

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.”

**Throwback: Meshell
Ndegeocello- If That's Your
Boyfriend (He Wasn't Last
Night)**

The Time Prepare 5th Album



HOLLYWOOD – Even after its rollicking “Jungle Love” flashback at February’s Grammy Awards, few fans believed this funk-rocking, sass-talking, prude-mocking septet would rally for a comeback. Set your clocks to oh-wee-oh-wee-oh. The Time is now. The Minneapolis funk group that Prince assembled in 1981 is in the midst of a 15-show live run that includes a stop

today at Freedom Hill Amphitheatre in Sterling Heights. A fifth album is nearly complete.

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Detroit News Interview With George Clinton



Comerica's Cityfest will become a funk-fest when George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic hits the MotorCity Casino Hotel Stage presented by The Detroit News at 5:30 p.m. Sunday. The inventor of P-Funk is easily one of the most influential forces in music. Clinton continues to be creative, making music that is one of a kind. While he was in Los Angeles working in the studio, Clinton took some time out to chat with The Detroit News.

Q. You have influenced so many in the music world from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Outkast. What inspires you?

A. Any time someone says, "That ain't real music," like hip-hop or whatever, that's the stuff I gravitate to. No matter how crazy the music sounds, that's the thing I rush to right quick.

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