

2nd Annual R&B MUSIC HALL OF FAME *Induction Ceremony*



THE OFFICIAL
R & BTM
MUSIC HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONY
2014



MICHAEL JACKSON
WHITNEY HOUSTON
THE WHISPERS
THE SWEET INSPIRATIONS
MARVIN GAYE
NORM N. NITE
JOE JACKSON
THE DELFONICS
THE FUNK BROTHERS
GENE CHANDLER
CHUBBY CHECKER
MACY GRAY
THE ANDANTES
B.B. KING

SUNDAY • AUGUST 24, 2014 • CANTON, OH



FUTURE HOME



THE OFFICIAL R&B MUSIC HALL OF FAME MUSEUM IS RECOGNIZED AS THE ONE AND ONLY OFFICIAL INSTITUTION THAT HONORS AND MEMORIALIZES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RHYTHM AND BLUES GENRE. OUR COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS AND OTHER OBJECTS OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EXHIBITS.

THE MUSEUM'S PURPOSE IS TO COLLECT, PRESERVE, EXHIBIT, AND EDUCATE ABOUT THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE WORLD OF RHYTHM AND BLUES MUSIC. ARTIFACTS AND MATERIALS THAT WE HAVE COLLECTED AND ARE COLLECTING, ARE NOT ONLY OWNED BY THE MUSEUM BUT ARE ALSO BORROWED AND CREATED FOR THE VARIOUS DISPLAYS.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Good Evening! Welcome to the Inaugural R&B Music 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 R&B Music 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



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I would like to tell you how proud I am to be able to share this historic evening with you. This evening the R&B Music Hall of Fame plans to build a state-of-the-art facility over the next few years with money that will come from grants, private donation and other programs, for the artists who are the architects of rhythm & blues, gospel, jazz and hip-hop culture. Even in the face of adversity, these artists have persevered and generously shared their gifts with us, giving the universe decades of wonderful, soulful music. As we all know, music is the balm that heals all. It is humbling to be in the very presence of these artists, and we thank each and every one of these living American treasures for their precious gifts! I am proud to represent the R&B Music Hall of Fame Museum at this historic occasion and sincerely thank you for coming and for your continued support. With your assistance, we'll continue to meet our mission to *Preserve the music of Rhythm & Blues..*

Dr. Fred Wheatt

**FOUNDER'S GRANDMOTHER &
MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR OF MEMORABILIA
TO THE R&B HALL OF FAME MUSEUM**

Viola Tremmell

5/8/24 - 2/20/14

**WE LOVE YOU VERY MUCH
ROBINSON & TREMMELL FAMILY**

**DAUGHTER • SISTER • WIFE • MOTHER
GRANDMOTHER • AUNT • COUSIN • SAINT**

2014 INDUCTEES

MICHAEL JACKSON
WHITNEY HOUSTON

THE WHISPERS
THE SWEET
INSPIRATIONS

MARVIN GAYE

NORM N. NITE
RADIO PERSONALITY

JOE JACKSON

THE DELFONICS

THE FUNK BROTHERS
(MOTOWN)

GENE CHANDLER
CHUBBY CHECKER

MACY GRAY

THE ANDANTES

B.B. KING



SPECIAL AWARDS

THE RHYTHM & BLUES MUSIC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JOE JACKSON

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2014
INDUCTEES OF THE R&B HALL OF FAME**

**and TO ONE OF MUSIC INDUSTRIES
MOST FAMOUS ARTIST AND
OUR BELOVED**

**King of Pop
Mr. Michael Joe Jackson**

"Music has been my outlet, my gift to all of the
lovers in this world. Through it, my music, I
know I will live forever"
~ **Michael Jackson** ~

*We thank Michael for the precious
legacy he left for us ; the treasure
trove of memories, music and love.
Through his music he taught us that
the true message is and will always
be "Love" and we will continue to
spread that message.*

Kim Bailey, MA
MJ Brookins, TX
Yvonne & Justine Wolfs, Netherlands
Christine Walldren, Sweden
Tim & Sigrid Marguardt, Germany
Priya & Taaj Malik, CA
Mickey Shadd, Detroit, MI
Mimi O'Garren, MA

Elizabeth Olney, PA
Randi Nelson, CA
Linda Durogene, NY
Bonnie Lamrock, MA
Raquel Garcia Diaz, Spain
Astrid Garcia
Dianne Chilgren, WA
S. Kendrick, IL

Catherine Van Tighem, Canada
Brenda Jenkyns



Image credit: www.123rf.com/pzentilia

Michael Jackson



Jermaine and Jackie. Michael joined his siblings when he was 5 years old, and emerged as the group's lead vocalist. He showed remarkable range and depth for such a young performer, impressing audiences with his ability to convey complex emotions. Older brother Marlon also became a member of the group, which evolved into the Jackson 5.



Singer, Music Producer, Songwriter, Dancer (1958–2009)

Singer-songwriter Michael Jackson's award-winning career as the King of Pop transformed the face of pop music and popular culture. He released the best-selling album in history, *Thriller*, in 1982. He died unexpectedly in 2009.

Dubbed the "King of Pop," singer-songwriter Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana, on August 29, 1958. As a child, he performed as the lead singer of the Jackson family's popular Motown group, the Jackson 5. Jackson went on to become one of the most internationally famous award-winning solo pop sensations to date.

Michael Joseph Jackson was born on August 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana, to an African-American working-class family. His father, Joseph Jackson, had been a guitarist but had put aside his musical aspirations to provide for his family as a crane operator. Believing his sons had talent, he molded them into a musical group in the early 1960s. At first, the Jackson Family performers consisted of Michael's older brothers, Tito,



Whitney Houston COLLECTIBLES!

