

THE DELFONICS BIO

One of the first groups to showcase producer Thom Bell's Philly Sound was another Philadelphia based group, The Delfonics. As they rode the rising trend of R&B soul bands in the late 1960s, The Delfonics reached stardom almost immediately after entering the music scene.

Driven and organized by the dream of then 14-year old lead vocalist and lyricist William Poogie Hart, the Delfonics was made up of Hart, his brother Wilbert, and high school friend Randy Cain, began performing at local parties and dances in the early 60s. As they matured, the group moved onto perform at area dance clubs.

As The Delfonics embodied the ambitious philosophy of Hart, they released their first single, He Don't Really Love You under a minor record label. It didn't take long for the group to gain significant local recognition. Shortly after the release of their first single, The Delfonics released the single You've Been Untrue. As their popularity gained momentum, perhaps their most important fan would be Stan Watson who immediately signed the group to his prospective label, Philly Groove.

In 1968, the group released the song, La La Means I Love You, their first work with Bell and the title of their first full-length album. The partnership was indeed a success. The song would showcase The Delfonics smooth, distinct melodies and Hart's soft vocals. As their popularity gained momentum, it would be Bell's collaboration with William Hart that would truly put The Delfonics on the map. The song reached top ten status, and The Delfonics gained international recognition.

The group would release the hit singles, You Get Yours, I'll Get Mine, and I'm Sorry, Break Your Promise and Ready or Not. But the songs, even with their remarkable success, were only a sample of greater songs on the horizon from The Delfonics. In 1970, they released the single, Didn't I Blow Your Mind This Time, which climbed into the No. 1 spot in Billboard Magazine and sold over a million copies by year's end. Their time had finally arrived.

The success story that was The Delfonics continued into 1971, when they were awarded a Grammy for Didn't I, recognizing it as the top soul hit of 1971. The Delfonics were at the height of their popularity. They dominated the airwaves and appeared on variety shows throughout the country. They combined their sexy melodies with charisma and showmanship. They supplemented their singing with precisely choreographed dance routines.

Achievement certainly did not lead to complacency as the group released another hit album in 1972, Tell Me This Is a Dream. In 1973, they released their best selling The Delfonics Super Hits, a compilation album of their greatest hits.

Even today, the impact of The Delfonics is still prevalent throughout the entertainment world. Their songs have appeared in the movies, The Five Heartbeats and Crooklyn, and in Quentin Tarantino's hit film, Jackie Brown. Such popular R&B artists as Silk and the Fugees along with R&B legends Regina Bell and Aretha Franklin have re-recorded Delfonics songs that were welcomed with widespread fanfare.

They released their most recent album, *The Professionals* in 1998 and they have plans to release another album, *Hooked on Delfonics* . They continue to tour globally and are followed by loyal, long-lasting and budding fans alike. They have put their stamp on R&B s past, and continue to influence the sounds of its present.