

We Said Goodbye In 2010



The producer, musician, and arranger is famous for helping Al Green find his sound on the Hi Records sessions and shaping Memphis soul. He also worked as a trumpet player and bandleader with minor R&B hits like [“Soul Serenade”](#) before Hi Records.

1. Willie Mitchell

[youtube]tQh-_llN_UY[/youtube]

Drummer and baritone for Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes. Pendergrass was dominant in dance music and R&B with the group and as a solo singer. He defined a masculinity in the R&B of the late '70's and '80' that had bravado and sensitivity. Pioneer of the “ladies only” concert.

2. Teddy Pendergrass

[youtube]RACIhmZuilA[/youtube]

Founding member and tenor-falsetto of The Dramatics. His falsetto was a trademark of the group that still performs. Snoop Dogg gave them wider recognition with another generation after collaboration and appearance in the video for “It’s A Doggy Dogg World.”

3. Ron Banks

[youtube]-DeTR8n7eTU&[/youtube]

Manager of the Sex Pistols and Bow Wow Wow. McLaren helped bring hip-hop to the UK with his Duck Rock album that had a guest appearance from The World Supreme Team DJs who hosted an influential urban music show on 105.9.

4. Malcolm McLaren

[youtube]HFQQeUNaZtc[/youtube]

Gifted Unlimited Rhymes Universal was one-half of the authoritative hip-hop group Gang Starr with DJ Premier. They were underground royalty who never turned their backs on the hip-hop aesthetic for commercial gain. Guru would start the critically acclaimed Jazzmatazz series of albums in '93 that put his rapping alongside various R&B and jazz artists.

5. Guru

[youtube]QCG3kJtQBKo[/youtube]

Lena Horne was a nightclub performer, singer, actress and dancer. She became the first Black entertainer to sign a long-term contract with a major Hollywood studio with MGM in 1943. She was activist that was once blacklisted for views that included a refusal to perform for segregated troops. She sold more records than any other female artist on the RCA-Victor label at the time. Her one woman show earned her a Tony and two Grammys in 1981.

6. Lena Horne

[youtube]Qw9oX-kZ_9k&[/youtube]

Coleman became an icon of the '80's when co-starred on the TV show *Diff'rent Strokes*.

7. Gary Coleman

[youtube]PPUsQDm-HQY&[/youtube]

Ali Ollie Woodson is best remembered for providing lead vocals for The Temptations on their '80's hits "Treat Her Like A Lady" and "Lady Soul." He started his career at age 19 with the Original Drifters.

8. Ali Ollie Woodson

[youtube]PRkw9UnVhug[/youtube]

Marvin Isley was the youngest member of the Isley Brothers and provided bass guitar for some of their biggest songs like “Fight The Power Part 1.”

He would later form a trio with brother-in-law Chris Jasper and Ernie Isley to release “Caravan Of Love.”

9. Marvin Isley

[youtube]BxnbVGFK1W0[/youtube]

Garry “Diaper Man” Shider was the musical director of the Parliament-Funkadelic clan for most of their life. It is him that provides the lead vocals for “Cosmic Slop” and “One Nation Under A Groove.”

10. Garry Shider

[youtube]9I56Kkxh_os[/youtube]

The founder of Gothic Futurism and an early graffiti writer, Rammellzee was also a rap artist who performed in self-made masks. “Beat-Bop” was rapped in the Gangsta Duck style and produced by Jean Michel Basquiat.

11. Rammellzee

[youtube]dWxAZPr1eLM[/youtube]

Mr. Fuqua founded the doo-wop group The Moonglows and gave Marvin Gaye his big break by putting him in the group and later introducing him to Berry Gordy. He later worked with the disco star Sylvester producing his hits “Dance (Disco Heat)” and “You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real.)”

12. Harvey Fuqua

[youtube]dDGpeW4sUUUs[/youtube]

Catfish Collins’ rhythm guitar started out in a group called The Pacemakers with his brother Bootsy Collins. They would become James Brown’s backing band The JB’s. After leaving

Brown he recorded on some of the most important Funkadelic dates.

13. Phelps “Catfish” Collins

[youtube]4AGQQhFSy5g[/youtube]

Lincoln co-starred in “Nothing But A Man” and received a Golden Globe nomination for her role in “For Love Of Ivy.” She was once married to Max Roach with whom she recorded the vitriolic We Insist! -Freedom Now Suite. Her vocals have influenced succeeding generations including Cassandra Wilson who admits to learning artistic honesty from her.

14. Abbey Lincoln

[youtube]QmWfTDZvvkM[/youtube]

Robert Wilson is Charlie Wilson’s brother and the bass player of The Gap Band. The band of brothers including Ronnie were one of the major funk bands of the ’70’s and ’80’s.

15. Robert Wilson (bass guitar, The Gap Band)



Griffey’s SOLAR Records was responsible for some of the biggest acts of the ’80s including Shalamar, The Whispers, Lakeside, Klymaxx, Dynasty and Midnight Star. He was also a big promoter who booked shows for Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, James Brown and Aretha Franklin. He was also a talent coordinator on Soul Train and co-founded Soul Train Records with Don Cornelius. Death Row Records got a push from his expertise because he was Suge Knight’s mentor and some of Dr. Dre’s The Chronic was recorded in his studio.

