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THE COLLECTORS RECORD AND COMPACT DISC MARKETPLACE

Burt Bacharach & Hal David: What The World Needs Now

by Robin Platts

Collector's Guide Publishing (Softcover, 200 pages, \$13.95)

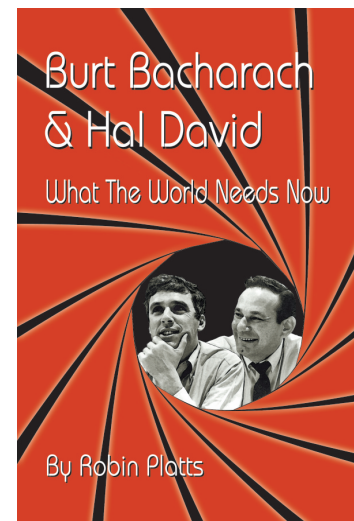
What The World Needs Now, by Vancouver-based writer Robin Platts, is self-proclaimed as the "first" book written about pop's most enduring songwriting team. "This book is not a biography of Burt Bacharach and Hal David," writes Platts in the introduction, "it is the story of their music, the collaboration - the story of the songs and how and why they were written."

On this promise, Platts really delivers the goods. There are perhaps more facts and stories about Bacharach and David in this book than would be expected for a 200-pager.

Platts recounts how Bacharach went north to Montreal in 1947 to study music when he was unable to get into any prominent American music schools. The author delves deeply into how that northern cosmopolitan city's jazz scene influenced Bacharach's writing, his early '60s tenure as Marlene Dietrich's band leader, Bacharach and David's initial modestly successful teaming up at the famous Brill Building and the story of how a girl singer named Warrick became Warwick(e) and ultimately world-famous crooning the pair's tunes.

The book contains 100 pages of illustrations, chart listings and a complete list of every artist who recorded a Bacharach/David tune, as well as a list of unreleased songs. Although the book is weighted more toward Bacharach than David, both artists get their just due.

- Terry Ott



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