

JUNE 23 2019

CELEBRATING R&B LEGENDS • BLACK MUSIC MONTH



PRESENTED BY:
First Independence Bank

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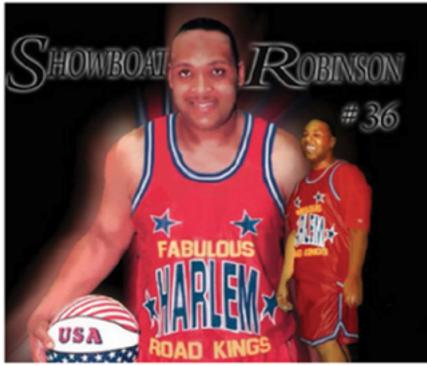
2019 8TH ANNUAL BLACK-TIE NATIONAL
RHYTHM & BLUES HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONY
WITH A SPECIAL MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO
ARETHA FRANKLIN & STEVIE WONDER
BEING INDUCTED AS A SONGWRITER IN 2019

HOSTED BY
MARY WILSON
CELEBRITY CO-HOST
WDIV ANCHOR
EVROD CASSIMY

Official Program Book

CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM
315 E WARREN AVE • DETROIT, MI

DESIGN BY:
LIQDRAM



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



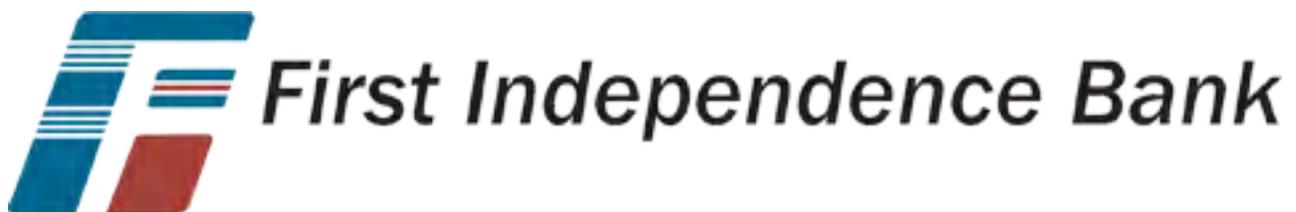
Good Evening! Welcome to the 8th Annual Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. May we have a moment of silence for the memory of the members being inducted who are no longer with us, Thank you.

The work of the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame continues and we hope that you will continue to support us. This year's program, as all the others to follow, is full of stars, memories and wonderful music. We will try not to bore you with too many speeches but rather let the artist & music speak for themselves.

Thank you for coming and have a wonderful time.

LaMont "Showboat" Robinson

THANKS TO OUR TITLE SPONSORS FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE



2019 National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame INDUCTEES



Eddie Kendricks



Aretha Franklin



Stevie Wonder



H-TOWN



GUY



STEPHANIE MILLS



RAY PARKER JR.



PHIL PERRY



DON DAVIS



DAVID WASHINGTON



KEITH WASHINGTON



HENRY COSBY



BUMPS BLACKWELL



LLOYD PRICE



JIMMY ROACH



THE TYMES



BAND OF GYPSYS

Special Awards



2019 NATIONAL
RHYTHM & BLUES HALL OF FAME
ARETHA FRANKLIN LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MARY WILSON



2019 NATIONAL
RHYTHM & BLUES HALL OF FAME
JACKIE WILSON ICON LEGEND AWARD

LLOYD PRICE



2019 NATIONAL
RHYTHM & BLUES HALL OF FAME
MARTHA REEVES MUSIC
AMBASSADOR AWARD

MARTHA REEVES



2019 NATIONAL
RHYTHM & BLUES HALL OF FAME
TOM JOYNER RADIO PERSONALITY AWARD

KEITH ROGERS

**ALL INDUCTEES HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INVITED & NOTIFIED
AS WELL AS THE FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED INDUCTEES.**

Aretha Franklin



Aretha Louise Franklin (March 25, 1942 – August 16, 2018) was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist. Franklin began her career as a child singing gospel at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, where her father C. L. Franklin was minister. At the age of 18, she embarked on a secular musical career as a recording artist for Columbia Records. While Franklin's career did not immediately flourish, she found acclaim and commercial success after signing with Atlantic Records in 1966. Hit songs such as "Respect", "Chain of Fools", "Think", "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman", "I Never Loved a Man (The Way I Love You)", and "I Say a Little Prayer", propelled her past her musical peers. By the end of the 1960s, Aretha Franklin had come to be known as "The Queen of Soul".

Franklin continued to record acclaimed albums such as *I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You* (1967), *Lady Soul* (1968), *Spirit in the Dark* (1970), *Young, Gifted and Black* (1972), *Amazing Grace* (1972), and *Sparkle* (1976) before experiencing problems with her record company. Franklin left Atlantic in 1979 and signed with Arista Records. She appeared in the 1980 film *The Blues Brothers* before releasing the successful albums

Jump to It (1982), *Who's Zoomin' Who?* (1985), and *Aretha* (1986) on the Arista label. In 1998, Franklin returned to the Top 40 with the Lauryn Hill-produced song "A Rose Is Still a Rose"; later, she released an album of the same name which was certified gold. That same year, Franklin earned international acclaim for her performance of "Nessun dorma" at the Grammy Awards; she filled in at the last minute for Luciano Pavarotti, who canceled his appearance after the show had already begun. In a widely noted performance, she paid tribute to 2015 honoree Carole King by singing "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" at the Kennedy Center Honors.