16. Dick Griffey

[youtube]JtUEoByJq5M[/youtube]

Aaron-Carl’s dance tracks became staples of the international

house music scene. He founded Wall Shaker Records in his Detroit hometown and released several singles in a variety of styles.

17. Aaron-Carl

[youtube]mEu8Dr09PbY[/youtube]

Burke is a rock and roll legend best known for his hit song “Everybody Needs Somebody To Love.” He never had the fame of his peers like Wilson Pickett but his years on the Atlantic imprint produced some of the best soul of the '60's.

18. Solomon Burke

[youtube]9-ccrrjBJ3A[/youtube]

Walker founded gospel titans The Caravans and was a protege of Mahalia Jackson. She was instrumental in the careers of Inez Andrews, James Cleveland and Shirley Caesar. She founded the Gospel Music Workshop Of America with Cleveland in 1967.

19. Albertina Walker

[youtube]K6oYyG0KcvQ[/youtube]

Jamaican reggae singer Gregory Isaacs was called the “cool ruler” because he chose to sing love songs instead of lyrics about social injustice like Bob Marley. His style took more from American R&B than roots reggae. “Night Nurse” was his breakthrough single that put his name in clubs around the world.

20. Gregory Isaacs

[youtube]Z_Vj_CJJjvI[/youtube]

“Moody’s Mood For Love” became a standard covered by Aretha Franklin and George Benson among others. He started his career with Dizzy Gillespie and was a rare jazzman who showed humor.

21. James Moody

[youtube]-tLCWZWR6Fk[/youtube]

The most soulful white singer ever Marie's career was jumpstarted with help from Rick James when they were both on Motown Records. Marie stayed true to her R&B roots for her entire career. Her early experimentation with rap on "Square Biz" made Debbie Harry's "Rapture" rap look mild and weak. Her lawsuit against Motown resulted in The Brockert Initiative that makes it illegal for a label to keep an artist without paying them or releasing material.

22. Teena Marie



Bernard Wilson was a baritone singer in Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes. The group was an anchor of the Philly soul sound.

23. Bernard Wilson

[youtube]brBtTluod_w[/youtube]

Jazz educator and pianist who started out with the Ben Webster Quartet. He was highly regarded among jazz heavyweights like Charlie Parker. As a performer he was known for "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free."

24. Dr. Billy Taylor

R.I.P. Harvey Fuqua

Famed singer, producer and talent scout Harvey Fuqua died yesterday at a Detroit hospital from a heart problem. Fuqua's career started in 1951 when he formed the doo-wop group The

Crazy Sounds with his fellow Louisville, Kentucky natives Bobby Lester, Alexander Graves and Prentiss Barnes. Under the tutelage of disc jockey Alan Freed they were renamed the Moonglows and their first releases came out on Freed's Chamapagne label in 1953. By 1954 the group was signed to Chess records and had a number one hit with ["Sincerely"](#) and a series of other charting songs including ["We Go Together,"](#) ["See Saw,"](#) ["When I'm With You,"](#) ["Please Send Me Someone To Love"](#) and ["Ten Commandments Of Love."](#)

In 1957 Fuqua replaced the original members with The Marquees lineup from Washington D.C. that included a young Marvin Gaye. Fuqua also recorded the popular duets ["If I Can't Have You"](#) and ["Spoonful"](#) with onetime girlfriend Etta James while he was on the label but in 1958 he left Chess and the group behind to go to Detroit. He took Gaye with to Detroit and ended up working with Anna Gordy, Lamont Dozier, Johnny Bristol and Billy Davis. He married Gwen Gordy and introduced Gaye to Berry Gordy. His record labels Tri-Phi and Harvey were started in 1961 and he signed The Spinners, Junior Walker and Shorty Long. Berry Gordy was impressed with Fuqua's talent and drive soon offering him the job as head of the Artist Development department at Motown. Fuqua is credited with bringing The Spinners, Johnny Bristol and Tammi Terrell to the label who's duets with Marvin Gaye he suggested and co-produced. When 1971 came Fuqua left Motown and got a production deal with RCA Records. The New Birth who became popular with their cover of Bobby Womack's ["I Can Understand It"](#) and ["K-Jee"](#) which would be famously covered for the *Saturday Night Fever* soundtrack were signed to Fuqua's talent agency and RCA. Later in the '70's he became a talent scout for Fantasy Records and discovered disco soul queen Sylvester. Fuqua co-produced all of Sylvester's albums while he was signed to Fantasy including his trademark single ["You Make Me Feel \(Might Real\)"](#) and ["Dance \(Disco Heat.\)"](#) In 1982 he would reunite with Marvin Gaye to produce his comeback album *Midnight Love* that contained the big hit ["Sexual Healing."](#) Gaye referred to Fuqua

as his “surrogate father” and told writer David Ritz that he saved his life. The Moonglows were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000. Fuqua is the nephew of Charlie Fuqua of the pioneering vocal group The Ink Spots and he is the uncle of Antoine Fuqua, the director of *Training Day* that earned Denzel Washington his second Academy Award.