

Soulive & Van Hunt Give Sly Stone, Brian Wilson & D'Angelo Their Flowers



Soulive and Van Hunt pay homage to Sly Stone, Brian Wilson, and D'Angelo with "Flowers At Your Feet." The funk/jazz trio connected with the soul maverick by sending him an almost completed track. Van Hunt describes his feelings about the song in a press release.

"When Alan sent me the track, it immediately felt like a Sly Stone homage—and with Sly's passing, I wasn't sure I could add anything to make it more special. Then Brian Wilson passed, and I knew I needed to say something—to honor both of these men who shaped my musical life. Soulive already had the Sly & The Family Stone DNA; I wanted to bring in the Smile-

era Brian Wilson color and that early-'70s Sly energy. So I pulled out the Clavinet, the Mu-Tron bass, and some stream-of-consciousness lyrics, channeling all the joy and reverence they inspired in me. As I recorded, I thought about Sly, Brian, George Clinton, Prince, Thelonious Monk, and D'Angelo. And now, after losing D'Angelo too, this song carries even more weight. 'Flowers at Your Feet' became my way of saying thank you to the innovators who built this music, and to Soulive, for keeping the garden alive."

"Flowers At Your Feet" has the church stomp pioneered by Sly and then passed down to D'Angelo with the Beach Boys' sleigh bell motif coursing through it all. The trio's tribute to all three icons is timely, as all of them passed this year. Questlove's *Sly Lives!* started the tributes to Sly back in January before his passing in June. The Roots drummer also participated in the tribute to him at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame this week. "Flowers At Your Feet" is the second single from Soulive's first album in 15 years. Flowers is scheduled for release on January 30, 2026. They reconnected at Flóki Studios in Iceland and wrote most of the album there. Band member Alan Evans described their work as being mostly intuitive. "We're not super precious about it, man. If it felt good, we moved on. The three of us just fall into place. It's like having a conversation that never ended."

R.I.P. Sly Stone



Sly Stone has passed at the age of 82 decades after his rise as a soul and funk pioneer of the '60s. Stone was a native of Vallejo, California, and he grew up in a religious household with parents who had a great appreciation for music. When he was a child, he and his siblings Freddie, Rose, and Loretta formed the gospel group, The Stewart Four. They released the single "On The Battlefield" locally in 1956. Sly's musical gifts were recognized while he was still a kid, and by the time he was 11 he was proficiently playing keyboards, guitar, drums, and bass. As a teenager he was a brief member of a local doo-wop group called the Viscaynes. Sly and his friend Frank Arellano, who was Filipino, were the only non-Black members. It was at this time that he also released a few songs under the name Danny Stewart and formed The Stewart Brothers with his brother Freddie. Stewart was Sly's formal surname and he later chose Stone as his recording alias. He became an influential DJ heard on KSOL-AM and KSAN while playing

keyboards for other prominent artists, including Dionne Warwick, Marvin Gaye, Chubby Checker, and many more. Freddie had a band called Freddie and the Stone Souls and Sly's was called Sly and the Stoners. They decided to combine both groups and released their first album, *A Whole New Thing*, in 1967.

Sly and the Family Stone were unusual because they were a multiracial, coed unit. Their soul and funk fusion was built on Sly's gospel foundation and they wouldn't get a hit until "Dance To The Music," which was the title track from their sophomore album. It wasn't until their fourth album, *Stand!*, that their popularity took off with the success of the song "Everyday People." It was during the summer of 1969 that they achieved stardom and Sly became one of the most important voices in music, with an influence on his genre and artists who didn't even record soul or funk music. They were the only band to perform at Woodstock and the Summer of Soul concerts.

Sly and the Family Stone were labeled as progressive soul pioneers for their sound that pulled rock, gospel, and R&B together with lyrics that could sometimes be political. Their music changed after 1971 when they released *There's A Riot Goin' On*. This album had a deep, muddled sound thanks to Stone's overdubbing of the songs instead of their previous recordings, where the band played live together. Larry Graham's slap bass style burst through and became a blueprint for countless bass players. It was their fifth album and one of the first to use a drum machine. The band's drug use started to interfere with their ability to tour. Concert promoters became hesitant about booking them because of a pattern of not showing up and being able to perform. The original lineup recorded two more albums together before Stone became the main member of the band's last recordings. He also released a solo album in 1975. The changes in the group did not alter his ability to create foundational soul and funk gems. *Heard Ya Missed Me Well I'm Back, Back on the Right*

Track and *Ain't but the One Way* all had some of the brilliance of his earlier music.

In the 80s he participated in some powerful collaborations with George Clinton's Funkadelic and Jesse Johnson. He also appeared on a Bar-Kays album and wrote a song for the *Burglar* soundtrack. In the '90s Sly and the Family Stone appeared on the Red Hot Organization's *Red+Hot+Dance* compilation. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993 and that would be Stone's last major appearance before he disappeared into seclusion. Sly's reclusive behavior was broken up with unpredictable performances, such as a show with George Clinton in 2009 at the African Festival of the Arts in Chicago. He also made some appearances with his daughter Novena Stone's group, Baby Stone. The LOVE CITY convention in 2015 at the Den Lounge inside of the Fox Oakland Theater was a tribute to him and he showed up with four of his band members. He never recaptured his career but the tributes were forthcoming and he performed at the Grammy tribute to his band in 2006. Hip-hop has kept his music relevant because he has been sampled so much by rappers through the generations. Prince, D'Angelo, Janelle Monáe, and Amp Fiddler are but a handful of the artists to feel Sly's influence.

In 2023, he released his memoir, *Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)* and he completed a screenplay about his life in 2024. There are four documentaries about *Sly Stone: Coming Back for More*, *On The Sly: In Search of the Family Stone*, and Questlove's *Sly Lives! (aka the Burden of Black Genius)*, which was released this year.

Funkadelic & Soul Clap Featuring Sly Stone-In Da Kar Official Video

[youtube id="5wp82HtSzIk"]

Boston house duo [Soul Clap and Funkadelic](#) released their [four-song EP](#) featuring Sly Stone on keys back in April. Gabe Munitz-Alessio directed the video for "In Da Kar" using live video and claymation to tell the ugly story of the oil industry.

Media Questions Of The Week

[Exclusive – Homeless Music Legend Sly Stone Admits To Recent Drug Use](#)

1. Should any prominent entertainers take the initiative and help Sly Stone get well again?



2. Why won't Prince let The Time use their name instead of The Original7ven?

[youtube]MgmS_lbMJSs[/youtube]

3. Will the jury find Dr. Conrad Murray guilty of involuntary manslaughter for the death of Michael Jackson?