

Thom Bell was born and raised in the Philadelphia area, one of 8 brothers and 2 sisters. The entire family was musically inclined. While the sisters danced, the rest of the family played and sang. Thom started on the piano at the age of 6, joining his father, who played steel guitar and accordian, and his brother who still plays guitar on many of Thom's sessions.

By ll year old, Thom, his sister Barbara, and brother Tony were working professionally as a trio. At 16, Thom met a schoolmate of his sister, Kenny Gamble. They started singing together and shortly thereafter, formed a band which included Leon Huff on the piano. The three remained friends as they went their own separate ways from there. Leon set up Double Diamond Music, Kenny...Down the Stairs and Thom...Bell Boy.

Thom's first major success came in 1968 with the Delfonics' "La La Means I Love You." In 1969, the Soul Survivors hit with "Expressway To Your Heart." Then in 1972, the three old friends, Gamble, Huff and Bell merged to form Mighty Three, a company that was destined to become one of the most successful publishing and production teams in the world.

Thom Bell's credits include <u>Gold</u> records such as "Stop, Look, Listen (To Your Heart),' "Betcha By Golly Wow," "You Are Everything," "People Make the World Go Round," "I'm Stone In Love With You," "Break Up To Make Up," and "You Make Me Feel Brand New" by the Stylistics; "I'll Be Around," "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," "Then Came You," "Games People Play," "Love Don't Love Nobody" by the Spinners; "Didn't I (Blow Your Mind This Time)" by the Delfonics; and numerous other hits by artists such as Johnny Mathis, Dionne Warwick, Ronnie Dyson, O'Jays, Harold Melvin and the Bluenotes, Tony Orlando & Dawn, Three Degrees, Aretha Franklin and many others.

In 1972 and again in 1974, Thom was named producer of the year by NATRA and also producer of the year (Pop and R&B) in 1974 by <u>Billboard</u> magazine. Then in 1975, Thom decided to open a west coast office for Mighty Three and moved to Seattle. His operation in Seattle is expanding constantly as Mighty Three has recently moved into new offices and Thom's personal success continues. The near future will probably see new product by MFSB, Lou Rawls, The O'Jays, and a very exciting situation with Elton John.

If you listen to Pop or R&B on the radio at all, chances are that at least one of the songs you've heard today is a Mighty Three copyright and Thom Bell had something to do with it!