YOUR RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION
ON WHITNEY RARITIES AND MEMORABILIA..

WE REMEMBER WHITNEY -
LEGEND, ICON, THE VOICE!

We Will Always Love You....

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2014
INDUCTEES OF THE R&B HALL OF FAME
and TO ONE OF MUSIC INDUSTRIES
MOST FAMOUS ARTIST AND
OUR BEAUTIFUL

Whitney Houston

God gave me a voice to sing with, and when you have
that, what other gimmick is there?

~Whitney Houston~

*We cherish the precious legacy
Whitney left for her family
and fans to enjoy. We hope
she knew she was a bright light
that did shine in many dark
places. She will forever be "Loved" and "Missed"*

From the Beloved Fans Of Whitney E. Houston



Whitney Houston



become a singer. Her mother Cissy Houston, cousin Dionne Warwick and godmother Aretha Franklin were all legendary figures in American gospel and soul music. Cissy Houston was the choir minister at New Hope Baptist Church, and it was there that a young Whitney got her start. Even as a child, Whitney was able to wow audiences; she later told interviewer Diane Sawyer that a rapturous response from the congregation at New Hope had a powerful effect upon her: "I think I knew then that [my singing ability] was an infectious thing that God had given me."



Singer, Film Actor/Film Actress (1963–2012)

Whitney Houston was an American singer and actress whose first four albums, released between 1985 and 1992, and amassed global sales in excess of 86 million copies.

Born on August 9, 1963, in Newark, New Jersey, Whitney Houston released her debut album at age 22 and scored three number one singles. Whitney (1987) delivered four more number ones and earned Houston her first Grammy. With her marriage to singer Bobby Brown in 1992, Houston's career got off track. She made a comeback with 2009's *I Look to You*. Houston died on February 11, 2012.

Born August 9, 1963 in Newark, New Jersey, Whitney Houston almost seemed destined from birth to



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2014 INDUCTEES OF THE R&B HALL OF FAME and TO ONE OF MUSIC INDUSTRY'S MOST FAMOUS FATHERS/MUSIC MANAGERS OF ALL TIME.

What Makes Joe Jackson A Living Legend?

You are the "Leading Light" of the Jackson Family, who ignited the flame that led your children into a life of prominence.

We thank you for sharing your talented family with the world. Without you none of this would have been possible.

A "Living Legend" you are and we take this opportunity to:

**CONGRATULATE YOU ON RECEIVING THE
LIVING LEGEND & RHYTHM AND BLUES
MUSIC PIONEER AWARD**



**THE ADMINISTRATION TEAMS OF
TIME FOR JOE JACKSON TO BE HONORED – Facebook Group**
RaShawn Chisolm, NY
Mickey Shadd, Detroit, MI

#TEAM KATHERINE JACKSON – Facebook Group
Kim Bailey, MA
MJ Brookins, TX
Sigrid Marquardt, Germany

Joe Jackson



Joseph Jackson is best known for being the father of international pop superstar Michael Jackson.

Joseph Jackson was born July 26, 1929, in Fountain Hill, Arkansas. He married Katherine Scruse in 1949, and together they had 10 children. Jackson soon noticed their musical talent, and soon was acting as manager for The Jackson 5. The group enjoyed success but tensions eventually led to them firing Jackson. Son Michael later accused him of abuse, which some siblings confirmed and others denied.

Music manager. Born Joseph Walter Jackson on July 26, 1929, in Fountain Hill, Arkansas, as the eldest of four children. His father, Samuel Jackson, was a high school teacher and his mother, Crystal Lee King, was a housewife. The couple split up when Jackson was 12. He moved with his father to Oakland, California, while his mother moved to East Chicago, Indiana. Jackson lived a lonely childhood, and had few friends. When he turned 18, he moved to Indiana to live near his mother.

While in Indiana, he began pursuing his dreams of

becoming a boxer. He found success with the Golden Gloves, and was preparing for a professional athletic career when he met 17-year-old Katherine Scruse. He was already married at the time, but had his union quickly annulled to be with Katherine.

In 1963, however, Joseph noticed his children's musical talents after he caught his son Tito playing his guitar. That year Jackie, Tito and Jermaine formed The Jackson Brothers with Joseph serving as the group's manager. He began entering the trio in local talent competitions and by 1965; he had younger brothers Marlon and Michael also involved in the band. The group renamed themselves The Jackson 5 in 1966, and began gaining accolades in the R&B circuit.



MR. MUSIC NORM N. NITE

April 15, 2014

LaMont Robinson
Founder of the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame
10377 Valley View Road
Suite 560022
Cleveland, Ohio 44056

Dear LaMont:

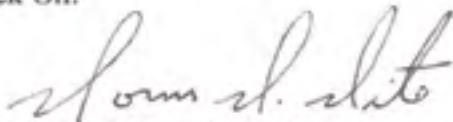
As the person who spearheaded the drive to get Cleveland the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1985, I know first-hand, the monumental task you have in bringing the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame to reality. Cleveland worked diligently for years before it became a reality, but in the end it worked and now is the crown jewel of Cleveland. I know because of your passion and knowledge of the music, and the desire to make this Hall of Fame become a reality, I know you will make it happen.

Being someone who has been involved as both a fan and professional in the music business, I fully support your efforts, for the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame needs to become a reality, and you are the person who can make it happen.

Knowing many of the artists personally, who have already been inducted, and the future inductees, I am sure I speak for them that "there time has come" for a museum to honor their achievements.

I fully support you, and wish you all the best.

Rock On!



