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Double Grammy Winner Henderson Thigpen, *Written in Their Soul*, Makes history!

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In the aftermath of the 66th Annual Grammy Awards, the vibrant musical landscape of Memphis and the Mid-South proudly yielded a cadre of winners, spanning musicians, songwriters, producers, engineers, and writers alike.

As a city steeped in the tradition of producing award-winning music creators, Memphis is now making an indelible mark in the realm of music writing. The Commercial Appeal's Bob Mehr continued this legacy in 2021, clinching the Best Album Notes award for his exceptional writings in "Dead Man's Pop," a compilation of The Replacements' music. Mehr secured another victory the following year for his notes in the deluxe edition of Wilco's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," co-produced by Cheryl Pawelski of Omnivore Recordings.

This year, the spotlight turned to Robert Gordon and Deanie Parker, who triumphed with the Best Album Notes award for their contributions to "Written in their Soul: The Stax Songwriter Demos," a Craft Recordings seven-CD collection curated by Cheryl Pawelski. The collection delves into the rare songwriting demos of Stax Records during its pinnacle, offering an intimate glimpse into the creative minds behind the pioneering soul label. The same project also secured the award for Best Historical Album.

Co-writer Deanie Parker, with her firsthand experiences as a Stax employee and songwriter, provided invaluable insights. Deanie Parker's Grammy win serves as a tribute to her pivotal role at Stax and her two-decade-long commitment to projects like the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the Stax Music Academy, and the Soulsville Foundation, as documented in a 2023 Memphis Flyer story.

Upon accepting the award, Parker acknowledged the racially integrated haven provided by Stax founders Jim Stewart and Estelle Axton, emphasizing the encouragement given to songwriters to explore and develop their authentic talents under Al Bell's guidance.

She highlighted the exceptional rhythm and blues songwriters featured in the set, including Eddie Floyd, William Bell, Steve Cropper, Homer Banks, Mack Rice, Bettye Crutcher, Bobby Manuel, and Henderson Thigpen, the founder of OTM Music Group. Thigpen played a crucial role in the project, contributing to five songs and recently releasing his own album titled "He's Better Than That." Additionally, Parker recognized the visionary producer Cheryl Pawelski and local artist Kerri Mahoney for designing the captivating look and layout of the box set.

About Henderson Thigpen

Henderson Thigpen is a legendary figure in the music industry, known for his iconic contributions, including the timeless hit "Woman to Woman." His legacy is celebrated in the Stax Records "Written In Their Soul" boxed set.

About Stax Records "Written In Their Soul"

"Written In Their Soul" is a boxed set released by Concord in 2023, featuring the timeless works of Stax Records artists, including Henderson Thigpen.

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