

# Throwback: J.Dilla-Sunbeams



J.Dilla's "Sunbeams" is from *The 1996 What Up Doe Sessions*. The title comes from how many Detroiters greet each other by saying "What Up Doe?" The song was built with Joe Sample's "Black Is The Color" and Grady Tate's "Be Black Baby." "Sunbeams" was another instance of Dilla's genius understanding of rhythm. He took the samples from each song and turned them into an endless moody meditation helmed by a delicate snare drum. The sound of early morning or late at night depending on the listener is one of Dilla's most famous instrumentals. The bootlegged collection of beats was recorded in 1996, the same time Dilla's productions were being heard on De La Soul's *Stakes Is High* and A Tribe Called Quest's *Beats, Rhymes and Life*. The Detroit Pistons chose to honor J. Dilla in 2024 which would have been his 50th year of life with a new line of merchandise that will debut on [March 13th](#).

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# Slum Village Announce Request Single From New Album



Credit: Frankie Fultz

Slum Village's "Request" is another single from their upcoming spring release *FUN*. Group member and producer Young RJ handled the midnight vibes of the song which has the Abstract Orchestra and Big Sean collaborator rapper Early Mac in the credits. It was eight years ago when the group released *Yes!* Last year they announced *FUN* with the release of the first single, "Just Like You" featuring Larry June and The Dramatics. *FUN* will drop in the spring and the duo will return to Europe for the FUN Since 92 tour. You can see them next month at the [Blue Note](#) with Chris Rob and his band the week following what would have been group founder J.Dilla's 50th birthday.

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## RJ's Latest Arrival Release Video For One Step At A Time Featuring Slum Village

RJ's Latest Arrival has released the video for "One Step At A Time" featuring Slum Village. Rod Dickerson directs the band

as they perform the single in a nightclub while couples dance. Slum Village's performance is beamed in from a digital billboard somewhere in downtown Detroit. Photos of RJ's Latest Arrival from the past and present are blended into the visual's sharp-colored cinematography. The group moved back into the public sphere this year after their classic song "Shackles" was heard on Starz's second season of BMF. They re-released their second album *Harmony* as [Shackles](#) and began to look ahead with new music. "One Step At A Time" is an essential two-step groove with an infusion of hip-hop. Their unexpected return to music after three decades has skipped tired comeback routines with the new song in favor of a smooth and modern sound.

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## RJ's Latest Arrival Returns With One Step At A Time Featuring Slum Village



RJ's Latest Arrival has returned with new music after more than three decades with the single "One Step At A Time" featuring Slum Village. The group took its former funk and R&B sound and swapped out the funk for hip-hop. "One Step At A Time" has all the polish of perfectly executed ballroom dancing and car cruising with the added texture of Slum

Village's words. DeDe Leitta still has the same effortless control over her silky vocals as her delivery in the '80s. The single is the true definition of coming full circle because RJ Rice's Barak Records worked with Slum Village back in the '90s. Today they have reconnected for the next era of two classic Detroit groups. RJ Rice and Leitta conveyed their excitement to be working artists again in a press release.

*"It's a great change to get from behind the desk, working with so many artists, to now create music for ourselves."*  
– RJ Rice

*"I'm so excited with the new direction our music is taking, it's fun to sing!"* – DeDe Leitta

RJ's Latest Arrival was reintroduced to the public earlier this year when their hit "Shackles" was heard on STARZ's BMF series. Their sophomore *Harmony* album was also remastered and re-released under *Shackles*. Listen to "One Step At A Time" and hear the rebirth of the beloved group as they reclaim ownership of their creativity.