

# THE TEMPTATIONS

## R·E·U·N·I·O·N

EDWARD JAMES KENDRICKS

The two men who replaced Eddie Kendricks in the Temptations have one thing in common. The both idolized Eddie Kendricks. The Tempts say Damon Harris, who left in 1975, did everything he could to be like Kendricks, down to trying to imitate his walk. Glenn Leonard, who came in in 1975, says he's always like tenors. "I like Curtis Mayfield, Little Anthony...people like that. Then I saw the Temptations and it was love at first sight."

Glenn wasn't alone. Eddie Kendricks has played musical father to a host of young singers including, but not limited to; Ron Banks of the Dramatics; Kenny Copeland of Rose Royce; and Phillip Bailey of Earth, Wind and Fire. Kendricks, reed-thin and ever so cool, was, along with labelmate Smokey Robinson, the tenor-falsetto singer by whom others were measured.

Eddie was born in Birmingham, Alabama, where he was friends with another former Temptation, the late Paul Williams. He and Paul listened to the music of do-woppers like the Cadillacs and the Teenagers. The story goes that the two young men traveled north to Detroit with the notion of rebuilding the Primes, an act both had been part of in the South.

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Although they did perform with a resuscitated version of that group, it wasn't until they joined Otis Williams and crew that things started clicking. Eddie was the voice on the Tempts' first big hit, "The Way You Do The Things You Do", as well as smashes like "Get Ready", "Girl, Why You Wanna Make Me Blue", "I'll Be In Trouble" and "You're My Everything" (with Ruffin).

In 1971, Eddie hit a real high note, he sang lead with gossamer delicacy on "Just My Imagaination", a platinum-selling single that remains one of the biggest Temptations hits ever. Months after that tune was released, Eddie exited the group for a solo career. He turned up on stage with the Supremes in the summer of 1971, winning a standing ovation from the crowd and glowing adulation from the critics.

And Kendricks' solo career was just winding up. He later scored with "Boogie Down", "Son of Sagittarius", "Intimate Friends" and the smash, "Keep On Truckin'".