

A Unique Voice in the World of Children's Music

by Tim Battersby

I've known of Bobby Susser and his work for many years, and finally met him two years ago at a teacher's convention. We spent some time together, shared some stories with one another, and have since gotten to know each other and have become good friends. So, when I heard this new collection of songs, I offered to write these liner notes. Bobby's new album 'Wo' is filled with uplifting, joyful, and optimistic songs for children. They encourage listeners to sing along, dance, and/or exercise; they help develop a sense of rhythm and oral expression, and also promote the significance of friendship and togetherness through the appreciation and understanding of songs, and their ability to enrich our lives.

The songs are also lots of fun. In many ways, it's a typical Bobby Susser collection, in that it's just a fantastic collection of happy songs for children. Though subtle, Bobby draws from his vast experience, and creates interesting flavors for each of his songs, which hold the children's interest and spark their imaginations.

His associations with Paul Simon, Trini Lopez, Don Costa, singer Florence DeVore, arranger Horace Ott, Phil Spector, Ellie Greenwich, Tony Orlando, Billy Vera, Sharon Redd, Morgana King, Robert John, and Ben E. King -- along with his early days as a songwriter in New York's famous Brill Building -- coupled with the fact that he earned his Master's Degree at Columbia University in communication arts, and early childhood education, set him apart from many of today's children's songwriters, producers, and performers. So, it was no surprise when Early Childhood News stated, "Bobby Susser is unlike other children's musical artists in that he writes for them, not for himself. He knows what catches their imaginations, and he brings that sensitive awareness to his very enjoyable songs."

While most would have headed for the big lights (he was asked by Edgar Landsbury to write songs for a Broadway show) after writing and recording his groundbreaking, anti-drug, novelty song, "Once You Understand" selling 1.4 million records in the United States and becoming an international hit, Bobby discovered his love for children's songs and started his first children's label in 1972. He visited schools and libraries to share his songs and their themes with young children. He's continued to grow in every way in the children's music category ever since.

I find Bobby Susser to be a modest, unassuming and articulate man with an extraordinary talent and gift for writing catchy, melodic and (most importantly) thought-provoking songs for children. For 40 years he has influenced millions of kids and parents with his wit, wisdom and wonderful sense of humor.

Beginning the collection with the infectiously catchy song "Any Time Of Day" followed by the title track, Wo proves, throughout the entire collection, to be 12 songs of pure Bobby Susser Edutainment at its very best, for children who "just wanna have fun."

Tim Battersby, from The Battersby Duo

Two Time Grammy®-nominated Musical Comedy Team for Children