

R.I.P. Sylvia Robinson

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Sylvia Robinson, the co-founder of Sugar Hill Records with her husband Joe passed today of congestive heart failure. Robinson had the vision to record rap music at a time when it was still mostly unknown to America. She formed the Sugarhill Gang and recorded their "Rapper's Delight" which became hip-hop's first commercially successful single. Sugar Hill Records is also credited with recording ["The Message"](#) by Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five. Earlier in her music career she had a hit with ["Love Is Strange"](#) in 1957 as Mickey & Sylvia and ["Pillowtalk"](#) in 1973.

The Original 7ven (formerly known as legendary Minneapolis funk band The Time) release new album Oct 18th



Fairfax, VA (September 28, 2011) – Morris Day, Jesse Johnson, Jimmy Jam, Terry Lewis, Jellybean Johnson, Jerome Benton and Monte Moir revitalize the classic Minneapolis sound on their first new album together in 21 years. Condensate, due October 18th on SRR Records, features 14 brand new but instantly familiar tracks by the band formerly known as The Time. From

their origins in the early '80s as Prince's first protégés led by the dynamic Morris Day, this seminal group continues to deliver groundbreaking funk-rock dance grooves as only they can. Today the Original 7ven remain a fascinating and outrageous musical congregation.

Now, for the first time since the '90s, all the original members of the band formerly known as The Time have reunited in the studio as The Original 7ven to deliver an authentic and unapologetically funky album of instant classics! Condensate has all the cool and swagger of earlier years and asserts funk-tastic confidence perfectly suited for today's audience. Endlessly entertaining, this new collection of 14 timeless grooves puts the "fun" back in funk!

The album name Condensate is taken from Morris Day's tongue-in-cheek comment, "I don't sweat, I condensate."

"The studio was alive when we recorded. The energy and the fever, the skill and the fun – the fun – took Condensate to a whole new level."

School's in! The Original 7vens' music is fresh and wildly infectious," says Mike Jason, SRR Records Senior Vice President, Retail, "and all I can say is it was worth the wait!"

30 years ago, The Original 7ven musicians left crowds stunned and screaming for more when they took their funk/rock/pop sound on the road, led by the marvelously charismatic front man Morris Day. Formed in 1981, Morris Day, Jesse Johnson, Jimmy Jam, Terry Lewis, Jellybean Johnson, Jerome Benton and Monte Moir were legendary for enhancing their exciting funk/rock/pop Minneapolis Sound out of the studio and to the stage. When they previously performed as The Time, the group pulled frenetic energy and warmth from synthesizer-laden technology for their live concerts. Their brash, fresh and inventive talent has driven every single member of the band

since then to innovative careers and success.

Lead vocalist Morris Day is a triple threat performer of Stage, Screen, and Television. He is also an accomplished drummer who played on many of The Time's biggest hits. His singing career includes four albums with The Time as well as four solo albums. Day wrote and produced the smash dance hit "The Oak Tree" and followed that up with the #1 hit "Fishnet" with fellow alums Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis. Day continues to perform wildly popular concerts with Moir and Jellybean Johnson.

World class Guitarist Jesse Johnson, who co-wrote The Time's smash "Jungle Love," also found critical and commercial success as a songwriter/producer working with Janet Jackson, After 7, Paula Abdul and Chaka Khan. Johnson also contributed music for film soundtracks including "The Breakfast Club, Pretty In Pink", "The 5 Heartbeats", and "A Time To Kill". His solo projects include, Jesse Johnson's Revue 1985, Shockadelica 1986, Every Shade of Love 1988, Bare My Naked Soul 1996, and the critically acclaimed Verbal Penetration 2009.

Keyboardist Jimmy Jam and Bassist Terry Lewis are five time Grammy award winners who have more Billboard Hot 100 #1's than any songwriting/production duo in music history. Recognized as one of the most innovative and successful production teams in music, Jam & Lewis are responsible for an entire era of music including Janet Jackson's string of hits, as well as recent songs by Usher, Mariah Carey and Keyshia Cole.

Keyboardist Monte Moir is a songwriter, singer, producer, and classically trained musician who has written and produced a number of hits including Janet Jackson's #1 smash "The Pleasure Principle" as well as Alexander O'Neal's classic "If You Were Here Tonight". Other notable artists Moir has worked with include Gladys Knight, Thelma Houston,

Deniece Williams and Patti Austin.

Drummer Jellybean Johnson has contributed his songwriting/producing and Guitar skills on numerous hits. Most notably with Janet Jackson to create the #1 rock-driven anthem "Black Cat". Johnson also scored top charting hits with artists including New Edition ("Crucial"), Alexander O'Neal ("Criticize"), Nona Hendrix ("Why Should I Cry") and Mint Condition's #1 smash "Breakin My Heart (Pretty Brown Eyes)".

