

Black Music Month 2014: June 18 musical salute to Kindred the Family Soul



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It's Black Music Month. Enjoy the 2014 series. Support the artists. Buy their licensed music. And turn up as you dance along.

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***Brief history:** In 2010, I wrote a music series honoring Black Music Month on Associated Content's site (republished on Examiner). The focus was to honor new R&B singers, veteran R&B singers, solo rappers, and evenly split the musical salute between female and male rappers. The only artists I was not willing to split up were Salt n' Pepa because they worked as a unit. In 2014, it's about time to salute more artists, but in the spirit of Salt n' Pepa's legacy, R&B groups and rap groups will be included. The pattern in 2014 will be newer R&B singers (from 2000 to present), R&B and/or hip-hop groups, veteran R&B singers, and then solo rappers, still evenly split between*

women and men.

Black Music Month Turn Up Factor "Turn down for what?": It's not often that R&B has husband-and-wife crews, but this was one of the best combinations and we never saw **Kindred the Family Soul** on reality TV or the tabloids. Not only are they drama free, but the most blogs get from them is celebrating **Black Marriage Day**. They could've taken an easy way out and gone for a million love songs, but they leaped out of the norm and sang soulful songs about taxes, poverty, crime and other important social issues in the community on songs like "Far Away." Other hits that may have been more well-known on radio stations focusing on adult contemporary and soul music include "Where Would I Be," "Woman First," "Magic Happens," "House of Love" and "Thru Love."

My Connection/First Memory to Artist: I can't recall why I know of them. I just knew they were the duo who sang "Where Would I Be," and I still think that song is as beautiful now as I did eight years ago when it was released to the public.

Numbers Don't Lie: Kindred the Family Soul didn't do too shabby on the Billboard charts. In Adult R&B songs, "Where Would I Be (The Question)" made it to number 10 and stayed on the charts for 32 weeks. "Surrender To Love" album made it to the Heatseekers Albums charts for 42 weeks, and "The Arrival" made it to the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums for 16 weeks and peaked at number seven.

Recommended Reading:

'Is Marriage for White People? How the African American Marriage Decline Affects Everyone' by Ralph Richard Banks

For the first series of Black Music Month artists republished on Examiner (originally on Associated Content), [click here](#) to see all 30.

*Shamontiel is also **The Wire Examiner**, and for the gladiators, she's the **Scandal Examiner**, too.*

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