

Throwback: Martha Wash-Carry On

Martha Wash's staunch gospel originated vocals have been an important flow to dance music's bloodstream for thirty years. The San Francisco born Wash started out as a singer with the gospel group News Of The World with future fellow Two Tons' Of Fun and Weather Girl comrade Izora Rhodes Armstead. In the '70's they sang back-up for disco leader Sylvester most noticeably on his dance hit ["You Make Me Feel \(Mighty Real\)."](#) The ladies joined the Fantasy label and released two albums that delivered a handful of soul/disco standouts ["Earth Can Be Just Like Heaven,"](#) ["Taking Away Your Space,"](#) ["Just Us,"](#) ["I Got The Feeling"](#) and the overlooked ["Do You Wanna Boogie Huh."](#) They moved to Columbia records in 1982 and changed their name to The Weather Girls. ["It's Raining Men"](#) became their biggest single and they had two more minor hits with ["Dear Santa *Bring Me A Man This Christmas"](#) and "No One Can Love You More Than Me." When the original line-up disbanded Wash sang lead on Black Box's house music classics ["Everybody Everybody,"](#) ["Strike It Up,"](#) ["I Don't Know Anybody Else"](#) and C+C Music Factory's ["Gonna Make You Sweat."](#) Her association boths band was interesting because in the videos for each song a model was used because Wash was told that her full-figured Black woman image was not marketable. The singer sued both groups and RCA records for not receiving credit for performing on the songs and she won royalties in a case that made it a law to give proper recognition to vocalists on CDs and in videos. RCA gave her a recording contract which generated her first solo album and three new dance smashes "Carry On," ["Give It To You"](#) and "Runaround." The '90s produced more house essentials like ["Leave A Light On,"](#) ["Keep On Jumpin'"](#) with Jocelyn Brown. Last year's ["Keep Your Body Working"](#) with Tony Moran was her most

recent recording and she continues to perform regularly on the international club circuit.