"Mr. Music" Norm N. Nite
Broadcaster, Author and Rock Historian

Norm N. Nite



Radio Personality/ Disc Jockey / Author

Norm N. Nite (born Norman Durma, January 25, 1942), is the author of the Rock On: The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Rock N' Roll book series. Nite began his career as a DJ at WGAR (AM) in Cleveland and later at WMJI there. Later he would host a shows at WCBS-FM and WNBC in New York City. His historical interest in Rock & Roll led him to compile, as the first volume of "Rock On" describes it, "an exhaustive array of data on more than 1,000 of the most popular artists of the fifties and early sixties. Any singer who had a top 100 single during the golden days of rock n' roll can be found in (the) book." Subsequently, due to the popularity of this volume, first released in 1974, he authored a second volume in 1978, covering, as described on the dust jacket, "The Modern Years: 1964-Present" with an introduction by Wolfman Jack. In 1985 Rock On Volume 3 was released and billed "Rock On Volume 3 - The Video Revolution: 1978 - Present". During 1988 he narrated the radio program, Solid Gold Scrapbook.

In July 2005 Nite began broadcasting live from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland on SIRIUS Satellite Radio Channel 5 (SIRIUS Gold, now known as Sirius XM 50s on 5), which is also available on channel 9905 on the Dish Network. His show had originally aired Wednesdays through Sundays, but in August 2006, he cut back his on-air schedule to every Friday through Sunday afternoons from 3-6 p.m. US Eastern time (12-3 p.m. Pacific time).

From 2005 to 2014, he broadcast on Saturdays and Sundays at the same time, when he presents "Remember Then", an hour dedicated exclusively to the music that was on the charts on the corresponding date during a designated year, mainly between 1956 and 1963. The "Remember Then" hour aired between 4-5 p.m. Eastern (1-2 p.m. Pacific) on Saturdays and Sundays. Nite was an enthusiastic cheerleader of the music and its artists, and also did much to promote the 50s on 5 channel and its other on-air talent. In February 2014, SiriusXM made a sudden management move to drop live deejays from virtually all of its 50s on 5 programming, ending Nite's broadcasts accordingly without the chance to have a farewell broadcast. [2] (Some other deejays from the 50s on 5 New York studio were reassigned to weekday shifts on SiriusXM's more-favored 60s on 6 channel, including Pat St. John.)

Although he once split his time between New York City, New York and Cleveland, Ohio- he now lives in Cleveland full-time.



Chubby Checker



Singer (1941–)

Chubby Checker was an early rock 'n' roller who had a hit with the song and dance sensation, "The Twist."

American singer Chubby Checker was born as Ernest Evans on October 3, 1941, in Spring Gulley, South Carolina. Checker performed on the Philadelphia streets before signing with Cameo-Parkway Records in 1959 and recording his version of Hank Ballard's "The Twist." An appearance on "American Bandstand" made the song a No. 1 hit and dance sensation. Checker still performs today and was featured in a popular ad for Nabisco's Oreo cookies.

Born as Ernest Evans on October 3, 1941 in Spring Gulley, South Carolina, Chubby Checker (as he later became known) was the son of a tobacco farmer.

Checker's family moved to Philadelphia, and as a young boy, he worked various jobs shining shoes, selling ice and assisting in a butcher's shop. Because of his heavy build, he got his nickname, Chubby, while working as a teen at Tony Anastazi's Produce Store. With a natural gift for imitation, he enjoyed impersonating the styles of his musical heroes Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Elvis Presley. He began performing in churches and on the streets with his singing group, The Quantrells, and soon attracted the attention of music executives in Philadelphia.

Checker signed with Cameo-Parkway Records in 1959. His first two singles, "The Class" and "Dancing Dinosaur" were minor hits. Cameo encouraged him to make his own version of "The Twist," a song originally written and performed by Hank Ballard, which was already having modest success on the charts. But it was Checker's version and his accompanying dance routine that gave the song new life. He was dubbed "The King of the Twist." In fact, it was Dick Clark's wife who came up with the name Checker, a reference to the similarity between the portly singer and Fats Domino.

Although Checker recorded many more songs in the following years, none ever matched the success of "The Twist." He continued to capitalize on the twist theme with similarly titled songs, such as "Twistin' U.S.A." and "Twist it Up" in the early 1960s, and even "Let's Twist Again" in 1999. He also starred in two films featuring the twist sensation, *Twist Around the Clock* (1961) and *Don't Knock the Twist* (1962).



Gene Chandler



Singer

Gene Chandler is remembered by the rock & roll audience almost solely for the classic novelty and doo wop-tinged soul ballad “Duke of Earl”; the unforgettable opening chant of the title leading the way, the song was a number one hit in 1962. He’s esteemed by soul fans as one of the leading exponents of the ‘60s Chicago soul scene, along with Curtis Mayfield and Jerry Butler. Born Eugene Dixon, he was a member of the doo wop group the Dukays and “Duke of Earl”

was actually a Dukays recording; Dixon was renamed Gene Chandler and the single bore his credit as a solo singer. Chandler never approached the massive pop success of that chart-topper (although he occasionally entered the Top 20), but he was a big star with the R&B audience with straightforward mid-tempo and ballad soul numbers in the mid-’60s, many of which were written by Curtis Mayfield and produced by Carl Davis. Chandler’s success became more fitful after Mayfield stopped penning material for him, although he enjoyed some late-’60s hits and had a monster pop and soul smash in 1970 with “Groovy Situation.” His last successes were the far less distinguished disco- and dance-influenced R&B hits “Get Down” (1978) and “Does She Have a Friend?” (1980).





