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Born April 2, 1939 in Washington, D.C. C Marvin Gaye began his career as a session drummer before becoming one of the greatest male solo artists of all time. He recorded thirteen number one singles, seven number one albums, and his 1971 *What's Going On* is considered one of the greatest albums ever. Gaye was one of the leaders of Motown Records, including Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and Lionel Richie. Gaye was a consummable performer, composer and producer. and recorded duet albums with Ross, Tammi Terrell, Mary Wells and Kim Weston. His numerous honors include the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Hollywood Walk of Fame and NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame. He died on April 1, 1984, the day before his 45th birthday, after he was shot dead by his father. On November 13, 2015, the second volume, *Marvin Gaye: Volume Two 1966-1970*, was published. The seven box set album includes his three duet albums with Tammi Terrell: *United* (1967), *You're All I Need* (1968) and *Easy* (1969). Here are 20 reasons why Marvin Gaye was the Prince of Motown. Marvin Gaye. Paul Natkin/WireImage The late Marvin Gaye was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 38th Marvin Gaye. Ebet Roberts/Redferns The legacy of the late Marvin Gaye was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on September 27, 1990. Marvin Gaye. The Ebet Roberts/Redferns NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame was introduced by the late Marvin Gaye on December 10, 1988 at the Wilern Theater in Los Angeles, California. Marvin Gaye. Ebet Roberts/Redferns On January 21, 1987, the late Marvin Gaye was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye. Gilles Firecracker/Redferns On March 25, 1983, Marvin Gaye performed what's *Going On* for Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever, a special television show that was recorded at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in Pasadena, California. The show also includes Michael Jacksons and The Jacksons, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Lionel Richie and The Commodores, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, The Temptations and The Four Tops. Marvin Gaye. David Redfern/Redferns On February 23, 1983, Marvin Gaye received only two Grammy Awards in his career at the 25th Annual Grammy Awards held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. He won the award for Best R&B Vocalist - Male and Best R&B Instrumental Performance for *Sexual Healing*. Marvin Gaye sings the Star Spangled Banner at the NBA All-Star Game on February 13, 1983 at the Forum in Los Angeles, California.b. NBA February 13, 1983, Marvin Gaye performed one of the most original and memorable versions of the national anthem during the 33rd. Marvin Gaye with son Frankie and daughter Of Nona Gaye. Michael Ochs Archives / Getty Images January 17, 1983 Marvin Gaye won the single *Favorite Soul* R&B single for *Sexual Healing* during the 10th Marvin Gaye. Gilles Firecracker/Redferns After leaving Motown Records to sign with Columbia Records, Marvin Gaye released his last studio album, *Midnight Love*, in October 1982. The album sold more than six million copies worldwide and included his number one hit *Sexual Healing*, which won two Grammy Awards the following year. Marvin Gaye performs in London. On March 15, 1977. Marvin Gaye released his double album *Live at the London Palladium*. It reached number one and included the hit *Got To Give It Up*. Marvin Gaye. Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images On March 16, 1976, Marvin Gaye released his album *I Want You*, an album and the title track that reached number one on the Billboard R&B charts. On October 26, 1973, Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross released their duo, *Marvin and Diana*. She was in the top five of the single *You're A Special Part Of Me*. Let's Get It On album. On August 28, 1973, Marvin Gaye released his album *Let's Get It On*, which became his best-selling album *Motown*. For eleven weeks, it remained at number one on the Billboard R&B chart. On May 21, 1971, Marvin Gaye released his album, *What's Going On*. It was a concept album about a Vietnam War veteran returning to America and experiencing injustice, suffering, and hatred. It was the first album Gaye wrote and produced entirely by himself. It featured three more hits: *Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)*, *Inner City Blues (Make Me want to Holler)* and the title song. In 2003, the Library of Congress chose *What Happens to be included in the National Register*. Marvin Gaye. Michael Ochs Archives /Getty Images In 1971, Marvin Gaye received two awards at the 5th NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles, California. He won outstanding male artist and outstanding album for *What's Going On*. Marvin Gaye. Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images October 30, 1968, Marvin Gaye released *I Heard It Through The Grapevine*. The song was a big hit with Gladys Knight and the Pips in 1967, and Gaye's version was even more successful, reaching the top of the Billboard Hot 100 and R&B charts. Gaye's version was included on his album *In The Groove* and was eventually released as a single after she started receiving a radio header from from all over the country. The song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. Tammi Terrell and Marvin Marvin GAB Archive/Redferns In August 1968, Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell released their second duet album, *You're All I Need*. It features hits *Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing* and *You're All I Need To Get By*, both composed by Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson. Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell. On August 29, 1967, Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell released their first duet album, *United*. It features the classic *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, as well as additional hits *You're Precious Love*, *If I Could Build a Whole World Around You* and *If This World Were Mine*. Marvin Gaye. Don Paulsen/Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images On May 23, 1966, Marvin Gaye released his seventh studio album, *Moods of Marvin Gaye*, the album containing his first two R&B hits, *I'll Be Doggone* and *Ain't That Peculiar*. Both were composed by Smokey Robinson. Marvin Gaye performs at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium in Santa Monica, California on October 28, 1964. Michael Ochs Archives /Getty Images On October 28, 1964, Marvin Gaye recorded a performance for the historic TAMI Show at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium in Santa Monica, California. He sang four songs: *Stubborn Kind Of Fellow*, *Hitch Hike*, *Pride and Joy and Can I Get A Witness*. Gaye joined his motown fellow artists The Supremes and Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, who also appeared in the film, along with The Rolling Stones, The Beach Boys, James Brown, Chuck Berry and others. Soul superstar Marvin Gaye wrote his last hit, *Sexual Healing*, in 1981, living in Ostend. His residence is marked with a wildly sticky figure of a singer playing the golden piano. To see this, take a look at the convention center of Ostend's bold 1950s landmark, *Kursaal*, home of the popular Ostend casino. Located in shaw, this unique pub is named after Marvin Gaye and is inspired by the time spent in the Belgian city of Ostend. Chef James Claudio has created a menu that skillfully combines Belgian and South American cuisine, while fine dishes include Belgian moules frites and fried chicken with Belgian waffles. The restaurant features a heated rooftop area with more than 30 beers and a lounge offering cocktails and wine. The atmosphere is brought to life by jazz and soul music chosen by Eric Hilton of *Theivery Corporation*. Photo from Wikipedia.Marvin Gaye may be best known for albums like *I Heard It Through the Grapevine* and *What's Going On*, but when you take a closer look, you see an artist who has struggled with depression who somehow has found a way to release some of the greatest soul music to come out of Motown.At a glance, Gaye's life as a restless recluse is not exactly something to aspire to. He struggled with two failed marriages, had a debilitating cocaine addiction and attempted suicide at least three times before he was finally by his own father in 1984. And yet Gaye was a master of texts broke the rules to push out R&B beyond your limits, being fiercely political and devoting a lot of time to finding out. The time leading up to, including, recording *What's Going On* might be the best look we have for Gaye's creative outbursts. His approach to this album defined much of his future and music as a whole. The defeat of *Can Spur Innovation*Co's *Going On* should not be delivered in the first place. Motown boss Berry Gordy had a strict non-policy rule, and Gaye's first single, *What's Going On*, was clearly in violation of that. So, what did Gaye do? He waited for it: After listening to the finished master, Gordy told Gaye point blank that he would not release the song. Gaye ran in, and over the next few months composed a whole series of songs that, like *What's Going On*, addressed a slate of political, environmental and social issues. With the tune rough sketched but not yet committed to the tape, Gaye retreated to his Detroit mansion and waited for Gordy to change his mind. Gaye essentially went on strike until Gordy stepped down, refusing to release music for *Whats Going On* was released. Gordy himself denies this story, saying he was careful and wanted Gaye to have a clear plan. Regardless of how it all went down, Gaye had some time to figure out everything before finally hitting the recording studio. When he did, the album began to take shape and again failed. The *Wall Street Journal* shares one story about how the recording accident shaped the overall sound of the album: Interestingly, two of the most peculiar aspects of *What's Going On*, which were extended to the album, began as mistakes. The opening alto-sax solo of Eli Fontaine was indeed a warm-up phrase for the overbub that Gaye decided to keep. And Gaye's harmonized duets with himself occurred when Ken Sands, an engineer, accidentally recreated two of his vocal versions on a single mono tape. Marvin would use the duo's technique on many of his studio albums, Mr. Gordy said, after we moved into his spacious home office. We called his love for overdubbing 'Marvin' on top of Marvin on top of Marvin. We also had a name for Marvin in