

Throwback: Smokey Robinson-Cruisin'



[youtube id="WlzY6cWpoMQ"]Smokey Robinson recorded his 1979 single "Cruisin'" for the *Where There's Smoke* album. Robinson co-wrote "Cruisin'" with Marv Tarplin who was a member of The Miracles with him. The romantic song about lovers going for a car ride or just spending time together put Robinson in the spotlight as a solo artist after his earlier days at Motown as a Miracle. He had experienced success in 1975 with his *Quiet Storm* album but his subsequent albums until 1979 were not as well-received. "Cruisin'" was his first pop hit to make the Top Ten charts and took Robinson's voice into the '80s. Robinson had already introduced his flawless falsetto to the world as a Miracle singing "Ooh Baby Baby" and made that vocal style an essential of pop music and "Cruisin'" took that influence to Generation X and beyond. D'Angelo would record a successful cover of "Cruisin'" for his debut album *Brown Sugar* in 1995. In 2014, he revisited "Cruisin'" with singer Jessie J on his *Smokey & Friends* album that featured covers of his songs with contemporary artists. The collection is his second most successful solo album and his most recent work. Robinson will debut his new show [Live In Vegas!](#) at the Encore Theater on February 27th.