

Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr.

blackbird

Lennon-McCartney Icons



Marilyn & Billy's commitment to religious freedom is borne of a lifetime of passionate advocacy for all who are vulnerable. "blackbird: Lennon-McCartney Icons" is a paean for freedom and religious rights, celebrating the lives of faithful people who sacrifice their time on Earth to allow all of us to worship freely. Sadly, media searches and scans reveal that "blackbird: Lennon-McCartney Icons" is the only mainstream music release to bring bright light and sharp focus to the thousands of years of religious oppression. The Icons who are acknowledged in this brilliantly reviewed, award-winning, best selling album include: Alberta Williams King who was assassinated in Ebenezer Baptist Church, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, Carol Denise McNair, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr... In America a domestic terrorist attack on religious freedom happened in Emanuel AME Church, 1822, Charleston, SC. Tragically, 12 people were assassinated by a terrorist against religious freedom in 2015 - again at Emanuel AME Church, Charleston, SC. In 1942, Anne Frank hid from Nazis during the occupation of the Netherlands. In 1945, Anne Frank was killed in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. In 2016, Jerry Rabinowitz was one of 11 people who were killed by an Anti Semitic shooter at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA.

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With life time friends,
Marilyn & Billy



Kathy Ireland,
Executive Producer
Blackbird: Lennon-McCartney Icons
Chair EE1 BMG

“Without Religious Freedom... there is
no freedom at all.”

-Kathy Ireland

“Father, Forgive Them...



for They Know Not What They Do.”

SINCE 1822, SEE A LIMITED LIST OF VIOLENT ATTACKS ON BLACK CHURCHES AND WORSHIPERS

Emanuel AME Church* Charleston, SC -	- Burned down 1822
Black Wall Street Church Tulsa, OK -	- Bombed 1921
St. James AME Church, Lake City, SC -	- Burned 1955
New Bethel Baptist Church, St. Luke's AME Church, Triumph Church Kingdom of God and Christ, Birmingham, AL-	- All bombed 1962
St. Matthew Church, Macon, GA -	- Burned 1962
16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL -	- Bombing, 22 people injured 4 of whom were little girls killed 1963
Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Longdale, MS -	- Burned 1964
Cartersville Baptist Church, Reston, VA -	- Burned 1972
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA -	- Assassination of Mrs. Alberta Williams King, Mother of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Edward Boykin
Second Wilson Church, Chester, SC -	- Burned down 1979
Greater than 30 African American Houses of Worship-	- Fire bombed or burned in 18 months 1991-2000
Macedonia Church of God in Christ, Springfield, MS -	- Burned 2008
The Flood Christian Church, Fergusson, MS -	- Burned 2014
Emanuel AME Church*, Charleston, SC -	- 10 Worshipers shot, 9 of whom were killed 2015
God Power Church of Christ, Macon, GA -	- Burned 2015
St. Mary Baptist Church, Port Barre, LA -	- Burned 2019
Greater Union Baptist Church, Opelousas, LA -	- Burned 2019
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Opelousas, LA -	- Burned 2019

These historic churches
were all attacked
within 10 days of 2019

We must stop hate & violence for all people. Every person deserves gifts of life, freedom & safety. There are absolutely no exceptions. We can all be a **blackbird**, if we fly against madness, peacefully fighting for equality. Join us at iamablackbird.com & receive vital, relevant, human rights intel for each of us. Love, Marilyn & Billy
* Emanuel AME Church was burned down in 1822 and its worshipers were slaughtered in 2015

In Philadelphia, 1844 Catholic churches were destroyed.

In Carthage, IL, 1844, Joseph Smith, the founder of the Latter Day Saints Movement and brother, Hyrum were murdered. No one was convicted.

In Pittsburgh, PA, 2018, 11 worshippers, were shot and killed in an act of Anti-Semitism at the Tree of Life synagogue.



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The Evil of Anti Semitism...

Over 6,000,000 people Murdered by Hitler & Nazi regime because of their religious faith.



The legacy of Anne Frank, Netherlands



Kathy Ireland at Yad Vashem, Israel



USA, 1944

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Marilyn & Billy have devoted their entire lives to transforming their art into activism, in countless areas. From raising millions of dollars for children's health to being the original benefactors and fundraisers for children's hospitals throughout America. Every children's hospital. They've raised millions of dollars for the United Negro College Fund. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have received hundreds of scholarships as a result of Marilyn & Billy's efforts and contributions to the UNCF.

Billy was one of the earliest entrepreneurs in artist representation. Managing bands in the military, producing and performing. Marilyn & Billy work to bring equality to African-American musicians and provide opportunities. Working with artists like Dinah Washington and Tina Turner, Marilyn was integrating television very early, including guesting on Art Linkletter's program as a child. Performing with Ray Charles on his classic, "Crying Time." They were founding artists of The Kennedy Center. Most people don't know that the first fundraising effort for Disney Hall was done by Marilyn & Billy, and that Marilyn was the first person to integrate the Board of Governors for the Los Angeles Music Center. Despite all of their endeavors in the arts, healthcare, and war on poverty ... from Civil Rights events like the Harlem Music Festival in the 1960s, now referred to as the Summer of Soul, all the way through to Hurricane Katrina, and going into the streets of our inner city. Cleaning, feeding, and helping people in need with the Anne Douglas Center here in Los Angeles.

The greatest cause that they have contributed to, always, is to remind their audiences that Civil Rights are Human Rights. That narrative has been the foundation of their activism. It began when Billy performed "Change Is Gonna Come" on their best-selling album Portrait, and continues today. That was last century, and in this century, they lift their voices for Religious Freedom, equality and justice for all in their new EE1 BMG album, "blackbird: Lennon-McCartney Icons." Executive Produced by Kathy Ireland and Produced by Nic Mendoza, making musical history which returned them to the Billboard charts for the first time in 45 years.

