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Dr. Gamaliel L. Parsons Jr., 66, a South Side pediatrician, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Park Manor Congregational Church, 7000 S. King Dr. A South Side resident, Dr. Parsons died Monday in Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. He had medical offices at 3507 S. King Dr. and served on the staffs of Children`s Memorial, St. Joseph`s and Provident Hospitals. He was a former chairman of the pediatrics department at Provident Hospital. Dr. Parsons also was a founding physician and director of the Daniel Hale Williams Health Center, 5044 S. State St. He had been a doctor in Chicago for nearly 40 years except for service with the Army Medical Corps from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War. Dr. Parsons is survived by his wife, Reva; a son, Gamaliel L. III; and two daughters, Patricia Ann and Paulette.



**In Celebration of Black History
during the month of February
MarleneandCompany**

Presents

**A Musical Presentation and
Celebration of the Contributions
Made to the Music Culture.**

Mahalia Jackson

January 27, 1912

1972)^[a] was an American [gospel singer](#), widely considered one of the most influential vocalists of

the 20th century. With a career spanning 40 years, Jackson was integral to the development and spread of [gospel blues](#) in black churches throughout the U.S. During a time when [racial segregation](#) was pervasive in American society, she met considerable and unexpected success in

a recording career, selling an estimated 22 million records and performing in front of integrated and secular audiences in concert halls around the world.

in c The granddaughter of [enslaved people](#), Jackson was born and raised in poverty in [New Orleans](#). She found a home in her church, leading to a lifelong dedication and singular purpose to deliver God's word through song. She moved to Chicago as an adolescent and joined the Johnson Singers, one of the earliest gospel groups. Jackson was heavily influenced by musician-composer [Thomas Dorsey](#) and [blues](#) singer [Bessie Smith](#), adapting Smith's style to traditional [Protestant hymns](#) and contemporary songs. After making an impression in Chicago churches, she was hired to sing at funerals, political rallies, and [revivals](#). For 15 years, she functioned as what she termed a "fish and bread singer", working odd jobs between performances to make a living.concert halls around the world.

























PRESENTED BY LAVARIOUS SLAUGHTER STUDIOS

**HOW
I GOT
OVER:** THE **MAHALIA JACKSON**
MUSICAL



MAY 14

Mr. Sam Cooke

Samuel Cooke^[5] (January 22, 1931^[6] – December 11, 1964),^[5] known professionally as Sam Cooke, was an American singer and songwriter. Considered one of the most influential soul artists of all time, Cooke is commonly referred to as the "King of Soul" for his distinctive vocals, pioneering contributions to the genre, and significance in popular music.^[7] During his eight-year career, Cooke released 29 singles that charted in the Top 40 of the Billboard Pop Singles chart, as well as 20 singles in the Top Ten of Billboard's Black Singles chart. In 1964, he was shot and killed by the manager of a motel in Los Angeles.^[8] After an inquest and investigation, the courts ruled Cooke's death to be a justifiable homicide.^[9] His family has since questioned the circumstances of his death. Cooke is included on Billboard's 2015 list of the 35 greatest R&B artists of all time.^[10]

The renowned African American singer, made significant contributions to the civil rights movement. His impact extended beyond the music industry, as he actively used his platform to challenge racial inequality¹. Here are some key points about his contributions:

Observation and Music: Cooke attributed his success to the art of observation. He wrote about what he saw and heard, turning it into music. His songs brought relief to the civil rights movement, forming a bridge and healing wounds. His powerful voice resonated with people, both lifting them up and bringing them to their knees. Tragically, he was shot and killed in 1964 at the age of 32.

Emmet Till and the Spark: In 1955, the brutal murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black boy from Chicago, sparked outrage and awareness. Cooke felt the fire of change burning, and he wanted to reach a wider audience. He transitioned from gospel to R&B and pop music, recording hits like “You Send Me” to bridge communities and promote unity¹.

Anthem for Change: Cooke’s iconic song “A Change Is Gonna Come” became an anthem for the civil rights movement. Its powerful lyrics and emotional delivery captured the struggle for equality and hope for a better future. Even today, this song resonates with audiences, reminding us of the ongoing fight against injustice²³.

Business Ventures: Beyond his music, Cooke was a trailblazer in the business side of the industry. He founded a record label and a publishing company, demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to shaping the music landscape⁴⁵.

Sam Cooke’s legacy endures, reminding us of the power of art, activism, and unity in the fight for justice.





BRING IT ON HOME TO ME · HAVING A PARTY · YOU SEND ME
ONLY SIXTEEN · EVERYBODY LOVES TO CHA CHA CHA · FOR
SENTIMENTAL REASONS · WONDERFUL WORLD · SUMMERTIME
CHAIN GANG · CUPID · TWISTIN' THE NIGHT AWAY · SAD MOOD



the **BEST**
of **SAM**
COOKE







**A CHANGE IS
GONNA COME**

SAM COOKE

A CHANGE IS
GONNA COME

Dinah Washington

Dinah Washington, born Ruth Lee Jones on August 29, 1924, made significant contributions to music and paved the way for

African-American artists. Let's explore her remarkable journey:

Early Life and Musical Beginnings:

Washington grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where music was a part of her family. Her mother played piano at St. Luke's Baptist Church, and Dinah sang gospel and played piano in the church choir.

