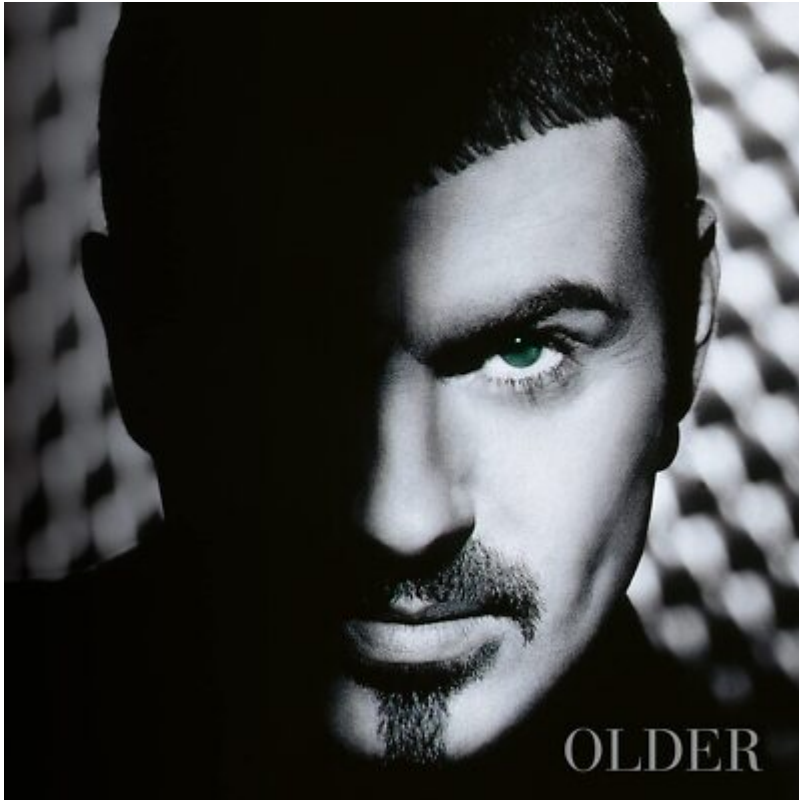


Throwback: George Michael: Fastlove



George Michael's "Fastlove" was the second single released from his 1996 album, *Older*. It came out almost six years after the release of his sophomore album, *Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1*. *Older* moved away from the previous reliance on synthesizers and joyous pop to be replaced with live instrumentation and a moodier sound. Michael was inspired by Brazilian musician Antônio Carlos Jobim, jazz, and his usual palette of Black music. He co-wrote "Fastlove" with the album's producer, Jon Douglas, who he had worked with in the past. "Fastlove" pleaded for a casual relationship with a groove infused with Patrice Rushen's "Forget Me Nots." The music had a melancholy to it, which was a reflection of Michael having lost his lover, Feleppa Anselmo, to AIDS, and he subsequently dedicated the album to him.

Michael also used *Older* as a way to passively come out to his fans by donning what he called a "gay look," which consisted

of short black hair, a mustache, a goatee, and leather. "Fastlove" was a hit and the video earned an MTV Europe International Viewer's Choice Award. *Older* became Michael's most commercially successful album and was re-released in 1997 as a two-gold-CD box set called *Older and Upper*. A remastered and expanded edition was released in 2022.