

# BOB MARLEY

## Sun Is Shining

1. Sun Is Shining 2. Lively Up Yourself 3. Soul Rebel 4. Put It On  
5. Duppy Conqueror 6. Don't Rock My Boat 7. Mr. Brown  
8. Corner Stone 9. Chances Are 10. Do It Twice

## Soul Shakedown Party

1. African Herbsman 2. Soul Shakedown Party 3. Natural Mystic  
4. Hammer 5. Fussing & Fighting 6. Keep On Moving 7. Riding High  
8. Try Me 9. Cheer Up 10. Back Out

## Small Axe

1. Trenchtown Rock 2. Small Axe 3. Rebel's Hop  
4. Mellow Mood 5. Kaya 6. Soul Almighty 7. Caution  
8. Touch Me 9. How Many Times 10. There She Goes



ITEM # SBOX 51472

# BOB MARLEY

## THE BEGINNING

Born on February 6th, 1945 in St. Anne's Parish, in the tiny village of Nine Mile, Jamaica, nothing about Bob Marley's humble beginnings could have foreshadowed his rise on the world music stage as the preeminent ambassador of Reggae music, and eventually a musical legend and icon.

When Marley was still young, his mother, Cedella, moved the family to the Jamaican capital, Kingston, where they settled in Trenchtown, a rough and tumble government subsidized housing community on the fringes of the capitol city.

This was a poverty-stricken district, plagued with rampant violence, and yet still considered a desirable place to live, perhaps a testament to the hard existence that many Jamaicans had to endure. But Kingston was engulfed with the alluring pulse of music, and a young Marley was engulfed in the sounds of Jazz and its offshoot, Bebop, and both styles would have a lasting impact on Marley's musical ambitions, especially through songwriter Joe Higgs.

## MUSICAL DIRECTION

Higgs was one of the most important figures in roots Reggae, and in addition to being a seasoned songwriter, Higgs was also a talented and passionate teacher. He was well versed in subjects like harmony techniques, breathing control, music theory, and, of course, songwriting, and he also mentored the young Marley at guitar. Eventually, he introduced Marley to Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston, and history began to write itself.

They joined together in a band first called The Teenagers, and subsequently took the name The Wailers – with a lineup consisting of Marley, Tosh, Livingston, Junior Braithwaite, Beverly Kelso and Cherry Smith.

Along the way, Higgs arranged for Marley and his band to perform for Clement "Coxsone" Dodd, owner of the famed recording studio, Studio One. Coxsone was impressed by what he heard and offered the band a contract. Within days, recording sessions were underway.

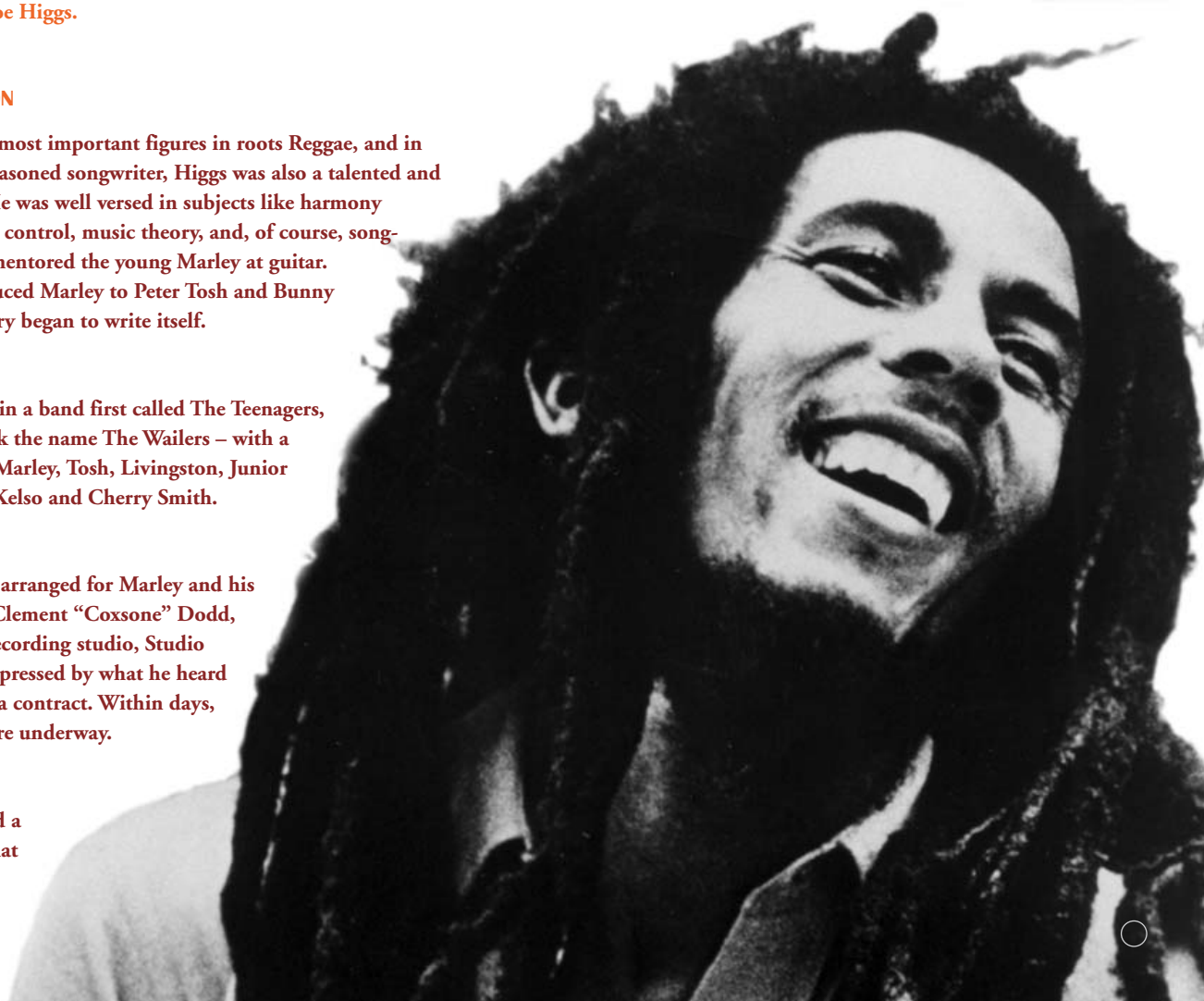
Coxsone implemented a change in the band that would prove to be fateful. He suggested

