

## = Complete & Unbelievable : The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul =

Complete & Unbelievable : The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul , or simply Dictionary of Soul , is the fifth studio album by American soul singer @-@ songwriter Otis Redding and his last solo studio album released before his death . The successful Otis Blue and the following performance at Whisky a Go Go led to his rising fame across the United States . The album has two sides : the first mainly contains cover versions , and the second songs mainly written by Redding .

The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul was released on October 15 , 1966 on the Stax label and peaked at number 73 and at number 5 on the Billboard 200 and the R & B LP charts respectively . The album produced two singles , " Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa ( Sad Song ) " and " Try a Little Tenderness " . In 2016 , the album was ranked number 254 on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time .

## = = Background = =

The success of Redding 's third album , Otis Blue , saw a rearrangement of the Stax company . Producer and co @-@ founder of the American label Stax Records , Phil Walden , signed musicians including Percy Sledge , Johnnie Taylor , Clarence Carter and Eddie Floyd , and together with Redding they founded the production companies " Jotis Records " ( derived from Joe Galkin and Otis ) , on which only four recordings were released , two by Arthur Conley and one by Billy Young and Loretta Williams , and Redwal Music ( derived from Redding and Walden ) .

Redding decided to perform at the nightclub Whisky a Go Go on the Sunset Strip in front of a predominantly white audience , becoming one of the first soul artists to play in the western United States . His performance received critical acclaim by the press , and musician Bob Dylan offered an alternative track of his hit song " Just Like a Woman " to him , but he declined his proposal . After his performance there he went back to the Stax studios to continue recording new songs . This would be his final solo studio album .

## = = Recording = =

Dictionary of Soul features the Booker T. & the M.G. ' s ? organist Booker T. Jones , pianist / guitarist Steve Cropper , bassist Donald " Duck " Dunn , drummer Al Jackson , Jr . ? pianist Isaac Hayes , and the Memphis Horns , consisting of tenor saxophonist Joe Arnold , trumpeter Wayne Jackson , tenor saxophonist Andrew Love and baritone saxophonist Floyd Newman .

The album opens with " Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa ( Sad Song ) " . Derived from the theme of The \$ 64 @,@ 000 Question , the song was written by Redding and Cropper and its lyrics are about Redding 's habit to hum or sing the horn lines . David Porter served as the background singer , singing the " fa @-@ fa @-@ fa @-@ fa @-@ fa " part alongside Redding .

The second single on this album , " Try a Little Tenderness " , was written by English songwriter duo Jimmy Campbell , Reg Connelly and American Tin Pan Alley songwriter Harry M. Woods in the early 30s , but it was not until February 1933 when bandleader and clarinetist Ted Lewis ' version became a hit . The first version by a black artist was by Aretha Franklin , who recorded it in 1962 for her The Tender , the Moving , the Swinging Aretha Franklin . Two years later , Sam Cooke recorded it as a part of a medley alongside Tin Pan Alley standard " For Sentimental Reasons " and " You Send Me " on his At The Copa . According to Cropper , Redding listened to the latter two songs , but rearranged it with the help of pianist Hayes . Examples of what the latter arranged and introduced was the tree @-@ part , contrapuntal horn line in the first seconds , which was inspired by Cooke 's " A Change is Gonna Come " strings , and the cymbal break in the peak , which Hayes later featured on his " Theme from Shaft " . The song was recorded on September 13 and released on November 14 , 1966 , charting at number 25 on the Billboard Hot 100 and at number 4 on the Hot R & B chart . Side one features mainly cover versions , including country standard " Tennessee Waltz " and The Beatles ' " Day Tripper " , the latter of which was praised for turning " into a swaggering stomper " as opposed to the original . Parts of the song were later mixed in the Grammy Award @-@ winning "

Otis " by hip @-@ hop artists Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West .

Side two is mainly composed of Redding songs , the exception being Chuck Willis ' " You 're Still My Baby " and " Love Have Mercy " , co @-@ written by David Porter and Hayes . The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul was released on October 15 , 1966 on the Stax label and peaked at number 73 and at number 5 on the Billboard 200 and the R & B LP charts respectively .

= = Reception = =

The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul received positive critical reception . Mark Deming of Allmusic gave the album 5 out of 5 stars , stating that it " found the rugged @-@ voiced deep soul singer continuing to expand the boundaries of his style while staying true to his rough and passionate signature sound . " He liked " My Lover 's Prayer " and " Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa @-@ Fa ( Sad Song ) " , asserting that they were worthy of an Academy Award . The backing bands were for him " thoroughly distinctive and remarkably adaptable , fitting to the nooks and crannies of Redding 's voice with their supple but muscular performances . " Magazine Rolling Stone rated the album 4 out of 5 stars , stating that Redding " delivers one of his most mature performances , smoky and at times almost langorous " in " Try a Little Tenderness " , and the second single is " hard and precise but swinging . " In 2009 , Daryl Easlea of BBC music gave the album a positive review and stated that Redding was at the " peak of his powers " when he recorded it . One song from the album , " Try a Little Tenderness " , was said by Easlea to be Redding 's most remembered song after only " ( Sittin ' on ) The Dock of the Bay " , which was released posthumously shortly after his death . The album was ranked at number 251 on Rolling Stone 's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time . Critic Jon Landau called it " The finest record ever to come out of Memphis and certainly the best example of modern soul ever recorded . "

= = Track listing = =

Track listing adapted from Allmusic .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from Allmusic .

Otis Redding ? vocals

Steve Cropper ? guitar

Donald Dunn ? bass

Booker T. Jones - keyboards , piano

Isaac Hayes ? keyboards , piano

Al Jackson , Jr . ? drums

Wayne Jackson ? trumpet

Gilbert Cable ? tenor saxophone ( on " Try a Little Tenderness " )

Andrew Love ? tenor saxophone

Joe Arnold ? tenor saxophone

Floyd Newman ? baritone saxophone

Ronnie Stoots ? cover design

= = Charts = =