**Verkorte biografie Kool & the Gang (NL-EN)**

Kool & The Gang heeft wereldwijd meer dan 70 miljoen albums verkocht en de muziek van drie generaties beïnvloed. Dankzij nummers als Celebration, Cherish, Jungle Boogie, Summer Madness en Open Sesame hebben ze twee Grammy Awards, zeven Amerikaanse muziekprijzen, 25 Top Tien R & B-hits, negen Top Ten Pop-hits en 31 gouden en platina-albums verdiend. Kool & the Gang heeft de afgelopen 35 jaar continu gepresteerd, langer dan welke R & B-groep in de geschiedenis ook. Hun kogelvrije funk en jazzy arrangementen hebben er ook voor gezorgd dat ze de meest gesamplede band aller tijden zijn.

In 1964 voegde Khalis Bayyan (AKA Ronald Bell) en zijn broer, Robert "Kool" Bell, zich bij de vrienden Robert "Spike" Mickens, Dennis "Dee Tee" Thomas, Ricky Westfield, George Brown en Charles Smith om een ​​uniek muzikale mix van jazz, soul en funk te produceren. Aanvankelijk noemden ze zichzelf de Jazziacs, de band ging door onder verschillende namen - The New Dimensions, The Soul Town Band, Kool & the Flames - voordat ze hun definitieve naam vestigden. Met hun debuutalbum uit 1969 introduceerde ze hun kenmerkende instrumentale klank en felle hoornarrangementen en dit bracht de band hun eerste Billboard R & B-hit single, Kool and the Gang, voort.

In 1970 bereikte hun gedurfde Live bij de Sex Machine de piek op # 6 op Billboard's R & B-kaart en dit leverde drie hitsingle op: Funky Man, Who's gonna Take the Weight en I Want to Take You Higher. Vervolgens kwam The Best Of Kool & the Gang met de Penguin, Kool & the Gang Live bij PJ's, Music Is The Message en Good Times, die allemaal hielpen een geluid te laten klinken dat niet alleen fans, maar ook tijdgenoten zoals James Brown en Nina Simone wisten te waarderen.

De reputatie van de band groeide bij elk album, maar de gouden schijf van 1973 Wild & Peaceful bracht Kool & the Gang naar een ander niveau (# 6 R & B, # 33 Pop), aangespoord door de onsterfelijke feesthymnen Funky Stuff, Hollywood Swinging en de platinum smash Jungle Boogie. Hits als Higher Plane (# 1 R & B), de klassieke Summer Madness (te zien op de Grammy-winnende film soundtrack Rocky) en LP's Spirit of the Boogie, Love & Understanding en Open Sesame volgden. De titeltrack van de laatste was te zien op de best verkopende film-soundtrack aller tijden, Saturday Night Fever, en daarmee verdiende de groep hun tweede Grammy.

In 1979 onthulde Kool & the Gang een vlotte nieuwe sound met Ladies Night. Geproduceerd door de legendarische Pop / Jazz-muzikant Eumir Deodato, het werd hun eerste platina-album. De # 1 R & B titeltrack bereikte ook # 8 bij Pop. Het werd gevolgd door Too Hot (# 3 R & B, # 5 Pop). In de jaren 80 zouden ze de mainstream domineren, te beginnen met het dubbel platina-verkopende album Celebrate (bekend door de internationale monsterhit Celebration, die zes weken bovenop de R & B-hitlijst doorbracht en een # 1 pop-single werd). Celebration blijft de topper bij vreugdevolle gelegenheden wereldwijd. De smashes Get Down On It, Take My Heart, Let's Go Dancing, Joanna, Tonight, Misled, the # 1 R & B, # 2 Popgigant Cherish en het # 1 R & B-anthem Fresh (deze laatste drie van de multi-platinum LP Emergency) zorgden voor Kool & the Gang's internationale supersterrendom. Kool & de Gang steunde talloze liefdadigheidsoorzaken en was de enige Amerikaanse groep die deelnam aan het Do Do Know It's Christmas-project van Band Aid voor hongersnoodslachtoffers in Afrika.

Met de explosie van hiphop in de jaren 90, maakte de ongelooflijke groovecatalogus van Kool & The Gang hen tot dj-favorieten.

In 2006 ontving Kool & the Gang de NARM-prijs (National Association of Recording Merchandisers) voor levenslange prestaties bij platenverkopen.

Kool & The Gang heeft in juli 2007 een nieuw studioalbum uitgebracht met de titel Still Kool op New Door.

