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Archives

Christian rock pioneer, People member Larry Norman dies

Sad to hear, on a rather mortally oriented day, about the death of Larry Norman. In 1969, he released Upon This Rock, considered to be the first modern Christian rock album. It's of course always a slippery slope to try to identify "firsts" in any field, but it's unquestionable that Norman's albums, including 1972's famed Only Visiting This Planet, were enormously influential on the entirety of what would become contemporary Christian music.

And before that, he has a place in my heart for being a key figure in the San Jose band People, who were legendary for their ability to play complex music (such as the Sgt. Pepper album) live and had a big (and memorable) hit in 1968 with a cover of the Zombies tune I Love You.

He died of heart failure in his sleep at home in Salem, Ore., Sunday, at age 60. He'll be missed.

Posted at 06:58 PM/ET, February 25, 2008 in Farewell | Permalink

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jere1 wrote: 22d ago
 Larry was so important to me during my teen years. I have followed his career my entire life. He was a pioneer in bringing contemporary Christian music to life and he paid a huge price for it. We will all miss Larry deeply.

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nuthings wrote: 22d ago
 It's heartbreaking to learn of Larry's passing - his music and message have been quite moving and inspiring to me for many years. Sad to see him go. Thanks for the music and inspiration.

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