

# Heart Matters

Since his first album, *First Things First*, **Bob Bennett** has been taken seriously. Now with the release of his second LP,

## BOB BENNETT



*Matters of the Heart*, Bob is again proving his exceptional songwriting, vocalization and instrumental talents.

*Matters of the Heart* is a highly

reflective and recollective collection of sentimental songs. Many of the tunes deal with memories—Bob's. Through song, he literally opens his past for all to visualize and vicariously experience in the vivid pictures he paints. Bob has an uncanny way of paring through the surface issues of all stages of life and displaying them clearly in his songs. "Together All Alone" is a perfect example of such expression.

Lyricaly, the LP is not immersed with cliches. In fact, they are not obviously evangelical in nature. A couple of the songs just lay the cards flat on the table, exposing the darkness in the souls of men. Such songs leave the listener with conviction that a thousand "Jesus saved my soul" phrases could not project. They are, however, fixed on the reality of Jesus Christ. He is referred to as the Shepherd, the Lamb, the Man from Heaven, and Jesus of Nazareth.

To compare Bob's melodic speak-sing voice with anyone else is impossible; his vocals are totally and completely his own. In addition to his outstanding voice, Bob is an excellent guitarist. His acoustic talents are obviously apparent here, although some songs are embellished with the electric guitar of Hadley Hockensmith. The overall sound of the LP is acoustic, with vague jazz tones snug beneath the surface. The opportunity for secular crossover airplay is phenomenal for many of the album's cuts.

The LP opens with the title cut, "Matters of the Heart" and closes with an equally thoughtful tune, "The Heart of the Matter." The songs in-between are powerful exposes on life.

Best cuts include: "Together All Alone," "1951," and "Falling Stars."—C.A. Burns