Influenced by artists like Billie Holiday, she developed an interest in blues music and began performing in local Chicago clubs.

Career Highlights:

At 18, Washington joined Lionel Hampton's band, and soon after, she signed with Keynote Records. Her first hit, "Evil Gal Blues," was released under the name Dinah Washington.

Moving to Mercury Records in 1948, she achieved a string of R&B hits, including "Baby Get Lost" and "Trouble in Mind." In 1959, she released "What a Difference a Day Makes," which became a Grammy-winning success. This marked her crossover from the black music category to mainstream popularity.

Washington's impact extended beyond her chart-topping success. She influenced artists like Aretha Franklin and opened doors for African-American singers in commercial music.

Legacy and Recognition:

Washington is honored in both the Grammy and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame.

In 2008, a street in Tuscaloosa was renamed Dinah Washington Avenue in her memory.

Personal Struggles:

Despite her achievements, Washington faced personal challenges. She battled weight problems, addiction to diet pills, and had a tumultuous personal life.

[Tragically, she passed away at the age of 39 due to an accidental overdose of prescription sleeping pills in Chicago on December 14, 1963¹.](#)

Dinah Washington's powerful voice and groundbreaking career continue to inspire generations of musicians and listeners alike.

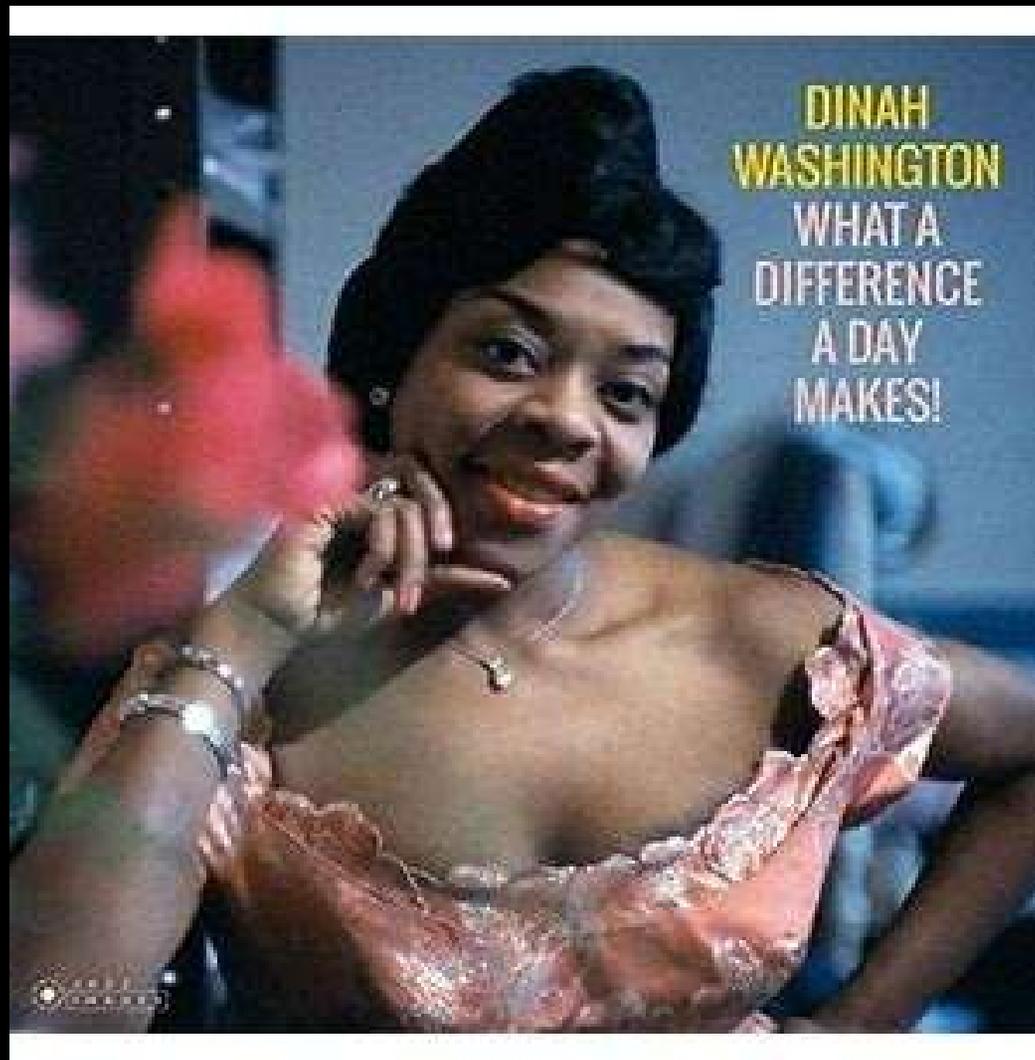




Great Women of Song

DINAH WASHINGTON





Ms. Etta James

Born as Jamesetta Hawkins on January 25, 1938, in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, Etta James received her first professional training as a church vocalist at the age of five.

