

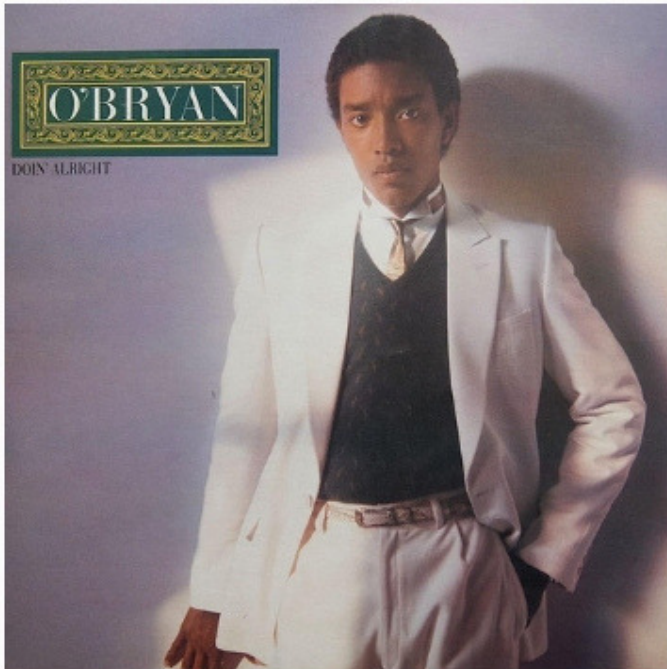


BIOGRAPHY

O'Bryan is a classic American R&B artist with a distinctive sound and a legacy of hit records. He is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer who has taken multiple albums and singles to the Billboard charts and was one of the most popular vocalists of the early 1980s. He is one of the mainstays of R&B radio. His music has been used in television and film and was also a direct influence on artists like The Deele, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, and even the King of Pop, the late Michael Jackson.

A North Carolina native, O'Bryan moved to California as a young man and sang in Santa Ana's Second Baptist Church choir. It was there that he was introduced to Philadelphia International musician and producer Ron "Have Mercy" Kersey. While O'Bryan's work with a group Kersey was putting together never materialized, the connection did result in an introduction to Soul Train host Don Cornelius, who in turn connected O'Bryan with Capitol Records, where he was signed.





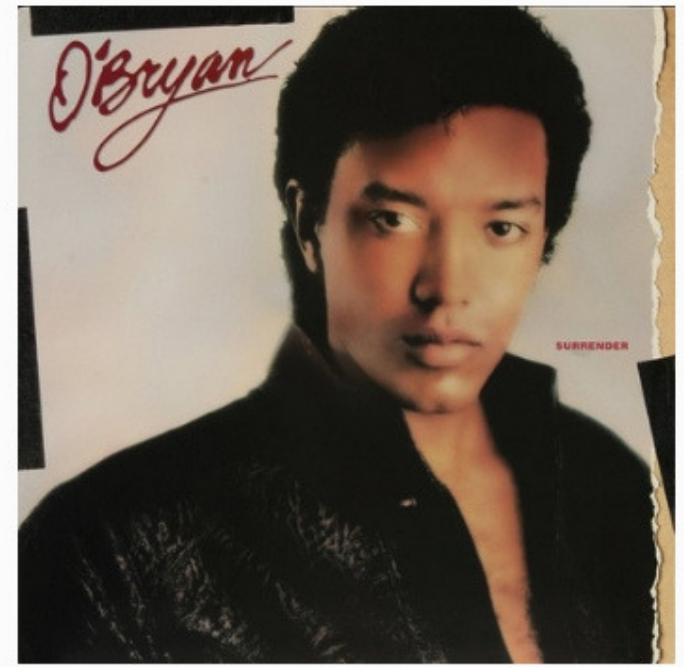
DOIN' ALRIGHT
1982



YOU AND I
1983



BE MY LOVER
1984



SURRENDER
1986



BIOGRAPHY

Throughout his career, O'Bryan has demonstrated his durability as a bandleader, balladeer and a maestro of song. He has performed alongside many of the music industries finest entertainers to include: the late Marvin Gaye, The O'Jay's, The Whispers, George Clinton, Parliament-Funkadelic, Jermaine Jackson, Morris Day and The Time, Con Funk Shun and the list goes on.

Though his musical output pales in comparison to many of his peers, O'Bryan's impact on the recording industry and his influence on R&B music and culture should not be overlooked. O'Bryan launched the career of R&B diva Karyn White, which delivered the L.A. Reid & Babyface-penned anthem "Superwoman."

