

# Soul Train Award Winners & Performances



Beyoncé Credit: Sassy

Beyoncé was a big winner at the Soul Train Awards taking home honors for Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Best Collaboration. Tems won for Best New Artist and Jermaine Dupri presented the Lady of Soul Award to Xscape. Morris Day & The Time were among some of the best performers during the evening's lineup, including Ari Lennox, Chante Moore and Xscape. They also received the Legend Award. See the full list of winners and some of the performances.

**Soul**

**Train Award Winners**

**Best New Artist**

Ckay

Coco Jones  
Dixson  
Doechii  
Fireboy Dml  
Muni Long  
Steve Lacy  
**Tems**

**Certified Soul Award**

Chaka Khan  
Charlie Wilson  
Diana Ross  
**Mary J. Blige**  
Maxwell  
Pj Morton  
Ronald Isley & The Isley Brothers  
T-Pain

**Best Gospel/Inspirational Award**

Cece Winans  
Erica Campbell  
Fred Hammond  
Major.  
Marvin Sapp  
**Maverick City Music X Kirk Franklin**  
Tamela Mann  
Tasha Cobbs Leonard

**Best R&B/Soul Female Artist**

Ari Lennox  
Beyoncé  
H.E.R.  
**Jazmine Sullivan**  
Lizzo  
Mary J. Blige  
Sza  
Tems

## **Best R&B/Soul Male Artist**

Babyface

Brent Faiyaz

Burna Boy

Charlie Wilson

**Chris Brown**

Giveon

Lucky Daye

Pj Morton

## **Album Of The Year**

*An Evening With Silk Sonic* – Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak, Silk Sonic

*Away Message (Ep)* – Ari Lennox

*Breezy*, Chris Brown

*Good Morning Gorgeous* – Mary J. Blige

*Heaux Tales, Mo' Tales: The Deluxe* – Jazmine Sullivan

*R&B Money* – Tank

***Renaissance* – Beyoncé**

*Special* – Lizzo

## **Song Of The Year**

"About Damn Time" – Lizzo

"Bad Habit" – Steve Lacy

**"Break My Soul" – Beyoncé**

"Good Morning Gorgeous" – Mary J. Blige

"Hrs & Hrs" – Muni Long

"Last Last" – Burna Boy

"Pressure" – Ari Lennox

## **The Ashford And Simpson Songwriter's Award**

"Bad Habit" – Steve Lacy

"Break My Soul" – Beyoncé

"Church Girl" – Beyoncé

"Good Morning Gorgeous" – Mary J. Blige

**"Hrs & Hrs" – Muni Long**

"I Hate U" – Sza

"Last, Last" – Burna Boy

"Pressure" – Ari Lennox

### **Best Dance Performance**

**"About Damn Time" – Lizzo**

"Call Me Every Day" – Chris Brown Feat. Wizkid

"Have Mercy" – Chlöe

"Persuasive" – Doechii

"Pressure" – Ari Lennox

"Smokin Out The Window" – Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak, Silk Sonic

"We (Warm Embrace)" – Chris Brown

"Woman" – Doja Cat

### **Video Of The Year**

"About Damn Time" – Lizzo

"Bad Habit" – Steve Lacy

"Good Morning Gorgeous" – Mary J. Blige

"Have Mercy" – Chlöe

"Hrs & Hrs" – Muni Long

"Last Last" – Burna Boy

"Pressure" – Ari Lennox

**"Smokin Out The Window" – Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak, Silk Sonic**

### **Best Collaboration**

"Amazing" – Mary J. Blige Feat. Dj Khaled

"Be Like Water" – Pj Morton Feat. Stevie Wonder & Nas

"Call Me Every Day" – Chris Brown Feat. Wizkid

"Gotta Move On" – Diddy Feat. Bryson Tiller

"Hate Our Love" – Queen Naija & Big Sean

**"Make Me Say It Again, Girl" – Ronald Isley & The Isley Brothers Feat. Beyoncé**

"Move" – Beyoncé Feat. Grace Jones, Tems

"Slow" – Tank Feat. J. Valentine

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# Listen: Hil St. Soul's Back In Love Album Stream



