

R.I.P. Florian Schneider



Credit: Marc Piasecki/Getty Images

Florian Schneider, a founder of pioneering German electronic group Kraftwerk, has died at age 73 after being ill with cancer. Schneider and Ralf Hütter formed Kraftwerk in 1970 and they would release influential albums like *Autobahn*, *Radio-Activity*, *Trans-Europe Express*, *Computer World* and *Electric Cafe*. Their music would become a major influence on pop, house, Detroit Techno and hip-hop. Kraftwerk inspired most of the synthpop bands of the '80s like Depeche Mode, New York's electro movement that included Afrika Bambaataa's Soul Sonic Force, the Belleville three responsible for techno and more. The group was also sampled a lot and covered by artists from varied genres. They took their love of technology and used it to create an image that styled them as robots on their album covers and in publicity photos. Schneider was always focused on new devices to make music with and the group had a customized vocoder in the '70s and would create their own drum machines. The band was respected by artists of all genres and David Bowie's "V-2 Schneider" from his *Heroes* album was dedicated to Schneider. The BBC Radio 4 broadcast the documentary *Kraftwerk: Computer Love* in 2018 and it was about the way the album changed people's lives. Schneider left the band in 2008 and had his last live performance with them in 2006. In 2019, Kraftwerk was nominated for the 2020 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class.

[youtube id="okhQtoQFG5s"]

[youtube id="TA8pDD-s5e4"]

Whitney Houston, Biggie Smalls, Kraftwerk & Rufus Feat. Chaka Khan Nominated For 2020 Rock Hall Of Fame



The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame has announced its 2020 nominees. The Notorious B.I.G., Whitney Houston, Rufus featuring Chaka Khan and Kraftwerk are among those who may join the 2020 class. Fans can vote via [Google](#) every day until January 10, 2020, and can choose up to five nominees. The top five artists will constitute a fans' ballot and will be counted along with the other ballots. The ceremony will take place on May 2nd at Public Auditorium in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information go to the [official site](#).Â

Juan Atkins Kraftwerk After Party At MOCAD In Detroit

[youtube id="sPePjLiCch0"] Last year Juan Atkins hosted the after party for Kraftwerk at the Museum of Contemporary Art In Detroit. Members of the band were present while Atkins, Kevin Saunderson, Derrick May and Eddie Fowlkes played vinyl for the crowd into the night. On April 8th, Atkins will host a fundraiser for the Flint water crisis at TV Lounge in Detroit.

Kraftwerk: Pop Art Documentary

[youtube id="z66DDAKsUCU"]

Kraftwerk: Pop Art is a BBC documentary about German electronic music pioneers and their 2013 8-night residency inside London's Tate Modern gallery. They played 8 of their albums hence the title of the show; Kraftwerk The Catalogue 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8. Some of the features from the hourlong documentary include footage from that night, rare audio and video of the band and an interview with Derrick May about their influence.