

# THE TEMPTATIONS

## R·E·U·N·I·O·N

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David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks have returned to the Temptations. Any applause you hear in the background is from fans ecstatic that four-fifths of an historic lineup (only the late Paul Williams is missing) is back in action again. And, to add even more fuel to the fire, not only will Ruffin and Kendricks be singing with veterans Otis Williams and Melvin Franklin, but they'll also be joined by Richard Street, Dennis Edwards and Glenn Leonard, all of who came aboard after the glory days of the "original" Tempts. The album, appropriately enough, is called Reunion. Group leader Otis Williams says there was a time he didn't think such an album would ever see of day.

"Ain't no use in lying," he says, "because at one time I thought it was a remote possibility. We didn't think it would ever be. Time brought it about, along with the people saying, 'Why don't you try it? We'd like to see it and we'll pay whatever ticket money you guys are askin'. I guess it was just something that was meant to be." But I think I'm safe in saying that the majority of us, we didn't think it would ever be."

Someone who is uninitiated in popular music history might be wondering at this point what all the fuss is about.

It's really quite simple: from 1964 to 1968, David Ruffin, Eddie Kendricks, Otis Williams, Melvin Franklin and Paul Williams made some of the best music around as the Temptations. "My Girl," "Ain't Too Proud To Beg:", "Get Ready", "The Way You Do The Things You Do", "I Wish It Would Rain" and "You're My Everything: are just a few of the classics that came out of that era. In 1968, David Ruffin decided to strike out on his own. Kendricks and Paul Williams followed three years later and, although all the missing members are quickly replaced and the hits kept coming, they were never forgotten.

Melvin Franklin, whose booming bass voice has been a Temptations trademark for over 20 years, says he always hoped a reunion of the surviving original Temptations would take place. "We've talked about it over the years," he says. "As time would have it, it did come to be. But we never did see how it could be possible. Too many things had happened. But thank God for understanding and the wisdom that comes with time." Thank God, also, for Jimmy Bishop. He's the veteran D.J. and record company exec who, in Otis' words, brought the reunion "to where it is today."

However, as Melvin notes, there's another--more important --factor at work in this celebratation "The major thing that brought us all together," he says, "is we wanted to. Somebody had to be a catalyst, but in order for the catalyst to work, you have to have the components willing to come together. One of the lines Otis came up with for one of the songs was, 'Come together and forget about whatever.'

Temptations

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Do it because we care.

"I'm sentimental. All the guys that've ever been in the Temptations, we all love each other. I feel very blessed that they're back with us. I want it to go as long as it can. I know it's reunion time and David and Eddie both have their own separate careers, but I'm sure they'll have fun doing this.

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