



Sweet times for Jack Radics

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Producer **Donovan Germain** was riding high in the early 1990s. One of the projects that helped skyrocket his Penthouse label was a reincarnation of the Feeling Soul rhythm which he dubbed Fire Burning. The beat had songs such as **Buju Banton's Love Mi Browning**, **Marcia Griffiths' Fire Burning**, **Half Idiot** by **Griffiths** and **Cutty Ranks**, **Feeling Lonely** by **Beres Hammond**, and **Crying Fool** by **Tiger**, all number one hits on local charts.

Singer **Jack Radics** got his breakthrough hit with a cover of *This Time I'll Be Sweeter* which was also part of the project. *"I really liked the original version of This Time I'll Be Sweeter. The romance intrinsic in the lyrics and melody inspired me to record it"* **Radics** explained. **Germain** had no idea that the song — which was recorded at Penthouse's Slipe Road studio — would become a hit. Brothers **Tony** and **Dave Kelly** and **Steven Stanley** were the engineers who worked on it. *"I knew it was a good cover of the original, but I generally don't predict the commercial acceptance of songs"* he said. According to **Radics**, the song gave him the breakthrough he craved. *"I was elated at its success because it took my career into orbit. It opened every door and window for my career"* he shared. *This Time I'll be Sweeter* made an impact on the JBC Top 30, RJR Top 40 and Gleaner Top 10 charts. **Radics** later scored with covers of British group **Hot Chocolate's You Sexy Thing** and **The Top Notes Twist and Shout**.

The oft-covered *This Time I'll Be Sweeter* was co-written by **Haras Fyre** and **Gwen Guthrie** who, like **Radics**, had success working with **Sly and Robbie**. R&B singer **Marlena Shaw** first recorded the song in 1974. It appears on her 1976 album *A Matter Of Time*. **Roberta Flack** recorded *This Time I'll be Sweeter* for her 1975 album, *Feel Like Makin' Love* on which **Guthrie** sang background vocals. However, this version was included on **Flack's** 1977 album, *Blue Lights in The Basement*. The first release of *This Time I'll Be Sweeter* was the B-side of *Love is Blind* by **Martha Reeves** in 1975. A version by British soul singer **Linda Lewis** was also released that year and reached number 51 in the United Kingdom in 1976. It was also a hit in Brazil. The most successful version of *This Time I'll be Sweeter* came in 1978 as the debut for American soul singer **Angela Bofill**, whose cut reached number 23 on Billboard's Hot Soul Singles Chart.