

= Zapp ( band ) =

Zapp ( also known as the Zapp Band or Zapp & Roger ) is an American funk band that emerged from Hamilton , Ohio , in 1977 . Particularly influential in the electro subgenre of funk , Zapp served as partial inspiration toward the creation of the G @-@ funk sound of hip @-@ hop popular on the West Coast of the United States in the early to mid 1990s , with many of their songs sampled by numerous hip @-@ hop artists . The original line @-@ up consisted of four brothers ? Roger Troutman , Larry Troutman , Lester Troutman and Terry Troutman ? and non @-@ Troutman family members Bobby Glover , Gregory Jackson , Sherman Fleetwood , Jerome Derrickson , Eddie Barber and Jannetta Boyce . The group received attention in the early 1980s for implementing heavy use of the talk @-@ box , which became one of their most well known characteristics . Zapp worked closely with members George Clinton and Bootsy Collins of the band Parliament @-@ Funkadelic during its early stages , their support being a factor in the group gaining a record deal with Warner Bros. Records in 1979 . Zapp released its eponymous debut album in 1980 , having a sound reminiscent of P @-@ Funk as a result of Clinton 's and Collins ' input on the production . Zapp achieved most of its mainstream recognition from the single " More Bounce to the Ounce " from the same album , now widely regarded as a classic example of early 1980s electronic funk . The following year in 1981 , Clinton stopped working with the band over a record dispute regarding Roger Troutman 's solo debut . Zapp continued to produce several more albums thereafter , releasing Zapp II in 1982 . The album 's musical style veered drastically away from their first release ; despite this , the album sold well , and was certified gold by late 1982 .

Zapp disbanded in 1999 after both Roger and Larry Troutman were killed in a murder @-@ suicide , that was apparently carried out by Larry . Roger was shot several times before dying in hospital during surgery . Larry 's body was found close @-@ by in his vehicle with a single gunshot wound to the head . The motive behind Larry 's attack is unclear , but there are speculations that there were arguments over money , and Larry being angry over the lack of consultation from Roger as to why he fired him from being his manager . Zapp reformed briefly in 2003 with the remaining brothers of the Troutman family to produce the album Zapp VI : Back By Popular Demand .

= = Career = =

= = = 1966 ? 80 : Early career and major record deal = = =

Born on November 29 , 1951 , in Hamilton , Ohio , Roger Troutman began recording music in the late to mid 1960s , issuing his first solo recording efforts " Jolly Roger " and " Night Time " on the obscure and now defunct Ohio label , Teen Records in 1966 under the band name ' Lil ' Roger and His Fabulous Vels . Although neither song received recognition due to its very limited release , Troutman and brothers pursued their music career throughout the 1970s , forming Roger & The Human Body in 1976 , on their privately owned label Troutman Bros. Records . Their own label allowed Troutman and the band to give a slightly wider and more high profile release of their own music , issuing their first ( and only ) album Introducing Roger in 1976 .

In the late 1970s Roger Troutman continued to record with his brothers , losing the name Roger & The Human Body and adopting the Zapp nickname from his brother Terry in 1977 . The group searching for recognition , began playing at various small venues locally around Ohio . The Troutman family had long standing friendships with Ohio natives Phelps " Catfish " Collins and William Earl " Bootsy " Collins , who had both been involved with Parliament @-@ Funkadelic in the early 1970s . Phelps and Bootsy were attendees at a performance , and were impressed with Zapp 's musical abilities , prompting Bootsy to invite Roger to the United Sound Studios in Detroit ( the P @-@ Funk studio base ) which was frequently used by Parliament @-@ Funkadelic . Roger Troutman subsequently wrote and recorded the demo for " More Bounce to the Ounce " in 1978 . George Clinton , the leader of Funkadelic liked the recording and encouraged Troutman to present the demo to Warner Bros. Records . Warner Bros. signed Zapp in early 1979 , and on July 28 , 1980

, Zapp released their debut album , which was recorded by Roger and produced by Bootsy between 1979 and early 1980 at the United Sound Studios in Detroit , their first recording on a major label . The album 's sound , which is highly influenced by Parliament @-@ Funkadelic , contrasts largely with Zapp 's later releases . " More Bounce to the Ounce " reached number two on the Billboard Hot R & B tracks for two weeks during the autumn of 1980 . By November 18 , 1980 , Zapp had been certified gold by the RIAA .

