

# Amp Fiddler's Memorial Service



Amp Fiddler's memorial service is scheduled for February 3rd at Fellowship Chapel in Detroit, MI. The family hour is at 10 AM, and the memorial service is at 11 AM. Fiddler, who was a longtime fixture of Detroit and the world's funk scene, died December 18th after succumbing to cancer. His resume included working with Parliament-Funkadelic, Prince, Maxwell, and much more. As a solo artist, he released seven albums independently that were respected for his original flavor and masterful craft. Fiddler's legend is also tied to James "J.Dilla" Yancey, who was a neighborhood kid he mentored and eventually introduced to Q-Tip, which took Dilla's career to the next level. A GoFundMe was created to pay for Fiddler's homegoing service, and so far, it has raised \$23,000 towards the \$35,000 goal. Fiddler's wife, Tombi Stewart, organized the fundraiser, which still accepts donations.

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# R.I.P. Amp Fiddler



Detroit funk legend Joseph "Amp" Fiddler died Sunday at age 65 after a battle with cancer. Fiddler's legend was built from his years as a keyboardist for Parliament-Funkadelic, album credits, solo work, and mentoring J.Dilla. Fiddler's work as a musician and songwriter was heard across genres among various artists. He racked up more than 400 credits with Cheryl Lynn, George Clinton, Seal, Was Not Was, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Warren Zevon, Prince, Maxwell, The Brand New Heavies, Primal Scream, MC Breed, Moodymann, Raphael Saadiq, Sly Dunbar, Corinne Bailey Rae and more. Solo albums like *Waltz Of A Ghetto Fly* and *Afro Strut* showcased his soulful, raspy vocals and funky keyboard playing, infusing a bluesy melodic stillness into the music.

As a live performer, he was a capable showman, always at his

sartorial best and fully engaged with his audiences worldwide. In his Detroit hometown, he was a local legend and a point of nurture for many artists. This sense of community was seen in projects like *The Detroit Experiment*, which included an eclectic group of artists from the city. He famously taught J.Dilla how to use an MPC and arranged the life-changing meeting between the young producer and Q-Tip. His humility and accessibility belied a resume of extraordinary achievements and his status as a well-respected industry secret. Earlier this year, Fiddler collaborated with London house music DJ and producer Luke Solomon on the single "Come On Over."

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## **Amp Fiddler Has Fundraiser For Medical Bills**

Detroit soul ambassador Amp Fiddler has a GoFundMe page to raise money for medical costs. Fiddler is an independent artist who has graced albums by Prince, Parliament-Funkadelic, Maxwell, Fishbone, Jamiroquai and others. In addition to being a sought-after musician of the past three decades, his own discography of music includes eight solo albums. He is also the person responsible for showing J.Dilla how to use an MPC and introducing him to Q-Tip. Fiddler had surgery back in August and has been at home recuperating. Like most independent artists medical care is costly and right now he is unable to tour because of the need to rest and heal. Most of the goal has been met by his worldwide supporters but there is still time left to show support for this underground legend. Check out the fundraiser's [GoFundMe](#) page.

<https://gofund.me/c38d8a97>

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# Listen: Amp Fiddler's Energy Remixed

Amp Fiddler has started the year with a remix of the *Basementality*-bound "Energy." The Blue Labs Beat remix glides into a liquid groove so perfect for close dancing in a dimly-lit party. The previous version has all the feelings of meeting someone new and the excitement of first dates. The remix is the backdrop to deeper intimacy and the physical embrace between two people. Fiddler's *Basementality* released last year, maintains his reputation for suave but gritty soul-bound crooning with his extensive funk background as the root. Raphael Saadiq and Meshell Ndegecello made guest appearances on the album. The original and remix of "Energy" belong on any upcoming Valentine's Day playlist as both recordings celebrate the early stages of discovering love.

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