Franklin recorded 112 charted singles on Billboard, including 77 Hot 100 entries, 17 top-ten pop singles, 100 R&B entries, and 20 number-one R&B singles. She is the most charted female artist in history. Franklin's well-known hits include "Rock Steady", "Call Me", "Ain't No Way", "Don't Play That Song (You Lied)", "Spanish Harlem", "Day Dreaming", "Until You Come Back to Me (That's What I'm Gonna Do)", "Something He Can Feel", "Jump to It", "Freeway of Love", "Who's Zoomin' Who", and "I Knew You Were Waiting (For Me)" (a duet with George Michael). She won 18 Grammy Awards, including the first eight awards given for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance (1968–1975). Franklin is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 75 million records worldwide.

Franklin received numerous honors throughout her career. She was awarded the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1987, she became the first female performer to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame in 2015 as a solo artist. She also was inducted into the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2005 and into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2010, Rolling Stone magazine ranked her number one on its list of the "100 Greatest Singers of All Time" and number nine on its list of "100 Greatest Artists of All Time". The Pulitzer Prize jury in 2019 awarded Franklin a posthumous special citation "for her indelible contribution to American music and culture for more than five decades."

Eddie Kendricks



Edward James Kendrick (December 17, 1939 – October 5, 1992), best known by the stage name **Eddie Kendricks**, was an American singer and songwriter known for both his years with the Temptations and his major solo hits of the 1970s, Eddie Kendricks was among the many soul legends who did his part to put Motown on the map. The expressive vocalist (who often sang in a falsetto), born Edward James Kendrick, grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, but it was Detroit's Motown label that made him a star. Kendricks was still living in Alabama in the late '50s when he formed the Primes with Kell Osborne and Temptation-to-be Paul Williams. After moving from Alabama to Detroit, the Primes caught the attention of a Motor City group known as the Distant, whose members included Temptations-to-be Otis Williams, Elbridge Bryant, and Melvin Franklin. The Primes broke up after being together only a few years, and the Temptations (originally known as the Elgins) were formed when, in 1961, members of the Primes and the Distant came together.

With a lineup that included former Primes members Kendricks and Paul Williams, and former Distant members Otis Williams (who was unrelated to Paul), Melvin Franklin, and Elbridge Bryant, the Temptations signed with the little-known Motown subsidiary Miracle. The Temptations, who went through many personnel changes over the years, didn't become successful right away, but by the mid-'60s, they had become huge thanks to such smashes as the Kendricks-led "The Way You Do the Things You Do" and "My Girl." The group enjoyed one mega-hit after another in the mid- to late '60s, including "The Girl's Alright with Me" and "Get Ready." Kendricks also did a little songwriting and created many of the group's vocal arrangements.

By the time the Temptations scored their 11th number one R&B hit with "Just My Imagination," Kendricks had left to pursue a solo career. Many fans questioned the wisdom of his leaving such a successful group, but he proved to be quite viable as a solo act thanks to early-'70s singles like "Keep on Truckin,'" a number one R&B hit, and "Boogie Down," which went to number two on the R&B chart. Other noteworthy solo hits followed, including "Shoeshine Boy," "Get the Cream Off the Top," "Happy" in 1975, and "He's a Friend" in 1976. Most of his solo albums came out on Motown, although Kendricks recorded for Arista and Atlantic during the late '70s and early '80s. By that time, however, his popularity had decreased considerably. The singer wasn't heard from much in the '80s, though in 1985, he did participate in the Artists United Against Apartheid's Sun City project and recorded Live at the Apollo with Daryl Hall, John Oates, and Temptation partner David Ruffin. Two years later, he and Ruffin released an album for RCA.

Sadly, the '90s would see the premature deaths of no less than three former members of the Temptations. First, Ruffin died of a cocaine overdose in 1991, followed by the deaths of Kendricks in 1992, and Melvin Franklin (from a brain seizure) in 1995. (Tragedy was nothing new to Temptations members: Paul Williams had committed suicide back in 1973). Kendricks was only 52 when he died of lung cancer in his native Birmingham on October 5, 1992.

Stevie Wonder



Stevland Hardaway Morris (né Judkins; born May 13, 1950), better known by his stage name Stevie Wonder, is an American singer, songwriter, musician, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist.

A child prodigy, Wonder is considered to be one of the most critically and commercially successful musical performers of the late 20th century. He signed with Motown's Tamla label at the age of 11, and continued performing and recording for Motown into the 2010s. He has been blind since shortly after his birth. Among Wonder's works are singles such as "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours", "Superstition", "Sir Duke", "You Are the Sunshine of My Life", and "I Just Called to Say I Love You"; and albums such as *Talking Book* (1972), *Inner visions* (1973), and *Songs in the Key of Life* (1976). He has recorded more than 30 U.S. top-ten hits and received 25 Grammy Awards, one of the most-awarded male solo

artists, and has sold more than 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the top 60 best-selling music artists.

Wonder is also noted for his work as an activist for political causes, including his 1980 campaign to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a holiday in the United States. In 2009, Wonder was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace. In 2013, *Billboard* magazine released a list of the *Billboard* Hot 100 All-Time Top Artists to celebrate the US singles chart's 55th anniversary, with Wonder at number six.

Stephanie Mills



Stephanie Dortha Mills (born March 22, 1957) is an American singer, songwriter and actress. Mills rose to stardom as "Dorothy" in the original Broadway run of the musical *The Wiz* from 1975 to 1977. The song "Home" from the show later became a Number 1 U.S. R&B hit for Mills and her signature song. During the 1980s, Mills scored five Number 1 R&B hits, including "Home", "I Have Learned to Respect the Power of Love", "I Feel Good All Over", "(You're Puttin') A Rush on Me" and "Something in the Way (You Make Me Feel)". Mills' won a Grammy Award for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for her song "Never Knew Love Like This Before" in 1981.