O'Bryan also lent a hand in starting the careers of musicians who have gone on to perform with some of the highest-grossing earners in the recording industry. From Chaka Khan to Prince, Michael Jackson to Earth, Wind & Fire, O'Bryan's relevance is real.

Although he doesn't get the acclaim, notoriety and accolades that he deserves as an industry game-changer, O'Bryan's glitzy jackets, his synth-drenched funk, and dreamy love ballads, redefined R&B music for young Black America in the 80s. He was indeed a bridge between the R&B music of the "Superfly" seventies and the "Synthadelic" sounds of the "Electronic" eighties. His song "Breaking Together" helped lay the foundation for Hip Hop music and culture.

Like his mentor Cornelius before him, O'Bryan's contributions to Black music and perhaps music, in general, are incalculable. In the annals of Black music history, O'Bryan McCoy Burnette II deserves his place beside the game-changers and influencers of the industry; a place that he's rightfully earned.



O'Bryan

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BIOGRAPHY

Guided by Cornelius genius and business savvy, O'Bryan went on to have great success at Capitol, releasing four albums that made the Billboard R&B Charts. His debut record, *Doin' Alright*, came out in April of 1982 and peaked at Number Ten on the Billboard R&B Albums Chart, spawning the funk/new wave/rock single "The Gigolo," which rose to Number Five on The Billboard R&B Singles Chart. It was followed by a rearranged cover of The Four Tops' "Still Water (Love)," which hit Number 23.

O'Bryan's second album, *You and I*, hit the street in March of 1983. The first single was "I'm Freaky," an up-tempo synth-funk track that hit Number 15, followed by the title song "You and I," a Stevie Wonder original. The single rose to Number 19 and became one of O'Bryan's signature songs. During this period, he also wrote a new theme song for Soul Train called "Soul Train's A Comin'" that was used on the show from 1983 to 1987 and was also used in BET's *New Edition Story*.

His third and most successful album, *Be My Lover*, was released in May of 1984 and peaked out at Number Three. Its first single, "Lovelite," shot to the top spot on the Billboard R&B Singles Chart and was the first music video shown on Hugh Hefner's Playboy Channel later that same year. Capitol chose "Breakin' Together" as the follow-up single but it was the album's ballads "Lady I Love You," "You're Always On My Mind," and "Go On And Cry" that became fan favorites.

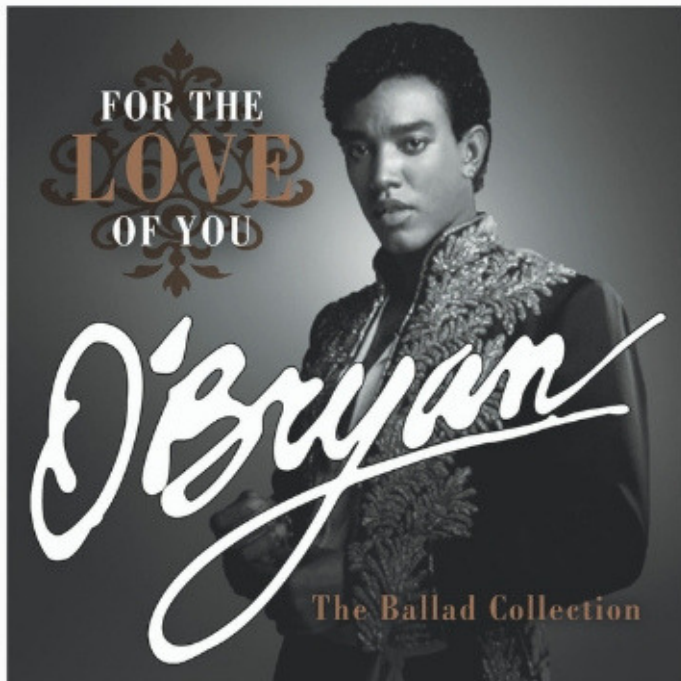
O'Bryan released his fourth and final Capitol album, *Surrender*, in 1986. He worked with songwriter's writers Jerry Knight and Aaron Zigman on synthesizer-heavy tracks like "Tenderoni" and "Driving Force," but the record's highlights were once again the ballads "You Have Got To Come To Me", "Maria," and "Is This For Real."



BEST OF O'BRYAN
1986



FIRST
2007



FOR THE LOVE OF YOU
2017



ONE MORE TRY
2017



