



## Big Brass Bed “A Few Dylan Songs” Solstice Records

We now live in an age of countless tribute recordings spinning on CD players and tribute bands performing in clubs and halls. The name Big Brass Bed is drawn from the lyric of Bob Dylan’s “Lady Lady Lay,” the penultimate cut on the eleven-song debut recording by this Florida based electric quintet.

In terms of their original appearance in the public domain, seven of the eleven songs hail from the sixties, two from the seventies, one from the eighties, logically [and fitting the mathematical pattern], nothing is drawn from Dylan’s nineties catalogue. By way of confirming the recent renaissance of the Minnesotan’s career, musically, the set is completed by “Mississippi” from the 2001 disc “**Love And Theft.**”

Big Brass Bed’s lead singer and founder is one time New York City based folk singer/songwriter Rod MacDonald, who has been domiciled in the sunshine state since the mid-nineties. James London is the lead voice on a discernibly *live* rendition of “She Belongs To Me,” one of two songs drawn from “**Bringing It All Back Home**” [1964], the other being “Subterranean Homesick Blues.” The album opens with the “**Highway 61 Revisited**” [1965] song “From A Buick 6,” and from the same collection there’s renditions of “Tom Thumb’s Blues” and “Ballad Of Thin Man.” In terms of sixties Dylan compositions, that vintage period for Dylan is book-ended by “Don’t Think Twice It’s Alright” from “**The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan**” [1963] and “Lay Lady Lay” from “**Nashville Skyline**” [1969].

The seventies contribution amounts to the 1975 “**Blood On The Tracks**” track “Shelter From The Storm,” and the from following year’s “**Desire**,” “One More Cup of Coffee (Valley Below).” The sole eighties representative is “Licence To Kill” from “**Infidels**” [1983].

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 01/04