Don Davis



Don Davis had several careers in his lifetime, and was a major success in each. That includes being chairman and CEO of First Independence Bank (three decades), the only African-American owned bank in Michigan and one of the few in the country, producer of hit records, owner of a recording studio and being an accomplished musician and songwriter.

Donald Davis, born Oct. 25, 1938 in Detroit, died on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at the age of 75 following a brief illness. Davis' music career started in the mid-1950s at which time the Central High School graduate formed a jazz group called the Don Davis Trio. However, the trio was short-lived and Davis opted to become a studio musician.

He played guitar for an array of Detroit based record companies, including Motown, Golden World and Ric-Tic. In the late 1960s Davis began focusing on producing and writing, becoming a key figure with Memphis-based Stax Records. (He continued to live in Detroit.) He landed a national No. 1 hit in the fall of 1968 with "Who's Making Love?" by Johnnie Taylor and several other hits by the singer, including "Jody's Got Your Girl and Gone" and "Take Care of Your Homework."

But his greatest success was "Disco Lady," also by Taylor, which was certified Platinum in early 1976 and remained No. 1 on the national R&B chart for six weeks and spent four weeks in the No. 1 spot on the Pop chart. Another No. 1 hit — Pop and R&B — was "You Don't Have to be a Star (To be in My Show)" by former 5th Dimension members Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., also in 1976. In the '70s, Davis formed a record production and music publishing company called Groovesville. He also purchased United Sound recording studio, utilized by such artists as the Dramatics, George Clinton, the Dells and David Ruffin.

It came as a major surprise when Don Davis moved into the banking field. Always business minded, he was able to take over First Independence Bank, which was struggling at the time, as a result of having purchased a large number of shares. With Davis at the helm, First Independence became a major success, eventually recognized as the 12th largest African-American owned bank in the United States.

"Don was the epitome of Detroit's can-do spirit," said Mayor Mike Duggan. "His presence will be sorely missed, but his legacy will endure." Rev. Wendell Anthony, president of the Detroit Branch NAACP, said, "in the mid-'70s through his company Groovesville the innovative work of Don Davis," helped to craft the (aforementioned) song "You Don't Have to be a Star (To be in My Show)," by the team of Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr."

Anthony said one of the lines from that song, "I don't need no superstar, 'cause I'll accept you as you are," will remain "forever rooted in the inspiring legacy of Don Davis."

The NAACP leader said Davis accepted all people for who they were and not who they should become. "His music, bank and his family all centered in the midst of a heart that overflowed with grace and sensitivity to a community that yearns for them all," Anthony said. "The Scriptures teach us that "We have indeed reaped of the fruit from the season of 'the Don.' He lived his purpose. He served his community. He loved his family."

Keith Washington



Keith Washington (born November 15, 1960) is an American R&B vocalist from Detroit, Michigan who recorded the hit single “Kissing You” in 1991. The song was also used as Background music for the ABC television soap opera General Hospital. “Kissing You” was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best R&B Vocal Performance Male and won a 1992 Soul Train Music Award for Best R&B/Soul Single – Male. The song also topped the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart for one week.

Washington also recorded a duet with Kylie Minogue, their co-composition “If You Were with Me Now” in 1991 (on PWL Records) which reached number 4 in the UK Singles Chart.

Washington branched out in a few acting roles. He starred as himself on the series Martin in an episode called “A Woman with a Past” singing a duet with Tisha Campbell-Martin entitled “The Closer I Get to You” a classic ballad performed and made famous in 1978 by Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway. In addition, Keith had a brief role in the TV soap opera General Hospital as Keith Jasper. He also had a brief role in John Singleton’s Poetic Justice, starring Janet Jackson, as a hairdresser named Dexter.

Washington’s first marriage to Marsha Jenkins ended in divorce and resulted in her writing a tell-all book titled The Other Side of Through, which is a fictional [further explanation needed] account based on Jenkins’ marriage to Washington and her experiences with the singer’s marital infidelities. In June 2009, Washington married his longtime girlfriend, Stephanie Grimes, who is general sales manager for WGPR-FM 107.5 in Detroit. He also revealed his plans to release a new album. Washington has since branched out into radio himself, as he now hosts the nighttime “Slow Jams” show “Kisses After Dark” on Detroit radio station WDMK-FM 105.9 (Kiss-FM).

David Washington

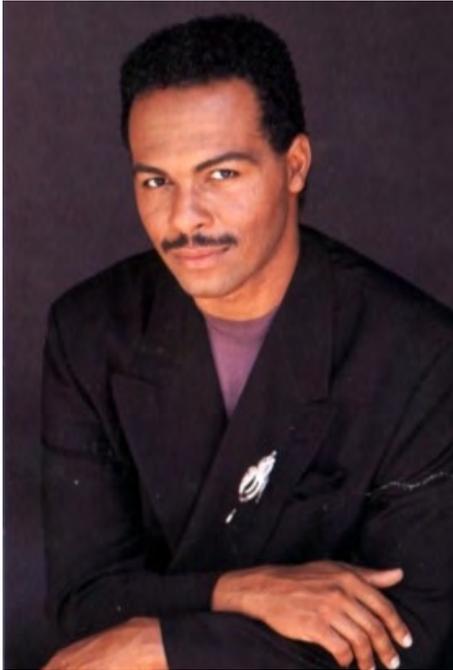


David Washington an American radio disc jockey, businessman born in Detroit Michigan. He began his career in show business as a teenager with his older brother Henry Washington who was a record promoter in the 60’s and 70’s for rhythm and blues artists and who was inducted into National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame class of 2018.

