

Throwback: Patrick Adams



Credit: Maxwell Schiano

Patrick Adams was a Harlem native who became one of the most influential dance music producers, arrangers, and composers of the '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2000s. His hands touched some of the most abiding dance classics from Black Ivory, Inner Life, Phreek, Cloud One, Christine Wiltshire, Fonda Rae, Donna McGhee, Bumblebee Unlimited, Loleatta Holloway, Sister Sledge, Eddie Kendricks, Gladys Knight, Keith Sweat, and The Main Ingredient. Adams also worked on early rap records from Salt-N-Pepa, Eric. B, and Rakim. He started his music career as a teenager, playing with a band called The Sparks. By the early '70s, he became Black Ivory's manager, and he wrote their first hit record, "Don't Turn Around." Adams had another big project with the studio group Musique. Their 1979 album, *Keep On Jumpin'*, only had four songs but was one of the biggest disco albums ever. The music he made with Greg Carmichael, whom he owned P&P Records with, is still being discovered. Adams stayed revelant after the famous disco backlash in Chicago, where people blew up disco records in Comiskey Park.

By the time of the disco revolt, Adams' legacy was already made, and songs like "Atmosphere Strut" by Cloud One were a precursor to house. Adams proved to be proficient in disco, R&B, and hip-hop and stayed active well into the 2000s. He worked with Louie Vega and reconnected with Leroy Burgess of Black Ivory in 2019 for the single "Barely Breaking Even." Adams passed in 2022, leaving behind music that still rocks dancefloors and continues to be sampled by numerous artists.

Throwback: Black Ivory-Mainline



[youtube]clwd4hSHSjM[/youtube]

Stuart Bascombe, Russell Patterson and Leroy Burgess became Black Ivory in the late '60's after original members Lawrence Newkirk, Vito Ramirez and Michael Harris left the group. The New Yorkers were signed quickly to Perception/Today Records where Patrick Adams was offered an A&R job after bringing the group to the label. Adams also wrote their first single, ["Don't Turn Around"](#) and it was released in 1971. Their debut album of the same name came out later in the year and it had exceptional staying power because of ["You and I,"](#) ["I'll Find A Way"](#) and ["Find The One Who Loves You."](#) Black Ivory was among a number of soul groups known for slow love songs like Blue Magic, The Delfonics and The Stylistics. *Baby Won't You Change Your Mind* was their sophomore album and it was heavily supported because of the songs ["Spinning Around"](#) and ["Time Is Love."](#) When the Perception label had financial problems they signed to the Warner subsidiary Kwanzaa and released "What Goes Around (Comes Around)." Kwanzaa eventually folded and they were added to the roster at Buddah Records. *Feel It* was their first output for Buddah and it is noted for the track ["Will We Ever Come Together."](#) There would be two more albums with Buddah before the group dissolved. *Hangin' Heavy* was their last release for the company and 1979's "Mainline" was a song that Leroy Burgess had left over from other projects. Burgess went on to become a king of dance music because of several endeavors including Phreek, The Aleem Twins, Fonda Rae, Narada Michael Walden, Rick James and others. He started

performing with Black Ivory again in the 2000's and the group self-released the album *Continuum* in December of 2011.