Hilary Mwlewa dons her Hil St. Soul alias to return with *Back In Love* after stepping away for a decade. The Zambian-born chanteuse reintroduces her contemporary meets classic style with a crew of storied producers including Prince Damon, Regi Myrix and Lorenzo Johnson, who have collectively worked with some of the most recognized R&B denizens of the past two decades including Ledisi, Calvin Richardson, Noel Gourdin and Dwele. Their three-year period of creativity dipped in nostalgia with a swaggy cover of the Ohio Players' "Heaven

Must Be Like This.” But Mwlewas’ original composition “One Life” was the watershed moment for the album. She says, “The evolution of Back In Love was a very organic process. I recorded new songs over a period of time and before I knew it I had a collection of songs. My collaboration with Regi Myrix on ‘One Life’ was a defining moment when it hit the airwaves as it reconnected me with my audience. The love I got for that track kickstarted everything.”

Mwelwas’ candied tone is still intact with undertones of sultriness whether she is singing about the earthy side of love on “In My Groove” or making a case for a romantic weekend via “One Life.” Gourdin joins her on their “Blessed” duet and their vocals convey an affectionate celebration of togetherness. The wait for *Back In Love* reveals time well spent as Mwlewa has the same high energy on all of the songs. The fiery “Sweet Heaven” is near the end of the album and she turns up the intensity by giving her romantic testimonial with only an acoustic guitar to accompany her in the song.

*Back In Love* was a journey that took Mwelwa away from her London residence and back home to her native Zambia and an exploration of house music before the new songs would form. The fans who started the ride with her from the beginning will be relieved to hear her new music and there will be plenty of un-initiated R&B lovers who will pledge some part of BIL to their playlists.

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# Throwback: Ray Charles-Hit The Road Jack

Ray Charles recorded the Percy Mayfield-penned “Hit The Road Jack” in 1961. Mayfield had recorded his acapella version one year earlier but Charles made it a number one hit. Charles’ backing vocalists The Raelettes and their star member Margie Hendrix were featured prominently on the song. “Hit The Road Jack” earned Charles another Grammy and is recognized as one of his signature songs and an R&B classic. The all-girl pop group The Chantels who were an all-girl pop and doo-wop group from The Bronx recorded a response record called “Well, I Told You.” Originally released as a single, it wound up on Charles’ 1962 *Greatest Hits* album. Ray Charles’ work as a soul pioneer has had an unlimited influence on pop music and “Hit The Road Jack” has been sampled prolifically and covered by more than 50 artists. In 2022, Charles was posthumously inducted into the Country Music Hall Of Fame becoming the third African-American to receive the honor.



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# Throwback: Otis Redding-Try A Little Tenderness

Otis Redding was the tenth artist to record “Try A Little Tenderness” when he included it on his 1966 fifth album. The publishers of the song did not want Redding to record a “negro version” but Aretha Franklin and Sam Cooke had already covered

it in 1962 and 1964. Percy Sledge also covered "Try A Little Tenderness" in 1966. Redding and Isaac Hayes rearranged it and the slow beginning changed into a frenetic climax of Redding's pleas. Redding incorporated Duke Ellington and Lee Gaines's "Just Squeeze Me (But Please Don't Tease Me)" into his cover and the popular phrase "sock it to me." "Try A Little Tenderness" was one of the hits to propel *Complete & Unbelievable: The Otis Redding Dictionary Of Soul* up the charts. His intense performance gave him ownership of the song in the pop realm despite it having been written and recorded by others. The album was adored by critics and widely accepted by the public and "Try A Little Tenderness" became Redding's signature song. *Dictionary Of Soul* was the last album of Redding's to come out before his death in a 1967 plane crash. There are no less than 30 versions of "Try A Little Tenderness" including a Frank Sinatra cover but Otis Redding's recording is still the most recognized one. The song has also been sampled most famously by Jay-Z and Kanye West for their Watch The Throne single "Otis." The [Otis Redding Foundation](#) is currently in the process of creating the Otis Redding Center for the Arts in Redding's native Macon, Georgia.