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2014 INDUCTEES OF THE R&B HALL OF FAME AND TO THE HEARTBEAT OF MOTOWN---GRAMMY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPEINTS—THE FUNK BROTHERS!!! THANK YOU FOR PLAYING ON SOME FO THE GREATEST HIST IN THE UNIVERSE—THUS PROVIDING THE SOUNDTRACK OF SO MANY LIVES!!! THE OFFICIAL FACEBOOK FAN CLUB PAGE OF THE FUNK BROTHERS—MOTOWN’S HEARTBEAT ADMINISTRATION TEAM PATRICIA A. WASHINGTON—BRONX, NY MICKEY SHADD—DETROT, MICHIGAN MARLO E. WATERS—PORTLAND, OREGON AND THE FAMILIES AND DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FUNK BROTHERS IN MEMORIAM---URIEL, JAMES, BENNY, EARL, JOHNNY, BOB, ROBERT, BONGO, PISTOL, JOE

The Funk Brothers



Band

The Funk Brothers were the brilliant but anonymous studio band responsible for the instrumental backing on countless Motown records from 1959 up to the company's move to Los Angeles in 1972. Woefully underappreciated as architects of the fabled "Motown sound," the individual musicians were rarely credited on the records that relied upon their performances, which downplayed their importance to the label. Motown's sophisticated, urbane brand of R&B certainly would have been difficult to achieve without the extensive jazz training that many of The Funk Brothers brought to the table. In order to keep that sound a distinctive brand name, Motown signed most of the group to exclusive, highly restrictive contracts during their tenure, although a few peripheral members were able to moonlight on sessions for other companies from time to time. In more recent years, The Funk Brothers' legacy has begun to receive proper attention, most notably in Allen Slutsky's 1989 book *Standing in the Shadows of Motown*, which focused on bass genius James Jamerson, and the 2002 documentary film of the same name, which covered the group as a whole.

Motown head Berry Gordy Jr. first assembled a stu-

dio band in 1959, culling its members from Detroit's fertile club scene. Most of the players came from a jazz background, although some had more experience with blues or R&B, and there was a great deal of crossover among working musicians of the time. Among the early members were pianist/bandleader Joe Hunter (not to be confused with blues balladeer Ivory Joe Hunter) and the rhythm section of bassist James Jamerson and drummer William "Benny" Benjamin, who would go on to become the backbone of the Motown beat. Other regulars who came onboard prior to 1962 were guitarists Robert White, Eddie Willis, and Joe Messina; alternate drummer Richard "Pistol" Allen; percussionists Jack Ashford (who handled the tambourine work) and Eddie "Bongo" Brown; and the aggressive pianist Earl Van Dyke, as well as numerous horn players. Eventually nicknamed The Funk Brothers, this aggregation would soon become an integral part of Motown's rise to prominence and its commercial dominance during the glory years of 1963-1967. By 1964, Hunter had quit as bandleader, paving the way for classically trained keyboardist Johnny Griffith to join and for Van Dyke to become the group leader; drummer Uriel Jones also became an active member around the same time. In addition to the numerous hit singles they played on, The Funk Brothers also played quite often around the Detroit club scene.



The Funk Brothers convene for a birthday bash for guitarist Robert White (holding sign). Pictured are (top, from left), Danny Turner, James Jamerson, Fred Wesley, and (bottom, from left) Mark Colby, White, Earl Van Dyke and Uriel Jones (Photo courtesy of Allen Slutsky)

Marvin Gaye



Singer (1939–1984)

Marvin Gaye was a soul singer-songwriter with Motown in the 1960s and 1970s. He produced his own records and often addressed controversial themes.

Born in 1939, in Washington, D.C., Marvin Gaye sang in his father's church and in the Moonglows before signing with Motown. He recorded songs by Smokey Robinson before becoming his own producer on the protest album *What's Going On* (1971). Gaye's later records developed his production style and yielded several hits, including "Let's Get It On," "Sexual Healing" and "I Heard it Through the Grapevine." Gaye was killed in 1984 during a domestic dispute with his father.

Singer Marvin Pentz Gaye, Jr., also known as the

"Prince of Soul," was born in Washington, D.C., on April 2, 1939. Gaye was raised under the strict control of his father, Reverend Marvin Gay Sr.—Marvin Gaye Jr. added the "e" on the end of his name later in life—the minister at a local church, against a bleak backdrop of widespread violence in his neighborhood.

Throughout his childhood, Gaye often found peace in music, mastering the piano and drums at a young age. Until high school, his singing experience was limited to church revivals, but soon he developed a love for R&B and doo-wop that would set the foundation for his career. In the late 1950s, Gaye joined a vocal group called The New Moonglows.

The talented singer had a phenomenal range that spanned three vocal styles and he soon impressed the group's founder, Harvey Fuqua. It wasn't long before Gaye and Fuqua both came to the attention of Detroit music impresario Berry Gordy and were signed to Gordy's legendary Motown Records.

In 1970, inspired by escalating violence and political unrest over the Vietnam War, Gaye wrote the landmark song "What's Going On." Despite clashes with Motown over the song's creative direction, the single was released in 1971 and became an instant smash. Its success prompted Gaye to take even more risks, both musically and politically. When it was released in the spring of 1971, the *What's Going On* album served to open Gaye up to new audiences while maintaining his Motown following.



