Wax Poetics Will Auction Rare Mariah Carey Demo Tape



New York music journal Wax Poetics is preparing to auction off a Mariah Carey demo tape from Arthur Baker's archive. Loyal fans are familiar with Carey's early days when she was a backup singer for freestyle artist Brenda K. Starr. Carey's eventual breakthrough to get a solo deal was greatly helped by Starr connecting her to music industry folk, most famously Tommy Mottola. Baker shares the story of how he attended the same party where Carey met Mottola and how he also received a copy of the tape. It's interesting to see Baker talk about

listening to the tape at his studio and finding out that Angie Stone was there too. Wax Poetics has previously held auctions for items from Don Blackman, Bootsy Collins, Louie Vega, and D?mFunk. Alex Bruh, co-owner and CEO of Wax Poetics explained in a press release the value of Carey's demo.

"This tape is one of the most sought-after items we have come across. It captures the exact moment an era-defining artist was emerging, before the world knew her name. Our mission has always been to preserve and grow music culture with care, context, and respect. This release honors one of the greatest singers and songwriters of our time by preserving a rare piece of her story."

Baker, who just released an autobiography about his life as one of the seminal producers of the '80s, had not listened to the Mariah Carey demo again until he recently found it. Whoever wins the tape will also receive a verified certificate of authenticity, archival notes, and historical context from Baker's collection and the Wax Poetics archive team. The bidding window is December 2nd until December 11th at 3 PM. You can place a bid on the Wax Poetics website.

Throwback: The Temptations: Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)



The Temptations recorded "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)" for their 1971 14th studio album, Sky's The Limit. Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong wrote the song that featured Eddie Kendrick's falsetto on lead. They employed an orchestra to create a dreamy feeling that matched the song's message and the arrangement elevated the pureness Kendrick's voice. The performance was epic and "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)" became the third single to hit number one for them. Fans were relieved to hear the single because it was a return to the group's previous sound. Whitfield and Strong had focused on psychedelic soul influenced by the music Jimi Hendrix and Sly and the Family Stone were making at the time. "Cloud Nine" and "Ball Of Confusion (That's What The World Is Today)" were hits but fans were still attached to the earlier style." Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)" was more than familiar territory because it was slated to become one of the group's signature

songs.

Sky's The Limit was the last time Kendricks recorded with the group before leaving for a solo career after multiple conflicts with members Otis Williams and Melvin Franklin. Paul Williams' co-leading part was his goodbye because his health was declining and he retired from The Temptations later that year. Williams and Kendricks made their last television appearance with the group when they performed the single on The Ed Sullivan Show. "Just My Imagination (Running Away With Me)" is one of The Temptations' greatest songs, and it has been covered at least 40 times by The Rolling Stones, Donald Byrd, Boyz II Men, Rod Stewart, Dianne Reeves, and more. Otis Williams still leads and tours with The Temptations in 2025.

Media Questions Of The Week

A 10-foot statue of rock n' roll queen Tina Turner was unveiled in the rural Tennessee community where she grew up.

Read more: https://t.co/sSIFwmHsf7 pic.twitter.com/lGnfJFlFks

- ABC News (@ABC) <u>September 28, 2025</u>

Is the new Tina Turner statue in Tennessee accurate in its representation of her?

Wasn't my bus. It was a crew bus. Parked in front of the hotel. Everybody was upstairs sleeping. Nobody hurt. No equipment damaged. A coward set fire to the bus. My bus was

actually in Oakland getting serviced.

- Ice Cube (@icecube) <u>September 27, 2025</u>

Why did someone set fire to a bus belonging to Ice Cube's entourage?

Will Motown Records sue Taylor Swift for using The Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" for her song, "Wood?"

Thundercat Is Back With Two New Songs

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Credit: Eddie Alcazar

Thundercat releases first new music in two years with "I Wish I Didn't Waste Your Time" and "Children of the Baked Potato." Greg Kurstin, a legend in his own right who is known for his work with Adele, among many others, worked on both songs. "I Wish I Didn't Waste Your Time" is typical smooth Thundercat fusion sounds straight out George Duke's playbook. "Children of the Baked Potato" features Remi Wolf gives Weather Report vibes with its turbo bass and frantic percussion. The song is a reference to The Baked Potato jazz club in California. Thundercat explains, "She's [Remi] a child of the Baked Potato like me," Thundercat says. "She knew exactly what the song needed. And it was wild to watch her make it happen. The more I listen to the song, it's clear there was no one better I could have picked."

Both songs are a strong return for Thundercat who released *It Is What It Is* more than five years ago. Thundercat will return to the road next month with a tour of North America and tickets are on sale now.

Tour Dates

October 15th - Atlanta, GA - Coca-Cola Roxy

October 17th - Miami, FL - III Points Festival

October 25th - Brooklyn, NY - Brooklyn Paramount

October 28th - Washington D.C. - The Anthem

October 29th - Philadelphia, PA - Franklin Music Hall

October 30th - Boston, MA - Roadrunner

November 1st - Toronto, ON - Massey Hall

November 7th - Chicago, IL - Byline Bank Aragon Ballroom

November 11th - Denver, CO - Fillmore Auditorium

November 16th - Los Angeles, CA - Camp Flog Gnaw