= = = 1980 ? 81 : Split with George Clinton and other workings = = =

After the 1980 release of Zapp 's debut album , tensions rose between Roger Troutman and George Clinton . Troutman 's solo album The Many Facets of Roger was primarily funded by Clinton , through CBS , and was slated to be released on his own Uncle Jam Records label . By the early 1980s , Clinton and his musical projects were a midst financial troubles due to his poor management skills and shifting tastes in music . Around the time of Troutman 's to be released debut , Warner Bros. Records dropped Clinton from their label , and quietly released The Electric Spanking of War Babies which Troutman had worked briefly on , in early 1981 without much impact .

Troutman , seeing the disarray that was surrounding Clinton at the time , accepted Warner Bros. offer of more money for the demo recordings of his album . The move resulted in a bitter severing of partnerships between Clinton and Troutman , and with Clinton 's departure , Troutman was left to exercise virtually full creative control over the band 's later work . In Clinton 's biography George Clinton : For the Record , Troutman was quoted commenting on the situation with a blasé attitude , " ... Heck gee @-@ willickers , Warner Bros. offered me mo ' money " . In response , Clinton remarked , " CBS paid for it , I paid for it . I don 't like to go into it on the negative side , but it cost about 5 million [ dollars ] , and a lot of people 's jobs and what we consider as the empire falling " . The loss of money that resulted from the actions of Troutman , is credited as one of the factors that disassembled both Clinton 's and Funkadelic 's musical careers . The Many Facets of Roger was eventually released in October 1981 on Warner Bros.

= = = 1982 ? 85 : Style change and gradual decline = = =

Zapp released its second album , Zapp II , on October 14 , 1982 . It focused on more of an electronic orientated sound , containing greater use of the talk @-@ box that is often considered Troutman 's trademark . Despite the contrasting styles between the first and the second albums , Zapp II attained gold status by September 21 , 1982 . The album fared almost as well as Zapp 's debut , peaking at number two on the Billboard R & B chart , and reaching 25 on The Billboard 200 Albums chart . The single " Dancefloor ( Part I ) " peaked at number one on the R & B singles chart of 1982 .

Zapp spawned several more albums in close succession within the 1980s , retaining the heavily electronic style that Zapp II had adopted . Zapp III was released in 1983 , but it did not reach the same chart positions as Zapp 's previous efforts . While still gaining a gold certification , it only peaked at 39 on the Billboard 200 and nine on the R & B chart . Zapp III 's poorer commercial performance became a sign that the band 's popularity and impact were beginning to decline toward the mid 1980s , with post @-@ disco music falling out of trend . By the release of The New Zapp IV U on October 25 , 1985 , Zapp 's popularity declined more . The album gained gold status , but only in 1994 , almost a decade after its initial release . Zapp 's presence began to fade in the latter half of the 1980s , and Troutman 's attention was focused on his solo career . The final release by Zapp before Troutman 's death was Zapp V , on September 12 , 1989 , which was met with moderate commercial success and failed to receive an RIAA certification .

= = = 1993 ? 96 : Resurgence and brief increase in popularity = = =

The growing and increasingly dominant West Coast hip @-@ hop scene of the early to mid 1990s brought Zapp and Roger back into the spotlight for a brief amount of time as many hip @-@ hop

acts began favoring Zapp 's material as a source for sampling in their own music . Troutman gained recognition for providing talk @-@ box backing vocals for both the original and remixed version of Tupac Shakur 's 1995 @-@ 96 comeback single " California Love " ; the alternate version of the music video features Troutman playing the keyboard and talk @-@ box during a party . Roger 's involvement in " California Love " awarded him a Grammy nomination for " Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group " in 1997 .