This year, Marilyn & Billy received the JFK Profiles In Courage Award.

Marilyn & Billy will appear in "The Waltons' Homecoming" on The CW, produced by Emmy Award winner, Sam Haskell, of Magnolia Hill Productions in association with Warner Bros., premiering Winter 2021. Marilyn will play Sister Harriet and Billy as Brother William.

DAILY NEWS

Pop music legends
Marilyn McCoo &
Billy Davis Jr. breathe
new life into Beatles
civil rights classic
'Blackbird'



"...masters of
interpretation with
these well-known
compositions."

"Davis' laidback vocal
in 'Ticket To Ride' has
just the right amount
of jazzy inflection and
fierce reading to
render the original
unrecognizable."

"McCoo's smoky
phrasing for "The Long
and Winding Road"
and her syncopated
reading of 'Yesterday'
are the gifts that keep
on giving."



"Before Beyonce' and
Jay-Z there was
Marilyn McCoo &
Billy Davis Jr".



It has been more than
30 years since
Marilyn McCoo & Billy
Davis, Jr., have released
a studio album, but with
"Blackbird: Lennon-
McCartney Icons," it
was well worth the wait.



"The two singers seem
to be gifted with bionic
voices...Blackbird,
reaches new heights..."

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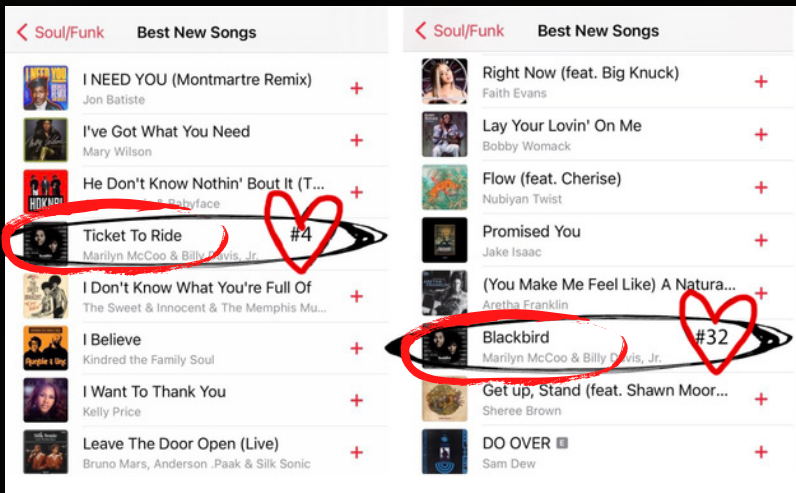


"My #SummerOfSoul-ians still going
strong 5 decades later"

Questlove



Questlove's Iconic New Film,
"Summer of Soul (...Or When the Revolution Could Not
Be Televised)", with Marilyn & Billy in The 5th Dimension.



BARNES & NOBLE
#1 All Music USA



Today comes their rendition
of Paul McCartney's
"Blackbird," It's a solo from
Marilyn, and of course, it's a
knockout performance. (On
the album Billy has some
solos that will blow you
away, too.)



Grand Jury Prize &
Audience Award
Winner



"...the Perfect Movie
to Kick Off
Sundance 2021"



"...Marilyn McCoo &
Billy Davis Jr... a
freight train careering
off the tracks and
lurching up to heaven.
It's one of several
performances in
"Summer of Soul" that
want to take you
higher, and do."



"...highlights of
Summer of Soul is the
chance to witness
Billy Davis &
Marilyn McCoo, of
The 5th Dimension,
watching, for the first
time, their group's
performance that
long-ago summer. On
waves of love from the
audience, their
younger selves'
exuberance rises."



"...Marilyn McCoo &
Billy Davis Jr. recall how
it felt to be welcomed
and embraced by a
majority Black audience
for the first time,
performing their No. 1
hit..."



NEW YORK POST

"Marilyn & Billy helped to let the sunshine in after the darkest times of the civil rights movement."

Soul&Jazz&Funk

"Sonically, the album offers a lush, sweet pop/soul..."

closer
WEEKLY

"...impressive..."



"Trailblazers!"



"WOW...!! Just WOW!!
It's a YES for me!!"



DJ ULTIMATE BLACK

"I'm that blackbird"



DJ Busnasty

"I'm A 70's Baby And Can't Believe They're Back."



DJ WHO KNOWS

"Reverence"



JAMSTER

"Love it! Timeless and inspiring"



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ANITA BAKER

"Marilyn & Billy are amazing. Their music inspires me as a writer and singer. Blackbird: Lennon-McCartney Icons deserves this recognition. It's the truth about the Black experience."

DOLLY PARTON

"Marilyn & Billy, I love your new blackbird album, it's fantastic, and I will always love you."

KAREEM ABDUL-JABAR

"It's great to see that Marilyn & Billy are covering the Beatles' song, Blackbird. ... Wow. To me, that always evoked what the Civil Rights Movement was all about, and the struggle for Black Americans. I think Marilyn & Billy will do a great job in conveying that."

LYNN WHITFIELD

"Marilyn & Billy ... you've taken your art and turned it into activism. We can all be blackbirds and fly against injustice. This music is so good ... it's wonderful."

SAM HASKELL

"Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr. are the first couple of pop and soul, whose seven Grammys and being the first African American couple to star in their own television series have made them pop culture icons. Their new album, Blackbird, is a powerful, artistic and socially charged collection of music that we all need in our lives right now! Congratulations!"

VANESSA WILLIAMS

"Awesome. Relevant. Marilyn & Billy are incredible."



AVAILABLE NOW



"My #SummerOfSoul-ians still going strong 5 decades later"

Questlove

billboard

