

It's a funkalution thang

Like everything else in the universe most of what could be considered funk matter always existed even before homo sapiens. However these components began to energize and take form as humankind arrived.

Without going into detail Funkactivity began to evolve in the second half of the 20th century as a direct result of neopolitics, cultural impact and emerging technologies propelled mostly by the Baby Boom generation of Babylonia.

These social changes were beginning to develop primarily from improving technologies of communication and music. The combination these two factors actually generated a worldwide spread (and acceptance) of this form of music-based subculture. Of course Black America provided most of the fuel for these funkalogical components.

In approximate chronological order- Robert Johnson, Bo Diddly, Muddy Waters, Sun Ra, James Brown, Miles Davis and Jimi Hendrix represented the vanguard of this emerging form.

By the 60's blues was beginning to mutate and transform into R&B, Soul and Rock and Roll while the extra dimensions of the electric guitar and the synthesizer presented expansion of the original music blueprints.

My funksmanship came about by a combination of environment and coincidental demographics. My parents came out of Florida A&M as their college activities were cancelled by World War Two. My daddy was drafted into the now-famous Army Air Force base at Tuskegee while the Moms worked as a parts inspector on B-17 bombers in a factory in Milwaukee. The Moms was a jitterbug (club dancer) back in the day and all three of us offspring had acquired dancing skills in our days.

The Pops was probably a frustrated artist as he exposed me and my two brothers to art at an early age. Later we spent some time in Florida in the early 60's and I learned Black History virtual eons before the subject was taught in the north. After moving back to Chicago I found it was not good having this information later in high school.

When the 60's roared in I was into the car craze, but on the white side of the tracks. I lived in the projects but went to a school that was 70% white and loved the Hot Rods and custom cars of Ed Big Daddy Roth-surely a funkadelic car customizer.

I listened to both ends of the radio dial so my Motown and Stax tracks were also shared by the new rock stuff. More of my pre-Funkadelia came by way Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Blue Cheer, Iron Butterfly, and Jimi Hendrix (before Band of Gypsies).

When George Clinton came to Chicago with a squad of ex-James Brown band members, my path was set. In short- Hot Flam! I got off my ass to jam!

The rest is Funkstory.