Washington followed into his older brother footsteps. For the last 47 years Washington has made acquaintances with many big names in the music industry from David Ruffin, Aretha Franklin, Johnnie Taylor, Bobby “Blue” Bland, Gerald Austin, Lloyd Price, LL Cooke and many, many more over the years.

Today Washington has been host of his own radio show for the past 18 years The David Washington 20 Grand Revue Show that is on WPON 1460 AM. Washington has been the host of National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame induction ceremonies since 2015. Washington also has been a national commentator for different shows from the likes of Netflix the Sam Cooke Story and TV-One Unsung. Washington is also the Vice President of the board directors for the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame. Now Washington will join his brother Henry Washington into the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame.

Ray Parker Jr.



Ray Parker Jr. a Guitarist/songwriter/producer born in Detroit, Michigan, Parker started out as a teenaged session guitarist playing on sessions recorded for Holland-Dozier-Holland's Hot Wax and Invictus Records, whose roster listed Freda Payne, Honey Cone, Chairmen of the Board, 100 Proof Aged in Soul, Laura Lee, and 8th Wonder. He also played behind the Temptations, Stevie Wonder, the Spinners, Gladys Knight & the Pips, and other Motown acts when they appeared at the Twenty Grand Club. In 1972, Wonder called Parker to ask him to play behind him on a tour that he was doing with the Rolling Stones. Parker thought it was a crank call and hung up the phone. Wonder called back and convinced Parker that he was the real deal by singing "Superstition" to him.

Later, Parker played on Wonder's albums *Talking Book* (1972) and *Innervisions* (1973). Moving from Detroit to Los Angeles, Parker got into session work, playing on sides by Leon Haywood, Barry White, and arranger Gene Page and working with Motown producer Clarence Paul on Ronnie McNeir's 1976 Motown debut, *Love's Comin' Down*, and he appeared in the picnic scene in the Bill Cosby/Sidney Poitier comedy

classic *Uptown Saturday Night*.

Deciding to become a recording artist, Parker got a deal with Arista Records in 1977. Not confident on his singing ability, he put together a band that included vocalist Arnell Carmichael, bassist/singer Jerry Knight (who later had his own solo hit with "Overnight Sensation" and as half of Ollie & Jerry, and co-produced hits by the Jets), guitarist Charles Fearing, Larry Tolbert, and Darren Carmichael. However, on record, Parker played most, if not all of the instruments -- although Arnell et al. were paid a retainer so they'd be available if Raydio had a hit record and needed to tour.

His first LP, *Raydio*, went gold, peaking at number eight R&B in spring 1978. The LP included the number five gold R&B hit single "Jack and Jill" (lead vocal by Jerry Knight), "Is This a Love Thing," and the charting single "Honey I'm Rich." The hits continued with Ray Parker Jr. & Raydio's number four gold *Rock On* (the single "You Can't Change That" was number three R&B, number nine pop in the spring of 1979); the number six gold R&B *Two Places at the Same Time* from spring 1980 ("Two Places at the Same Time" was number six R&B in spring 1980); and the number one gold record *A Woman Needs Love* from 1981 ("A Woman Needs Love [Just Like You Do]" -- the first song Parker sang all the way through without trading vocals -- held the number one R&B spot for two weeks and went number four pop in spring 1981). Then, the Ray Parker Jr. album *The Other Woman* held the number one R&B, number 11 pop spot in spring 1982.

One of Parker's biggest hits and best-loved songs, "Ghostbusters" was initially submitted for the background score of the Dan Aykroyd/Harold Ramis/Bill Murray/Ernie Hudson comedy. Director Ivan Reitman thought that the song should be released as a single. The "Ghostbusters" music video is one of the funniest and most star-studded videos ever made (breakdancing Bill Murray style).

Ray is writing the definitive memoir, "Who Ya Gonna Call? The Adventures of Ray Parker Jr." as well as a new album consisting of the exceptional original songs, "1983," with both expected out early 2019. He continues to tour and sell out throughout the world.

Lloyd Price



Lloyd Price (born March 9, 1933) is an American R&B vocalist, known as “Mr. Personality”, after his 1959 million-selling hit, “Personality”. His first recording, “Lawdy Miss Clawdy”, was a hit for Specialty Records in 1952. He continued to release records, but none were as popular until several years later, when he refined the New Orleans beat and achieved a series of national hits. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998.

Price was born and grew up in Kenner, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. He had formal training in playing the trumpet and piano, sang in his church’s gospel choir, and was a member of a combo in high school. His mother, Beatrice Price, owned the Fish ‘n’ Fry Restaurant, and Price picked up lifelong interests in business and food from her.

Art Rupe, the owner of Specialty Records, based in Los Angeles, came to New Orleans in 1952 to record the distinctive style of rhythm and blues developing there, which had been highly successful for his competitor Imperial Records. Rupe heard Price’s song “Lawdy

Miss Clawdy” and wanted to record it. Because Price did not have a band, Rupe hired Dave Bartholomew to create the arrangements and Bartholomew’s band (plus Fats Domino on piano) to back Price in the recording session. The song was a massive hit. His next release, “Oooh, Oooh, Oooh”, cut at the same session, was a much smaller hit. Price continued making recordings for Specialty, but none of them reached the charts at that time.

