most comprehensive retrospective.

Among the album's 21 selections, each digitally mastered from the original tapes, are all 11 of their R&B Top 40 hits--three of them #1 R&B/Top 10 pop--including the gold "I'll Be Good To You" and "Strawberry Letter 23." Spanning 1975 to 1984, **Strawberry Letter 23/The Very Best Of The Brothers Johnson** brings together cuts from the first seven of their eight albums.

George and young bro' Louis first gained notice in Billy Preston's band before Quincy Jones recruited them. A song they wrote and performed for his 1975 Mellow Madness album, "Is It Love That We're Missin'," went R&B Top 20 and led to their debut album the next year. Look Out For #1 included "I'll Be Good To You" (#1 R&B/#3 pop), "Get The Funk Out Ma Face" (#4 R&B/Top 30 pop), "Free And Single" (Top 30 R&B) and instrumentals "Tomorrow" and "Thunder Thumbs And Lightnin' Licks." "Tomorrow" (with lyrics) and "I'll Be Good For You" would reappear as R&B #1s from Q's 1989 Grammy Album of the Year Back On The Block (with Tevin Campbell and Ray Charles/Chaka Khan, respectively).

Right On Time (1977) boasted "Strawberry Letter 23" (#1 R&B/#5 pop), "Runnin' For Your Lovin'" and Grammy-winning tribute "'Q'." 1978's Blam!! launched "Ain't We Funkin' Now," "Mista' Cool" and the Ashford & Simpson-penned "Ride-O-Rocket." 1980's Light Up The Night hit with the Top 20 R&B title track, Top 40 R&B "Treasure" and "Stomp!" (#1 R&B/#7 pop/#1 disco).

After four platinum albums with Q, George and Louis largely produced Winners (1981) themselves. It yielded the Top 20 R&B "The Real Thing" and Q-helmed "In The Way," written by members of Toto. The new songs on Blast! The Latest And The Greatest (1982) included Top 20 R&B dance favorite "Welcome To The Club," "Funk It (Funkadelala)" and "The Great Awakening." Turning to producer Leon Sylvers III for Out Of Control (1984) resulted in "You Keep Me Coming Back," whose 12" version (with "booty call" intro with Irene Cara), went Top 20 R&B.

They split up following Kickin' (1988) but have since been heard in ads, movies, and now **Strawberry Letter 23/The Very Best Of The Brothers Johnson**--with, hopefully, more funk to come.

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