

R.I.P. COMPOSER & PRODUCER THOM BELL

\* January 26, 1941 - † December 22, 2022

Thom Bell Death 1941-2022 – Obituary in Moderation: Thom Bell of Philadelphia, PA, legendary Iconic Philadelphia Soul pioneer, arranger, songwriter and longtime record producer, has sadly and unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2022, leaving family, closer relatives and other loved ones in total devastations and sadness. Family and friends were devastated when Thom passed away.

The loss of Thom has saddened the family, who are now in mourning and pain. We are sending our love and prayers to Thom's family. Funerals Homes Near Me learnt about this sad occurrence through a publication made by Al Roker, Journalist, co-host of TODAY and owner/CEO of Al Roker Entertainment, on his officially verified social media handles on Thursday, December 22, 2022, the statements read below;

Legendary Philadelphia producer Thom Bell passing away at 79. His music was the soundtrack of my life. From The Spinners, The O'Jays, The Delfonics, The Stylistics to Elton John, he was part of that distinctive Sound Of Philadelphia. Thank you for your gift.

Thom was just 79 years old at the time of his unexpected but peaceful passing. Great producer/artist pairings have played a significant role in the development of Soul music over the past 50 years. But from 1972 to 1977, no collaboration was more gratifying than that between producer Thom Bell and the Spinners. The Sound of Philadelphia was developed by Thom and his "Mighty Three" bandmates Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. It was the most significant and influential sound of the early and middle 1970s and the successor to the dominant Motown sound of the 1960s. Additionally, Thom made a name for himself in the history of Soul music as a songwriter, producer, and arranger.

Thom, who was born in 1941 in Jamaica, grew up in Philadelphia where he pursued a classical music education. In his teenage years, he met Gamble and joined him in the singing group the Romeos because he too wanted to sing. He acquired skills on several instruments and intended to pursue a career as a classical conductor, which was typically out of the question for an African American male in the early 1960s. Instead, at the age of 22, he started working as Chubby Checker's tour conductor. After two years, he was contacted by a nearby record label named Cameo Records who wanted to make a Philadelphia-based Motown. In 1968, he joined Cameo and received his first producing job for a nearby band called the Delfonics. "La La Means I Love You" and "Didn't I Blow Your Mind," two major successes produced by the combination in 1969, established Thom's popularity outside of Philadelphia.

Early works by Thom paved the way for his production and arrangement technique. He had a reputation for being very exact and structured, but more significantly, he was fairly daring. He typically had a sound in mind when he entered the studio and favored accuracy over spontaneity. However, his meticulous Labour was also revolutionary since he came up with original arrangements combining unusual instruments like bassoons and sitars to produce the original Soul sounds that others would try to imitate for years to come. His expertise in classical music undoubtedly had an impact on his creations, which tended to be lavish and orchestral with outstanding vocal arrangements and powerful, pulsing beats. While his work was clearly inspired by the Motown sound of the 1960s, he elevated Soul music to a new and different level. His work served as a model for many performers throughout the 1970s, with some of the top disco sound makers using less appealing replicas.

How did Thom Died ?

Many worried people, especially those close to the family, are curious as to how Thom's life came to an end. As of right now, we are unable to confirm or disclose Thom's cause of death because the family has not yet issued a statement outlining the details of his demise. However, it seems that there isn't much that can be learned right now until the family issues a firm statement on the matter. As per usual, as soon as it is verified, we will follow up and update this story.

Thom had a significant year in 1972. He worked with lyricist Linda Creed to write such timeless songs as "Betcha By Golly Wow" and "You Are Everything" for the Stylistics' groundbreaking debut album, which many believe to be among the best sweet soul albums of all time. His single greatest achievement was the Spinners' self-titled Atlantic Records debut (which featured songs like "I'll Be Around," "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," and "Ghetto Child," among others). He also contributed to the production and arrangement of the O'Jays' Backstabbers album.

In the ensuing five years, he worked with several artists, including Billy Paul, New York City, Ronnie Dyson, and Johnny Mathis, to become one of Soul music's most prolific hitmakers. Additionally, the rocker Elton John hired him for a collaboration that produced in the smash song "Mama Can't Buy You Love" but not the album that was intended to be released.

As the 1980s approached, Thom's first and second sets of acts had run their course and his work was typically sounding less distinctive. Thom tended to continue with bands just as long as he thought he was bringing them forward. He relocated his family to Washington State due to his wife's illness, slowed down, and lent a hand to artists including Deniece Williams, the Temptations, and Phyllis Hyman as well as the soundtrack for the film *The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh*. He also made a brief comeback appearance with the Stylistics on their album *Closer Than Close*.

On Hyman's album *Living All Alone*, he may have delivered the best work of the decade (he co-wrote and produced the chilling ballad, "Old Friend"). After the 1990s, Thom became extremely reclusive. He lived on the tiny island of Snag and collaborated seldom with a select group of musicians, including James Ingram ("I Don't Have the Heart") and Angela Winbush. He was honoured with the Grammy Trustees' Award in 2016 and was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2006.

#### Tributes

As people celebrate Thom's life, tributes are coming in from all sides. As friends and family members remember Thom's life, social media is ablaze with tributes to him. The dead is remembered as a kind, compassionate, and selfless person. Thom was a man of many virtues, a man with a heart of gold. It is truly crude that Thom's death took him away.

Thom's passing will undoubtedly leave a tremendous void. It will take longer for a chasm to bridge between family and friends. Without a doubt, people's memories of Thom's death will endure forever. Social media user; Rochelle Fleming, also shared the sad news in another online statements today. The statements read below;

I thought we were clear from anymore deaths in 2022 then I get word that the fabulous and talented Thom Bell has passed away. What an amazing and gifted songwriter who has written hits for so many artists. Meeting him as a young teenager as the founder of, "The Debonettes" I have so many memories with him. He played on, "First Choice's" albums. He had co-written, "One Step Away," with Norman Harris & Allen Felder. one of the first songs, "First Choice" had ever recorded. RIP Thom, I will miss you!

#### Funerals and Burial Arrangements

As a result of the many well-wishers who have sent their heartfelt condolences, Thom's family is receiving a lot of emotional support. They are praying for the deceased's soul to find peace while also offering their condolences to the grieving family.

The family will make its announcement on Thom's burial arrangements. Details about the obituary, funeral, and life celebration will be made public by the family and loved ones at the appropriate time. We'll do our best to keep you informed about these.

Sent from my iPhone