In 1954, he was drafted and sent to Korea. When he returned he found he had been replaced by Little Richard. In addition, his former chauffeur, Larry Williams, was also recording for the label, having released “Short Fat Fannie”.

Price eventually formed KRC Records with Harold Logan and Bill Boskent. Their first single, “Just Because”, was picked up for distribution by ABC Records. From 1957 to 1959 Price recorded a series of national hits for ABC, which were successful adaptations of the New Orleans sound, including “Stagger Lee” (which topped the Pop and R&B charts and sold over a million copies), “Personality” (which reached number 2), and “I’m Gonna Get Married” (# 3). When Price appeared on the television program American Bandstand to sing “Stagger Lee”, the producer and host of the program, Dick Clark, insisted that he alter the lyrics to tone down its violent content, but it was still the “violent” version that was on top of the R&B chart in 1959. “Stagger Lee” was Price’s version of an old blues standard, recorded many times previously by other artists.

In 1962, Price formed Double L Records with Logan. Wilson Pickett got his start on this label. In 1969, Logan was murdered. Price then founded a new label, Turntable, and opened a club by the same name in New York City. During the 1970s Price helped the boxing promoter Don King promote fights, including Muhammad Ali’s “Rumble in the Jungle”. He later became a builder, erecting 42 town houses in the Bronx.

Price toured Europe in 1993 with Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, and Gary U.S. Bonds. He performed with soul legends Jerry Butler, Gene Chandler, and Ben E. King on the “Four Kings of Rhythm and Blues” tour in 2005; concerts were recorded for a DVD and a PBS television special.

Guy



Guy was formed in Harlem, New York in 1987 by R&B singer-songwriters Teddy Riley, Aaron Hall, and Timmy Gatling. Riley and Gatling were childhood friends growing up in Harlem, and previously collaborated in the band Kids At Work. Hall was recruited to join what would become Guy. As well as writing songs for their own group, Riley and Hall collaborated on other songwriting and production projects, including Bobby Brown's "My Perogative" and Johnny Kemp's "Just Got Paid"

Under the guidance of manager Gene Griffin, the group signed to Andre Harrell's Uptown Records, and released their self-titled debut album *Guy* in June 1988. Gatling,

however, had left after recording of the album was completed and he was replaced by Hall's younger brother Damion Hall. Gatling would later release his solo debut *Help* in 1989 on Tommy Boy/Warner Bros. Records in 1989 and become a producer, penning and writing songs such as "Promises, Promises" for Christopher Williams and "When Will I See You Smile Again?" for Bell Biv DeVoe.

Five singles were released from the album, none of which fared well on the main US Billboard Hot 100 chart, where only one release charted. However, four of the singles became significant R&B hits. The singles, "Round And 'Round (Merry-Go-Round of Love), (US R&B #24); "Groove Me", (US R&B #4); "Teddy's Jam", (US R&B #5); "I Like", (US R&B #2); and "Spend the Night", (US R&B #15), propelled the album to double platinum status off the strength of those R&B hits. Another song from the album, "Piece of My Love", also received some airplay on R&B stations. The album impressively climbed to #27 on the US Top 200 Album Chart without a major pop hit, and peaked at #1 on the R&B Album Chart.

Following on the album's success, the band contributed the song "My Fantasy" to the soundtrack to Spike Lee's film *Do The Right Thing* in 1989. Griffin and Riley also worked with Boy George, producing his R&B hit "Don't Take My Mind On A Trip". However, that same year Guy split acrimoniously from Gene Griffin. Riley continued to produce and remix for other artists and firmly established himself as the figurehead and driving force behind New Jack Swing.

In November 1990, Guy released its second album, entitled *The Future*. Although still not scoring top 40 pop hits, the album's five singles became R&B hits. The songs "Wanna Get Wit U", (US R&B #4); "Let's Chill", (US R&B #3); "Do Me Right" (Featuring Heavy D), (US R&B #2); "D-O-G Me Out", (US R&B #8); and "Let's Stay Together", (US R&B #16) took the album to platinum status. The band also featured in Mario Van Peebles's film *New Jack City*, performing the song "New Jack City".

After the run of the album, the group split with Riley later citing "the tragedy of our ex-manager" Griffin as the reason for the group's disbandment. One of the group's final recordings was their cover of Wilson Pickett's *Land of a Thousand Dances*, that was featured on the 1992 animated film *FernGully: The Last Rainforest*. In the 1990s, Riley focused on producing other artists such as Heavy D and Michael Jackson and he also formed another group, Blackstreet. The two Hall brothers each pursued solo careers during the 1990s.

H-Town



In 1992 the evolution of Rhythm and Blues was altered significantly for the world of music connoisseurs' and millions of fans. H-Town, The Legendary Icons of R&B proudly debuted a sound synonymous with universal acclaim, skillfully rocketed several hit singles to chart topping success, humbly acquired the longevity of mass audience appeal and righteously maintained a powerful presence on the spectra of performance entertainment and have been firmly grounded in the spotlight for nearly two decades.

With talent and precise orchestration, H-Town has mastered the minds of music's adoring fans over and over again with their signature sound. Originally H-Town consisted of twin brothers Keven "Dino" Conner and Solomon "Shazam" Conner, along with their long time friend Darryl "G.I." Jackson. In 2003 a tragic car accident took the life of Dino. This divesting blow to the group heartfelt and grieved by many did not discourage the artists or the fans. To date, Shazam and G.I. are flourishing carrying the sound of H-Town and representing the group's core values, a self-proclaimed mission of bringing R & B back in tranquil strides with loyal fans in tow and new fans acquired daily.