She joined a group called the Creolettes, which was discovered by rhythm and blues artist Johnny Otis. Their hit song “Roll with Me Henry” (renamed as “The Wallflower”) topped the R&B charts in 1955.

Etta James left the group to pursue a solo career and performed alongside legendary artists like Johnny “Guitar” Watson, Chuck Berry, and Otis Redding.

Chess Records and Signature Song:

In 1960, Etta signed with Chess Records in Chicago, a leading R&B label at the time.

She collaborated with singer and songwriter Harvey Fuqua, recording a series of top-ten hits on the R&B charts, including “All I Could Do Was Cry.”

Her debut album, “At Last!”, featured the title track, which became her signature song. It reached #2 on the R&B charts and #47 on the Billboard Pop Chart.

Challenges and Triumphs:

Etta James battled a heroin addiction for over two decades, but she continued to create music.

Despite personal struggles, she recorded popular songs like “Tell Mama” (1967), which reached the R&B top ten.

In 1988, at the age of 50, she finally conquered her addiction.

Etta also struggled with obesity but underwent gastric bypass surgery in 2003, losing over 200 pounds.

Legacy and Influence:

Etta James inspired and influenced genres like R&B and soul, leaving an indelible mark on music.

Artists such as Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Beyoncé, and Jennifer Hudson have acknowledged her impact.

[She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Blues Hall of Fame and received several Grammy Awards¹².](#)

Reverend Al Sharpton described her as a “bridge of American culture that changed the culture of the world” and credited her with breaking down cultural barriers even before the Civil Rights Act of 1964³.

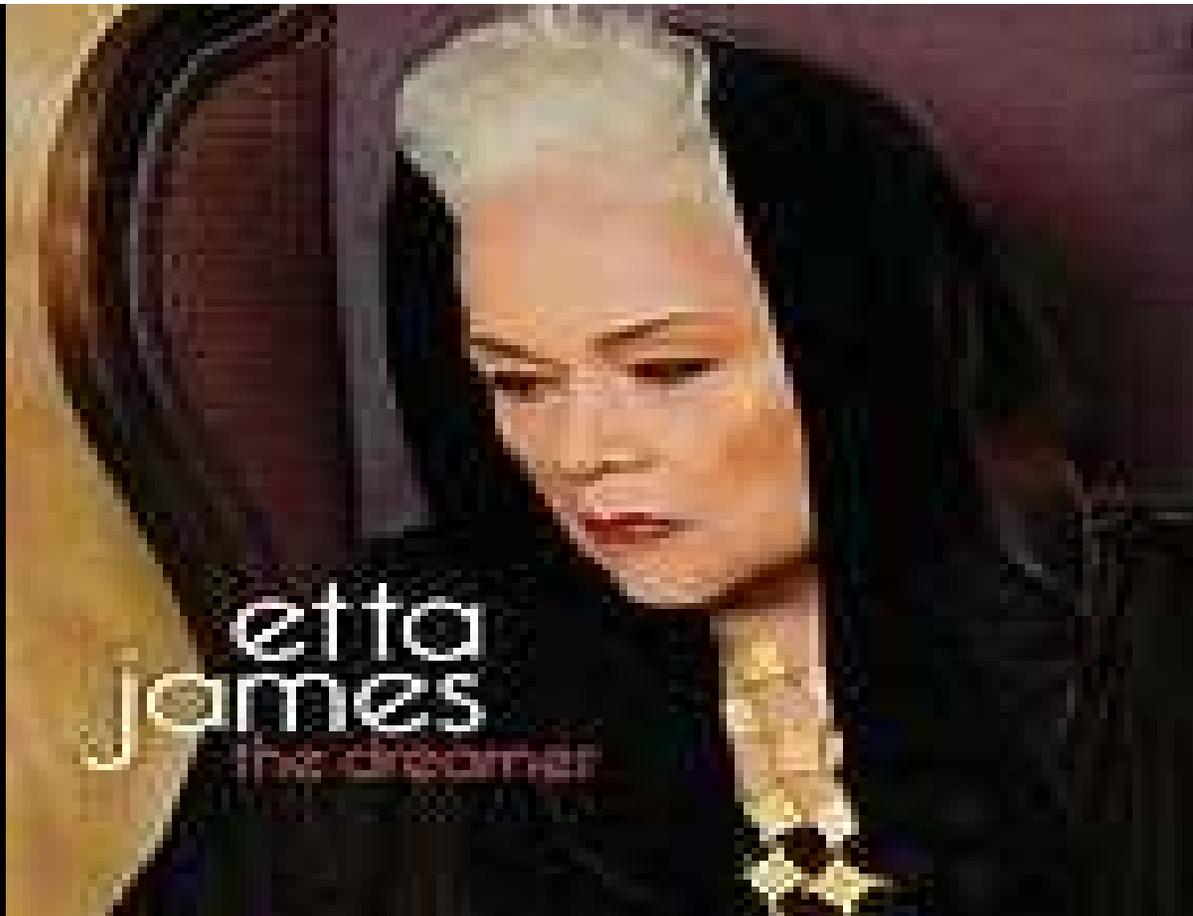
Etta James’s powerful voice and emotional delivery continue to resonate, shaping contemporary music and honoring her enduring legacy.











