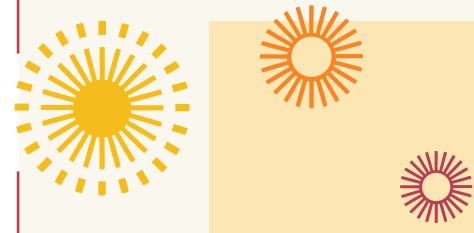





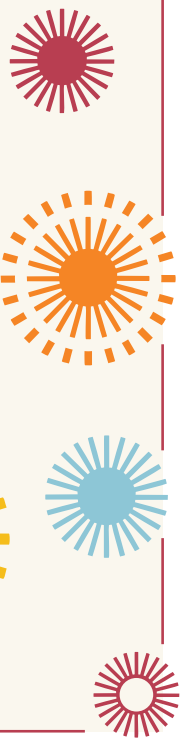
DISCOVER BOBBY HEBB



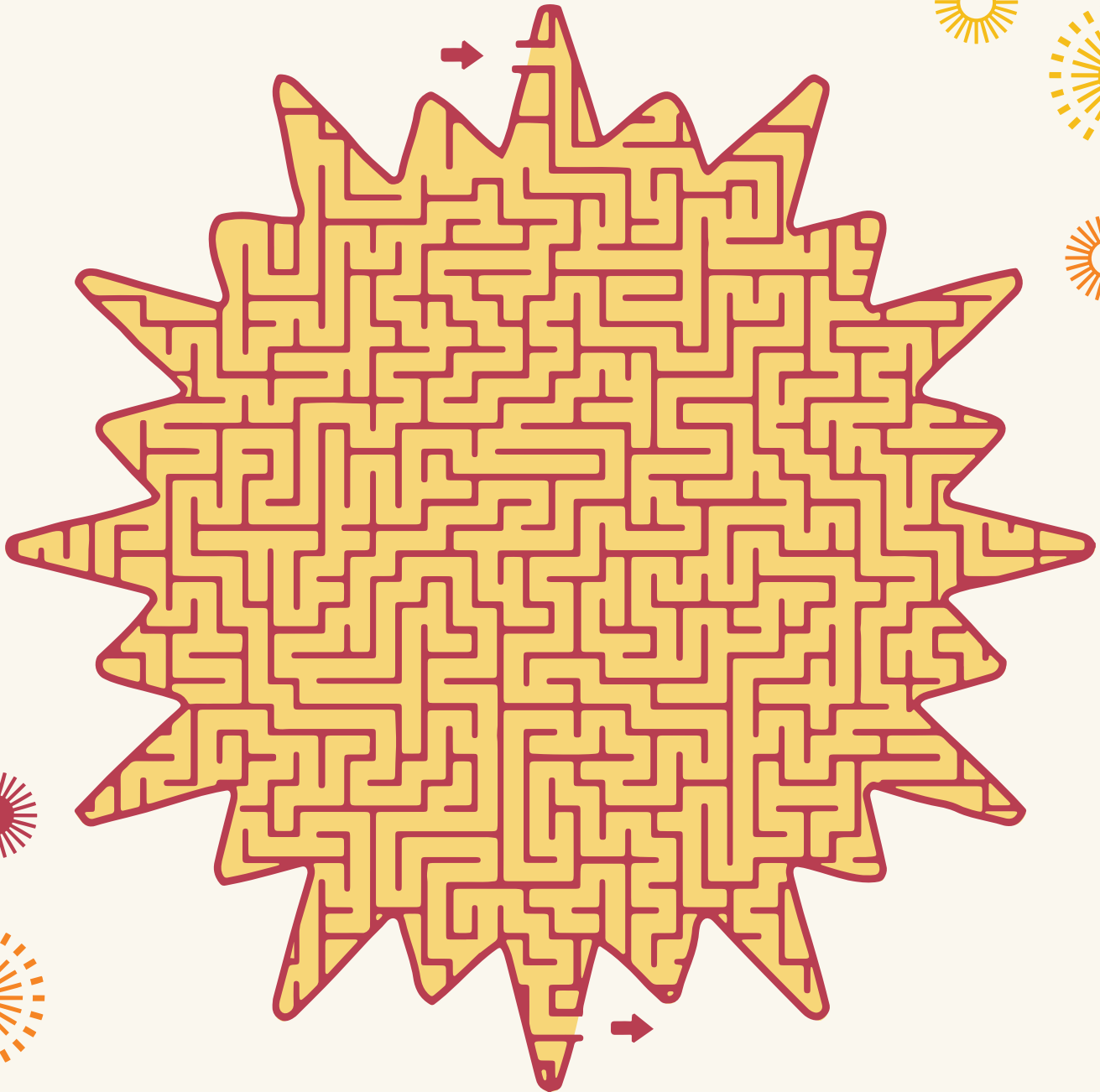
Best known for his hit song “Sunny,” **BOBBY HEBB** was born in Nashville in 1938 and grew up there. Both of Hebb’s parents were blind musicians who exposed him to gospel, classical, jazz, blues, and country music. He learned to tap dance and play the spoons as a rhythm instrument. Along with his brother Harold, he performed in their family band, Hebb’s Kitchen Cabinet Orchestra. At the age of twelve, Hebb got a job on a variety show on WSM-TV and was discovered by Grand Ole Opry star Roy Acuff, who asked him to join his band, the Smoky Mountain Boys. For five years, Hebb appeared with Roy Acuff. He was one of the first Black Americans to play the Opry stage. In the 1960s, Hebb moved to New York City to continue to pursue his music career.



In 1966, after his brother Harold was killed in a fight in Nashville, Hebb wrote a song called “Sunny” to express his feelings. Not only was his record a huge pop hit, but it has also become one of the most recorded songs in history. Hebb and “Sunny” were so popular that he was the opening act for the Beatles during their final tour. Hebb believed that “it was very important that one understood more than one culture of music.” In the early 2000s, Hebb moved back to Nashville, where he appeared on the Grand Ole Opry for the first time in forty-nine years and was featured in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum’s exhibit *Night Train to Nashville: Music City Rhythm & Blues 1945–1970*. Hebb passed away in 2010.



Bobby Hebb took his own musical journey before penning his hit song "Sunny." Take your journey through the "Sunny" maze by connecting the path to reach the end. Avoid lifting your pen or crossing any barriers.



TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION
This program is made possible by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Interested in learning more about Bobby Hebb?
Follow this QR code to learn more!

