

Bobby Womack, another soul giant has passed, and although he is properly in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (inducted by the Stones' Ron Wood), he never got his due. He was covered by many others (the Stones' "It's All Over Now" is one example, of many) and also performed many covers of others' work. He has not been well for some time, but appeared in the Royal Albert Hall last year with Ron Wood, and just killed.

My one brush with him was when I had just joined the UH faculty in 1982, and was in town house hunting before I actually moved from DC to Houston. It was over the July 4 weekend, and I was sort of stranded on campus, so I walked around, thinking I would hit some food joint in the area, when I saw a little jazz club where he was playing, which was on the chitlin circuit and is no longer there; a forlorn branch of the Houston Public Library is now there, I think. There could not have been more than 25-30 people in attendance, although he was at the top of his game, and it was the first time I realized how many of his songs had been sung by others; in the second half, he returned the favor and sang songs popularized by others.

Enjoy the several YouTube performances—all of them songs he sang that night, and the excellent memorial by *The New Yorker*'s Ben Greenman, the essayist, novelist, and biographer. Greenman might not be a household name either, because some of his best work has been ghostwriting and writing rock and roll books (*KISS and Make-Up* by Gene Simmons of KISS and Questlove's memoir, *Mo' Meta Blues*—two great and clever book titles). He is at work on a book about Parliament/Funkadelic/P-Funk's George Clinton—another master of covering others and being covered by others.

RIP, Bobby. You made many people happy, and you had a great gift.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiC9d7JvD3A> (It's All Over Now, with Keith Richards and Ron Wood)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWTppmwChBg> (Fire and Rain)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K1sItlhZMA> (I Wish It Would Rain)