

= Lafayette Afro Rock Band =

Lafayette Afro Rock Band was an American funk rock band formed in Roosevelt , Long Island , New York that relocated to France in 1970 . Though almost unknown in their native United States , they are now universally celebrated as one of the standout funk bands of the 1970s and admired for their use of break beats . The band also recorded as Ice and as Krispie and Company ( or Crispy and Company ) .

Upon their relocation to Paris , the local music scene influenced the group 's work , and they adopted the name Lafayette Afro Rock Band after releasing their debut LP . The band 's next two LPs , Soul Makossa and Malik , respectively included the songs " Hihache " and " Darkest Light " , which would be sampled in numerous culturally significant hip @-@ hop compositions . Following collaborations with Mal Waldron and Sunnyland Slim , the band 's popularity waned , leading to their breakup in 1978 .

= = History = =

The Lafayette Afro Rock Band was formed as the Bobby Boyd Congress in 1970 , in homage to their original vocalist Bobby Boyd . Upon deciding that the funk scene in the United States was too saturated for them to viably compete in , they relocated to France in 1971 ; with Bobby Boyd splitting from the group to pursue a musical career in America , they renamed themselves ' Soul Congress ' , then ' Ice ' . After regular performances in Paris ' Barbès district ? an area made up primarily of North African immigrants ? they caught the eye of producer Pierre Jaubert and became the house session band at his Parisound studio . The influence of their surroundings led Ice to increasingly weave African rhyme schemes , textures , and beat tendencies in their original funk style , and as such they changed their name to Lafayette Afro Rock Band following the 1972 release of the poorly produced Each Man Makes His Own Destiny .

In 1974 , Lafayette Afro Rock Band replaced guitarist Larry Jones with Michael McEwan , and released Soul Makossa ( released in the U.S. as Movin ' and Groovin ' ) . The title track was a cover version of Manu Dibango 's international hit , " Soul Makossa . " LP Though it failed to chart , it made sufficient impact that its standout song , the oft @-@ covered " Hihache " , was sampled regularly for over 20 years by artists as diverse as Janet Jackson , Biz Markie , LL Cool J , De La Soul , Digital Underground , Naughty by Nature , and the Wu @-@ Tang Clan . Lafayette Afro Rock Band 's follow @-@ up effort , the 1975 LP Malik , prominently featured the Univox Super @-@ Fuzz and liberal usage of the vocoder . It met equal enduring success , with a modified horn and saxophone sample of " Darkest Light " being featured prominently in Public Enemy 's " Show ' Em Whatcha Got " . The original sax solo on " Darkest Light " from the Malik LP was played by Leroy Gomez who later became popular as the lead singer of Santa Esmeralda group with the 1977 mega @-@ hit single " Don 't Let Me Be Misunderstood " . After Public Enemy 's usage of the song was highly praised , samples of " Darkest Light " backed numerous culturally significant songs , including " Back to the Hotel " , the multi @-@ platinum 1992 single " Rump Shaker " by new jack group Wreckx @-@ n @-@ Effect and rapper Jay @-@ Z 's 2006 single " Show Me What You Got " .

Mal Waldron , an American jazz and world music composer who came to fame after performing as Billie Holiday 's accompanist until her death , collaborated with the Lafayette Afro Rock Band in 1975 , employing them to back him on his unreleased Candy Girl album . Shortly later , legendary blues pianist Sunnyland Slim sought out the band 's services , and recorded the collaboration album Depression Blues . The group subsequently reverted to the " Ice " moniker , releasing material concurrently on an " Various Artists " formatted 1975 released LP " Tonight at the Discotheque " under the art @-@ names " Captain Dax " , " Les Atlantes " and " Crispy and Co . " ( spelled in French and German speaking countries as " Krispie & Company " ) . As the latter they even scored two UK charts hits , " Brazil " in 1975 made No. 26 , while " Get it together " made No. 21 in 1976 . After success faded in Europe the band found luck in Japan .

After scoring with the mildly successful single " Dr. Beezar , Soul Frankenstein " , they released Afro Agban and Funky Flavored to little fanfare before returning to America and permanently

disbanding . In 1978 , French record label Superclasse released ten uninspiring , previously unreleased recordings , followed by a 1999 Best of compilation which was more warmly received .

= = Reception = =

Lafayette Afro Rock Band toiled in obscurity during their years of activity , but have now become of interest to Western critics and music historians due to their ubiquitous break beats . As a result of their obscurity , when compared to their contemporaries like Cameo , Funkadelic or Kool & The Gang , few copies of their studio LPs have survived ; this has led to , with the exceptions of " Hihache " and " Darkest Light " , the attention of critics and historians being drawn to the band 's three greatest hits albums : Afon : Ten Unreleased Afro Funk Recordings , Darkest Light : The Best of and The Ultimate Collection . Music historian Dave Thompson unfavorably reviewed Afon , but praised Darkest Light , singling out " Soul Frankenstein , " " The Gap , " " Conga , " " Malik , " " Soul Makossa , " " Scorpion Flower , " " Nicky " and " Darkest Light " as the " high points " of the " ultimate point of entry " for the band . British music newspaper Melody Maker and Allmusic critic Jason Ankeny have also both favorably reviewed Darkest Light , with Ankeny stating that it is " one of the great documents of classic funk . " The Ultimate Collection received particular acclaim from Allmusic writer Jason Birchmeier , who asserted that it was " a gem " that " you can 't go wrong with . "

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums = = =

Each Man Makes His Own Destiny ( 1972 , as Ice )  
Soul Makossa ( 1973 )  
Voodounon EP ( 1974 )  
Malik ( 1975 ) - America Records  
Tonight at the Discotheque ( 1975 , various artists )  
Funky Flavored ( 1976 , as Crispy and Co . )  
Frisco Disco ( 1976 , as Ice )  
Afro Agban ( 1977 , as Ice )

= = = Singles = = =

Oglenon / Azeta ( 1974 )  
Brazil / Love can ( 1975 , as Crispy & Co . , or Krispie & Compagny )  
A.I.E. ( A Mwana ) / Super Queen ( 1975 , as Ice )  
Get It Together / Down in St. Tropez ( 1975 , as Crispy & Co . , or Krispie & Compagny )  
Sunara / Get It Together ( 1976 , same )  
Dr. Beezar , Soul Frankenstein ( 1976 , as Captain Dax )

= = = Compilations = = =

Afon : Ten Unreleased Afro Funk Recordings ( 1978 )  
Darkest Light : The Best of ( 1999 )  
The Ultimate Collection ( 2001 )

= = Selected samples = =