The Andantes



Singing Group

Like any new business, cash flow problems plagued Motown; Raynoma Liles, aka Miss Ray developed the Rayber Music Writing Company as a remedy. Rayber, a combination of Ray and Berry Gordy's first name, charged anybody who wanted to make a record. They advertised on a local radio station and caught the ear of their first client, Louvain Demps. Raynoma Liles and Berry married. Louvain, along with Jackie Hicks and Marlene Barrow, formed the Andantes, who historians say appeared on more than 20,000 recording sessions. At first they took a back seat to the Rayber Singers, who consisted of Raynoma, Berry, Robert Bateman, Brian Holland, and anyone else hanging around. When running Motown escalated, Louvain took Miss Ray's place in the Rayber Singers, who disbanded around 1962 when the Temptations and the Supremes started doing sessions. the Supremes, as the Primettes, had worked for Lupine Records; at

Motown, they're featured on Mary Wells, Kim Weston, Sammy Ward, and Bob Kayli recordings, among others. Kayli was Robert Gordy, Berry's brother; the Supremes sing on Kayli's "Small Sad Sam," a take-off on Jimmy Dean's "Big Bad John." the Temptations added excitement to Stevie Wonder's "Contract of Love" and Mary Wells' "Everybody Needs Love," and both sing on Wells' "You Lost The Sweetest Boy."

When the Supremes ignited, the Andantes became the number-one studio rats. Like the Funk Brothers -- Motown's rhythm session -- they moonlighted on other labels in Detroit and other cities. They were in Chi-town when Mickey Stevenson needed girls to back Marvin Gaye on "Stubborn Kinda Fellow." Martha Reeves, Stevenson's secretary, called the group, who added magic to Gaye's first hit, and soon broke out on their own. Good background singers are expected to create, which the Andantes did on Mary Wells' "My Guy," Stevie Wonder's "For Once \iIn My Life," and other sessions. They backed Diana Ross on "Love Child," and Martha Reeves on every Martha & the Vandellas' recording after Annette Beard left. Holland-Dozier-Holland used the Andantes to smooth the Marvelettes' infectious but shaky harmony; they also used them on the Four Tops for high end, a technique Thom Bell employed with the Spinners and others in the '70s.

Congratulations

2014 INDUCTEES
THE WHISPERS
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1964 -2014



FROM ALL YOUR FANS

The Whispers



Singing Group

The Whispers are a veteran R&B quintet with an impressive 23-year legacy of R&B hits. Formed in Los Angeles by twins Walter and Wallace Scott, Nicholas Caldwell, Marcus Hutson, and Gordy Harmon (who left in 1973), The Whispers turned up on the Dore label in 1964 with “I Was Born When You Kissed Me.” In 1969, the quintet climbed the soul charts for the first time with “The Time Has Come” on Soul Clock, and they cracked the R&B Top Ten the next year with “Seems Like I Gotta Do Wrong.” They’ve remained hit-makers ever since for the labels Janus, Soul Train, and Solar, with smashes like the solid gold chart-topper “And the Beat Goes On” in 1980 and another number one urban contemporary hit, “Rock Steady,” in 1987. After being their backbone and selling point since the group’s inception, twin lead vocalists Walter and Wallace Scott took time out for solo careers in 1993, but remain with the Whispers.



Lanci Ad

Lanci Ad

The Sweet Inspirations



Singing Group

If one was cutting a soul, R&B, pop, rock, or girl group record in New York in the '60s and needed female backup vocals, chances are they'd try to get the Sweet Inspirations first. The group found their way onto numerous recordings, including hits by the Drifters, Van Morrison, Wilson Pickett, Solomon Burke, Garnett Mimms, and most famously, Aretha Franklin (with whom they sometimes toured).

The group evolved from the '50s gospel group the Drinkard Singers. At various points soul singers Doris Troy, Judy Clay, Dionne Warwick, and sister Dee Dee Warwick were members. By the time they began to record on their own in 1967, their leader was Cissy Houston (mother of Whitney), and the women were renamed the Sweet Inspirations.

As an Atlantic recording act, the group cut some fine sides that rank among the clearest illustrations of the

close links between soul music and gospel harmony. Usually sticking to material by famed soul and pop songwriters, they had about a half-dozen moderate R&B hits in the late '60s; the biggest, "Sweet Inspiration," was a Top 20 pop single. Houston left the group at the end of the '60s and the Inspirations left Atlantic in the early '70s, sometimes working with Elvis Presley and recording the album *Estelle*, Myrna and Sylvia for Stax in 1973.



The Delfonics



Singing Group

The Delfonics were one of the first groups to sing in the sleek, soulful style that became popularized (thanks to producer Thom Bell) as the “Philadelphia sound.” A vocal trio made up of brothers William and Wilbert Hart and high school friend Randy Cain, The Delfonics roots go back to doo wop singing at school dances in the early ‘60s. They were well-known in the Philly area for their supple, airtight harmonic talent, which brought them to the attention of record producers, eventually landing them a contract with Cameo-Parkway. While their early records brought them little if any notice, it did bring them to the attention of producer/arranger Thom Bell, who signed the band to his soon-to-be influential soul label Philly Groove. Right from the start this was a perfect match as the band released the classic “La La Means I Love You” in 1968, a song that began a string of hits lasting into the mid-’70s.

The sound that Bell created for The Delfonics was the antithesis of the soul sound that came from Stax in Memphis and Muscle Shoals in Alabama. He sandpapered away the grit, lightened up on the backbeat, brought in string sections, and created a smooth, airy sound. Critics enamored of the soul singing of Wilson Pickett and Otis Redding accused Bell and his groups of creating aural wallpaper, but the reality was that Bell and The Delfonics were setting the stage for a different kind of groove where subtlety and nuance reigned.

The hits slowed for The Delfonics in the mid-’70s, and in 1971 Randy Cain quit the band and was replaced by Major Harris. A few more minor hits followed but Harris left the band for a solo career in 1975, effectively finishing The Delfonics. Multiple versions of the group toured, and one even released an album, *Return*, in 1981.





