

Rahiem aka Guy Todd Williams is a Singer, Emcee, Rapper, Songwriter, Artist, innovator and Hip Hop Pioneer.

In my opinion, he is one of the **Baddest MF EVER!!!!** Rahiem was Drake before Drake and he can **REALLY SING**.

Rahiem grew up in The Bronx, New York. He attended Truman High School with Christopher Williams. (R&B Artist)

The two of them would sing and rap in the cafeteria of the school during lunch breaks or in the hallways in-between classes.

Rahiem was a protege to Rahiem Leblanc, who was a member of the R&B group G.Q. (Disco Nights/Rock Freak, 1979)

As a youth, he would listen to The Jackson 5, The Silvers, G.Q., Chic and Teddy Pendergrass.

All of these groups had a heavy influence on his life and his immediate future.

When Rahiem joined the Funky Four, he was a teenager still in High School.

He was invited to a party with Baron and Breakout, they were battling a group from Co-op City at the time.

After Rahiem blessed the mic, he became part of the group.

During this time the members of the group were Rahiem, Sha-Rock, Keith-Keith and K.K. Rockwell.

They performed in every club in the Bronx. I didn't get a chance to see them in person, but I heard the tapes

as they circulated around my block in The East Bronx. Me and my childhood friends would sit in my friends living room

and just listen to them rock the crowd. We knew right away that Rahiem was the best Emcee in the group.

For almost a year, the flyers and tapes would be passed around the neighborhood and we were amazed at the talent

of The Funky Four. They were in the top echelon of the groups back then but they were competing with Flash and the Furious Four.

I remember when I first heard the news that Rahiem had left the Funk Four.

Me and my friends were devastated, we immediately wanted to know what happened.

Roomers through the grapevine

were saying he had beef with other members in the group so he left. But when he joined Flash and the Furious Four and they

became Flash and the Furious Five....**IT WAS OVER!!!!**

Rahiem leaving the Funky Four to join the Furious Four is like Lebron James leaving Cleveland to go to The Lakers.

They were already good, he just made them better....now they got more Championship Rings.

Of course, other groups that heard the news were in shock and disbelief. Because this means that The Furious Five

is untouchable. Other groups could compete with the Furious Four but Rahiem took them to another level.

Rahiem was replaced in the Funky Four by Lil Rodney Cee and Jazzy Jeff.

Respectfully, they became The Funky Four Plus one More.

Rahiem was an Emcee/Singer, what he brought to the group was something they did not have at the time.

His creative improving, his style and voice just built instant chemistry within the group. When he sung Shoo wa Shoo wa while Flash was rocking the beat box....That was it, **IM DONE!!!!**

One of my favorite verses was;

“I Just stepped in the party but I (Chorus: Can’t), Can’t keep from getting on the dance floor....

The music sound so sweet (Chorus: So Sweet) make me wanna get out of my seat.... Should be tired but I’m (Chorus: Still) Still getting down. (Chorus: Down, down, down) When Flash is on the beat box and the Five on the mic just (Chorus: huh) funky sound”

Today, we hear a lot of rappers trying to sing and they use Audio tunes to enhance their voices.

Rahiem did not need that, his voice was **pure**, no machinery, no gimmicks he was the Michael Jackson of Hip Hop.

If Rahiem was making music today like the young artist are doing, he would be a Billionaire.

In fact, Rahiem was responsible for taking Hip Hop to another musical level.

Artist today think their doing something new....No, Rahiem was rapping and singing 40 years ago.

Other groups began singing and harmonizing but they couldn’t touch Rahiem and the Furious Five.

When the group began recording, It was obvious how great Rahiem was as an artist.

It was also obvious how great The Furious Five were as a group.

Their first single on Enjoy records was ‘SuperRappin’ using the 7 minutes of funk beat by The Whole Darn Family.

One of my favorite verses was; when they dropped everything in the song and left the bass, Rahiem said;

“Yes, Yes Y’all, you don’t stop, come on, come on, huh....I wanna hit the top. Young ladies out there i won’t be surprised, if I catch you watching and staring in my eyes”

Everyone remembers the single Rappers Delight, right? when Big Hank said

“Well Im Hemp the Deep, the ladies Pimp, The women fight for my delight”

That’s Rahiem’s rhyme....he stole that from Rahiem. Somebody owes Rahiem a Check!!

Rahiem, Flash and the Furious Five continued to make some of the most influential and groundbreaking

music in Hip Hop and Music History. Their songs became number one hits, change the culture of hip Hop,

laid a foundation for future artist and made Rahiem a household name. Rahiem has a Grammy award, an ICON Award, a LifeTime Achievement award and he's a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

I can talk forever about Rahiem and the great things he has done for Hip Hop, But I will end this story like this.

Rahiem is one of the most imitated, duplicated and copied artist of the last 40 years. He inspired so many artist to become rappers, Emcee's and singers. Without Rahiem, there would be no Drake, no Weekend, no Kanye West or T-Pain. All of the later are pieces of Rahiem.

Written by Tony Tee aka Tony Paris