

# Andra Day Performs In Memoriam Tribute At NAACP Image Awards

Watch Andra Day sing Minnie Riperton's "Back Down Memory Lane" during the Memoriam part of the NAACP Image Awards. Harry Belafonte, Amp Fiddler and Maurice Hines are a few of the people honored in the segment. Queen Latifah hosted the 55th NAACP Image Awards that aired on BET Saturday night. He gave an inspired speech about the women in his life as he accepted the President's Award. H.E.R. won Outstanding Female Artist and Fantasia won Outstanding Actress for her role in *The Color Purple*. See all of the winners [here](#).

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## Throwback: Minnie Riperton, Baby, This Love I Have

Minnie Riperton's "Baby, This Love I Have" was a collaborative writing effort with her husband Richard Rudolph and Leon Ware. The song opened her 1975 third studio album *Adventures In Paradise*. Riperton's pure vocals and emotion epitomized a woman in love. She sang with a tasteful sensuality underscored by a tireless groove arranged by guitarist Larry Carlton. The passion for the love affair intensified at the end of the song when she hit rare high notes commonly referred to as the head voice range. There was pressure on Riperton to follow up her highly successful *Perfect Angel* album because it contained her biggest hit "Lovin' You." Music industry people were critical of *Adventures In Paradise* because it did not do as well but

fans knew Riperton had just dropped a classic.

“Baby, This Love I Have” is still being found today because of how groups have sampled it like A Tribe Called Quest and Soul For Real. But Riperton’s vocals are indeed the centerpiece of the song and she displayed her unusual range with a sultry bravado. Her passing in 1979 from breast cancer was a tremendous loss to the world of music but her virtuosity is still awe-inspiring and influential in 2022.



# Throwback: Minnie Riperton - Inside My Love



Minnie Riperton wrote “Inside My Love” with Leon Ware and her husband Richard Rudolph. The soul-deep intimacy that Riperton was singing about was always interpreted as lust because of her earthy delivery. But in the liner notes from the posthumous *Petals: The Minnie Riperton Collection* Rudolph explains the emotional intentions of the song and Ware describes how hearing a preacher talk about “coming inside the Lord” influenced the lyrics. Some radio programmers would not play “Inside My Love” because of the carnal interpretation. Fans were not worried about sexual connotations but were marveled by Riperton’s performance which included her five-octave range holding a very high note for over 10 seconds. *Adventures In Paradise* was her 1975 third studio album and although it did not have the commercial success of *Perfect Angel* from 1974, it is still one of her most-played albums.Â

“Inside My Love” became a standard that continues to carry Riperton’s energy way beyond her 1979 passing from breast cancer at 31 years old. A Tribe Called Quest and J. Cole are two of many hip-hop artists to sample “Inside My Love.” ChantÃ© Moore covered it for the TV show *New York Undercover* and Trina Broussard’s version is in the movie *Love Jones*. Riperton’s voice is still showing up in pop culture with the most recent placement of her song “Les Fleurs” in Jordan Peel’s 2019 movie *Us*.Â

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**Stevie Wonder Tribute To  
Minnie Riperton On Soul Train  
1979**