



# LONDON & SURREY TIMES

## **The Drifters team up with Motown greats**



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MICHAEL Williams of The Drifters talks about the up and coming Legends Live Tour 2015 which kicks off at Wembley Arena this autumn.

By Max Thompson

MICHAEL Williams of The Drifters talks about the up and coming Legends Live Tour 2015 which kicks off at Wembley Arena this autumn.

The UK tour is bringing together some of the best international soul acts on one stage for the first time.

Dionne Warwick, Roberta Flack, and Mary Wilson of the Supremes will join The Drifters at The SEE Arena in Wembley on Saturday 3 October.

"We've not performed with the likes of Roberta Flack and Mary Wilson before so it's exciting to share the bill with them," said Williams. "Dionne Warwick played with some of the original Drifters back in the day so we're really hoping to rekindle some of the groups old school spirit."

The Drifters have sold over 214 million singles and 114 million albums across the globe making the veteran soul outfit one of the most successful vocal groups of all time.

Williams performed for the first time in the main line up in 2006. Later that year he became a full member and is currently the longest serving member of the current line-up.

Williams said: "We did a great show at the O2 arena in 2009, we had eight Drifters up on stage, a real treat. We love London though. London has always been good to us.

"It was also a great honour to play with the Four Tops and the Temptations in the UK arena tour in 2010.

"David Ruffin (The Temptations) is a big influence of mine. I mean he was slick, he had all the dance moves."

When asked which other Motown artists inspired Williams he cited the likes of Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and Smokey Robinson.

"I'm not really a big fan of new music," he added. "I prefer the old school. Give me anything from the blues of Muddy Waters to the rock n roll of the Rolling Stones anyday."

The last two shows of the Legends Live Tour are Birmingham's Barclaycard arena on Sunday 4 October and the Manchester Arena on Monday 5 October.

Williams said there is also potential for a Legends Live Tour in the US next year.