

Throwback: Paul Laurence-Strung Out



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Paul Laurence is a native of New York City where he learned to play piano from Valerie Simpson at Harlem's White Rock Baptist Church. Laurence became known in the '80s for writing and producing hit songs for Freddie Jackson, Melba Moore, Lillo Thomas, Stephanie Mills and Evelyn King. Jackson's ["Jam Tonight,"](#) ["Rock Me Tonight \(For Old Time's Sake\)"](#) and ["Tasty Love"](#) were written and co-written by Laurence. Mills' ["\(You Putting\) A Rush On Me"](#) and King's ["I'm In Love"](#) are also credited to Laurence. As a producer he was responsible for Meli'sa Morgan's cover of ["Do Me Baby."](#) *Haven't You Heard* was his 1985 solo debut that revealed Laurence as a better commercial bet behind the scenes. However, "Strung Out" would become a permanent club/community classic and Laurence's signature song as a solo performer. Laurence had a second and final solo album with 1989's *Underexposed*.