



HOLLAND-DOZIER-HOLLAND

The Supremes' "Stop! In the Name of Love" and "You Can't Hurry Love." The Four Tops' "Reach Out I'll Be There." Marvin Gaye's "How Sweet It Is to Be Loved by You." Martha and the Vandellas' "Heat Wave."

Each of these songs was written by the team of Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland, and according to BMI statistics, each has been broadcast or performed more than 1 million times. If Holland, Dozier and Holland's output had begun and ended with these five songs, their words and melodies would still resound today. But these acknowledged classics are only the tip of a creative peak that began to take shape three decades ago.

The brothers Brian and Edward Holland and their partner, Lamont Dozier, were born and raised in Detroit, and the music of their youth was elegant black pop, big-band jazz and Southern gospel. "Around my house, we heard a lot of Nat Cole, Billy Eckstine, Count Basie, Ellington," says Brian Holland today. The Hollands' relationship with Berry Gordy dated to 1958 – when the soon-to-be founder of Motown had produced solo 45s for both brothers – and by 1961, Dozier was recording for Anna Records, owned by Gordy's sister Gwen. H-D-H began their collaboration with Dozier's single "Dearest One," released in June 1962 on Mel-O-Dy, a Motown subsidiary.

The formation of the team was the logical outcome of the assembly-line methods that characterized Motown. "Yes, it was a job, but we loved the job!" says Brian Holland. "We really did sit there and work all day at coming up with this song, that melody." Hard work wrought spectacular results. In 1963 alone, H-D-H wrote and produced Gaye's "Can I Get a Witness"; the Marvelettes' "Locking Up My Heart" and "Forever"; the Miracles' "I Gotta Dance to Keep From Crying" and "Mickey's Monkey"; and Martha and the Vandellas' "Come and Get These Memories," "Heat Wave" and "Quicksand."

All these records came before H-D-H's record-breaking success with the Supremes. "Where Did Our Love Go" – the first of six consecutive Number One hit singles for the Supremes and H-D-H – detonated the explosion in June 1964. Five more chart-topping singles followed during the next three years. Yet the Supremes' success

overshadowed superlative H-D-H productions for artists like Kim Weston ("Helpless") and the Isley Brothers ("This Old Heart of Mine"). The Sound of Young America that Berry Gordy heard in his head – combining the emotional fervor of gospel and R&B with the cheer and polish of pop – was brought to life by H-D-H.

After H-D-H's departure from Motown in 1968 to found Invictus/Hot Wax, they never again achieved a streak of Supremes proportions. But the sound of Freda Payne's "Band of Gold," the Honey Cone's "Want Ads" and Chairman of the Board's "Give Me Just a Little More Time" – syncopated rhythm guitars, fluid percussion and gospel-inflected vocal arrangements purveying catchy lyrics – was nearly as distinctive as that of H-D-H's Motown classics.

After Invictus/Hot Wax folded in 1973, Dozier resuscitated his performing career, and the Hollands went back to their roots, producing sessions for Michael Jackson and Diana Ross. In the Eighties, Dozier co-wrote international hits with Phil Collins, Boy George and Mick Hucknall of Simply Red, and in 1988 the Holland brothers founded the Holland Group production company and revived their label Music Merchant.

In the words and music of Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Edward Holland, forever comes today.

— ANDREW SCHWARTZ

H-D-H'S GREATEST HITS

- "BABY LOVE"
The Supremes; 1964
- "COME SEE ABOUT ME"
The Supremes; 1964
- "I CAN'T HELP MYSELF"
The Four Tops; 1965
- "WHERE DID OUR LOVE GO?"
The Supremes; 1964
- "REACH OUT I'LL BE THERE"
The Four Tops; 1966
- "YOU CAN'T HURRY LOVE"
The Supremes; 1966
- "BACK IN MY ARMS AGAIN"
The Supremes; 1965
- "I HEAR A SYMPHONY"
The Supremes; 1965
- "STOP! IN THE NAME OF LOVE"
The Supremes; 1965
- "YOU KEEP ME HANGIN' ON"
The Supremes; 1966
- "THE HAPPENING"
The Supremes; 1967
- "LOVE IS HERE AND NOW
YOU'RE GONE"
The Supremes; 1967
- "REFLECTIONS"
Diana Ross and the Supremes; 1967
- "HEAT WAVE"
Martha and the Vandellas; 1963



OPPOSITE They brought the Sound of Young America to life: Lamont Dozier, Eddie Holland and Brian Holland (from left).