ETTA JAMES
at last!



Mr. Curtis Mayfield

Curtis Mayfield made significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, using his music as a powerful force for change. As a singer, songwriter, and producer, Mayfield addressed issues of poverty, racism, and the struggles faced by Black communities. Here are some key ways in which he influenced the movement:

Freedom Rides and Protest Anthems:

When young Civil Rights activists participated in the “Freedom Rides” during the early 1960s, Mayfield’s music was often on their minds. His composition “Keep on Pushing” became a sing-along anthem during these protests.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used Mayfield’s song “People Get Ready” to motivate marchers. Its all-inclusive lyrics made it the unofficial anthem of the movement.

While other songs like “We Shall Overcome” and “Blowin’ in the Wind” are well-known, Mayfield’s music resonated deeply with African American communities, inspiring hope and determination¹.

Black Pride Movement:

By the late 1960s, Mayfield was a pioneering voice in the black pride movement alongside artists like James Brown and Sly Stone.

His songs, such as “We’re A Winner” (recorded by The Impressions), encouraged Black pride and self-confidence, emphasizing that the time for self-pity was over².

“We’re A Winner” celebrated African-American achievement and culture, cementing Mayfield’s status as a musical spokesman for the younger wing of the civil rights movement³.

Social Concern and Transformation:

Mayfield’s music transformed Black popular music into a vehicle for social concern during the struggle for civil rights.

His compositions, including “Choice of Colors,” addressed important issues and resonated with listeners, encouraging reason over riot and promoting unity⁴.

In summary, Curtis Mayfield’s prophetic and visionary music played a vital role in inspiring and empowering the Civil Rights Movement, leaving a lasting impact on generations to come. 🎵👊⁵

Learn more







★★★★★ PEOPLE GET READY ★★★★★

THE
BEST
OF



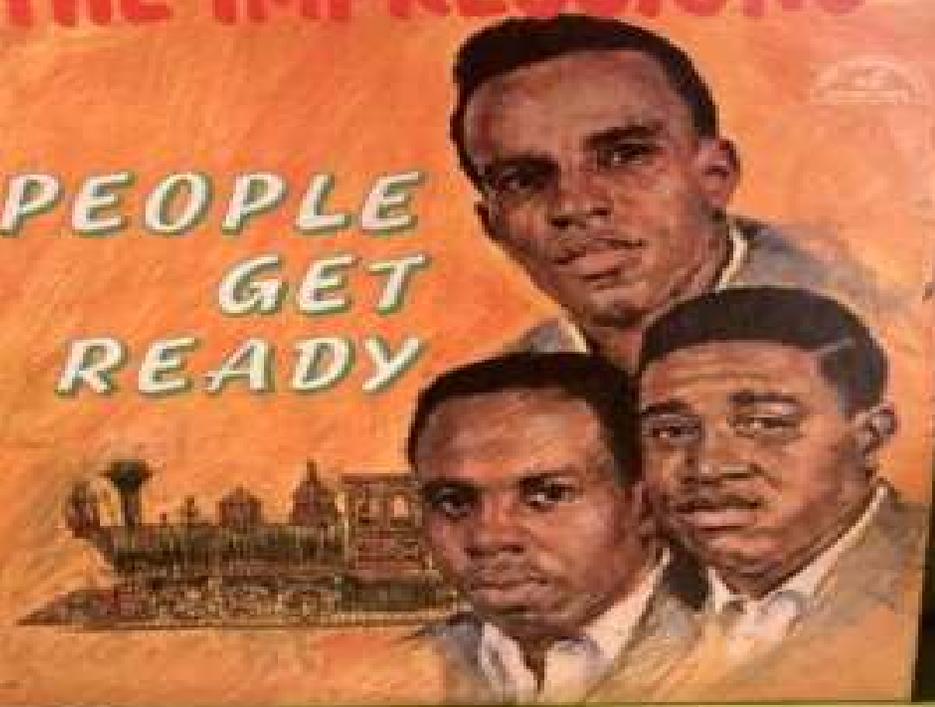
Curtis
Mayfield's



IMPRESSIONS

THE IMPRESSIONS

PEOPLE
GET
READY



Ms. Aretha Franklin

Grammy awards and became the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Franklin used her platform and voice to advocate for racial equality¹. Here are some key ways she contributed:

“Respect”: In 1967, Franklin released her iconic song “Respect,” which became an anthem for both racial and gender equality. The song resonated with people from all walks of life, reflecting their desire for respect and dignity. It also became a battle cry for the civil rights movement.

Support for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Franklin’s upbringing in a family of civil rights activists influenced her commitment. She sang “Take My Hand, Precious Lord” at Dr. King’s funeral in 1968 and performed the National Anthem at the Democratic National Convention the same year.

