



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COME GO WITH ME: THE STAX COLLECTION
DELUXE 7-LP BOX SET CELEBRATES THE STAPLE SINGERS' STAX YEARS

**OFFERS ALL OF THE INFLUENTIAL SOUL GROUP'S STUDIO ALBUMS ON THE
ICONIC LABEL, PLUS LIVE RECORDINGS & RARITIES**

OUT FEBRUARY 21ST ON CRAFT RECORDINGS



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Los Angeles, CA—Craft Recordings is thrilled to announce the release of a vinyl box set celebrating one of music's greatest gospel and soul groups, **The Staple Singers**. Set for a **February 21st release date**, ***Come Go With Me: The Stax Collection*** presents all of the group's studio albums released on the iconic Memphis label, spanning 1968–1974, and features the Staples' biggest hits, including "I'll Take You There," "Respect Yourself" and "If You're Ready (Come Go with Me)." The six studio albums were cut from the original analog masters by **Jeff Powell** at Take Out Vinyl. The final, seventh disc offers rarities, non-album singles and several live recordings from the legendary 1972 Wattstax music festival. The seven discs come in heavyweight **180-gram vinyl** pressed at Memphis Record Pressing. Housed in a slipcase, the collection also includes a deluxe booklet with archival

photos and new liner notes from American music specialist and curator **Levon Williams** (formerly of the Stax Museum of American Soul Music and the National Museum of African American Music), and folklorist, ethnomusicologist and writer **Dr. Langston Wilkins**. The complete collection will also be released digitally, and the six studio albums will be available in hi-res 24-bit/192 kHz and 24-bit/96 kHz formats for the first time.

By the time that the Staple Singers signed to Stax in 1968, the family quartet—helmed by patriarch **Roebuck "Pops" Staples**, with daughters **Cleotha** and **Mavis**, and son **Pervis** (later replaced by his sister **Yvonne**)—had long graduated from the gospel circuit. The Chicago group had become well known in the counterculture and folk scenes and were performing alongside major rock acts like **Big Brother and the Holding Company** and the **Grateful Dead**. The Staples had also become formidable voices in the Civil Rights movement, and many of their songs preached a message of empowerment and racial equality.

In the fall of '68, the group went into the studio to record their first album for Stax, ***Soul Folk in Action***, working with producer **Steve Cropper** and songwriter **Homer Banks**. The sessions were set against a backdrop of social and political turmoil, which climaxed with the assassination of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** in Memphis. The Staple Singers were known for writing politically charged "message songs," and the year's events certainly inspired many of the tracks on this album, including "**Long Walk to D.C.**" and "**The Ghetto.**" In their liner notes, Levon Williams and Langston Wilkins write that both of these songs "Truly tapped into the experiences and emotions of Black America at the close of the '60s. The former is a tribute to the 1963 March on Washington told from the perspective of a poor yet hopeful African American person willing to use their last dimes to make it to the rally ... Conversely, the somber and haunting 'The Ghetto' takes listeners deep into the isolation and despair of inner-city life." Also notable to this album are stunning covers of **The Band's "The Weight"** and **Otis Redding's "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay,"** recorded in tribute to the fallen Stax star, who died tragically just a year earlier in a plane crash. The Staple Singers returned to the studio with Cropper the following year to record ***We'll Get Over*** (1970). Highlights include the standout message song "**When Will We Be Paid,**" as well as covers of tracks like **Sly & the Family Stone's "Everyday People"** and **Gladys Knight & the Pips' "The End of the Road."**

Though both ***Soul Folk in Action*** and ***We'll Get Over*** carried powerful messages and tight-knit harmonies, neither had commercial success. And so, for the band's third album, Stax co-president **Al Bell** (who signed the band) took the helm as producer. Williams and Wilkins note that "As a long-time DJ, Bell's ear for what moves Black listeners, both literally and metaphorically, had been keenly crafted over several years. Bell hosted shows that had both sacred and secular followings and had amassed a wealth of experience from watching, noting and deeply understanding the impact music has on varied audiences. His ear was essentially priceless."

With support from the **Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section** (also known as “**The Swampers**”), the Staple Singers found a winning team with Bell, and the resulting album, 1971’s ***The Staple Swingers***, would be their first charting record, peaking at No. 9 on *Billboard*’s top R&B albums. The LP offered a funkier sound from the group, with high-energy singles like “**Heavy Makes You Happy (Sha-Na-Boom Boom)**” and the **Smokey Robinson** cover “**You’ve Got to Earn It.**”

The group reunited with the Swampers and Bell for 1972’s ***Be Altitude: Respect Yourself***, an album that transformed the Staple Singers into mainstream stars. Peaking at No. 19 on the *Billboard* 200, the groove-filled album featured the Staples’ first No. 1 hit—the infectious “**I’ll Take You There,**” and “**Respect Yourself,**” a song which Williams and Wilkins declare “Encapsulates the Staple Singers’ entire career.” The powerful message song not only resonated with African Americans but also with many women across the country as they, too, fought for equal opportunity.

The group’s 1973 follow-up, ***Be What You Are***, featured the Top Ten hit “**If You’re Ready (Come Go With Me),**” popular single “**Touch a Hand, Make a Friend**” and the sweetly harmonized “**Love Comes in All Colors,**” while the Staple Singers’ final album with Stax—1974’s ***City in the Sky***—includes such highlights as the politically charged “**Washington We’re Watching You,**” “**Back Road into Town**” and “**Who Made the Man,**” which marked a return to the group’s gospel roots.