B.B. King



Singer, Guitarist, Songwriter (1925–)

“King of the Blues” B.B. King began as a disc jockey in Memphis before finding fame as a blues and R&B guitarist, with hits like “The Thrill Is Gone.”

After serving in World War II, Riley B. King, better known as B.B. King, became a disc jockey in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was dubbed “the Beale Street Blues Boy.” That nickname was shortened to “B.B.,” and the guitarist cut his first record in 1949. He spent the next decades recording and touring, playing more than 300 shows a year. King has worked with artists from rock, pop and country backgrounds. He won his 14th Grammy Award in 2006.

A singer and guitarist born into a sharecropping family on September 16, 1925, in Itta Bena, Mississippi, B.B. King—born Riley B. King—became one of the best-known blues performers, an important consol-

idator of blues styles, and a primary model for rock guitarists. Following his service in the U.S. Army, he began his career as a disc jockey in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was dubbed “the Beale Street Blues Boy.” That nickname was soon shortened to “B.B.”

King made his first recording in 1949, and the next year began a 12-year-long association with Kent/RPM/Modern, for which he recorded a string of rhythm and blues hits, including “You Know I Love You,” “Woke Up This Morning” and “Three O’Clock Blues,” his first national hit. He also toured the nightclub circuit continuously, averaging more than 300 shows annually for over 30 years. His style of music earned him the title “King of the Blues.”

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Personal Artists of Otis Williams of The Temptations

Macy Gray

finished high school at a local public school before attending the University of California, where she started singing.

Gray released her debut album, *On How Life Is*, in 1999 to great success. In 2001 she won a Grammy for the Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for her second single, "I Try," which was also nominated for Song of the Year. Her second and third studio albums, *The Id* and *The Trouble with Being Myself*, didn't perform well in the United States but fared better in Great Britain. She then released a greatest hits album, *Very Best of Macy Gray*, in 2004, and a live album in 2005. Justin Timberlake, Fergie and Natalie Cole all collaborated with Gray on her sixth album, *Big*, which was heralded as a comeback album, receiving much critical praise.



Singer (1969–)

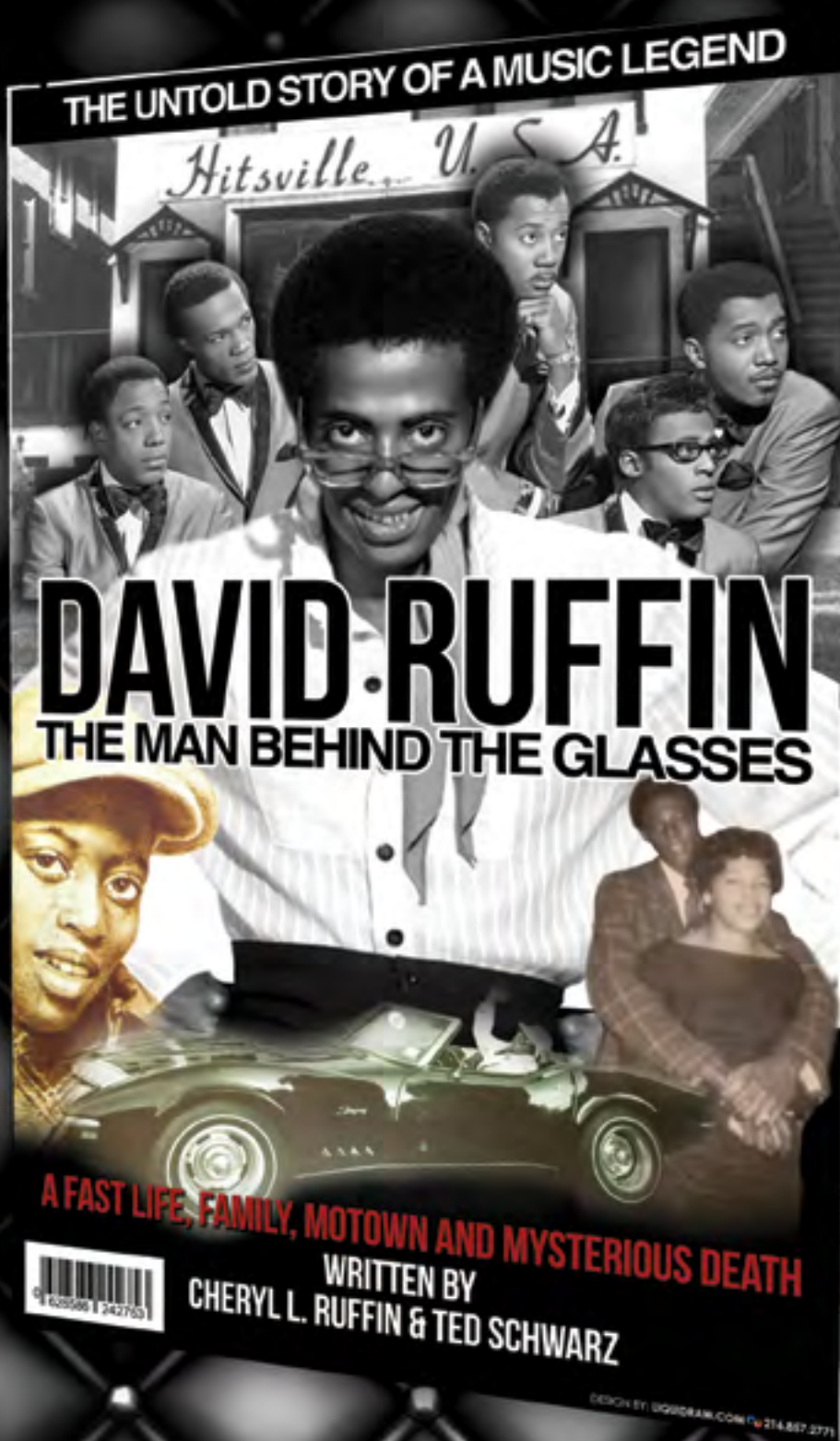
Singer-songwriter Macy Gray is widely known for her 1999 hit single, "I Try." She is also an actress and philanthropist.