Activism and Social Consciousness: Franklin toured with Dr. King and singer/activist Harry Belafonte, using her talents to further the civil rights cause. She even helped fund Dr. King’s efforts by hosting concerts and supporting campaigns¹.

Angela Davis Bail Offer: In 1970, Franklin offered to post bail for revolutionary activist and scholar Angela Davis, who was accused of assisting in a courtroom takeover that resulted in four deaths. Her gesture demonstrated her unwavering commitment to justice and civil rights¹.

Through her music and actions, Aretha Franklin left an indelible mark on the fight for equality, inspiring generations to come²³.















Dr. Feelgood

Mr. Bill Withers

- Bill Withers, the acclaimed singer and musician, made significant contributions to Black culture and the civil rights movement. Let's explore some key aspects of his impactful career:

1. Musical Legacy:

- Born in Slab Fork, West Virginia, in 1938, Withers overcame a stutter and found solace in songwriting and singing.
- His debut album, "Just as I Am" (1970), featured hits like "Ain't No Sunshine" and "Grandma's Hands," which resonated with audiences and climbed the R&B charts¹.
- The iconic song "Lean on Me" from his second album, "Still Bill" (1972), reached No. 1 on both the Pop and R&B charts. Inspired by his West Virginia hometown, it celebrated community support during challenging times¹.
- Withers continued to create memorable music, including hits like "Use Me" and "Lovely Day," leaving an indelible mark on Black culture¹.
- Despite a relatively short music career, he maintained a massive influence, earning comparisons to Bruce Springsteen².

2. Civil Rights Contributions:

- Bill Withers was more than a musician; he documented pivotal moments in the civil rights movement.
- He was the sole photographer to capture the entire Emmett Till murder trial and documented Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy riding the first desegregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama³.
- His lens provided a powerful visual record of history, highlighting the struggle for equality and justice.

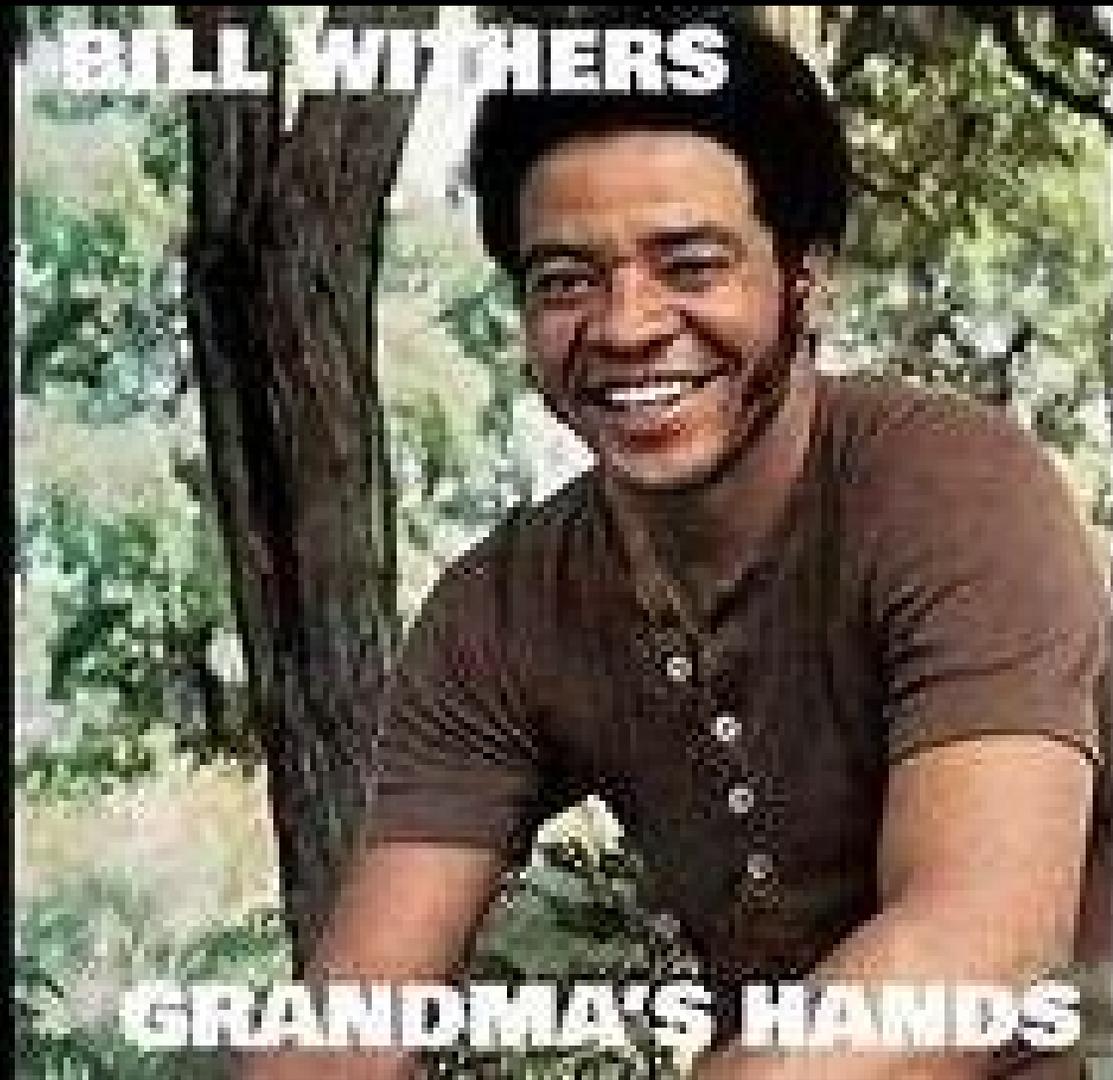
3. Working-Class Roots:

