

**REGGAE GREAT DENNIS BROWN'S THREE MOST INTERNATIONAL ALBUMS
ISSUED ON CD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE U.S. ON SPECIAL TWO-CD
SET THE COMPLETE A&M YEARS**

The three biggest international albums of Dennis Brown, the Crown Prince of Reggae who was once more popular than even Bob Marley in their Jamaica homeland, will finally make their U.S. CD debuts 20 years and more after being originally issued.

Dennis Brown: The Complete A&M Years (A&M/UME), released June 24, 2003, brings together his A&M albums in one two-CD package.

All 30 tracks, each digitally remastered, are heard once again from his early '80s albums Foul Play, Love Has Found Its Way and The Prophet Rides Again. **The Complete A&M Years** also features liner notes by reggae historian and author David Katz.

Brown scored numerous hits through the '70s, gaining fame not only in Jamaica but England. His move to A&M was a major step seeking more widespread success and his albums there reflect a more commercial approach. 1981's Foul Play includes such classics as "The Existence Of Jah," "I Need Your Love (Rasta Children)" and "The World Is Troubled." "Your Man" is one of many songs that still fill a dance floor. Re-cuts of "If I Follow My Heart" and "The Cheater" hold the conviction of their originals and "If I Had The World" is a love song in keeping with his standards. The title track is Brown at his funkier. "On The Rocks" and "Come On Baby" reach towards other shores, though both retain a Jamaican lyrical sensibility.

Love Has Found Its Way, the 1982 follow-up, reached out even further with a slicker vibe. Still, "Handwriting On The Wall," "Weep & Moan," "Blood, Sweat And Tears," "Halfway Up, Halfway Down" and "Get Up" are political statements. More accessible are "I Couldn't Stand Losing You," a danceable remake

of Burt Bacharach's "Any Day Now" and the funky "Get High On Your Love" while the classic title track and "Why Baby Why" are among his best love songs.

Side one of 1983's vinyl The Prophet Rides Again is full-on hard funk and soft soul: "Out Of The Funk," "Jammin' My Way To Fame," "Save A Little Love For Me," "Wonders Of The World" and "Too Hot" are the most commercial tracks of his career. Side two returns to his roots with the title track, "Historical Places (Ethiopia)" and "Shashamane Living (Country Living)" centered on Brown's Rastafari faith plus "Storms Are Raging" and the meditation "This Love Of Mine."

Though he did not achieve the heights expected in the wake of Marley's passing in 1981, after Brown exited A&M he remained one of reggae's most popular artists. His career was cut short only by his passing in 1999 at age 42. The heartfelt esteem Brown is held in by Jamaicans can be judged by the high honor of being laid to rest in Kingston's National Heroes Park for his contributions to his country and to music.

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