# **GERALD LEVERT** A CELEBRATION OF LIFE July 13, 1966 - November 10, 2006

MEMORIAL SERVICE THE MUSIC HALL

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NOVEMBER 17, 2006 CLEVELAND, OHIO



# **GERALD LEVERT**

was born on July 13, 1966 in Canton, Ohio as the firstborn child of Martha and Ed Willis Levert. Growing up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Gerald was raised in a Christian household as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He and his brother Sean spent countless hours imitating their dad and the mighty, mighty O'Jays. Growing up listening to his father, the seeds of a career that would put him in the same company as Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye and Luther Vandross were planted as he watched his father's career continue to grow. Always readying himself for the passage of the proverbial torch, Gerald realized and appreciated the blessing of the gift of song and his talent as a singer while still yet a teenager. Gifted with a powerful, yet soothing voice

and the ability to speak to a multitude of listeners' needs and emotions, Gerald was destined for greatness and fame at the onset of his career as a professional singer, songwriter and producer.

Gerald's ascent into stardom was first experienced in 1986 as a member of the R&B trio Levert, which included his brother, Sean, and childhood friend Marc Gordon. The group made their mark in the music industry with hits such as "(Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop) Goes My Mind," "Casanova," and "Baby I'm Ready." The four time platinum selling group set the stage for Gerald to embark on a solo career. His first solo album, Private Line, was released in 1991. Joining forces with his dad, in 1995 he went on to record Father & Son rendering the hit song "Baby Hold on to Me."

As a singer and songwriter, Gerald was blessed with the fortune of turning out hits for nearly 20 years. From singing, writing and producing as a solo artist to writing and producing hits for others, his career has been consistently revered by fervent fans and admiring colleagues. As a singer and songwriter, Gerald spoke of love, family, politics, societal injustices and challenged us all to think about society and our place in the world. In 2005, he even enlisted the help of noted social commentators Dr. Cornell West and Tavis Smiley for a dialogue about the state of mankind, as well as his father Eddie Levert and other family members to chime in on the song about changing family values on the album Do I Speak for the World?

From being a part of the 1996 trio LSG with R&B chart-toppers Keith Sweat and Johnny Gill to producing seven self titled albums and a host of songs for other artists such as Barry White, Patti Labelle, Anita Baker, this Ohio native son, with his soulful lyrics, became a timeless favorite of young and old alike. Offstage, all who knew him experienced first-hand Gerald's infectious personality, love of laughter, fierce loyalty and dedication to family. The warm and loving personality of Gerald Levert has been appropriately embodied by his signature "teddy bear," the souvenir of a lifetime for many a woman who ever attended a Gerald Levert concert.

The untimely death of Gerald Levert at the young age of 40 leaves a barren place in his family and the music industry. Gerald is survived by his mother and father - Martha and Eddie Levert, his children, Lemicah, Carlysia and Camryn, his brothers Eddie, Jr., and Sean (Angela), his sisters Kandice (Leonard Brooks), Asha, Eury and Ryan, and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Friends of Gerald will always be touched by and will miss the big "teddy bear" but his loving memory will continue to live forever.

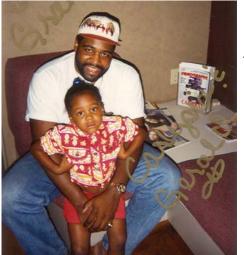


## **VOICES OF THE CHILDREN**



My dad was a great man who was my hero, my role model and my best friend. He taught me right from wrong and not only how to be a good man but a good person. Due to this tragic loss of my father, I now understand the meaning when someone says "their heart is filled with pain." I am no longer afraid of death because I now have someone waiting for me on the other side....my pops, my pal and my best friend.

Love Always - Lemicah Edward Levert



Daddy, I love ya, so much! You're one of the best people in the world. You're my hero. You may not be here physically but you will always be here in heart, mind and soul. All my life I thanked God for sending me the best Dad/Father in the whole entire world. I am so proud of what you accomplished. I will definitely keep your legacy alive. I cherish all the moments we spent together. I will see you in heaven! I love you again and know that you will be missed.

Love - Carlysia....your little princess!



Dear Daddy, I want to thank you for loving me, coming to my school, my doll and being there for me. You are the greatest dad a little girl could ever have! I will miss you.

P.S. See you in my dreams

Love - Camryn

#### **GERALD LEVERT CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

#### TITLE YEAR Solo: Private Line 1. 1991 2. Groove On 1995 Love & Consequences З. 1998 4. G 1999 5. Gerald World 2001 6. The G Spot 2002 7. A Stroke of Genius 2003 8. 2004 Do I Speak for the World 9. Voices 2005 With LeVert: 1986 1. Bloodline

	Dioodillie	1900
2.	The Big Throwdown	1987
З.	Just Coolin	1988
4.	Rope a Dope Style	1990
5.	For Real Tho	1993

#### With Eddie Levert:

With LSG:	

#### LSG-2 2003

	Greatest Solo Hits on Billboard's R&B Chart:	
1.	Private Line	1991
2.	Baby Hold on to Me	1992
3.	Can You Handle It	1992
4.	I'd Give Anything	1994
5.	Already Missing You	1995
6.	Thinkin 'Bout It	1998
7.	Taking Everything	1999



Father & Son

1.