Motown, but I don't remember it. Gaye took the idea to roll with punches both before, after, and while recording *Let's Get It On*. This adaptation to crashes and accidents is more difficult than it sounds when you're at the moment, but it's clearly something that can work out in the long run. Take a break and goWhat happens is not a classic solely because of its social consciousness. It's a classic because Gaye came back from a break with a new approach to songwriting. He broke with motown assembly line production methods and produced a record himself. He forcibly took creative control, laying the ground work for other Motown artists to do the same. He used the new multi-tracking to layer several vocal lines to weave together sound that does not resemble anything he or she Before. The end result was an album that didn't sound like anything before. Before *What's Going On*, Gaye essentially left the public eye dealing with depression in a semi-retired state of exile. In an interview with journalist Phil Symes, Gaye revealed what this break was like: It wasn't a case of big-headed or temperament that kept me from doing interviews for the past three years. I was terribly disappointed with many things in life and life in general, and decided to take the time to try to do something about it. In a way, the rumors suggesting that I quit were true: I retired, but only with a personal end appearance. I did it because I always felt visible on stage and I'm not a person who likes to be an exhibitionist. I spent three years writing, producing and reflecting. Reflecting on life and America especially – because I live there – its injustice, evil and good. The result of this retirement was *What's Going On*, one of the most influential R&B albums of all time. Three years of exile is an extreme, but Gaye took the same approach in a smaller way, whether he realized it or not. In an interview with *The Atlantic*, guitarist and producer Gordon Banks talks about the recording session for *Midnight Love*: The man he was a genius. He was lying on the couch in the studio and falling asleep while I was working on the track after the track. Then he woke up and did the whole song as if he hadn't even slept. He laid down and woke up to do another song. It wasn't something he did for a living; that was really part of it. It is easy to beat your head against the problem for hours or work until you can just work anymore. Stopping, leaving, taking a sna anae and giving yourself that space is often the only way to go through the problem. Find inspiration EverywhereWhen you listen to *What's Going On*, there's a clear inspiration from brother Gaye's time in Vietnam, the killings of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Robert Kennedy, the Watts riots and the general socioeconomic turmoil that fluttered across America in the 1960s. You don't expect two players from the Detroit Lions to play a role in making this album. Gaye befriended Lions players Mel Farr and Lem Barney in 1968, and he would often appear at Lions training camp practices. Farr and Barney, on the other hand, appeared in Gaye's recording sessions. The time was good for Gaye, who was still dealing with the death of his partner, Tammi Terrell. A new friendship helped lift his spirits and move him back to writing and recording songs. It also gave Gaye in with the Lions and revealed a surprising fact about him: he wanted to play football. As proof of this dream, Gaye committed himself to training and training the regiment. He wasn't a great athlete, but he got stuck with it until he finally got a tryout at the team. Of course, it didn't work out and he never created a team, but all the experience influenced his progress. Two Lions players, Farr and Barney, even appear in *What's Going On*. Undeafated kicks in history: But he would record the song on only one condition: If Farr and Barney, the NFL offensive and defensive rookie of the year just three years earlier with the Lions, performed background vocals. The request did not initially seem true, especially for Farr, who never hid his musical shortcomings. But Gaye's ultimatum was serious. They were in the studio with Gaye before as guests, but now wanted to put them to work. He says, 'Lem, you're taking on this role.' 'Mel, you're taking on that role.' Barney recalled as the emotion in his voice grows as he talks about the recording session. The next time you listen to him, at first, when he says, Hey brother, what's going on?! Fixed! Immediately! Mother, mother. We have it in the background all over the song, man! The two Lions helped revive Gaye's spirit, battered by current events and all but dormant since Terrell's departure. He came alive in the studio, conducting every part of the session with the precision of the orchestra conductor and the mad creativity of the scientist. Where Malcolm and Martin inspired change in words, Gaye believed he could. Two Detroit players probably don't seem like an obvious place to find inspiration for a song like *What's Going On*, but it's clear that they played a role in it, even if it was indirect. Gaye has consistently sought inspiration beyond himself, whether it was another musician or several footballers. It's easy to get caught up in a small scene and find inspiration only in the things inside that scene. Taking out this bubble is often necessary to move forward. Pass.