= = 1996 ? present : Deaths of Roger and Larry Troutman , disbandment , and current activity = =

On Sunday morning , April 25 , 1999 , Roger Troutman was fatally wounded as a result of an apparent murder @-@ suicide that was orchestrated by his older brother , Larry . Roger was shot several times in the torso by Larry as he exited a recording studio in Dayton , Ohio . Roger was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital , but died shortly after . Larry 's body was found in a car a short distance away from the murder scene . There were no witnesses at the time , and Larry 's motive for the murder of Roger remains unclear , however , there were increasingly large troubles over money surrounding Larry who managed the family run housing company , Troutman Enterprises . The business filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy , owing \$ 400 @ , @ 000 in delinquent taxes . Larry was also possibly angry over Roger firing him as manager for his music career , of which Larry had been for several years .

During Roger 's funeral , his nephew Clet Troutman performed a talk @-@ box rendition of " Amazing Grace . " Roger was survived by his six sons and five daughters ; his eldest son , Roger Lynch Troutman Jr . , died of head injuries several years after the murder of Roger , ( January 31 , 1970 ? January 22 , 2003 ) .

After Troutman 's death , Ice Cube said that " More Bounce To The Ounce " introduced him to hip @-@ hop . " I was in the sixth grade , we 'd stayed after school . We had this dude named Mr. Lock , and he used to bring in his radio with these pop @-@ lockers . He used to teach [ the dance group ] the L.A. Lockers , and he would do community service in after @-@ school programs . He knew a lot of kids and introduced them to all the new dances , he put on that song ' More Bounce ' , and they started pop @-@ locking . And I think from that visual , from seeing that , it was my first introduction into hip @-@ hop . Period . I didn 't know nothing about nothing . I hadn 't heard " Rapper 's Delight " yet . It was the first thing that was really fly to me . They started dancing , and since ' More Bounce ' goes on forever , they just got down . I just think that was a rush of adrenaline for me , like a chemical reaction in my brain . "

The resulting impact of Roger and Larry 's deaths left the band stranded , halting production . Without Roger serving as the creative source , they effectively disbanded , and quietly left the music industry altogether . Warner Bros. Records eventually dropped the band from their label , bringing the professional recording career of Zapp to a close . A few years later , Zapp resurfaced for a short period after the establishment of its own independent label , Zapp Town Records , managed by the Troutman family . The label released its only album , Zapp VI : Back By Popular Demand , in 2003 . Zapp returned to performing only in live concert , touring across the U.S. at various venues .

Lester Troutman Sr. and Terry Troutman confirmed the presence of a new project / album in the works with an expected release date of August 2015 .

= = Personnel = =

= = Original lineup = = =

Roger Troutman : lead and background vocals , guitar , bass , keyboards , harmonica , vibraphone , percussion , talk box

Larry Troutman : percussion

Lester Troutman : drums

Terry Troutman : keyboards , bass , background vocals  
Gregory Jackson : keyboards , lead and background vocals  
Bobby Glover : lead and background vocals

= = = Other members = = =

Eddie Barber  
Jannetta Boyce  
Robert Jones  
Jerome Derrickson  
Sherman Fleetwood  
Michael Warren  
Shirley Murdock  
Dale DeGroat  
Aaron Blackmon ( 1984 - 1990 )  
Nicole Cottom  
Bart Thomas  
Ricardo Bray  
Bigg Robb ( from the early / mid 1990s - 2009 )  
Rhonda Stevens  
Ray Davis  
Roger Troutman Jr . ( died of head injury in 2003 )  
Thomas Troutman  
Rufus Troutman III  
Davis Brown ( sound man )  
Wanda Rash ( vocalist )  
Toika Troutman ( vocalist )  
Marchelle Smith ( vocalist )  
Eba Glover ( vocalist )

= = Discography = =