Real R&B is back with H-Town and the experience is felt with each and every performance as H-Town consistently fills arenas, concert venues, stadiums, nightclubs and otherwise sold out shows. Scores of eager screaming fans continue to show support mimicking each and every lyric and harmonizing each and every hook. The H-Town fan base is a movement that follows the melody of the members.

Spearheading the efforts of fine music, H-Town's single Knockin Da Boots is as popular today and maintains as a staple in music's repertoire. This song was featured on the debut album Fever for Da Flavor. Hit after hit produced Emotions, Thin Line Between Love & Hate, Natural Women, They Like It Slow and more. Overseas fans have popularized songs such as Julie Rain, of which happens to be a sobering account of spousal abuse.

Ladies love H-Town. H-Town loves the ladies and supports any movement that assists with the advancement, protection, equality or education of women. The new video and single by H-Town – I Appreciate You, signifies the efforts of the group to bring issues of importance for women to the forefront.

To date and undeniably indisputable, H-Town is the biggest independent R&B group in the world. With sales of over 13 million albums sold worldwide, music accepted and loved in virtually every country any language, having written and produced most of their own songs of which a cleverly business minded side of H-Town owns the masters to, H-Town's class and character speaks volumes.

Hank Cosby



An unsung cog in the Motown assembly line, Hank Cosby was not only an exemplary saxophonist who played with the earliest incarnation of the label's legendary studio group, the Funk Brothers, but he also co-wrote such enduring classics as Stevie Wonder's "Uptight (Everything's Alright)" and Smokey Robinson & the Miracles' "Tears of a Clown." Born May 12, 1928 in Detroit, Cosby served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he played alongside jazz great Cannonball Adderley in the military band. Upon his return to the Motor City, he joined pianist Joe Hunter's jazz combo, alongside bassist James Jamerson, drummer Benny Benjamin, guitarist Larry Veeder and baritone saxophonist Mike Terry. A mainstay of Detroit's club circuit during the late 1950s, the group was also a steady recording studio presence and when Berry Gordy, Jr. launched Motown in 1959, he appointed Hunter and crew the label's regular session band. In addition to his instrumental contributions, Cosby quickly proved himself a gifted songwriter and producer. In 1962 he teamed with 11-year-old Little Stevie Wonder to author "Fingertips," and a subsequent live recording cut at Detroit's famed Fox Theater launched the prodigy's groundbreaking career. Cosby and Wonder teamed on a number of other hits in the years to follow, often in collaboration with Sylvia Moy. In addition to the aforementioned "Uptight," their credits include "I Was Made to Love Her," "My Cherie Amour," and "Shoo Bee Doo Bee Da Day." Cosby also worked in various capacities with the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Martha & the Vandellas, Gladys Knight & the Pips, and the Temptations prior to his exit from the offices of Motown in 1973, when the label relocated to Los Angeles. After a series of heart surgeries, he died January 22, 2002 at the age of 73.

Bumps Blackwell



Robert Alexander "Bumps" Blackwell (May 23, 1918 – March 9, 1985) was an American bandleader, songwriter, arranger, and record producer, best known for his work overseeing the early hits of Little Richard, as well as grooming Ray Charles, Quincy Jones, Ernestine Anderson, Lloyd Price, Sam Cooke, Herb Alpert, Larry Williams, and Sly and the Family Stone at the start of their music careers.

Born in Seattle, Washington, Blackwell led a jazz group in the late 1940s that included pianist Ray Charles and trumpeter Quincy Jones. He moved to Hollywood, California to continue studying composition, but he instead took a job at Art Rupe's Specialty Records as an arranger and producer. He worked with Sam Cooke, Larry Williams, Lloyd Price and Guitar Slim, as well as producing Little Richard during his rise to stardom in 1955 and 1956.

In addition to producing Little Richard's breakthrough hit "Tutti Frutti" following hearing him sing the song in the studio, Blackwell also produced Little Richard's other mid-50s hits, co-writing some as them as well, including: "Long Tall Sally"; "Good Golly Miss Molly"; "Ready Teddy"; and "Rip It Up". They all quickly became rock and roll standards, and have subsequently been covered by hundreds of artists including Elvis Presley, the Beatles and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

Phil Perry



Philip Eugene Perry (born January 12, 1952) is an American R&B singer, songwriter, musician and a former member of the soul group The Montclairs from 1971 to 1975.

Discovered by Catholic nuns while singing High Masses in his Catholic Church (St. Elizabeth in East St. Louis), and a high school talent show Favorite, Phil Perry wrote and recorded his first single “Hey You” with a local group called the Montclairs, based in East St. Louis, Illinois. At that time, the singing group was signed to the Archway Records label, just before Perry turned 17 years old in 1969. The song is considered to be the first of a classic soul collection of Perry ‘Old School’ singles popular in the 1970’s.

In 1972, The Montclairs recorded under the Paula label with minor soul ballads that included “Dreaming’s Out Of Season”, “Prelude to a Heartbreak”, and “Begging’s Hard To Do”. The Montclairs left Paula Records and disbanded in 1975. Perry later moved to California with former Montclair, Kevin Sanlin, and teamed up as a duo, that had a short stay with two albums, at Capitol in the early 1980s (produced by Chuck Jackson and Dr. Cecil Hale). One song ‘Just to Make You Happy’ had a respectable level of success in radio.