- Withers recorded demos while working at Boeing aircraft company, showcasing his determination and talent.
- The song "Lean on Me" drew from his experiences growing up in a West Virginia coal mining town, where neighbors supported each other during difficult times⁴.









BILL WITHERS

GRANDMA'S HANDS

Mr. Ben E. King

- Ben E. King, born Benjamin Earl Nelson on September 28, 1938, made significant contributions to African American music and culture. Let's explore some key aspects of his legacy:

1. The Drifters and Solo Career:

- Ben E. King was the lead singer of the vocal group The Drifters in the late 1950s and early 1960s. [Hits like "There Goes My Baby" and "Save the Last Dance for Me" showcased his soulful voice and helped define the era's sound¹.](#)
- In 1960, King left The Drifters due to disagreements over royalties and began his solo career. His first solo hit, "Spanish Harlem," reached the Top Ten on both R&B and pop charts.
- His iconic song, "Stand by Me," released in 1961, remains an enduring R&B classic and his signature track. It was even voted a Song of the Century by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and gained renewed popularity when John Lennon covered it in the 1970s.

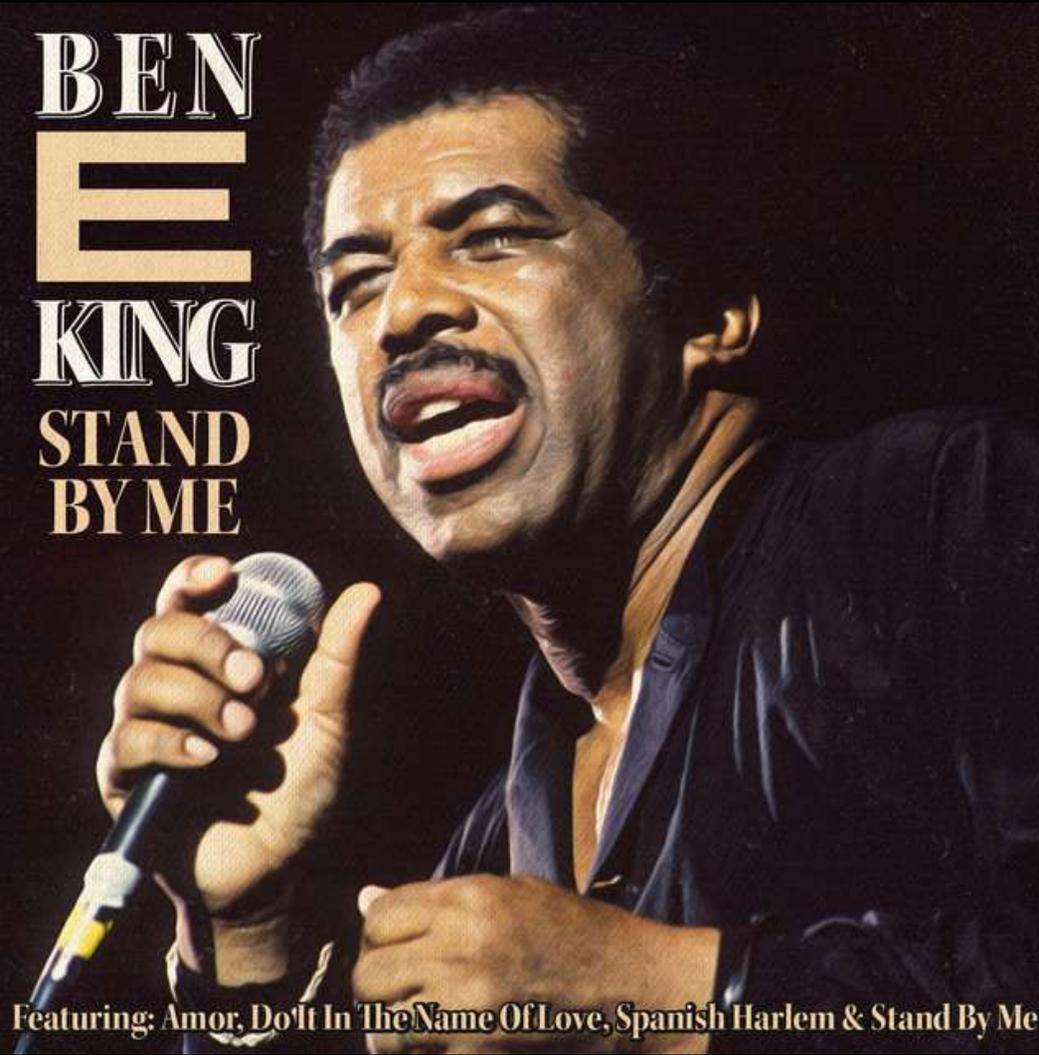
2. Cultural Impact:

- Beyond music, King's influence extended to the civil rights movement. His soulful expression resonated with self-assertion and empowerment.
- As the civil rights movement gained momentum, African American artists became more politically aware. [James Brown's anthem "Say It Loud—I'm Black and I'm Proud" \(1968\) exemplified this shift².](#)
- King's music, especially "Stand by Me," became part of the cultural fabric, appearing in movies and other media. Its timeless message of solidarity continues to inspire.

