

Fatback Band.

Founder member Bill Curtis earned the nickname 'fatback' when he worked in Ron Anderson's band with session guitarist Eric Gale during the 1960's. Eric described a particular drum beat that Bill would play as greasy and sounding like fatback. Bill assembled The Fatback Band and signed to Boo Fraiser's Perception label, as a country and western funk band, albeit they were an east coast street funk ensemble. Frankie Crocker loved 'Going To See My Baby' a song that became the template for future street funk classics 'Wicky Wacky' 'Bus Stop' and 'Street Dance'. Literally at least half of the mid 1970's 'Raising Hell' and 'Yum Yum' albums were released as singles. Both the late Phyllis Hyman and Donna McGhee launched solo careers after working with the Fatback Band. Fatback released a less celebrated early rap song 'King Tim III' in 78, before Sugar Hill Gang's 'Rapper's Delight' in 1979. Fatback enjoyed plenty more commercial and cross over success in the early 1980's with, 'Backstroking', a prophetic 'Is This The Future?', the anthem 'I Found Loving', 'I Like Girls', as well as some raw underground brilliance such as 'Chilling Out', 'Concrete Jungle' and 'Kool Whip'. Bill is the surviving member of Fatback who will be 86 during the Margate Soul Festival period Aug 5th. The group tour extensively and received unbelievably their first ever award from us at Soul Survivors Magazine, in 2013 for best concert of 2013. You must check out Bill and his 'Keep On Steppin'"Fatback Band this August.