

Throwback: Michael Jackson: Got To Be There



"Got To Be There" is Michael Jackson's first solo single and it was recorded and released in 1971 months before his debut solo album, also titled *Got To Be There*, came out. Jackson was still a member of his family's group and would be until the Victory Tour in the '80s. The Jackson 5 were teen stars on the Motown label but Michael and Jermaine launched solo careers around the same time. Jackson's brothers provided background vocals for the album. "Got To Be There" shot to number one soon after it was released in October of 1971. Michael's voice had not changed yet at age 13 but his natural ability to sing ballads was more advanced than his years. There was no

question that his role as the frontman of The Jackson 5 was well deserved but his performance of “Got To Be There” revealed a supernatural talent to emotionally connect with all kinds of listeners. The single and album were a preview of the kind of artistic power and popularity Jackson would have in the future.

Got To Be There was a top ten entry on the charts and the second single, “Rockin’ Robin,” hit the number four spot. Jackson achieved his first solo hit with “Got To Be There” and was on his way to making more history with his brothers and as a singular artist over the next decade. Jackson had recorded a classic song that would later be covered by The Miracles, Black Ivory, Chaka Khan, George Benson, and Boyz II Men. *Got To Be There* was remastered and reissued in 2009 as a three-disc compilation called *Hello World: The Motown Solo Collection*.

Throwback: The Jacksons-Blame It On The Boogie



The Jacksons' recording of "Blame It On The Boogie" was the lead single from their 13th studio album, *Destiny*, which was released in 1978. The group left Motown in 1975 and after two years on the Philly International label, they signed with Epic Records. "Blame It On The Boogie" helped lead them back to the kind of success they had on Motown. British singer-songwriter Mick Jackson co-wrote "Blame It On The Boogie" with his brother David Jackson and Elmar Krohn. They intended to sell the song to Stevie Wonder, but Mick recorded his version, and it was released in August of 1978. The Jacksons' manager heard the song at the Midem Music Conference in Europe and took a recording of it back to the group.

The Jacksons' "Blame It On The Boogie" was released one day after Mick Jackson's version. Michael Jackson's energetic performance and the group's magic made their version easily the more popular one. They were happy because the song pulled them back up on the R&B chart with a number three position.

Destiny was a special album for them because it was the first time in their careers they were allowed complete creative control. “Blame It On The Boogie” was the only song on the album they did not write. *Destiny* got its biggest push from the next single, “Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground),” but “Blame It On The Boogie” got them out of a slump after five previous singles that didn’t do well. *Destiny* was re-released in 2009 to commemorate its 30th anniversary and it included two disco versions of “Blame It On The Boogie” and “Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground.)” The album was re-released again in 2021 digitally with *The Jacksons* and *Goin Places*, with six bonus tracks.

Media Questions Of The Week



Will Jermaine Jackson return to The Jacksons now that Tito Jackson has passed, or are they done touring?



Will Sean Combs be convicted of the charges brought against him? If so, how much time will he get? And what other famous people are in his collections of videos?

R.I.P. Tito Jackson



Tito Jackson of The Jackson 5 died Sunday of a heart attack at age 70 in New Mexico. Jackson breaking his father's guitar string was the catalyst that started The Jackson 5. Joe Jackson discovered his son's musical talent after scolding him for secretly playing his instrument. Mr. Jackson purchased Tito his own guitar and convinced him and his other sons, Jackie and Jermaine, to form a musical group. One year later, in 1964, Marlon and Michael joined the band. The Jackson 5 released their first single, "Big Boy," in 1968 on Steeltown Records, a local record label. Joe Jackson managed to get his sons a record deal with Motown in 1969, and from there they became teen sensations thanks to hits like "The Love You Save," "ABC," and "I Want You Back." The Jackson 5 traveled the world and performed for such luminaries as the Queen of England. They were the first boy band, and their success

produced Jacksonmania, where fans mobbed them wherever they went. The merchandise built around them included posters, coloring books, stickers, and their own Saturday morning cartoon. Tito Jackson did not play guitar on those Motown records, but he started writing songs, and his instrument was heard on recordings after they signed to CBS in 1976. Fans were treated to his guitar playing when The Jackson 5 performed live. Jackson played with his family throughout their changes from The Jackson 5 to simply The Jacksons. They still toured at the time of his death and were seen on [social media](#) last week acknowledging a memorial built for Michael in Munich, Germany.

As The Jacksons, they had hits in the '70s with "Enjoy Yourself," and "Show You The Way To Go" while they were on the Philadelphia International label. The family also had their own variety show at this time. By the late '70s and early '80s, the group released their big single, "Shake Your Body (Down To The Ground)," and had further hits with "Can You Feel It," "This Place Hotel," and "Lovely One." They continued to release music until their last studio album, *2300 Jackson Street*, which came out in 1989. In 1997, they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 1995, Jackson's three sons, T.J., Taj, and Taryll, released their debut album, *Brotherhood*, as the group 3T. They were signed to their uncle Michael's MJJ label and mentored by him. 3T was one of the biggest-selling groups in Europe, and their father Tito recorded a Jackson 5 tribute with them.

In the early 2000s, Jackson embarked on a solo career and started playing in blues clubs with his band. B.B. King also handpicked Jackson to play in his band. Jackson had a hit record, "Get It Baby," with Big Daddy Kane in 2016 from his debut album, *Tito Time*. He released his second solo album, *Under Your Spell*, in 2021. Jackson had recently moved to Claremore, Oklahoma, and had plans for an entertainment center in the Tulsa Arts District, a festival, and a documentary.

Tito Jackson had real chops ??Here is shredding guitar on Isaac Hayes rendition of Walk On.

I always come back to watch this because J5 was too pimpin performing this ?? pic.twitter.com/beSdyDsEPv

– Big Kitty Arie ? (@ArieVogues) [September 16, 2024](#)