1.

2.





















1995

1997



## **VOICES OF THE FAMILY**

### We Thought

We thought we'd have plenty of time to spend together We thought we'd see your beautiful smile forever We thought we'd always hear your wonderful laugh But you're gone so we're dealing with the aftermath We never thought we would say goodbye so soon We'll miss how your presence just lit up a room We thought we'd hear your sensational voice for a while longer You'd be happy to know the comfort of your fans and friends are making us stronger Remarkable, sensational, kind and caring you are Know that your legacy will live on both near and far

- Katrice Austin, on behalf of the entire family of Gerald Levert



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU'S

The family of Gerald Levert would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks for the enormous outpouring of love and support from all who have been touched by Gerald's life. In particular, we would like to extend a special thanks to:

Lyor Cohen, Craig Kallman, Kevin Liles, Ronnie Johnson, James Lopez and the entire Atlantic Records family

Alan Haymon and Haymon Entertainment

Sylvia Rhone

Sharon Heyward

Patti Webster

Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones

Susan and Brian Hall

Tonya Range and the entire Cleveland Radio One Family

Dean Bolden, Star Fleet

Red and S&S Touring Company

Greg Mayo

Maxine Greer and the Pr Store

Dannette Render, DAR Public Relations, Inc.

Gerald Levert lived and breathed life as a rhythm and blues singer. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that all donations be made to the Rhythm & Blues Foundation. Checks should be made payable to the foundation and forwarded to Trevel Productions, 13816 Cedar Road, University Heights, Ohio 44118 to establish an endowment fund in the name of Gerald Levert.







In Loving Memory of GERALD LEVERT

It is with deepest sympathy that I join with the citizens of the City of Cleveland in extending our condolences to the family, friends, and fans of Gerald Levert as we mourn the loss of a native son.

As we remember Gerald, we remember his soulful voice and his commitment to his music that lives on today. A poem by Mary Frye reads: "Do not stand by my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow, I am sunlight and the replenished grain, I am the gentle autumn rain. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there – I did not die."

Gerald, who during his 20 year career achieved celebrated status as one of contemporary soul's most accomplished singers and songwriters, leaves behind to cherish his memory, his beloved parents, Eddie and Martha; brothers, Sean and Eddie Jr.; sister, Kandice; three children; and a host of relatives, friends, and fans from all over the world. He will be forever remembered for his contributions, not only in the music industry, but to his family, friends, and community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Frank G. Jackson, the 56<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City of Cleveland, do hereby offer sincere condolences to the family, friends and fans of Gerald Levert. I humbly request that all citizens join with me in extending our prayers to his family and friends during this time of bereavement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the City of Cleveland to be affixed on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2006.

Alapor Frank G. Jackson





On November 10, 2006, beloved entertainer, father, son, brother and friend *Gerald Levert* departed this life at the age of 40. *Gerald* was one of the greatest entertainers of our time. Known for his silky-smooth vocals and electrifying showmanship, *Gerald* was adored the world over and will truly be missed. He was a son of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

Gerald Levert

Born in Philadelphia on July 13, 1966 and raised in Cleveland, *Gerald* is the son of legendary singer Eddie Levert of The O'Jays and Martha Levert. *Gerald* was exposed to music at an early age, traveling with his father's band regularly. While attending Shaker Heights High School, *Gerald* formed the group LeVert along with his brother Sean and friend Mark Gordon. The group would go on to record seven albums, four of which were certified platinum. The albums yielded such memorable hits as "Pop, Pop Goes My Mind", "Casanova", and "ABC-123."

In 1991, *Gerald* launched his solo career with the album *Private Line* which went on to be #1 on the R&B Charts. It was during this time that he began writing and producing songs for other artists including Stephanie Mills, James Ingram Teddy Pendergrass and even The O'Jays. *Gerald* earned a Grammy nomination for his work on Barry White's 1995 hit "Practice What You Preach," and helped launch the careers of many Cleveland-area R&B Groups including Men At Large and the Rude Boyz.

Some of *Gerald's* most memorable works were his collaborations with his father Eddie Levert. In 1992 they recorded the #1 R&B Single "Baby Hold On To Me" and later in 1995 recorded the album *Father & Son* which topped the R&B Charts. *Gerald* and Eddie allowed the old school generation and the hip hop generation to have a meeting of the minds that ultimately produced beautiful music for all to enjoy.

Affectionately known as the "teddy bear" of the music industry, *Gerald* carried himself with a gentle kindness. He always would greet you with a smile and was a friend to all he encountered. News reports of *Geralds* death talked about his recent trip to South Africa with his father. They reported that he and his father were well received throughout the country and treated like kings. *Gerald* was our king and his legacy of love and zest for life will forever live in our hearts.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the citizens of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio, I, would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of *Gerald Levert*. On a personal note, I cherish the times I was in cities when he was on the road and *Gerald* recognized me as his Congresswoman and gave me my own teddy bear. I also will never forget the last time we spent together in New York during the induction of the O'Jays into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

"Did you ever know that you're my hero, and everything I would like to be? I can fly higher than an eagle, for you are the wind beneath my wings" ~ Larry Henley an Peff Silbar

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