Macy Gray was born and raised in Ohio, and moved to California for college. She began singing in her 20s and released her first album, *On How Life Is*, in 1999, winning a Grammy for her single, "I Try." Later albums have been less successful. In addition to singing, Gray launched an acting career, and appeared in the 2012 movie *The Paperboy* alongside Matthew McConaughey, Zac Efron and Nicole Kidman.

Macy Gray was born Natalie Renee McIntyre in Canton, Ohio, on September 6, 1969. At age 14, it was "suggested" that she leave the private college preparatory high school she attended on a scholarship. She



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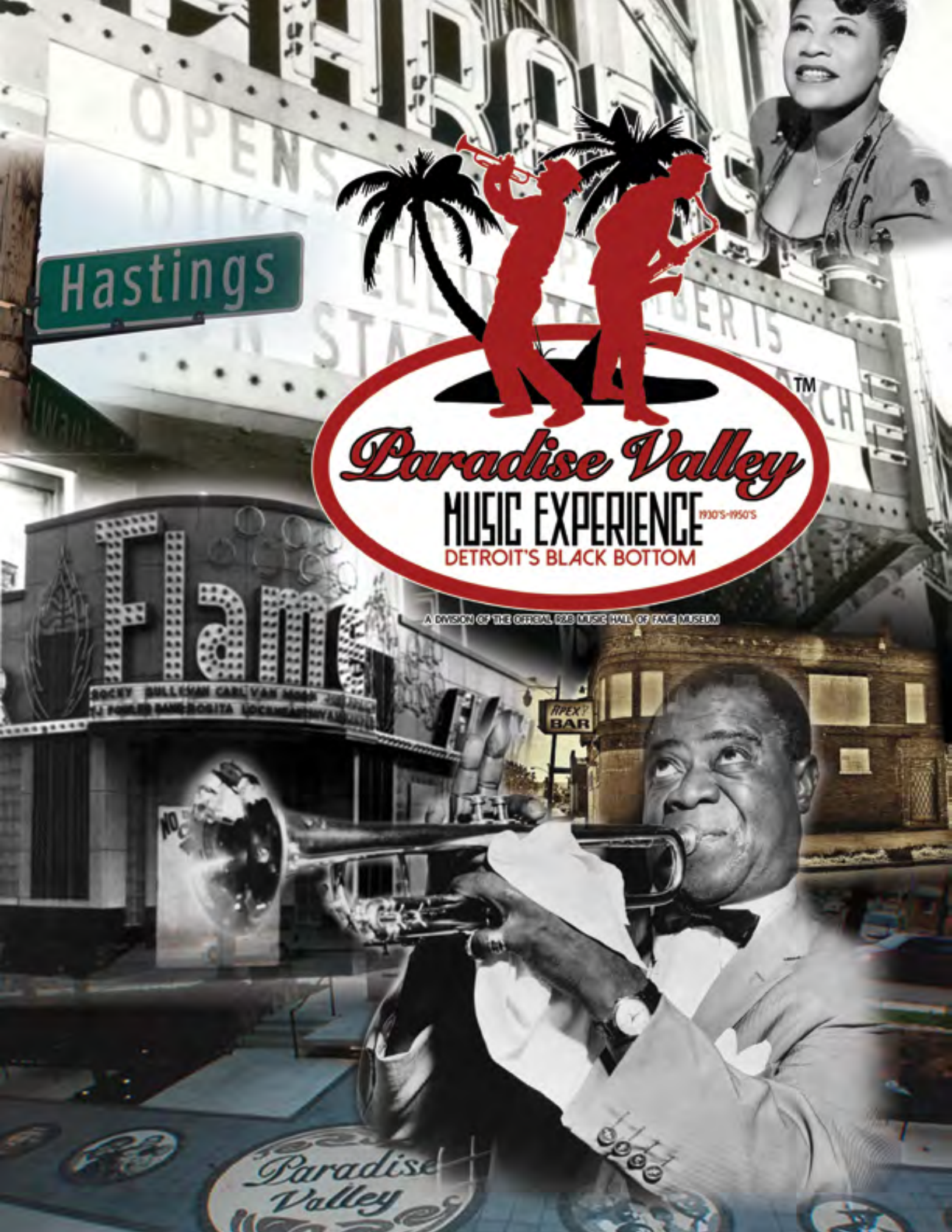


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Misty Love

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MotownAlumniAssociation.com



June 29, 2014

Dear Lamont,

The Motown Alumni Association is proud to participant in the second annual R&B Hall of Fame & Museum induction ceremony in Canton Ohio. As you know, our primary efforts involve making consumers aware of Motown Record Company's importance in society throughout the world.

Once the largest African-American Independently owned label in the world, MRC took over the airwaves as the most essential minority owned label ever to exist.

We are honored to sit on the R&B Hall of Fame and Museum advisory board, and we hope to be an instrumental voice in helping to advise your integral board members in the direction best suited for the improvement of the facility.