that one person handle most of the lead vocals – which led Bob Marley to center stage, and eventually to lead vocals on the band's first release, "Simmer Down," which was a hit in Jamaica in early 1964.

The band was making a strong impression on the Jamaican youth, and Bob Marley was maturing as both a performer and a man. Even though he was still only a teenager, Marley decided to move out of his mother's house, and out on his own, and eventually took up residence in the back room of Coxsone's Studio One – where he made good use of full time access to both the studio and producer. In addition to honing his own skills, Marley worked helping other acts that came to the studio, including a female trio named the Soulettes, which included a pretty young woman named Rita, and soon after Marley became infatuated with the young singer and they married. The creative juices were strongly flowing now, and it wasn't long after the new Wailers had recorded some 70 songs together that Bob Marley decided it was time to set out on his own.

## GOING SOLO

Now that he was a free agent, the first thing Marley set out to do was to establish his own record label, but it was a short-lived venture, which eventually led to the reformation of The Wailers. In 1968, Pop singer Johnny Nash heard The Wailers perform and was so impressed that he brought them to the attention of producer Danny Sims, who promptly signed them. The relationship yielded some 80 tracks, including the hit "Soul Rebel," before a difference of opinion ended the partnership.



More and more The Wailers were embracing the beliefs of Rastafarianism, and incorporating those beliefs into their music. Sims objected, thinking it would limit the group's success internationally. The Wailers balked and ended their association with Sims.

The band next turned to Leslie Kong's Beverley Records and cut several songs, including "Do It Twice" and "Caution," all of which adopted the Rocksteady rhythm. In 1969, they made their biggest move yet. Lee "Scratch" Perry owned Upsetters Records shop and was considered one of the most brilliant producers in Jamaica. The pairing of The Wailers with Perry made for one of the most dynamic combinations in Jamaican music.

Perry suggested some changes to the group's sound that would prove to be enduring. He suggested the group change its vocal approach, discarding their signature "Doo-Wop" harmonizing in favor of more heartfelt, direct singing. He also suggested that the group put more emphasis on the bass, and, therefore, the rhythm section, which gave their sound more oomph. These changes having been made, Perry anxiously recorded the group at his Black Arc studios, with his own house band, The Upsetters, backing them up. The end result was some stellar Wailer material, including "Soul Almighty" and "Duppy Conqueror."

Despite the success of these sessions, Perry and The Wailers soon parted ways after the band discovered that Perry had sold tapes of the sessions to Trojan Records, without the band's consent. In 1971, Marley took another shot at establishing his own record label. He named it Tuff Gong records and the band released a number of singles on the label. But a bigger opportunity was just around the corner. Chris Blackwell, the founder of the legendary Island Records offered to sign the band, making it in effect, the first time that a major label would include a Reggae act on its roster. One thing that Blackwell had going for him was that he understood the importance of Rastafarianism to the group, and how that aspect of their music gave them a certain mystique that could appeal to the masses.

## READY FOR THE BIG TIME

The Wailers were now poised for international stardom. And, in essence, they had the best of both worlds: they could continue releasing singles in Jamaica on their own Tuff Gong label, and they now had an international platform through Island Records that would make their music available to the world. In fact their first Island release – which was also the band's first full-length album release – did just that. In 1973, *Catch A Fire* became a powerful debut that heralded the arrival of a new international star.

Marley quickly became an international star, and an icon of mythic proportions in Jamaica. While the people adored him, the Jamaican government was another story entirely. Marley was an outspoken artist who did not shrink from criticizing the government.

## THE FINAL PHASE

Eventually, after repeated run-ins with the government, and an attempt on his life, he moved to London, and proceeded to create the album *Exodus*, which Time magazine would describe as the "album of the century."

## THE LEGACY

Bob's music continued to evolve for the next four years before tragedy fell, and he passed away at the early age of thirty-six from cancer. The legacy he left ranks him among the most important musical legends of our time. He was a true ambassador of music, introducing the world to Reggae, and spreading his message of love and brotherhood wherever he went. And although he embraced the values of peace and non-violence, it was clear that he was exposed to his share of adversity. Nevertheless, Marley remained a positive force, spreading a message of world unity that gained him a mainstream audience, in part because the music itself was so irresistible.

Although Marley died at a relatively young age, it's clear that his music, his life and his values will not soon be forgotten. Whether it's through the efforts of his children, or his ever-enduring body of music, Marley's message of "One Love" continues to resonate with fans the world over. It's a fitting tribute to a unique artist who has achieved a special place in music history.

