



# ROB SYMEONN

## The Chosen One

National release scheduled for Nov 7th

Igniting fires with righteous rastaman vibrations **Rob Symeonn** blends roots riddims with sweet, smoky vocals and an always uplifting message. Recording reggae music and satisfying fans is something Rob has done for over twenty years. He is a passionate lyricist catching the attention of a worldwide audience. The forthcoming album, "THE CHOSEN ONE" on Redbud Recordings, is a very strong collection of songs, and is sure to make a lasting impression on the worldwide reggae community. This album boasts some of the most legendary musicians in reggae with **Val Douglas, Noel Alphonso, Bongo Herman, Dalton Browne, Andy Bassford, Kevin Batchelor, Jerry Johnson** and **Barnibus** laying down the grooves and melodies on a dozen new tunes. The album also features guest appearances from **Junior Kelly, Terry Ganzie, Willow Wilson** and **Simpleman** with outstanding production coming from **Noel Alphonso** (son of legendary Skatalite Roland Alphonso), **Victor "Ticklah" Axelrod** (*Dub Side Of The Moon, Antibalas, Roots Combination*), and Brooklyn DJ **Mikey Assassin** of Demolition Sound.

The previous singles from this project, "The Chosen One" and "Cold Outside", have been enjoying heavy airplay from his home base in New York with **Bobby Konders and Jabba** on HOT 97 and **Dhaved Levy's** Carib Fever on WBLS 107.5 as well as constant rotation on almost all the Brooklyn underground Caribbean station such as Waa Gwaan FM. His sounds have also been making their way to foreign radio such as Sweden's P3 Rytm, France's Rise Up 99.3 show in Lyon, Spain's Bass Culture 91.4 in Madrid as well as internet radio from Canada, England and Hungary. "Chosen One" has also been featured on high profile compilations such as *J Boogie's Dubtronic Science* on **Om Records** and *Serious Times* from **Ghetto Arc Records** as well as appearing on the CD with the summer 2006 issue of **RIDDIM Magazine** (US #4).

Singing out on the famous One Love International sound system out of Flatbush, this New York Rastafarian built a loyal following with the extended Caribbean reggae community. Rob's first single, "Anything For Jah", was released in 1997 and is also the first release from the **Easy Star** Record label. The follow up single "Delilah" is a massive combination with legendary deejay **Ranking Joe**. He also recorded the song "Keep On Trying" on the "Thai Stick" riddim for Easy Star before recording his first full-length album titled *Abso-Rootly Hot*. It was released in 2001 for the Hawaiian based label, **THC Music**.

Making sure that his name stays on the lips of a worldwide audience and the message in his music stays in the hearts of his fans Rob has been making appearances along the east coast and the Caribbean preparing for a worldwide album tour. He's been featured on stage shows and festivals with foundation artists like **Wailing Souls, Sister Carol, Meditations**, and new artists like **I Wayne, Fanton Mojan, Kerry Kill**, and **Bitty McLean**. Rob Symeonn is a conscious rastaman on a reggae mission to elevate fans around the world.

Rob's current label, **Redbud**, has been making a name for itself since 2001. In that time many worldwide radio and club djs have picked up on Redbud's unique trail of reggae, dub, electronica and remixes released on 7" and 12". Redbud is preparing to release a new Rob Symeonn 45, "No More" featuring Willow Wilson, on the Prosper Riddim. This series will also feature **Turbulence, Natty King, Chezidek, Lutan Fyah, Spectacular, Prestige, Mahlon Stewart** and more. Redbud has heard it's music played all around the globe most notably on KISS FM and BBC1 in the UK and one of it's remixes most recently found it's way onto a promotional mix cd for **Scion** cars.

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**REDBUD ))**

ROB SYMEONN 'THE CHOSEN ONE' CD REVIEWS



Chuck Foster's Reggae Update issue #5 2006



Rob Symeonn gets strong support on *The Chosen One* (Redbud) from Junior Kelly, Terry Ganzie, Bongo Herman, Andy Bassford, Val Douglas and Dalton Browne among others. Produced by Noel (son of Roland) Alphonso, Victor "Ticklah" Axelrod and Mikey Assassin, the tracks are uptempo and forward-charging. On "Empress" Symeonn trades shots with legendary saxman Jerry Johnson (who really cuts loose on the instrumental version that tags the disc) and he never strays far from Rastafarian themes with cuts like "Good Over Evil," "King Tafari," "Jah Is the Teacher" with Simpleman and "Message in the Music." [www.redbudrecords.com ]



CD RECOMMENDED IN VIBE MAGAZINE'S 'HEAVY ROTATION' AND XLR8R'S 'REGGAE REWIND'.



