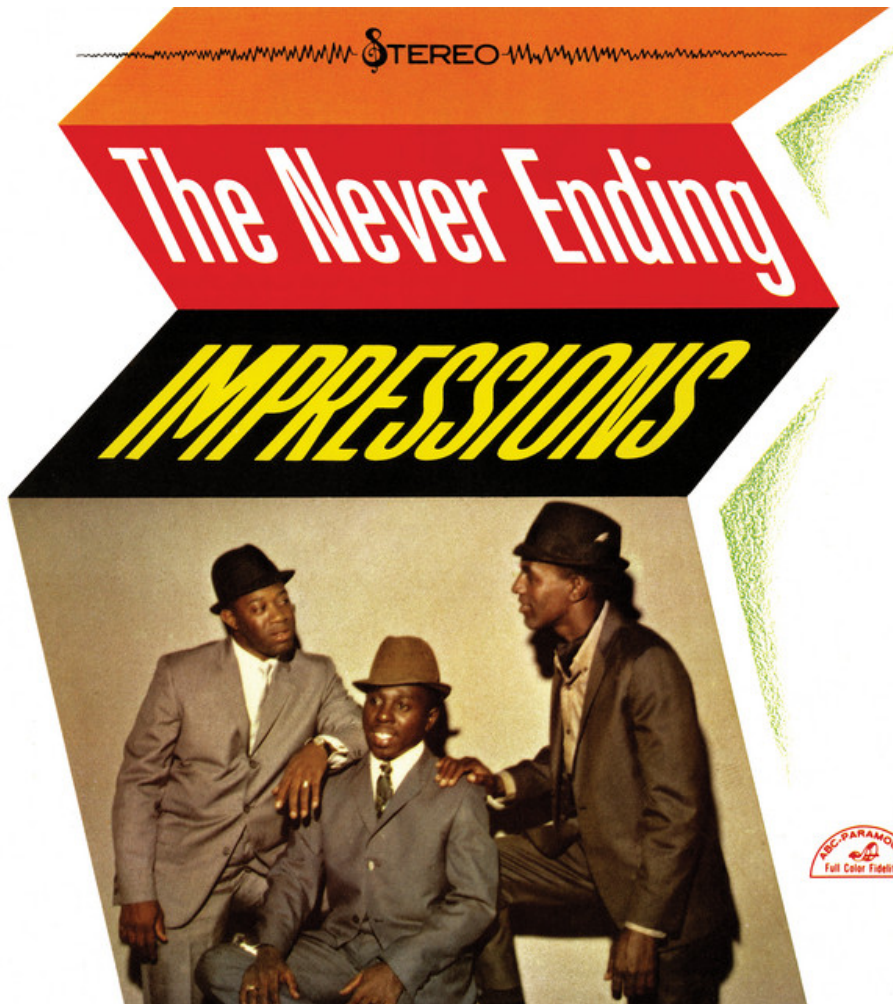


Throwback: The Impressions - I'm So Proud



"I'm So Proud" was one of Curtis Mayfield's songs he recorded as a member of The Impressions for their 1964 sophomore album *The Never Ending Impressions*. Mayfield's lyrics, falsetto, and the group's harmony were the purest expressions of love in the song. "I'm So Proud" was another R&B hit for the group who had already been successful off their first album thanks to the rise of "It's All Right." Johnny Pate started working with Mayfield on the second album after initially teaming up with him for the 1963 single "Sad Sad Girl and Boy." Pate's role continued with the group and Mayfield after he went solo in 1970. The Impressions were one of the premier soul groups of the time and "I'm So Proud" was just one example of their excellence that grew and asserted Chicago's importance to

music. The Main Ingredient, Deniece Williams, The Isley Brothers, Isaac Hayes, Phil Perry, and Todd Rundgren have covered “I’m So Proud.” The Impressions released more than 20 albums when they retired in 2018. The lineup changed and they continued to make music but their best music was during the Mayfield era. Their influence has been recognized in numerous spaces and by several artists. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2003.

