

# The Commodores



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### HOW THIS CAME TO BE

The Commodores and The Jackson 5 have ties going back to the start of the Commodores career. They toured together in the early 70's and that association put together by Motown's Suzanne DePasse led to Berry Gordy's signing the Commodores to his label.

The Commodores performed at Wembley Arena in London the night Michael Jackson passed.

It was a somber experience for the Commodores to hear that news as they walked off the stage that evening last June.

It was even more sobering when they all realized that it wasn't a hoax and were interviewed the following day at the NIA Arena in Birmingham by over 30 media outlets before taking the stage that evening.

During the BBC interview that was broadcast around the world they were asked if they planned a tribute for that night's performance. There hadn't been time to plan for anything and they told the interviewer the same.

That evening when J.D. Nicholas started to sing his verse "Jackie was a friend of ours" he inadvertently sang "Michael was a friend of ours" and it brought the audience to their feet.

Although the interviews in Europe brought the reality of this loss home, it wasn't till the Commodores attended the Michael Jackson Memorial Service at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, July 2nd that they felt the full sadness and started the mourning process.

The start of this idea was the Birmingham, UK performance, which through an unorthodox series of events resulted in the project coming to life.

The Grammy Award winning Global Hit "Nightshift" was released in late 1984 and won a Grammy the following year.

Twenty-five years later we brought together the same production team to re-record the MJ tribute version which included

Dennis Lambert - producer along with Peter Wolf - music arranger.

Writers - Walter Orange, Dennis Lambert, Fran Golde

Publisher - Commodore Entertainment Corp.

Record Label - Sound Barrier Records

### For interviews with the band contact.

David Fish

Commodore Entertainment Corp.

1920 Benson Ave.

Saint Paul, MN 55116

Office 651-699-1155 Fax 651-699-1536

e-mail;

[davidlfish@1155msp.com](mailto:davidlfish@1155msp.com)

Tessa Drumsta

The Commodores

The Commodores  
651.699.1155 Office  
651.699.1536 Fax  
[TessaD@1155msp.com](mailto:TessaD@1155msp.com)

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