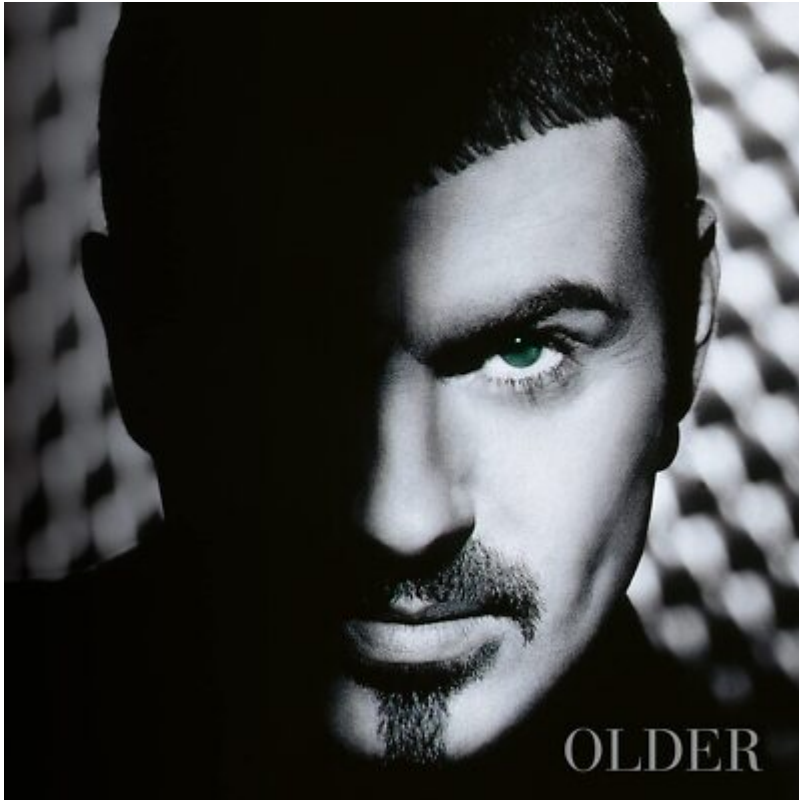


Throwback: George Michael: Fastlove



George Michael's "Fastlove" was the second single released from his 1996 album, *Older*. It came out almost six years after the release of his sophomore album, *Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1*. *Older* moved away from the previous reliance on synthesizers and joyous pop to be replaced with live instrumentation and a moodier sound. Michael was inspired by Brazilian musician Antônio Carlos Jobim, jazz, and his usual palette of Black music. He co-wrote "Fastlove" with the album's producer, Jon Douglas, who he had worked with in the past. "Fastlove" pleaded for a casual relationship with a groove infused with Patrice Rushen's "Forget Me Nots." The music had a melancholy to it, which was a reflection of Michael having lost his lover, Feleppa Anselmo, to AIDS, and he subsequently dedicated the album to him.

Michael also used *Older* as a way to passively come out to his fans by donning what he called a "gay look," which consisted

of short black hair, a mustache, a goatee, and leather. "Fastlove" was a hit and the video earned an MTV Europe International Viewer's Choice Award. *Older* became Michael's most commercially successful album and was re-released in 1997 as a two-gold-CD box set called *Older and Upper*. A remastered and expanded edition was released in 2022.

Living Colour Lit Up Tiny Desk

Living Colour played Tiny Desk as part of their Black Music Month lineup. The band performed a five-song set and proved to have the same musical octane they had almost four decades ago. They came in at full throttle with "Cult of Personality" and celebrated 35 years of *Time's Up* with "Pride," "Love Rears Its Ugly Head," "Time's Up," and "Solace of You."

Media Questions Of The Week

Essence Festival organizers acknowledge that not only are ticket sales down this year, but some vendors are opting out.

<https://t.co/PHb2R80gqy> pic.twitter.com/izehav6Nr5

– FOX 8 New Orleans (@FOX8NOLA) [July 3, 2025](#)

Will the Essence Festival survive new leadership and changing times?



How much time will Diddy be sentenced to after beating RICO charges and being convicted on two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution?

Third Man Books Reissues Ben Edmonds' Marvin Gaye: What's

Going On And The Last Days Of The Motown Sound

Ben Edmonds
Marvin
Gaye:



What's
Going On?
and the Last Days of the
Motown Sound

Third Man Books has reissued Ben Edmonds' *Marvin Gaye: What's Going On and the Last Days Of The Motown Sound*. Edmonds' book is a study of Marvin Gaye's landmark album, *What's Going On*, that came out in 1971. Gaye famously fought with Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr. to release the politically conscious album that was a response to the Vietnam War, drug addiction, and poverty. Renaldo "Obie" Benson of the The Four Tops told Edmonds how he witnessed anti-war protesters being attacked at Berkeley's People's Park and how his conversation about it with songwriter Al Cleveland led to the creation of the single, "What's Going On." Benson offered the song to his bandmates, who rejected it on the grounds that it was a protest song. Gaye accepted Benson's suggestion that he sing it and he added his own elements to the song and recorded it with famed Motown musicians The Funk Brothers. Edmonds' book was originally published in 2001 and he explained in his introduction the purpose of revisiting *What's Going On*.

"This is not simply about a singer and a record album. It is the story of an idea, formed out of the mixed ethers of social anger and spiritual longing, that Marvin Gaye articulated with a cast of brilliant accomplices and fought to get recorded and released. From that idea, and with that help, and out of that struggle, something was fashioned that continues to touch souls more profoundly than even its creator could have imagined."

Marvin Gaye: What's Going On and the Last Days Of The Motown Sound is available from [Third Man Books](#) and physical and online booksellers.