

FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK - GREATEST HITS 2 TELLS THE STORY OF CAT STEVENS' SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH HIS SONGS, FROM "THE HURT" AND "THE WIND" TO "ON THE ROAD TO FIND OUT"

Rarely has a greatest hits collection better illustrated a theme as Cat Stevens' 1984 album Footsteps In The Dark - Greatest Hits 2. Examining his spiritual search through 14 of his classic songs, the album, with his own personal liner notes, helped explain why several years earlier he had embraced Islam and withdrawn from pop music. Today that journey by Stevens, now Yusuf Islam, has once again earned notice, and a reissued **Footsteps In The Dark - Greatest Hits 2** (A&M/UME), released June 24, 2003, digitally remastered from the original two-track masters, concludes a campaign which began in 2000 to reintroduce his music.

As a result of that effort, many of his albums have been newly recertified: His Greatest Hits is now quadruple platinum, Tea For The Tillerman and Teaser And The Firecat are each triple platinum, and Catch Bull At Four and Buddha And The Chocolate Box are each platinum. A new collection, 2000's The Very Best Of Cat Stevens, was certified gold, his first in 20-plus years.

When originally released, **Footsteps In The Dark - Greatest Hits 2** also achieved gold status. The songs are comprised of favorites not in the Greatest Hits collection, along with three recordings that had never before appeared on an album--"If You Want To Sing Out, Sing Out" and "Don't Be Shy" from the classic film Harold And Maude, and "I Want To Live In A Wigwam," the B-side to "Morning Has Broken." The reissue also features the album's original artwork.

One of the most popular singer-songwriters in history, Stevens debuted on A&M in America with 1970's Mona Bone Jakon, from which **Footsteps In The Dark** culled "Katmandu" and

"Trouble." That same year, Tea For The Tillerman included the collection's "Where Do The Children Play?," "On The Road To Find Out" and the poignant "Father And Son." From Teaser And The Firecat, released the following year, came "The Wind" and "How Can I Tell You." Catch Bull At Four in 1972 yielded "Silent Sunlight," 1973's Foreigner "The Hurt," 1977's Izitso the revealing "(I Never Wanted) To Be A Star" and, from his final pop album, 1978's Back To Earth, "Daytime."

In 1977 Stevens embraced Islam. Until **Footsteps In The Dark** six years later, very little had been heard from him. Today he is family man, working primarily for children's causes: active in establishing schools in the U.K. and providing much of his record royalties to helping orphans and needy students. He returned to the studio in 1995 to produce audio books for the world Muslim community on his own Mountain Of Light label. In 2003, he recorded some of his old songs for the first time in 25 years--a 2003 version of "Peace Train" and a reworking of "Lady D'Arbanville" as "Angel Of War"--to help promote peace and understanding, making them available on the Internet and contributing to the War Child album entitled 'Hope' along with Sir Paul McCartney, Davie Bowie, Travis and many others with the proceeds going to help the children of Iraq.

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