

Throwback: Thelma Houston - You Used To Hold Me So Tight

Thelma Houston is famous for her '76 cover of [“Don't Leave Me This Way”](#) which was a hit for Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes with Teddy Pendergrass singing lead in '75. Houston had signed to Motown in '71 and had no success with the release of a number of singles until she made her version of the tune. The song acquired a Grammy for her in '78 making her the first woman from Motown to get the award for Best Female R&B performance and is considered one of the most enduring songs of that era. Expectations were high for her career because of the potential heard on her debut album *Sunshower* that came out in '69. She never reached the kind of success her voice truly commanded but her output of sixteen albums has been followed by a plenitude of soul fanatics. “You Used To Hold Me So Tight” was written and produced by [Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis](#) for her '84 album *Qualifying Heat*. Jam and Lewis were able to take the gospel octane in her voice and arrange it into a chic instrument around the electronic drums and synthesizers creating an up to date sexiness a tasteful formula they perfected with [Cherelle](#). The song was a decent chart success but it was the club audience particularly the [Paradise Garage](#) that made the song everlasting. She released her last album *A Woman's Touch* in '07.