Interview Transcript:

Gap Band Member: Charlie Wilson

Q: When was the Gap Band founded and where?

A: We formed the band in 1967 in Tulsa Oklahoma.

Q: How was it working with your brothers, Robert and Ronnie Wilson?

A: It’s fun but at times can be frustrating working with my brothers.

Q: What made you decide to leave the band in 1992? Do you regret leaving?

A: I decided to leave to pursue a solo career. I am glad I left, but there are times I wish we were all together again.

Q: You seem very open to incorporating modern sounds into your work.

A: Well, time does not stand still. You have to keep up with what's going on, not necessarily listening to the radio and trying to steal some of what these young artists are doing. But all my writers and producers, everybody stays up on what's going on. It keeps me fresh. If you can't stay fresh, what's the point?

Q: Do you feel that the life you were living had an impact on your musical career?

A: The life I was living devastated my career. It devastated me. But my faith in God and my sheer belief and the passion I have for my music, you know, redemption is something else. And resurrection is something else. It was the rise, the fall and the resurrection of an R&B legend.

Q: Are you a jazz fan?

A: I love jazz. I cut my teeth on jazz back in the day. An older gentleman handed me some Sonny Stitt, some Jimmy McGriff and Jack McDuff and Nancy Wilson, and said, "Learn some of this." I was 17, 18, and it turned a whole new leaf for me.

Q: Do you feel your age has held you back or caused problems today in your life?

A: My voice still sounds the same as it did 30 years ago. It might not be as high as it was. But I still sing the same way. And a lot of people don't try as hard as I try when it's time to do the vocals or work as hard as I work onstage because it takes a toll on your body. But when you really want something in life, you have to go for it. I could have easily given up on life. But once I got sober, I was like, "Look out." Older people, younger people, it doesn't matter which one's in my way. I'm coming so you'd better scoot over. And I'm just getting started.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/music/2014/10/18/interview-uncle-charlie-wilson-gap-band/17399439/>