

Throwback: Barry White-It's Ecstasy When You Lay Down Next To Me

Barry White's seventh album *Barry White Sings For Someone You Love* restored his chart relevance with the support of two popular singles;"It's Ecstasy When You Lay Down Next To Me" and "Playing Your Game, Baby." The former boasted a funky bass-heavy symphonic groove underneath White's bewitching baritone. Nelson Pigford and Ekundayo Paris co-wrote and Barry White arranged the song. White's description of intimacy was accented by his rapturous growls which were clearly for a bedroom scene but the music was made for dancing. His singing about sex with a pulsating dancefloor arrangement was undeniable and allowed the song to peak on multiple charts.

The musical science of "It's Ecstasy When You Lay Down Next To Me" outlasted the disco era and reaffirmed White's status as one of R&B's eternally favored love men. His beginnings with a soul orchestra in the '70s brought him success as a producer and a solo artist and in the '90s he was able to make a modern style transition that tastefully kept the essence of his musical mojo. Mary J. Blige's "You Bring Me Joy" sampled "It's Ecstasy When You Lay Down Next To Me" and it is also heard in *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City Stories*. Barry White was posthumously added to the Hollywood Walk Of Fame in 2013.

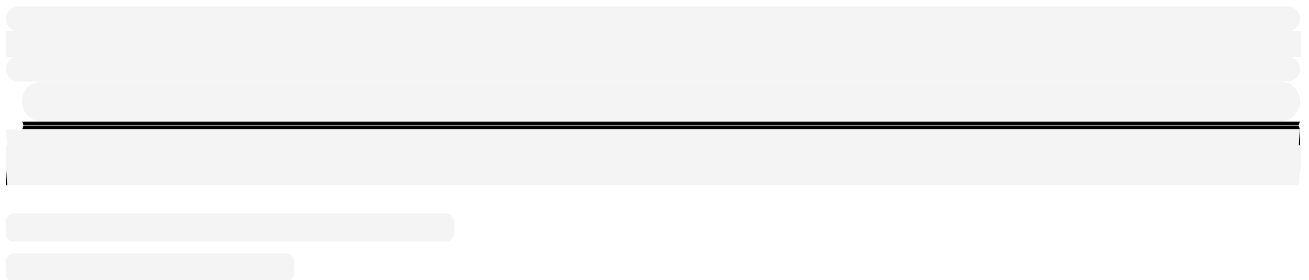


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Listen: Tuomo & Markus -We're Not Buying It



Listen to Tuomo & Markus's "We're Not Buying It" from their forthcoming sophomore album. The Finnish duo drew from '60s and '70s soul when they wrote the song that calls Sly Stone to mind. Love Records, which was a Finnish label founded in 1966 and released an eclectic mix of rock, jazz and politically-oriented music, was another inspiration for "We're Not Buying It." Tuomo Prättälä and Markus Nordenstreng made their debut in 2018 with *Dead Circles* and soon they will see the release of *Game Changing*. In the past, they recorded several soul singles under the name Pratt & Moody. Of their current song

they say,

“‘We’re Not Buying It’ pays musical tribute to the soulful protest songs of the late 60s and early 70s. We love the way artists like Curtis Mayfield, Allen Toussaint and Staple Singers would write hit singles with heavy social subject matter. The lyrics for We’re Not Buying It were originally inspired by the ‘occupy’ movement, but can be applied to any situation, where a majority of the people feels they’ve been left behind, ignored or lied to by those in power. Like in the case of black lives matter movement, abortion rights activism or action on climate change.”

Game Changing comes out on October 14th via Grand Pop Records.

Throwback: Curtis Mayfield-New World Order

Curtis Mayfield’s *New World Order* was a very album because it was a personal triumph for the singer after suffering an accident that paralyzed him from the neck down. The song “New World Order” was classic Mayfield as it had lyrics about challenging human conditions but celebrated the reinvention of man. Fans hearing him sing those words were moved because his survival after the life-changing incident in 1990 sounded just like the narrative of the song. “New World Order” climbed the Adult R&B Charts and Mayfield received Grammy nominations for Best R&B Album and he received two more nominations for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance. Mayfield proved with his *New World Order* album that he was still a pioneer of message music only

removed from his early days of “Keep On Pushing” and “Move On Up” by time. Mayfield’s 1996 *New World Order* was his last album. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame as a solo artist and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1999 shortly before his passing later that year.

