

Throwback: MFSB-Love Is The Message

MFSB stands for Mother Father Sister Brother who was the house band for producers and songwriters Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff and arranger Thom Bell. They all were a team based at Sigma Sound Studios in Philadelphia where they created the Philly soul sound for Gamble and Huff's Philadelphia International label. The O'Jays, The Spinners, Harold Melvin And The Bluenotes The Delfonics, Blue Magic, The Intruders, Teddy Pendergrass, Jerry Butler, The Three Degrees and The Stylistics have all benefitted from MFSB's presence as a backing band. As a group they recorded eight albums for PIR and became known for their signature song "TSOP" which was the theme song to the TV show Soul Train. Their first self-titled album in 1973 had covers of Curtis Mayfield's ["Freddie's Dead"](#) and Sly Stone's ["Family Affair."](#) A dramatic instrumental called ["Something For Nothing"](#) is known by hip-hop fans as the sample Jay-Z used for "What More Can I Say" from The Black Album. "TSOP" was included on their second album of the same name among the cover of Diana Ross's ["Touch Me In The Morning"](#) and the dance classic "Love Is The Message." Danny Krivit an esteemed New York DJ with dance music origins in the city's legendary underground club scene of the '70's did the most popular edit of the song in 1989. "Love Is The Message" was one of the first songs to be inducted into the [Dance Music Hall Of Fame](#) in 2004. MFSB finished the '70's recording some of the most influential R&B and disco grooves and the hit songs ["T.L.C. \(Tender Lovin' Care\),"](#) ["Sexy,"](#) and their version of ["K-Jee"](#) that was heard on the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack. Their last album [Mysteries Of The World](#) in 1980 had a successful single with the song of the same name. In 2000 Dexter Wansel reunited the group to work on a project

with gospel artist Jeff Major. Currently the band has a new lineup with some of the original members that continues to perform around the world.