

**PARTY HEARTY WITH THE SMOOTH SOUL OF '70S R&B GIANTS L.T.D.
FEATURING JEFFREY OSBORNE ON THE BEST OF L.T.D.**

Fortune was really cheesing the day a scuffling R&B band called Love Men Ltd. decided to hire a local 21-year-old drummer after a gig in Providence, Rhode Island. That cat was Jeffrey Osborne and soon after he stepped out from behind the kit after being asked if he could “sing a little,” he became the group’s ticket to stardom as the thankfully renamed L.T.D., as in Love, Togetherness, Devotion. From that moment, L.T.D. led the pack of smooth ‘70s California Soulsters with a slew of Top 10 R&B hits.

The Best Of L.T.D. edition of **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** (A&M/UME), released September 26, 2000, features L.T.D.’s 12 biggest hits and most popular tracks. Its selections span the years 1976 to 1981, encompassing the Osborne Era and beyond with three #1 R&B smashes and several other R&B Top 20s.

Included is the lush “Love Ballad,” a #1 R&B/#20 pop hit from the group’s third album, Love To The World, which was their first to showcase Osborne as lead singer. Its success led to 1977’s gold Something To Love, with the gold #1 R&B/#4 pop “(Every Time I Turn Around) Back In Love Again,” the Top 10 R&B “Never Get Enough Of Your Love” and “We Party Hearty,” with its hooky chant (“When we boogie/We boogie oogie”) and beats which have been sampled, looped and reprogrammed by scores of hip-hop studio wizards.

Togetherness in 1978 went platinum thanks to the #1 R&B “Holding On (When Love Is Gone)” and Top 20 “We Both Deserve Each Other’s Love.” The gold Devotion followed in 1979 with the Top 20 R&B ballad “Stranger” and the rump-shaker “Danc ‘N’ Sing ‘N’.” In 1980, Shine On proved to be Osborne’s swan song as he then exited for what would be a tremendous solo career after the Top 20 R&B/Top 40 pop title track and “Where Did We Go Wrong,” the group’s final R&B Top 10. **The Best Of L.T.D.** continues on with “Kickin’ Back” and “April Love” from 1981’s Love Magic but L.T.D. itself soon disbanded.

In the ‘90s, the group reformed with a largely different line-up (and without Osborne) and is back recording and touring. More importantly, when old schoolers and hip-hop heads talk about and party to classic ‘70s funky R&B, they still give props to L.T.D.

The series **20th Century Masters/The Millennium Collection** features new “best of” albums from the most significant music artists of the past century.

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