In the 1990s, he had his first number-one R&B hit “Call Me” (previously recorded and written by Aretha Franklin), a remake of the 1970 hit, as well as the top forty R&B singles “Amazing Love” and “Forever” (written by Brenda Russell) all from the hit album, Perry’s first solo release *The Heart of the Man* (1991), even though he has released many albums since his breakthrough in 1991. Phil Perry is also featured on many GRP Records projects, and is considered to be a GRP ALL-STAR featured with such smooth jazz icons as guitarists Lee Ritenour and Russ Freeman and pianist Don Grusin.

He is a featured vocalist on recordings by Michel Colombier, Don Grusin, Dave Grusin, Freddie Hubbard, George Duke, Najee, Bill Withers, Barbra Streisand, June Pointer, Johnny Mathis, The Benoit-Freeman Project (David Benoit & Russ Freeman), Sergio Mendes, Bobby Womack, Chaka Khan, Fourplay, George Benson, and Will Downing, to name a few. Solo hits also include “Love Don’t Love Nobody” and “One Heart, One Love”. He is also featured on the Bebe’s Kids soundtrack singing a track with the late Renee Diggs. Other film song credits include ‘Roots’, “Pretty in Pink”, “Short Circuit”, “Mr. Wonderful”, “Nice Girls Don’t Explode”, *Riding Bean*, “Captain Ron” and a cameo appearance in the 2009 release of the Harrison Ford film *Crossing Over*.

In 1991, he released his first solo album on Capitol and toured with label mate, Dave Koz for the next 2–3 years. He continued to make 4 more albums and then on September 11, 2001, Perry was scheduled to perform at the World Trade Center, for the lunch hour jazz concerts between 11 am and 1 pm. His 5th solo album *Magic* was released that day, as well. As fate would have it, Perry was spared the devastation of the terrorist attacks on the two towers. However, for the next few years, he sunk into an artistic depression, and did not record again until invited by longtime friend, Don Grusin, whom he joined in September 2003 for a collaborative venture titled “The Hang”. This CD/DVD project was nominated for a Grammy, and included Dave Grusin, Harvey Mason, Patti Austin, Natali Renee, Abraham Laboriel, Alex Acuna, Ernie Watts, Lee Ritenour, and others.

Band of Gypsies



Band of Gypsies is a live album by Jimi Hendrix and the first without his original group, the Jimi Hendrix Experience. It was recorded on January 1, 1970, at the Fillmore East in New York City with Billy Cox on bass and Buddy Miles on drums, frequently referred to as the Band of Gypsies. The album mixes funk and rhythm and blues elements with hard rock and jamming, an approach which later became the basis of funk rock. It contains previously unreleased songs and was the last full-length Hendrix album released before his death.

After his appearance at Woodstock with an interim group that included Cox, Hendrix began developing new songs and recording demos. When Miles became involved, he and Cox agreed to record a live album with Hendrix to be used to settle a contract dispute with a former manager. The new material, influenced by Cox's and Miles' musical approaches, signals a new direction for Hendrix. Songs such as "Power of Soul" and "Message to Love" (originally "Power to Love" and "Message of Love") still maintain the dominant role of Hendrix's guitar, but show funk and R&B influences. Lyrically, they also explore new, more humanistic themes for Hendrix. The two numbers written and sung by Miles bear the stylings of soul music. The anti-riot/anti-war "Machine Gun", draws on Hendrix's earlier blues aspirations, but incorporates new approaches to guitar improvisation and tonal effects.

The Tymes



The Tymes are an American soul vocal group who enjoyed equal success in the United Kingdom and in their homeland. They are one of the few acts to have one and only one chart-topper in both the US and UK with different songs.

The group was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1956 as the Latineers, by Donald Banks (bass), Albert Berry (first tenor), Norman Burnett (baritone), and George Hilliard (second tenor). After a four-year stint on Philadelphia's club circuit, they recruited a new lead vocalist, George Williams in 1960, and changed their name to The Tymes.

The Tymes had hits in the UK in the 1960s with songs such as "So Much in Love", a US chart topper and million-seller in 1963, "Wonderful! Wonderful!", a remake of the Johnny Mathis classic hit from 1957, "Somewhere", then in 1970s with "You Little Trustmaker" and "Ms Grace". The last of these became the group's biggest UK hit, reaching Number One in the UK Singles Chart in 1975, but barely dented the Billboard Hot 100, long after the success of "So Much in Love". "Ms Grace", while only charting modestly in the US, was and remains a regional hit with the Carolina Beach Music scene.

The Tymes were also The Jewels (obviously not to be confused with the R&B girl group The Jewels), as in Billy Abbott and The Jewels, whose only Hot 100 and Cashbox Top 100 entry was "Groovy Baby" in July 1963.

Jimmy Roach



Producer/songwriter/arranger Jimmy Basil Roach, born February 10, 1944, hails from the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, NY, the same neighborhood that the Chips -- "Rubber Biscuits" -- lived. He hit some licks with them, along with original member Sammy Strain, but was out before they cut their sole hit. He joined a neighborhood group called the Lyrics who worked the local talent show circuit, battling it out with the likes of Little Anthony's early group; the Lyrics had fun but never recorded. Roach took piano lessons at 14 from a private teacher; piano lessons were part of growing up in Roach's family, his four sisters learned keyboards as well. In 1963, he latched on as a staff writer with Chardon Music, staying two years before leaving to fulfill military obligations in 1965. At Chardon, he wrote primarily with Carl Smith and Gary Klein; his composition "The Kitty Kat Song" was the flipside of Lee Dorsey's first major hit "Ride Your Pony."