The final disc in ***Come Go With Me: The Stax Collection*** offers a selection of live tracks from the Staple Singers’ energetic performance at **Wattstax**, as well as B-sides like “**Stay With Us,**” non-album singles like “**Oh La De Da**” and rarities that include “**Walking in Water Over Our Head**” and “**Trippin’ on Your Love.**”

Following their time at Stax, the Staple Singers continued to tour and record throughout the ’70s and early ’80s. They were inducted into the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1999** and received a **GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005**. In recent years, Mavis Staples has been back in the spotlight—headlining tours and reaching a new generation of fans with her solo records. In 2016, she was the subject of a documentary (*Mavis!*) and ended the year as a Kennedy Center Honoree.

[Click here](#) to pre-order **Come Go With Me: The Stax Collection**

Track List

Soul Folk in Action

- A1. We’ve Got to Get Ourselves Together
- A2. (Sittin’ On) the Dock Of the Bay
- A3. Top Of the Mountain
- A4. Slow Train

- A5. The Weight
- B1. Long Walk to D.C.
- B2. Got to Be Some Changes Made
- B3. The Ghetto
- B4. People, My People
- B5. I See It
- B6. This Year

We'll Get Over

- A1. We'll Get Over
- A2. Give a Damn
- A3. Everyday People
- A5. The End of Our Road
- A6. Tend to Your Own Business
- A7. Solon Bushi (Japanese Folk Song)
- B1. The Challenge
- B2. God Bless The Children
- B3. Games People Play
- B4. A Wednesday in Your Garden
- B5. The Gardener
- B6. When Will We Be Paid

The Staple Swingers

- A1. This Is a Perfect World
- A2. What's Your Thing
- A3. You've Got to Earn It
- A4. You're Gonna Make Me Cry
- A5. Little Boy
- A6. How Do You Move a Mountain
- B1. Almost
- B2. I'm a Lover
- B3. Love Is Plentiful
- B4. Heavy Makes You Happy (Sha-Na-Boom Boom)
- B5. I Like the Things About You
- B6. Give a Hand – Take a Hand

Be Altitude: Respect Yourself

- A1. This World
- A2. Respect Yourself
- A3. Name the Missing Word
- A4. I'll Take You There
- A5. This Old Town (People in This Town)
- B1. We the People
- B2. Are You Sure

- B3. Who Do You Think You Are? (Jesus Christ the Super Star)
- B4. I'm Just Another Soldier
- B5. Who

Be What You Are

- A1. Be What You Are
- A2. If You're Ready (Come Go with Me)
- A3. Medley: Love Comes in All Colors/Tellin' Lies
- A4. Touch A Hand, Make a Friend
- A5. Drown Yourself
- B1. I Ain't Raisin' No Sand
- B2. Grandma's Hands
- B3. Bridges Instead Of Walls
- B4. I'm on Your Side
- B5. That's What Friends Are For
- B6. Heaven

City in the Sky

- A1. Back Road Into Town
- A2. City in the Sky
- A3. Washington We're Watching You
- A4. Something Ain't Right
- A5. Today Was Tomorrow Yesterday
- B1. My Main Man
- B2. There Is A God
- B3. Blood Pressure
- B4. If It Ain't One Thing It's Another
- B5. Who Made The Man
- B6. Getting Too Big for Your Britches

Bonus Disc: Singles, Live & More

- A1. Stay With Us
- A2. Brand New Day (Theme from *The Landlord*)
- A3. Walking in Water Over Your Head
- A4. Oh La De Da
- A5. I Got to Be Myself
- A6. Trippin' on Your Love
- B1. Heavy Makes You Happy (Sha-Na-Boom Boom) (Live at Wattstax)
- B2. Are You Sure (Live at Wattstax)
- B3. I Like the Things About You (Live at Wattstax)
- B4. Respect Yourself (Live at Wattstax)
- B5. I'll Take You There (Live at Wattstax)

More information on Stax Records:

One of the most popular soul labels of all time, Stax has become synonymous with its gritty, Southern sounds. Originally known as Satellite Records, the Memphis imprint was founded in 1957 by Jim Stewart. Over the course of two decades, Stax released more than 800 singles and nearly 300 LPs, picking up eight GRAMMYS® and an Academy Award along the way. In all, Stax placed more than 167 hit songs in the Top 100 pop charts, and a staggering 243 hits in the Top 100 R&B charts. For more info, visit StaxRecords.com and follow @StaxRecords on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StaxRecords), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/StaxRecords), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/StaxRecords), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/StaxRecords).

About Craft Recordings:

Craft Recordings is home to one of the largest and most prestigious collections of master recordings and compositions in the world. Its rich and storied repertoire includes legendary artists such as Joan Baez, Ray Charles, John Coltrane, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Miles Davis, Bill Evans, Vince Guaraldi, John Lee Hooker, Little Richard, Nine Inch Nails, Thelonious Monk, Otis Redding, R.E.M. and Traveling Wilburys, to name just a few. Renowned imprints with catalogs issued under the Craft banner include Concord, Fania, Fantasy, Milestone, Musart, Nitro, Prestige, Riverside, Rounder, Specialty, Stax, Sugar Hill, Vanguard and Vee-Jay Records, among many others. Craft creates thoughtfully curated packages, with a meticulous devotion to quality and a commitment to preservation-ensuring that these recordings endure for new generations to discover. Craft Recordings is the catalog label team for Concord Recorded Music. For more info, visit CraftRecordings.com and follow on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CraftRecordings), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CraftRecordings), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CraftRecordings), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/CraftRecordings), and [Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/CraftRecordings).

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