The Motown Alumni Association has a ton of resources to offer the R&BHOF&M. We have our own newswire service with over 10,000,000 consumers, news organizations, discussion groups, and Motown alumni that are affiliated with our package. The MAA has access to virtually every major news service around the world namely Associated Press, Reuters, BBC, Huffington Post, Washington Post, Hollywood Reporter, and over 3,500 other sources.

The MAA also has access to 85% of the Motown alumni affiliated with Motown Record Company from 1959 to the current Motown affiliates past and present.

We are looking forward to working with your staff, and we hope to become an importance source to your media and celebrity needs. Feel free to contact us anytime day or night. We will always be available for your needs.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Billy Wilson
President

Motown Alumni Association, Inc.



From The Studio of

Martha Reeves



MARTHA REEVES ENTERPRISES, INC.

marthareeves@att.net

1300 E. LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 1210-11 DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207

7/10/2014

Dear Lamont Robinson, founder of the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame:

I am proud and delighted to know that you will locate the official Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame in the historical City of Detroit, Michigan the home of Motown Artists. It will be a welcomed addition to the preserving of our mode of music and establishing the richness and creative definitions of our messages and soul stirring grooves that brings to life Rhythm and expresses the Blues of the heart. To know that you will feature all of the Artists of our generation and show the world how our lives evolved around our songs of freedom.

We need your Hall of Fame to properly define the lives of the many famous artists who have gone on to Heaven, and report the ones who carry on the traditional beats and sounds of our ancestors who excelled and survived with God's gift of Music.

I welcome you, with my sincere prayer that you succeed speedily to enrich Detroit with this dream project and provide a home for Rhythm and Blues.

Love and God Bless

A handwritten signature of Martha Reeves in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

(Martha Reeves)

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October 25, 2012

Lamont Robinson
P O. Box 560022
Macedonia, OH 44056

Lamont:

This letter is in support of your efforts to establish and build a Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

I have been a lifelong fan of the music known as rhythm and blues. In addition, as a Director of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation for the past 20 years, I have been active in advancing that institution's mission. The Foundation's mission is to preserve this treasure trove of music and to financially assist artists from the 1940s through the 1970s who need help in their lives and careers. If we are successful in moving the Foundation to Cleveland from Philadelphia as we discussed, I see that as a complementary action to your efforts.

I look forward to your first Induction Ceremony in May of 2013. Moreover, I wish you all the best in this endeavor

Peace & Soul,

Rock & Roll!

Terry Stewart
President & CEO
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

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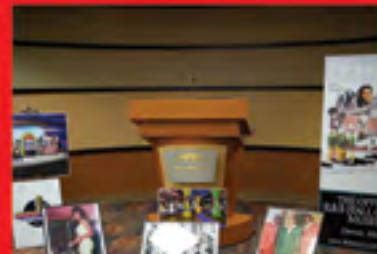
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Supporters sing the virtues of R&B Music Hall of Fame

Brian McCollum, Detroit Free Press | 5:47 PM EDT July 16, 2014

A Cleveland group is spearheading an effort to recognize the history of R&B and soul.



(Photo: R&B Music Hall of Fame)

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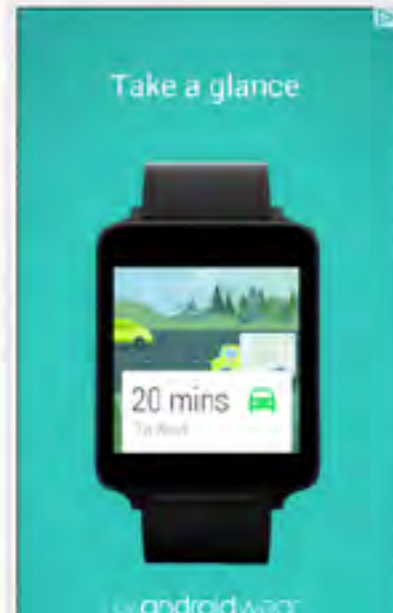
DETROIT — The dreams are big, the blueprints still vague, but a group from Cleveland has its eyes on Detroit for an R&B Music Hall of Fame.

Joined by Detroit music figures such as Duke Fakir (Four Tops), Kim Weston and Spydre Turner, representatives of the project gathered Wednesday

at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History to start cultivating public support for the effort.

The project is spearheaded by Lamont (Showboat) Robinson, a former college basketball player and Harlem Globetrotter who runs the Harlem Globes, a comedy basketball team based in Cleveland. He's also a longtime R&B enthusiast who is reported to have amassed thousands of pieces of music memorabilia.

Robinson has worked for several years to land a physical home for his R&B Music Hall of Fame, and said in 2012 that he was closing in on a Cleveland site, according to local news reports at the time. That plan didn't pan out, but the hall of fame's inaugural



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December 4, 2012

Lamont Robinson
R&B Hall of Fame
Email: Rmagicians@aol.com

Dear Lamont,

I am delighted to hear about the pursuit of establishing an R&B Hall of Fame— its long overdue! We support the purpose and respect the history that it will provide to its patrons. We look forward to celebrating all of the greats and legends that an honor like this would bestow upon them!

Stay in contact and keep us abreast of your progress.

All the Best,

Deanna Brown Thomas
President of the Brown Family Children Foundation
PO BOX 652 Clearwater, SC 29822
www.jamesbrownfamilyfdn.org



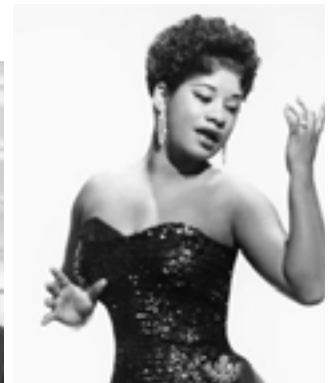
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