Chaka Khan’s Tiny Desk Concert

The legendary Chaka Khan aka the Queen of Funk Soul graced the Tiny Desk room to give a show for Black Music Month. NPR wanted to showcase nine Black women artists and Khan is one of them. Khan performs seven of her classics with her band and trio of backup singers including Trina Broussard, Tiffany Smith, and Audrey Wheeler-Downing the lead singer of the ’80s New York dance band Unlimited Touch. By the time Khan gets to “Sweet Thing,” the audience is singing with and without her. She ends her set with the Ashford & Simpson-penned “I’m Every Woman.” Chaka Khan is on [tour](#) this summer.

R.I.P. Angela Bofill



Singer Angela Bofill died June 13th aged 70 at her daughter's home in Vallejo, California. The announcement was made on her [Facebook](#) page by her manager Rich Engel and no cause of death was listed. Bofill was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in a Bronx household with parents who had sung with Afro-Cuban jazz great Machito. The exposure to Latin music and soul shaped her versatility as an artist. As a teenager, she sang in New York City's All City Chorus of top singers from the five boroughs' high schools. She graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with a bachelor's degree in music and started her career in the late '70s with GRP Records. Her 1978 debut album, *Angie*, introduced the world to her 3 1/2 octaves of

uniquely rich and soulful vocals. Her cover of "This Time I'll Be Sweeter" was her first single and it was an R&B hit. *Angel Of The Night* was her second album and "I Try" which she composed as a teenager, charted and became one of her signature songs. "What I Wouldn't Do (For The Love Of You)" was another hit song from this album. The Cuban-Puerto Rican singer was one of the first Latinas to have a fanbase from R&B and jazz audiences. Clive Davis signed Bofill to Arista and during this time "Tonight I Give In," "Too Tough," "Let Me Be The One" and "I'm On Your Side" were some of her commercial singles. Narada Michael Walden, The System, George Duke, and Denny Diante produced her albums for Arista. The record company never knew how to market her but she still found her audience and critical acclaim.

Bofill's most consistent radio presence came from jazz outlets and Quiet Storm shows where album cuts like "Under the Moon and Over the Sky" "The Feelins Love," and "Rough Times" were played in addition to "I Try." She recorded five albums for Arista before going to Capitol Records and releasing the Norman Connors-produced *Intuition* in 1988. *I Wanna Love Somebody* came out on Jive and her last album *Love In Slow Motion* was a Shanachie release. In the early 2000s, she did backup vocals for Diana Ross and Kirk Whalum. She also appeared in the stage plays *God Don't Like Ugly* and *What a Man Wants, What a Man Needs*. In 2006 Bofill had a stroke and in 2007 she had another one. In 2011 she returned to the stage with The Angela Bofill Experience, narrating her life story as Maysa Leak, Melba Moore, and Phil Perry performed her music. TV One made her the subject of an episode of *Unsung* in 2012. Nas, Big Sean, and Rick Ross are some of the artists who have sampled Bofill's music. Will Downing covered "I Try" for his 1991 album *A Dream Fulfilled*. Bofill was inducted into the Women Songwriters Hall Of Fame in 2023.

Channel Tres Uncloaks Video For Cactus Water & Has New Release Date For Debut Album



Credit: Julian Burgueño

Watch the video for Channel Tres' "Cactus Water." The single is on the producer's *Head Rush* debut album and has a new release date of June 28th. Thundercat, Toro y Moi, Ravyn Lenae, Estelle, Ty Dollar \$ign, Teezo Touchdown, and Watr have guest appearances on the Compton DJ's new musical outing. "Cactus Water" is a catchy R&B romp with many Prince-isms in its makeup right down to the tinny-sounding keys, rhythm guitar, and steamy lyrics. Channel Tres and his crew perform some of the choreography from his tour in the video. He explained his decision to release an album after releasing six

EPs and numerous singles since 2018 including "Topdown," "Controller" and the Honey Dijon collaboration "Show Me Some Love." "There were things about my story that I didn't know how to express, musically or lyrically," he says. But after a sometimes trying period of growth, he's finally ready to articulate this chapter of his life: "I would say my artistry has grown to a place where I'm comfortable sharing this much at one time." *Head Rush* comes on June 28th on RCA Records.