## Mondo Freaks Share Video For Turn This Love Around & Bells Are Ringing



Credit: Richard Clifford

Australian 10-piece funk band Mondo Freaks rolls out the video for "Turn This Love Around" and "Bells Are Ringing." The group is getting ready for their debut album release in October and both singles are on the track listing. The live performance video is the latest from their Live At The Quadraphonic Club series. "Turn This Love Around" and "Bells Are Ringing" flaunt their debt to Chic and Stevie Wonder. Mondo Freaks play with the manners of joyful disciples dedicated to the primordial grooves of both masters. Band co-founder Luke Hodgson explains the process:

"Along with 'Bells Are Ringing', 'Turn This Love Around' pre?y much came together in one night if you count the

international date line", recalls bassist and band co-founder Luke Hodgson. "A full instrumental arrangement recorded in Melbourne by Graeme and I then sent to Jade over in Oregon to demo her ideas in real time. A true synergy in concept and musical ideas for this one too. Some songs simply write themselves. A cosmic gift!"

Mondo Freaks' eponymous debut album is scheduled to drop on October 17th on vinyl and streaming with the option to <a href="mailto:pre-order">pre-order</a> now. Until then you can check out their Bells Are Ringing EP which came out in April.

## Jay Worthy Shares P Funkentelechy With George Clinton & Leven Kali



California rapper Jay Worthy's new single "P Funkentelechy" is a tribute to Parliament's original with appearances from George Clinton and Leven Kali. Clinton's band Parliament released "Funkentelechy" 48 years ago and Worthy's single reiterates P-Funk's lasting influence on hip-hop and pop. Clinton and Kali are in the video for the alternate version of the single, representing three generations of funk appreciators. The song is on Worthy's debut solo album, Once Upon A Time. The double album will be released in two parts and the first half comes out September 26th. Fans are still listening to the Magic Hour collaboration album Worthy did with Dam-Funk, which came out last year.

## R.I.P. Sly Stone



Sly Stone has passed at the age of 82 decades after his rise as a soul and funk pioneer of the '60s. Stone was a native of Vallejo, California, and he grew up in a religious household with parents who had a great appreciation for music. When he was a child, he and his siblings Freddie, Rose, and Loretta formed the gospel group, The Stewart Four. They released the single "On The Battlefield" locally in 1956. Sly's musical gifts were recognized while he was still a kid, and by the time he was 11 he was proficiently playing keyboards, guitar, drums, and bass. As a teenager he was a brief member of a local doo-wop group called the Viscaynes. Sly and his friend Frank Arellano, who was Filipino, were the only non-Black members. It was at this time that he also released a few songs under the name Danny Stewart and formed The Stewart Brothers

with his brother Freddie. Stewart was Sly's formal surname and he later chose Stone as his recording alias. He became an influential DJ heard on KSOL-AM and KSAN while playing keyboards for other prominent artists, including Dionne Warwick, Marvin Gaye, Chubby Checker, and many more. Freddie had a band called Freddie and the Stone Souls and Sly's was called Sly and the Stoners. They decided to combine both groups and released their first album, *A Whole New Thing*, in 1967.

Sly and the Family Stone were unusual because they were a multiracial, coed unit. Their soul and funk fusion was built on Sly's gospel foundation and they wouldn't get a hit until "Dance To The Music," which was the title track from their sophomore album. It wasn't until their fourth album, Stand!, that their popularity took off with the success of the song "Everyday People." It was during the summer of 1969 that they achieved stardom and Sly became one of the most important voices in music, with an influence on his genre and artists who didn't even record soul or funk music. They were the only band to perform at Woodstock and the Summer of Soul concerts.