3. Legacy and Identity:

- King's journey from North Carolina to Harlem shaped his understanding of African American identity. He emphasized the importance of studying history and knowing one's roots.
 - In the 1990s, King noticed that he often performed for predominantly white audiences. [Despite this, he believed that singing the blues made him "Black twice," emphasizing the significance of his cultural heritage³.](#)
- In summary, Ben E. King's contributions as a singer, songwriter, and cultural figure left an indelible mark on African American music and identity. His legacy endures through his timeless songs and their impact on generations of listeners.

**BEN
E
KING
STAND
BY ME**



Featuring: Amor, Do It In The Name Of Love, Spanish Harlem & Stand By Me





Ben. E. King

*Stand
By Me*

**Nostalgia
Music
Catalogue**

Ms. Phyllis Hyman









Stevie Wonder

Stevie Wonder, born Stevland Haraway Morris in 1950, made significant contributions to both music and civil rights. Here are some key aspects of his impact:

Musical Genius:

Stevie Wonder began playing the piano at the age of 4 and signed his first recording contract with Motown Records at 11.

His early hits, like “Fingertips,” showcased his talent and set the stage for his remarkable career.

During his “classic period” from 1971 to 1976, he released influential albums like “Talking Book,” “Innervisions,” and “Songs in the Key of Life”¹.

His songs continue to be sampled across various genres, from hip-hop to R&B.

Songwriting and Collaboration:

Wonder wrote or co-wrote songs for Motown legends like Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, and The Temptations.

His impact extended beyond Motown, influencing artists like Michael Jackson, Drake, and Beyoncé¹.

Activism and Advocacy:

Wonder played a pivotal role in making Martin Luther King Day a national holiday in the United States².

He advocated for the end of apartheid in South Africa.

His song “Happy Birthday” called for celebrating Dr. King’s legacy³.

Technological Innovator:

In the 1970s, Wonder embraced new music technologies, using synthesizers, drum machines, and sampling.

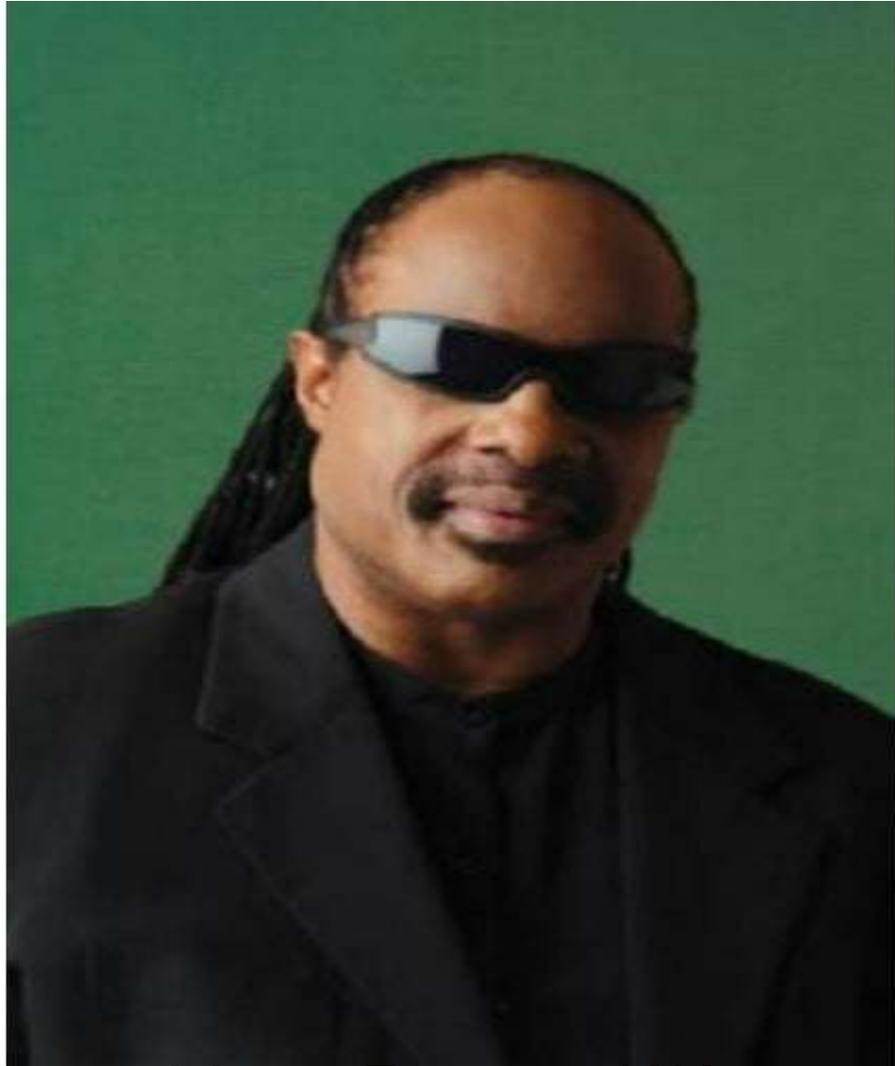
His soundtrack for the nature documentary “Journey Through the Secret Life of Plants” was an early digital recording¹.

