



February 2, 2015



Dear City of Ocilla Friends,

When Dave Prater and singing partner Sam Moore came to Memphis to begin recording at Stax Records, no one likely dreamed of how much they would change the world of popular music forever or how much they would change the course of history for the then mom-and-pop record label housed in what had previously been an old movie theater.

Paired with songwriting partners Isaac Hayes and David Porter, and backed by the Stax house band Booker T. & the MGs and the Mar-Key horns, the duo instantly began making music history that earned them the nicknames "Double Dynamite", "The Sultans of Sweat", and "The Dynamic Duo". While neither of the duo was from Memphis, they were as instrumental as anyone in creating what came to be known as "the Memphis Sound".

Today, they are celebrated daily at the Soulsville Foundation's Stax Museum of American Soul Music with videos, exhibits, records, photographs, and other items of memorabilia. They remain among the favorites of the Stax roster of our hundreds and thousands of visitors who travel to the museum from all over the world.

Moreover, the students of the Soulsville Foundation's other programs, the Stax Music Academy and The Soulsville Charter School, are inspired by the legacy of Sam & Dave on a daily basis as they study their history and perform their music all over the world. The Stax Music Academy has taken its own renditions of the duo's landmark music to locations like Italy, Australia, Berlin, Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center.

It is safe to say that if not for Sam & Dave, Stax Records may never have become the powerhouse they helped turn it into, and there would be no Stax Museum, Stax Music Academy and Soulsville Charter School at the original location of Stax in Memphis, Tennessee.

Therefore, it is with great pride and pleasure that I join you today, February 6, 2015, in celebrating Mr. Prater and his legacy. He continues to inspire us all!

Respectfully,

Lisa Allen
Director
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