



Celebrity
DIRECT
Entertainment

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Bill Pinkney's Original Drifters



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proudly presents

Bill Pinkney's Original Drifters

The Drifters most successful hits were “There Goes My Baby” in 1959, “Save The Last Dance For Me” in 1960 and “Under The Boardwalk” in 1964. Bill Pinkney & The Original Drifters carry on the tradition with a show that the fans will *never* forget!

Bill Pinkney, the last original member of The Drifters, is now available through Celebrity Direct Entertainment. “I always wanted to be an entertainer of some kind, whether it was an athlete or whether it was singing,” he said.

“We came up the hard way. That’s why I can appreciate what is happening and what has happened for the last 40 years I’ve been with The Drifters,” he said.

At 17, Pinkney asked his parents for permission to join the Army. He fought in four major battles during World War II, including the Normandy invasion, and received four Bronze Stars and a presidential citation from Harry Truman. When the war ended, he wound up back home in South Carolina, where he worked in his father’s garage for a time.

From 1949-51, Pinkney played baseball for the New York Bluesocks and the New York Pelicans. He also sang in a gospel group and was recruited in 1953 for The Drifters, where he went on to fame, if not fortune.

He’s a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and South Carolina has honored him with the Order of the Palmetto. His

hometown of Dalzell has a Pinkney statue, and there’s a major highway named in his honor. He is also South Carolina’s official Ambassador of Music.

From time to time, his emotions carry him back to the thrill of the old days.

“I have flashbacks. Sometimes I can see the guys. I still dream about them at night, dream that we’re on stage singing,” he said.

Over the years, The Drifters went through many changes. The group formed in 1953 to showcase lead singer Clyde McPhatter, who went solo in 1955. The majority of The Drifters’ 16 pop hits were sung by three different lead singers: Ben E. King (1959-60), Rudy Lewis (1961-63) and Johnny Moore (1957, 1964-66).



Music’s Drifters represent more than the story of a single group’s success. Changes in personnel and management have led over theyears to the sprouting of many Drifters permutations since organizer Clyde McPhatter first went to the Atlantic Recording Company.

When Atlantic rejected McPhatter’s initial singers (The Mt. Lebanon Gospel Singers), he recruited versatile gospel singers **Bill Pinkney** from the Southern Knights, and brothers **Gearhardt** and **Andrew Thrasher** from The Thrasher Wonders to join forces with him. They signed with the company in 1953, thereby establishing the foundation upon which a music legacy was subsequently built.

Thirty five years later in 1988, originals McPhatter, Gearhardt Thrasher, and Pinkney, along with subsequent Drifters Johnny Moore, Ben E. King, Rudy Lewis, and Charlie Thomas were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It’s staff filmed Pinkney’s oral history for archival inclusion as a part of its Legends Series in March, 2000.

Pinkney, the only surviving 1953 member, has used the name / mark **The Original Drifters** since 1958. Committed to keeping alive the name and the sounds of the fifties, he is now on his 47th anniversary tour.

Call us today for an appearance by The Original Drifters for your next! We’ll see you “Under The Boardwalk or “Up On The Roof!”