**Verkorte biografie Kool & the Gang (EN)**

Kool & the Gang has sold over 70 million albums worldwide and influenced the music of three generations. Thanks to songs like Celebration, Cherish, Jungle Boogie, Summer Madness and Open Sesame they’ve earned two Grammy Awards, seven American Music Awards, 25 Top Ten R&B hits, nine Top Ten Pop hits and 31 gold and platinum albums. Kool & the Gang has performed continuously for the past 35 years, longer than any R&B group in history. Their bulletproof funk and jazzy arrangements have also made them the most sampled band of all time.

In 1964 Khalis Bayyan (AKA Ronald Bell) and his brother, Robert “Kool” Bell, joined Jersey City neighborhood friends Robert “Spike” Mickens, Dennis “Dee Tee” Thomas, Ricky Westfield, George Brown, and Charles Smith to create a unique musical blend of jazz, soul and funk. At first calling themselves the Jazziacs, the band went through various names – The New Dimensions, The Soul Town Band, Kool & the Flames – before settling on their moniker. Over the next several years they solidified their musical chemistry on the rough-and-tumble East Coast music scene supporting acts like Bill Cosby, Ritchie Havens and Richard Pryor. Their self-titled 1969 debut album introduced their signature instrumental sound and fierce horn arrangements and spawned their first Billboard R&B charted single, Kool and the Gang.

In 1969 Kool & the Gang released their self-titled debut album. It was the introduction to a theme “music is the message” that Kool & the Gang stands by today. The instrumental album was an expression of their deep love of music. It was also an introduction to their signature sound and the fierce horn arrangements created by Khalis, Dee Tee, and Spike. Their debut album spawned their first Billboard R&B charted single Kool & the Gang and later Let the Music Take Your Mind.

In 1970, their audacious sophomore set Live at the Sex Machine peaked at #6 on Billboard’s R&B chart and yielded three hit singles: Funky Man, Who’s Gonna Take the Weight and I Want To Take You Higher. Next came The Best Of Kool & the Gang Featuring The Penguin, Kool & the Gang Live at PJ’s, Music Is The Message, and Good Times, all of which helped solidify a sound that wowed not only fans but such contemporaries as James Brown and Nina Simone.

The band’s stellar reputation grew with each album, but 1973’s gold disc Wild & Peaceful took Kool & the Gang to another level (#6 R&B, #33 Pop), spurred by the immortal party anthems Funky Stuff, Hollywood Swinging and the platinum smash Jungle Boogie. Hits like Higher Plane (#1 R&B), the classic Summer Madness (featured on the Grammy winning movie soundtrack Rocky) and LPs Spirit of the Boogie, Love & Understanding and Open Sesame followed. The latter’s title track was featured on the top-selling movie soundtrack of all time, Saturday Night Fever, earning the group their second Grammy.

In 1979, Kool & the Gang unveiled a smooth new sound with Ladies Night. Produced by the

legendary Pop/Jazz musician Eumir Deodato, it became their first platinum album. The #1 R&B title track also reached #8 at Pop. It was followed by Too Hot (#3 R&B, #5 Pop). The ’80s would see them dominate the mainstream, starting with the double platinum-selling album Celebrate (driven by the international monster hit Celebration, which spent six weeks atop the R&B chart and became a #1 Pop single). Celebration, which played as the American hostages returned from Iran, remains de rigueur at joyous occasions worldwide. The smashes Get Down On It, Take My Heart, Let’s Go Dancing, Joanna, Tonight, Misled, the #1 R&B, #2 Pop giant Cherish and the #1 R&B anthem Fresh (these last three from the multi-platinum LP Emergency) solidified Kool & the Gang’s international superstardom. Kool & the Gang landed global commercial endorsements, supported countless charitable causes and were the only American group to participate in Band Aid’s 1984 Do They Know It’s Christmas project for famine victims in Africa.

With the explosion of hip-hop in the ’90s, Kool & the Gang’s incredible catalog of grooves made them DJ favorites, and they were second only to R&B icon James Brown as sources of rap-music samples.

2004’s The Hits Reloaded found the band collaborating with such acolytes as Lil’ Kim, Sean Paul, Ashanti, and Blackstreet, among others. Kool & the Gang continue to perform to packed audiences of new and old fans around the world.

The band re-entered the Billboard R&B chart with 2006’s Steppin’ Into Love. In 2006, Kool & the Gang received the NARM (National Association of Recording Merchandisers) Chairman Award for lifetime achievement in record sales.

Kool & the Gang released a new studio album titled Still Kool in July 2007 on New Door

Records/UME.