Stevie Wonder’s legacy extends far beyond music, as he continues to inspire generations through his art and activism.









Very Superstitious

Mr. Marvin Gaye

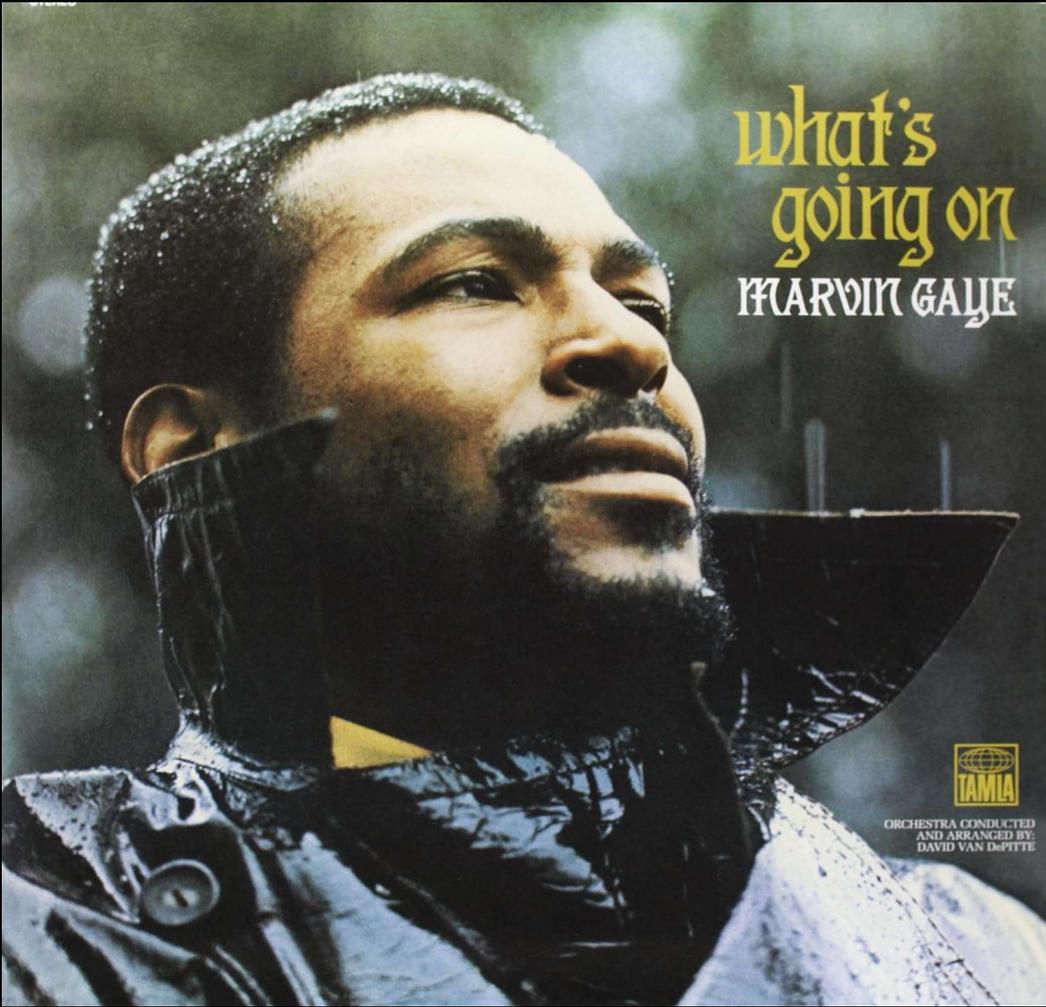
Marvin Gaye, the African American singer-songwriter and instrumentalist, made significant contributions to the Black movement. His music, particularly songs like “What’s Going On” and “Inner City Blues,” reflected the social and political turmoil of the time, making him a powerful voice for the civil rights movement¹. Through his artistry, Gaye was able to articulate the anger and frustration felt by African Americans, providing a platform for them to express their experiences and challenges². His impact extended beyond music, as he addressed issues such as environmental degradation in songs like “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy (the Ecology)”³. Marvin Gaye remains an influential figure whose work continues to resonate with audiences today.











what's
going on
MARVIN GAYE



ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED
AND ARRANGED BY:
DAVID VAN DE PITTE