

# Throwback: Jesse Johnson: Can You Help Me



“Can You Help Me” is the second single from Jesse Johnson’s 1985 debut album, *Jesse Johnson’s Revue*. Johnson was the lead guitarist of The Time and the co-writer of their biggest songs, “Jungle Love” and “The Bird,” with Prince and Morris Day. Johnson also wrote “Bite The Beat” with Prince for Vanity Six. Johnson had very few speaking parts in *Purple Rain*, but he was labeled the sex symbol of the group despite Day’s over-the-top charisma. Johnson and Morris Day left The Time soon after the success of *Purple Rain* and Johnson scored a record deal with A&M, which was the start of his solo career. “Can You Help Me” was R&B that made its foundation with a funky synthesizer and Johnson’s enthralling guitar work descended from Eddie Hazel and Jimi Hendrix. Minneapolis vocalist Germain Brooks, who was a member of the Andre Cymone-founded group The Girls, sang backup with Johnson on the single. Promoted after “Be Your Man” and before “I Want My Girl,” “Can You Help Me” was the most popular single from the album, with it being heard on the radio, in the clubs, roller rinks, and on the street.

The success of Johnson’s first album made him one of the few members from The Time, including Morris Day, Jimmy Jam, and Terry Lewis, to make it outside of Prince’s camp. Jesse Johnson released five solo albums, with the most recent one being *Verbal Penetration*, released in 2009. In 2025 he celebrated the 40th anniversary of *Jesse Johnson’s Revue* with several online interviews. Johnson still tours and is currently working on his sixth solo project.

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# Throwback: The Time-Gigolos Get Lonely Too



“Gigolos Get Lonely Too” was one of the three singles from The Time’s 1982 album, *What Time Is It?* Prince wrote the song about playboys needing love and played all of the instruments except the drums played by Morris Day, and Jesse Johnson supplied the guitar work. Prince’s distinct use of computerized drums and synthesizers were some of the things

that identified his '80s sound. The album listed all of the songwriting credits to The Time, but the songs were attributed to Prince when they were registered with ASCAP. Morris Day's suave demeanor faded into an out-of-character vulnerability when he pleaded for love. Prince's ingenious writing and arranging and Day's emotionally heavy performance were the next phase in developing the Minneapolis funk sound. "Gigolos Get Lonely Too" was the only ballad on the album, and it blazed quiet storm radio playlists. The original members of The Time released their fifth album, *Condensate*, in 2011. In 2022, Prince's estate told Morris Day that he could no longer perform using the name Morris Day & The Time, but the matter was resolved by 2023, with Day being able to keep the name. Day's fifth solo album, *Last Call*, was released in 2022. He told Jennifer Hudson on her talk show earlier this year that his 2023 tour would be his last as he planned to retire.

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## Listen: Jam And Lewis Vol. 1

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis have released *Jam and Lewis Vol. 1* after [35-years](#) of writing and producing timeless hit songs for R&B stars of the '80s-'00s. Their past work with Mariah Carey, Mary J. Blige, Usher and others comes full circle on the album. There is a collaboration with their Time frontman Morris Day, mirror-holder Jerome Benton and The Roots. It's hard to believe that Janet Jackson's "What Have You Done For Me Lately" was actually supposed to be their debut single until she got it for her 1986 *Control* album. Since then, every attempt they made to put their own project together was interrupted by other artists taking the songs. Fans finally get to hear them working with a dream team on one album and

there are plans for [volumes](#) two, three and four because their wishlist is so long.Â

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## **DJ Cassidy Presents Pass The Mic The Soul Train Edition**

DJ Cassidy presented his Pass The Mic show in conjunction with the Soul Train Awards last night. This edition paid tribute to some of his musical heroes from the '80s. A section of some of the era's greatest artists joined him remotely to sing along with his DJing of their song. Jody Watley, Deniece Williams, Morris Day and Jerome Benton of the Time, Shannon, George Clinton, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Alicia Myers, Chaka Khan, Lisa Lisa, Melvin Riley of Ready For The World, Shelia E., Larry Blackmon and Willie Morris of Cameo and El DeBarge all participated and sang one of their classic songs.Â