



Legends Of Motown: Celebrating The Supremes Opening June 25

New Exhibit Features Rare Artifacts from the Premier Motown Records Act

Founding Supremes Member Ms. Mary Wilson to Appear at the GRAMMY Museum June 24 For Intimate Interview and Q&A

LOS ANGELES (June 5, 2015) — The GRAMMY Museum will explore the enduring legacy and influence of Motown Records' premier recording artists with the unveiling of *Legends Of Motown: Celebrating The Supremes* on June 25, 2015. The exhibit will offer visitors a unique look at the life and career of one of the most successful American singing groups of the '60s, the Supremes, through rare artifacts from the private collection of founding member Ms. Mary Wilson.

On display on the Museum's third floor through spring 2016, the exhibit will feature rare photographs from the personal collection of Mary Wilson; concert posters; tour books, fan memorabilia; and an assortment of performance gowns, including:

- "Primette Pristine" gowns worn in 1961, one of the earliest sets purchased by the Supremes when they were still known as the Primettes
- "White De Mink" outfit worn on ABC's "The Hollywood Palace" in 1966
- "Turquoise Freeze" dresses worn during a 1967 appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show"
- "Red Hot" gown worn by Mary Wilson on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1970 for the debut of the new Supremes lineup featuring Cindy Birdsong and Jean Terrell

"We've been eager to feature an exhibit celebrating Motown since we honored Berry Gordy and Smokey Robinson at our inaugural benefit gala in 2013," said Bob Santelli, Executive Director of the GRAMMY Museum. "So we are thrilled to be opening our first-ever Motown exhibit with the Supremes, whose unmatched success infiltrated both the pop charts and pop culture in the '60s."

"The Mary Wilson 'Supreme' gown collection is a dream come true for me," said Ms. Wilson. "This collection is a gift that I give to all of those who have ever loved music and glamour. As you look at all of these wonderful treasures, please be reminded that three little black girls' dared to dream, and made their dreams come true. Thank you, Motown, and the thousands of fans all over the world."

One day prior to the launch, on June 24, Ms. Wilson will participate in the GRAMMY Museum's popular "A Conversation With" public program series. Titled A Conversation

With Mary Wilson of the Supremes, the event will include a candid interview and Q&A with Ms. Wilson in the Museum's Clive Davis Theater.

About The Supremes

Founded as the Primettes in Detroit, the Supremes became Motown's most consistent hitmakers and the most popular female group of the '60s, bridging the worlds of pop and soul with their polished singing style. Featuring original members Mary Wilson, Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, much of their success was a result of the tailor-made songs for them by Motown's in-house writing and production team comprising Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland. At the height of the British Invasion in June 1965, the group set a record for the most consecutive No. 1 hits by an American group when "Back in My Arms Again," "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In The Name Of Love" and "Where Did Our Love Go?" rose to the top of the *Billboard* singles chart.

By 1967 the trio had officially amended their name to Diana Ross and the Supremes, an acknowledgment of lead singer Ross' rising star. That same year, Florence Ballard left the group and was replaced by Cindy Birdsong. Ross subsequently left the Supremes to launch a successful career as a solo recording artist and actress. She was replaced by Jean Terrell, and the Supremes' hitmaking streak continued with such songs as "Up the Ladder to the Roof" and "Stoned Love." The trio continued to perform and record into the '70s, with founding member Mary Wilson keeping the name and the music alive. Later members included Scherrie Payne (who replaced Jean Terrell) and Susaye Greene and Lynda Laurence (who took Cindy Birdsong's place).

The Supremes' final performance was at London's Drury Lane on June 12, 1977, at which point Wilson disbanded the group and retired the name. Not only did the Supremes come to epitomize the Motown sound, they earned a place in music history as performers whose popularity in the '60s was second only to the Beatles.

About The GRAMMY Museum

Paying tribute to music's rich cultural history, this one-of-a-kind, 21st-century museum explores and celebrates the enduring legacies of all forms of music, the creative process, the art and technology of the recording process, and the history of the premier recognition of excellence in recorded music — the GRAMMY® Award. The GRAMMY Museum features 30,000 square feet of interactive and multimedia exhibits located within L.A. LIVE, the downtown Los Angeles sports, entertainment and residential district. Through thought-provoking and dynamic public and educational programs and exhibits, guests will experience music from a never-before-seen insider perspective that only the GRAMMY Museum can deliver. For more information, please call 213-765-6800 or visit www.grammymuseum.org. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @TheGRAMMYMuseum on Twitter and Instagram, and like "The GRAMMY Museum" on Facebook.

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