After the service, he resumed writing, sometimes with Rosemary McCoy, who introduced him to Pam Sawyer. Sawyer had severed ties with ex-partner Lori Burton and was seeking a new collaborator. Sawyer and Burton wrote some extremely soulful tunes, including the O'Jays' "It Won't Hurt" in 1965. Roach played keyboards, just what she needed. Roach, a heartfelt, soulful writer, cranked out "I'm By Your Side" for Brenda & the Tabulations, the Persians' "Too Much Pride," the O'Jays' "I Miss You," and others. He moved to the Motor City in 1969 to take advantage of the opportunities and landed a staff writer and arranger position at Hitsville USA, based on a song he wrote with Sawyer, "My Whole World Ended," recorded by David Ruffin; Harvey Fuqua and Johnny Bristol are credited because writers had to share credits with the producer(s) to get tunes cut. Motown's vaults contain many unreleased songs by Roach, including an album on Jimmy Ruffin, his closet friend at Motown. He arranged most of the tracks on the Four Tops' Still Water and In Changing Times albums and the Miracles' Christmas album in 1970. When Motown moved to Los Angeles, Roach remained in Detroit and hooked up with producer/writer Don Davis.

Roach wrote "Hit and Run" for a young svelte, Roz Ryan. Ryan became a Broadway actress and later landed the choir director role in the '90s sitcom Good News. The transplanted New Yorker wrote some noteworthy songs for the Dramatics including "And I Panicked," two mini-dramas -- "I Made Myself Lonely" and "Learning to Love You Was Easy" -- "I Dig Your Music," and the breezy "I Get Carried Away." William "Wee Gee" Howard originally recorded the first three songs but left the group, so Davis had Roach redo them with Larry "L.J." Reynolds on lead. His songs have also been recorded by the Supremes, Esther Philips, James & Bobby Purify, the Dells, Gloria Gaynor, Houston Pearson, the Sins of Satan, Five Special -- with many of the tracks produced and arranged by Roach as well. He took the Spinners to Atlantic Records armed with a four-song demo he produced, featuring new lead singer, Philippe Wynne. A planned album was scrapped when Thom Bell chose the Spinners from a shopping list of artists to produce for the label. Just like that, Roach was out and Bell in. One of the four songs "Oh Lord I Wish I Could Sleep" surfaced on the Spinners' double-disc anthology album. In the '80s he delved into managing and promotions and secured a deal for a Detroit group, Everlife, on 20th Century Fox Records, but the company dropped the ball; Roach salvaged the product -- a whole album -- somewhat, by releasing it locally on his Jibaro Records. As a writer, he has more than 125 songs cleared with Broadcast Music Incorporated for performance fees. He stepped away from the business around the mid-'80s, citing the infusion of rap, and other drastic changes. He lives in Detroit, his adopted home, and runs the Accessories Boutique retail store.

The Rude Boys



The Rude Boys - A 90s R&B vocal group from Cleveland, Ohio, Joe N Little III, Edward Lee Banks, Larry Marcus and Melvin Sephus were discovered by Gerald Levert. Their 1990 LP, *Rude Awakening*, included the single "Written All Over Your Face", which made it to #1 on the Billboard R&B charts and #16 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. It also won 1991 Billboard Award for R&B Single of the Year. "Are You Lonely for Me" also reached #1 on Billboard's R&B charts.

Joe N Little III along with Edward Lee Banks was discovered by Gerald LeVert singing in a local night club in Cleveland, Ohio, LeVert expressed that he wanted to further hear them sing again and possibly sign the two, at that time both were the lead singers of a local R&B group along with members Larry (Bingo) Marcus and Melvin Sephus. In 1988, LeVert presented the group to

Sylvia Rhone - then Senior VP of Atlantic Records - and in turn got them signed to the label.

The band's 1990 debut album *Rude Awakening*, would peak at #10 on the Billboard R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart and #68 on the Billboard 200. The album started slow with its first release "Come On Lets Do This" which peaked at #38 on the Billboard R&B charts. However, it was the group's second single, "Written All Over Your Face" that made the group a sensation, as the single topped the R&B charts and, The song showcased the vocals of Joe N Little III and Edward Buddy Banks, with a cameo appearance by Gerald LeVert the single rode the charts for 31 weeks, and finally made it to #1 on the Billboard R&B charts and #16 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, It also won 1991 Award for R&B Single of the Year ("Written All Over Your Face").

The group would score a second #1 hit on Billboard R&B hit from this album in 1990, "Are You Lonely for Me" written by Joe N Little III and Tony Nicholas. With the well-rounded, riffing baritone of Little and the vibrating, towering tenor of Banks, the single rose straight to the top. "Heaven", another song released from the album, peaked at the #15 spot on the Billboard R&B chart.

Riding on the success of their two laid-back number one singles from their debut release, the boys followed up with *Rude House* in 1992, the first single being "My Kinda Girl". Falling short of the number one ranking, the single peaked at number two after 18 weeks on the Billboard R&B chart, and the next single to be released, "Go Ahead and Cry", peaked at number 43 on the Billboard R&B chart.

Staying under Gerald Lever's tutelage, Little went on to do a solo album up under Atlantic Records entitled *Puttin' It Down* in 1994. Little also went on to team up with LeVert as a writing team on multiple occasions, writing and producing for Levert's solo projects and on other notable artist such as The O'Jays, Temptations, Keith Sweat, LSG, and stable mates Men at Large, where LeVert, Little, Nicholas and Banks teamed up to write and produce "So Alone," which peaked at No. 5 spot on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip Hop Chart and No. 31 Billboard's Hot 100.

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