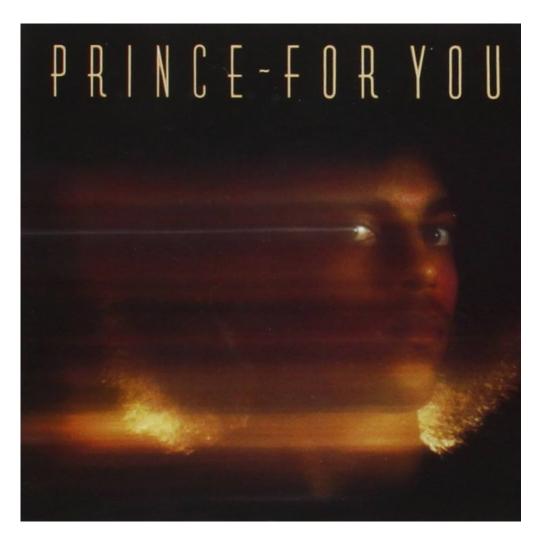
Sly and the Family Stone were labeled as progressive soul pioneers for their sound that pulled rock, gospel, and R&B together with lyrics that could sometimes be political. Their music changed after 1971 when they released *There's A Riot Goin' On*. This album had a deep, muddled sound thanks to Stone's overdubbing of the songs instead of their previous recordings, where the band played live together. Larry Graham's slap bass style burst through and became a blueprint for countless bass players. It was their fifth album and one of the first to use a drum machine. The band's drug use started to interfere with their ability to tour. Concert promoters became hesitant about booking them because of a pattern of not showing up and being able to perform. The original lineup recorded two more albums together before Stone became the main member of the band's last recordings. He also

released a solo album in 1975. The changes in the group did not alter his ability to create foundational soul and funk gems. Heard Ya Missed Me Well I'm Back, Back on the Right Track and Ain't but the One Way all had some of the brilliance of his earlier music.

In the 80s he participated in some powerful collaborations with George Clinton's Funkadelic and Jesse Johnson. He also appeared on a Bar-Kays album and wrote a song for the Burglar soundtrack. In the '90s Sly and the Family Stone appeared on the Red Hot Organization's Red+Hot+Dance compilation. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993 and that would be Stone's last major appearance before he disappeared into seclusion. Sly's reclusive behavior was broken up with unpredictable performances, such as a show with George Clinton in 2009 at the African Festival of the Arts in Chicago. He also made some appearances with his daughter Novena Stone's group, Baby Stone. The LOVE CITY convention in 2015 at the Den Lounge inside of the Fox Oakland Theater was a tribute to him and he showed up with four of his band members. He never recaptured his career but the tributes were forthcoming and he performed at the Grammy tribute to his band in 2006. Hip-hop has kept his music relevant because he has been sampled so much by rappers through the generations. Prince, D'Angelo, Janelle Monáe, and Amp Fiddler are but a handful of the artists to feel Sly's influence.

In 2023, he released his memoir, Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin) and he completed a screenplay about his life in 2024. There are four documentaries about Sly Stone: Coming Back for More, On The Sly: In Search of the Family Stone, and Questlove's Sly Lives! (aka the Burden of Black Genius), which was released this year.

## Throwback: Prince: Soft and Wet



"Soft and Wet" is Prince's first solo single, released on June 7, 1978, which was his 20th birthday. He co-wrote the song with Chris Moon as part of the work done for his debut album, For You. Prince operated as a one-man band on the album, and for "Soft and Wet," he played synthesizers, guitar, drums, and clavinet. The sensual funk of "Soft and Wet" introduced Prince's falsetto, dripping with desire, on a bed of slinky

synths, smacking handclaps, and an enchanting solo that was a precursor to the sound of *Dirty Mind*. "Soft and Wet" was a Top 20 hit on the Soul Singles chart and *For You* made it to 163 on the Billboard 200. *For You* introduced one of the most important artists of the 20th and 21st centuries and was the start of a very long recording career. Londell McMillan announced a Ryan Coogler-directed musical movie about Prince, a box set of *Around The World In A Day* and vinyl versions of Hit and Run Phases One and Two at the Prince Celebration 2025.