Mirror & Percussionist Jerome Benton, (the half brother of Terry Lewis) is an audience favorite for his playful interaction and delightful chemistry with Morris Day onstage. As an actor he starred in Prince's films "Purple Rain" and "Under the Cherry Moon" and stole scenes in music videos with Prince, Janet Jackson, Herb Alpert, and most notably when he performed with The Time. Benton was also a member of the group The Family and has written several scripts for the stage and screen.

Musical Phenomenon Naturally 7 to Tribute Herbie Hancock and more at CAAM



Los Angeles – There is a phenomenon sweeping across the international musical landscape known as Naturally 7 and it is about to hit Los Angeles big. Having mesmerized audiences across Europe, the sensation has been engaging music lovers with shows that simply defy logic. Instead of performing with

the backdrop of a live band, these Hidden Beach Records artists utilize their vocal chords to duplicate the sounds of actual instruments. An uncanny ability they call "Vocal Play," the members of Naturally 7 actually become the instruments coupled with a cappella sound. Resonating as voice and instrument, Naturally 7 make beat boxing appear child's play. You will blink, just to make sure what your eyes are witnessing and what your ears are hearing is real!

On Sunday, October 16, 2011, Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum (Friends) will present Los Angeles with this unique "Art of Sound" when Naturally 7 performs an exclusive full live concert at the California African American Museum (CAAM) in Exposition Park. The occasion will not only benefit the youth and education programs at CAAM, it is destined to be an experience that will change the way you listen to music! The Naturally 7 live concert on Sunday begins at 5:00 pm with a buffet dinner and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. General admission and VIP seating is available. Call 213-744-2077 for more information and tickets are available at www.caamuseum.org.

The exclusive live performance follows the annual An Artful Evening at CAAM gala fundraiser on Saturday, October 15, which honors dancer/choreographer Donald McKayle, visual artist Betye Saar and Grammy Award winning musician/composer Herbie Hancock. Naturally 7 will preview their talent at the affair with a special tribute performance.

Naturally 7 initially charmed America with a national U.S. television debut on "Ellen." Touring with Michael Bublé, they also guest appeared with him on "The Today Show." More recently, they opened for Jay Leno in Las Vegas, and performed on the "Tonight Show." Quincy Jones took note of the group at his 75th Birthday in Montreux and they were also guests at the Playboy Jazz Festival. The native New Yorkers have even performed at the prestigious TED (Technology, Entertainment,

and Design) Conference where they received a standing ovation. The group has recorded a number of CD's over the years including "Non Fiction" (2000), the aptly titled "What Is It" (2003), "Christmas ...It's A Love Story" (2004) and "Ready II Fly" (2006). Their latest Hidden Beach Records release is entitled "Vocal Play."

Naturally 7 are Roger Thomas as not only musical director and arranger but also first baritone and rapper; Warren Thomas as percussion, guitar, clarinet, and third tenor; Rod Eldridge as first tenor, scratching and trumpet; Napoleon (Polo) Cummings as fourth tenor and guitar; Dwight Stewart as second baritone, vocals and trumpet; Garfield Buckley as second tenor and harmonica and "Hops" Hutton as bass.

"Naturally 7 are a wonderful cap to a weekend of spectacular events at CAAM coordinated to raise funds to support our youth, education and free public programs," expresses CAAM executive director, Charmaine Jefferson. "CAAM has always been a cutting edge force in the artistic community and Naturally 7 is quite an innovative art expression with their unique fashioning of sound. We are honored that they have chosen to donate their services to our cause and to present them in such an intimate setting where the audience can experience them up close and personal. Considering that the concert will benefit our educational programs here at CAAM, we are providing our supporters a wonderful opportunity to contribute while being treated with an amazing show."

Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, the California African American Museum, located in Exposition Park, is a state supported institution. In addition to its permanent collection, CAAM hosts specially borrowed and self-curated exhibitions, free public and school age education programs, and tours CAAM-owned exhibitions throughout California and the nation. Admission to CAAM is free and open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Parking located at 39th and Figueroa

Streets is \$10.

Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to provide resources, staffing, programming and exhibition funding in support of CAAM's mission. Explore the California African American Museum's offerings at <http://www.caamuseum.org>. For general CAAM information call (213) 744-7432.

For a peak at the magic that is Naturally 7 check them out on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5MkNOXSdkA> .

Kaidi Tatham-Kaidi's 5ive



[Kaidi's 5ive by jazz re:freshed](#)

Broken beat guru Kaidi Tatham released some of his jazzy dance energy as the EP *Kaidi's 5ive* at the end of August. A full digital release was expected on September you can [get the EP](#) until then.