



The Art of Soul Covers

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- Explore the transformation of African-American music from its roots in the church to its secular emergence in the early 1960s, with artists like Ray Charles and Sam Cooke pioneering the transition
- Artistic Expression and Experimentation: Delve into the world of soul music as artists like Sly & The Family Stone, Stevie Wonder, and Isaac Hayes use LPs to comment on social issues and push the boundaries of musical expression
- With the printed Spotify Codes, you can "listen" to any album immediately

When African-American music broke out of the church in the early 1960s and singers such as Ray Charles and Sam Cooke added secular lyrics to gospel in order to tap into a new audience, the 7" single was the medium of the hour. The early soul LPs were mostly compilations of successful singles, enriched with cover versions, but this was to change radically in 1971 when Marvin Gaye released "What's Going On" against the resistance of his label Motown. After that, there was no stopping him.

Sly & The Family Stone, Stevie Wonder, Isaac Hayes, The Temptations, James Brown and countless criminally ignored groups used the medium to comment on grievances and experiment. Songs stretched over ten minutes and left the radio-friendly three-minute format. The music was also given a visual aesthetic, the musicians were given a face and told their story on the backs of the covers. Anyone who had previously raved about Al Green's voice could now hold him in their hands as an LP, reclining on a wicker chair in a white suit. Today, original LPs are traded for sometimes dizzying sums. Record shops and online exchanges are booming. The feel of the record, the crackling when the needle grips the groove, analogue playback and, last but not least, DJ culture have simply defied the logic of technological progress. They say that the dead live longer. This certainly applies to the LP. This calendar is dedicated to the aura that only an original pressing can have.