

In 2012 We Said Goodbye

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Jimmy Castor Funk Pioneer



Johnny Otis Godfather of
R&B



Etta James The Matriarch Of The Blues



Clare Fischer Master Arranger



Belita Woods Soul Singer



Don Cornelius Soul Train Founder



David Peaston R&B singer



Whitney Houston Pop Queen Actress



Dick Clark Media Mogul



MCA One third of pioneering rap group The
Beastie Boys Film Director Activist



Ms. Melodie Member of Boogie Down
Productions



Donald “Duck” Dunn Bass of Stax
Records



I.G. Off NYC Underground Rap Star of the '90's



Chuck Brown King of Go-Go



Donna Summer Queen Of Disco



Faruq Z. Bey Detroit jazz innovator



Robin Gibb One-third of the Bee Gees



Fontella Bass “Rescue Me” singer



Jayne Cortez Master Poet Activist



Dave Brubeck Progressive Jazz Leader

R.I.P. Clare Fischer

[youtube]VIEE7xmVAWA[/youtube]

Musician, composer, bandleader and arranger Clare Fischer died yesterday. Fischer was from a small Michigan town called Durand. For five years during the '50's he lived in Detroit and got his first experience as a vocal arranger for acapella group The Hi-Lo's. In the '60's he recorded as a leader for Pacific Jazz Records. ["Morning"](#) and ["Pensativa"](#) were composed at this time and became his most recognizable tunes. He recorded a number of critically successful albums that didn't sell and he discovered a love of Latin music by the '70's. His nephew, Andre Fischer, was the drummer for the band Rufus and he did some orchestral arrangements for them. This project was his breakthrough as a an arranger and soon he was working for The Jacksons, Earl Klugh, The Debarges, Shot-gun and Atlantic Star. His work on Prince's *Parade* album is probably his most high-profile project from the '80's and it also gave him his first film credit. Fischer continued to write, perform and work as a jazz educator up until his death. Last year's *Continuum* is his most current recording.