After his '97 debut single for Easy Star ("Anything For Jah"), I happened upon Rob Symeonn again via the Hi-Fidelity Dub Sessions, a (by now) 5 chapter-strong compilation series that presents dub-oriented music from all over the world. The material put out by the label includes work by the New York producer Ticklah, whose dubs are sometimes interlaced with vocal parts by Symeonn. These excellent tracks stand out from the rest not just because of their analog production style, (in the tradition of King Tubby) but also due to the likeable, sensitive voice of this Brooklyn Rastafarian, a perfect combination reminiscent of stalwart roots music, as can also be heard on the 7" advance release of "The Chosen One".  
**Oliver Galbierz –Riddim Magazine Issue #6**

The title track also appeared on the CD with Riddim Magazine Issue #4...



"Starting from "Chosen One" you can really hear how comfortable Rob Symeonn is with melding classic and modern roots sounds. The production throughout this album is excellent, but it's not always the same mind behind it...Rob Symeonn's Chosen One is smooth without compromise."  
**...properlychilled.com**



"With DJs, and monster dub forays, the music floats like a butterfly while Symeonn's iterations of good cheer portray a blissful sequence of musical events. Thus, he makes it easier for us to veer away from life's blasé issues with these works seeped in warmth and good karma."  
**...allaboutjazz.com**



"My first earful of Rob Symeonn was on a various artists collection Easy Star Volume 1 put out by the Easy Star label a few years ago. His slinky "Delilah" was a real grabber, easily holding its own alongside songs by veterans like Sugar Minott and The Meditations. I've since been watching for a full length Rob Symeonn album, and *The Chosen One* makes the wait worthwhile. A nyabinghi intro (always a good sign, though this one is too short) kicks things off, and from there it's roots all the way. Producers Noel Alphonso (also a multi-instrumental contributor), Victor "Ticklah" Alexrod and Mikey Assassin keep the upfront bass and drums chugging along, dropping in keyboard, guitar, horn and percussion peppering that frames Symeonn's reedy, lightly raspy voice. Some songs ("Light of Mine," "No More") have a chipper, almost poppish quality that eases up the seriousness of offerings like "Good Over Evil" and "Jah is the Teacher." Still, pretty much everything here is quietly killer, even when Symeonn steps away from the reggae beat for the echoey acoustic testimony "King Tafari." Great conscious songs, nice textured sound with just enough hints of dub in the mix, deejay breaks that are slack-free and crisp work by such notable players as Val Douglas, Andy Bassford, Kevin Batchelor and Bongo Herman tie it all up in proper Rasta stylee. *The Chosen One* is very choice indeed."  
**...reggae-reviews.com**



"The album is WICKED! ...It's some of the best music i've heard in a long long time, so for that... thank you!" **... Max Glazer (Federation NYC / Tour DJ for Rihanna)**

"Rob Symeonn is new and awesome voice. His debut album "Chosen One" is simply great listening music." **...Dermot Hussey, Program Director of Reggae XM Satellite Radio**

"Chosen One" is big tune and this album is sure to spark the career of the spark igniter."  
**...Bobby Konders (Massive B / HOT 97 NY)**

CORUMIN | MICKEY HART | LE PRIMITIFS DU FUTUR

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**ROB SYMEONN**  
*The Chosen One*  
 Redbud

A decade into his recording career, Brooklyn Rasta Rob Symeonn, who calls himself "The Spark Igniter," remains loyal to the classic horn-driven, vocal harmony-sweetened, bass and drums-anchored sound of reggae's early post-ska period—and to Jah Rastafari, whose presence permeates virtually all of Symeonn's upbeat anthems. Dancehalls need not apply—Symeonn is all about reggae as King Selassie I intended. He calls upon an army of master reggae musicians to aid in the realization of his classicist vision and, to keep it from sounding too retro, employs three resourceful producers, among them Noel Alphonso, whose late father, Skatalites saxist Roland, was a bona fide Jamaican legend. Naturally the specter of Marley hovers, not so much in the vocal quality—Symeonn's somewhat nasal tone doesn't have Bob's reach or richness—but in the positive-message words that Symeonn brings to compositions like "Stumblin' Block," the acoustic "Good Over Evil" and the exemplary title track.

—JEFF TAMARKIN

# Rob Symeonn



## The Beat Magazine No.127



LUCKY 13  
BY TOPH ONE

XLR8R Issue #96 / April 2006

### 8) ROB SYMEONN "COLD OUTSIDE"

(Redbud/US/7) Regardless of the wintertime title, this is a hot little gem from Brooklyn's reggae vet to warm those chilly spring afternoons. Just lovely.



## XLR8R #78 June/July '04 -Reviews/Leftfield

### ROB SYMEONN - CHOSEN ONE REDBUD/US/7

Rob Symeonn's "Chosen One" takes you back to Kingston circa 1974; his pure, easy vocals are perfectly suited to the Augustus Pablo-inspired track, and in classic dub fashion, its flipside is beautifully understated.

-Ross Hogg

"Chosen One" and "Chosen Dub" have appeared on the CD Summer 2006 Issue of *Riddim Magazine* and *J Boogie's Dubtronic Science* on OM Records.

"Chosen One" also anchors the *Serious Times* compilation from Ghetto Arc / XL Recordings as the final track. Scheduled for release in September this comp proves to be very serious indeed.



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